

Wigan South Parish Magazine

- Holy Trinity
- St Andrew's
- St Peter's
- St Aidan's
- St Luke's
- St Thomas'

St Aidan's edition



October 2023

70p

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Parish Information

Baptisms

Baptisms (also called Christenings) are held around the Parish throughout the month. Please come along to the morning service at the church of your choice, and you can talk about booking a date that works well for you and church. Godparents must have been baptised themselves and be prepared to attend a baptism preparation session with the parents.

Funerals

Every parishioner has the right to a service in church, followed by a committal.

Marriage

You can marry in a CofE Church of your choice if certain criteria are shown to be met.

If you would like further information or to book a wedding or a baptism, please attend at one of our churches or see the contact details at the rear of the magazine. Funeral Directors will book any funerals.

Magazine Deadlines

Please send any material for the magazine to your local assistant editor (see contact details at the back) or magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk.

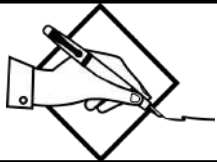
	November	December	January
Deadline for material	19th October	16th November	Christmas Break
Publication date	29th October	26th November	Christmas Break

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October Letter

At the recent coronation the King was given a Bible with the words 'the most valuable thing that this world affords'. As Bible Sunday is celebrated this month, let's ask why we should read the Bible?

The Bible isn't a single book, but a library of 66 books, composed by some 44 writers over 1500 years in a range of styles including history, poetry, prophecy, letters and apocalyptic (looking the end times). Despite having a number of different writers, it claims one authority - God Himself! 'All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness, so that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work' (2 Timothy 3:16). The Bible is inspired ('the word of God in the words of men') and equips us to live for God in every aspect of our lives. We also have the promise of the Holy Spirit to guide us when we read: 'when the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all truth' (John 16:13).

How should we read the Bible? Let's consider the following guidelines:

Right time: We need a regular routine, which will meet our needs. This will vary according to our circumstances e.g. a mum at home with young children, somebody with a demanding job or a retired person.

Right Place: We need to find a space where we can be undisturbed (e.g. lounge, bedroom, train or kitchen).

Right Version: We need a version of the Bible which we can readily understand and use. A number of versions are available (e.g. NIV, The Message), as well as Bible apps we can access on our phone.

Right Help: Reading notes also help us to understand a passage and apply it to our lives.

Let's get reading!!

Parish News

Regular Events

Tuesdays

10am – 12pm: Coffee Morning in St Thomas' church hall



Wednesdays

1pm – 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies in St Thomas' church hall (term time only)

1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group at St Peter's (term time only)

7.30pm: Women's Fellowship at St Peter's

Thursdays *note change of day*

2pm – 3.15pm: Gentle dance class at St Luke's

Fridays

2.10pm: Bible study in St Thomas' church hall

Tuesday 31st October

1.30pm - 3.00pm Peace of Mind Dementia Café at St Andrew's Mission Hall

The Bishop's Advice..?

The Rev. Oliver Golightly
Asked his bishop contritely

Would it be wrong
To cancel Evensong

The bishop answered: "Quite rightly!"

"With church attendance in decline,
Less demand on the bread and wine,

Take heart my dear brother

We shall console one another,

With the fruits of God's wonderful vine!"

John Daniels

Services in October

Sunday 1st	<p>9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am Holy Communion 10.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'</p>
Wednesday 4th	<p>10.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Aidan's</p>
Thursday 5th	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
Sunday 8th	<p>9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am Sta's4all in school 10.30am All Age Worship 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Holy Communion 4.00pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's</p>
Wednesday 11th	<p>10.00am Holy Communion</p>	<p>Holy Trinity</p>
Thursday 12th	<p>9.45am BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>



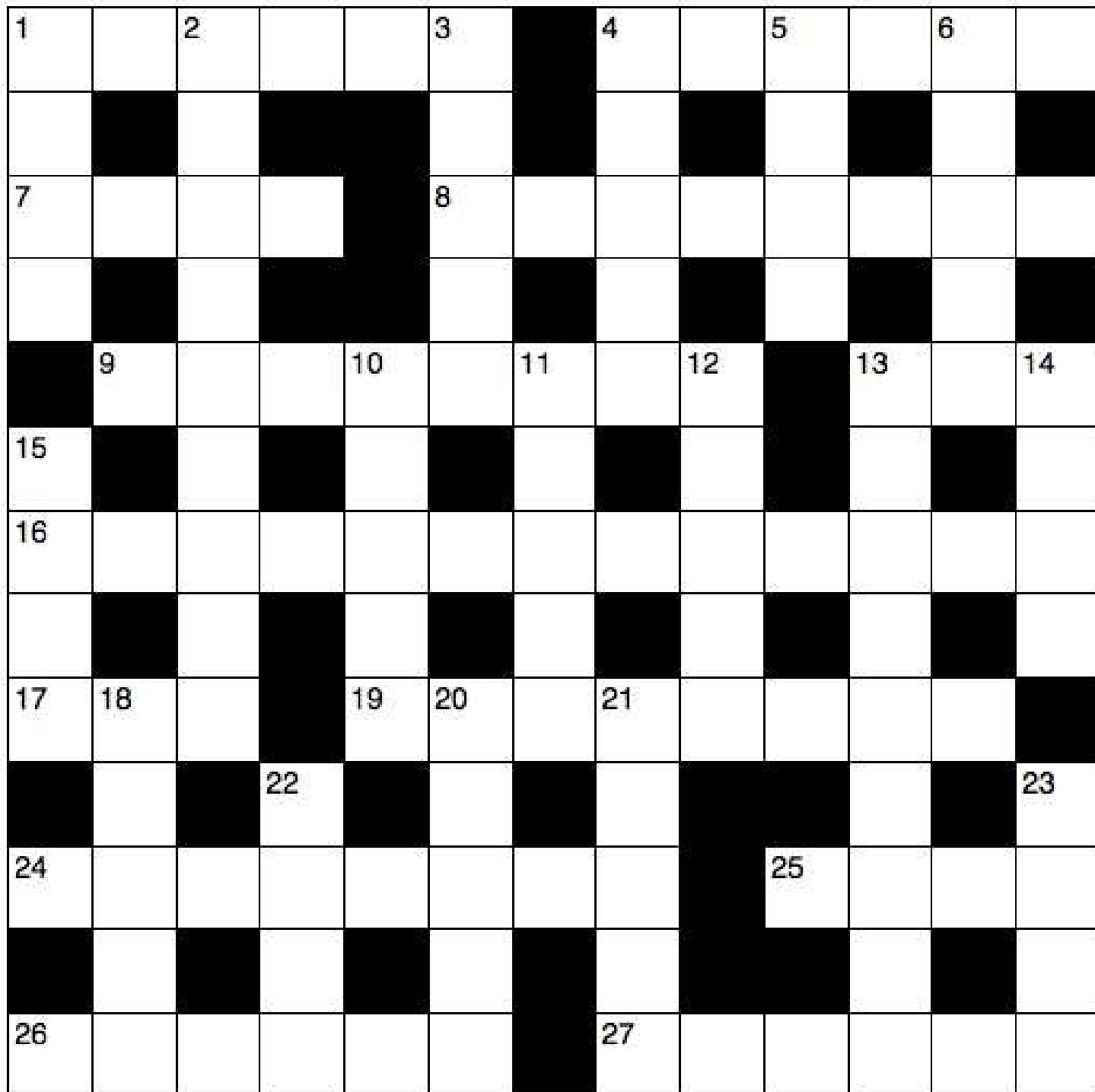
Sunday 15th	<p>9.00am Morning Worship 9.30am Church café 10.00am Morning Worship 10.30am Morning Prayer 10.30am Morning Worship 10.45am Holy Communion 11.00am Family Worship 6.30pm Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'</p>
Wednesday 18th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 19th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 22nd	<p>9.00am Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am Café Church 10.30am Holy Communion 10.45am Worship Together 11.00am Family Worship 4.00pm Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's</p>
Wednesday 25th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 26th	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 29th	10.30am: Wigan South Holy Communion	TBC



Everyone is welcome to join all services.

If you would like to attend any services across the parish and need assistance with transport, please get in contact with your local leadership team.

Crossword



Answers on page 15

Across

- 1 He must be 'the husband of but one wife and must manage his children and his household well' (1 Timothy 3:12) (6)
- 4 'For we must all – before the judgement seat of Christ' (2 Corinthians 5:10) (6)
- 7 'They reeled and staggered like drunken men; they were at their – end' (Ps 107:27) (4)
- 8 See 19 Across
- 9 It concerned who among the disciples would be the greatest(Luke 9:46) (8)
- 13 Formed by the Jews in Thessalonica to root out Paul and Silas (Acts 17:5) (3)
- 16 'He has sent me to bind up the – ' (Isaiah 61:1) (6-7)
- 17 Moved rapidly on foot (Matthew 28:8) (3)
- 19 and 8 ' – a great company of the – host appeared with the angel' (Luke 2:13) (8,8)
- 24 Hindrance (Romans 14:13) (8)
- 25 Comes between Luke and Acts (4)
- 26 Empower (Acts 4:29) (6)
- 27 'Get these out of here! How dare you turn my Father's house into a – !' (John 2:16) (6)

Down

- 1 Sunrise (Psalm 119:147) (4)
- 2 The part of the day when Cornelius the Caesarean centurion had a vision of an angel of God (Acts 10:3) (9)
- 3 He was one of those who returned with Zerubbabel from exile in Babylon to Jerusalem (Nehemiah 7:7) (5)
- 4 'No one can see the kingdom of God unless he is born – '(John 3:3) (5)
- 5 Animal hunted or killed as food (Ezekiel 22:25) (4)
- 6 'He encouraged them – – remain true to the Lord' (Acts 11:23) (3,2)
- 10 Ruses (anag.) (5)
- 11 Jewish priestly vestment (Exodus 28:6) (5)
- 12 Visible sign of what had been there (Daniel 2:35) (5)
- 13 This was the trade of Alexander, who did Paul 'a great deal of harm' (2 Timothy 4:14) (9)
- 14 'This is my – , which is for you; do this in remembrance of me' (1 Corinthians 11:24) (4)
- 15 One of Noah's great-great-grandsons (Genesis 10:24) (4)
- 18 Traditionally the first British Christian martyr (5)
- 20 Relationship of Ner to Saul (1 Samuel 14:50) (5)
- 21 Jacob had one at a place he named Bethel while on his way to Haran, fleeing from Esau (Genesis 28:12) (5)
- 22 Bats (anag.) (4)
- 23 'You strain out a – but swallow a camel' (Matthew 23:24) (4)

October High & Holy Days

1st October Anthony Ashley-Cooper, Poor Man's Earl

Think of Piccadilly Circus, and that small statue of the angel poised with bow and arrow. Most people think it stands for Eros. It does not. It stands for Anteros, his brother, the god of selfless love. It is a memorial to the greatest Christian Victorian philanthropist, politician and social reformer of his generation – Lord Shaftesbury.

Anthony Ashley Cooper, the 7th Earl of Shaftesbury (1801 – 1885) was a devout Christian who spent his life fighting to help ease the plight of lunatics, chimney sweeps, children in factories, women and children in the mines, opium addicts, and children without any education.

His own early life was loveless and bleak – his parents formal and frightening, his early schooldays a “horror” of “cruelty and starvation”. The only love came from the family’s housekeeper, Maria Millis. A biographer wrote: ‘She provided for Ashley a model of Christian love that would form the basis for much of his later social activism and philanthropic work.’ The reality and homely practicality of her Christian love were a beacon for the young Ashley. She told him Bible stories, she taught him a prayer.

After Christ Church Oxford, where he proved an outstanding scholar, Ashley turned to politics. In 1826, aged 25, he was elected as Tory MP for Woodstock. He was eager to serve on parliamentary committees that got things done; his great life’s work had begun.

Lunatics: In 1827 lunatics were kept chained naked in straw, forced to sleep in their excrement. They were washed in freezing cold water, with one towel for 160 people and no soap. There was gross over-crowding and inedible food: asylums were places to die in.

Shaftesbury’s maiden speech in Parliament was in support of a Bill to improve their conditions. He wrote: ‘By God's blessing, my first effort has been for the advance of human happiness.’

It took years: from 1827 to 1884 he fought for a succession of Lunacy Acts, writing later of 'the years of toil and care that, under God, I have bestowed on this melancholy and awful question.'

Child Labour and Factory Reform: again, reform took years, with Shaftesbury fighting for the Ten Hours Act from 1833, 1842, 1844, 1846 and 1847 – when it finally got through Parliament. No child under the age of nine should work in the cotton or woollen industries, and no one under 18 must work more than ten hours a day.

Miners: in 1842 he fought to outlaw the employment of women and children in coal mines.

Climbing boys: thousands of young boys were dying in terrible pain – scorched, blinded and suffocated by soot, or with cancer of the scrotum. Ashley fought for Bills in 1840, 1851, 1853, 1855, and 1864 until finally the Chimney Sweepers Act 1875 closed the practise down.

Education reform: 1844 Ashley became president of the Ragged School Union that promoted education for poor children. He wrote that if it were to fail, 'I should die of a broken heart'.

Religion: Lord Shaftesbury was a devout Christian who became a leading figure in 19th century evangelical Anglicanism. He was President of British and Foreign Bible Society for nearly 30 years. He was very sympathetic to the Jews, and advocated their return to the Holy Land.

Lord Shaftesbury's funeral service at Westminster Abbey on the morning of 8th October 1885 drew thousands of people. The streets along the route were thronged with the poor: costermongers, flower-girls, boot-blacks, crossing sweepers, factory hands and many more. They waited for hours just to see his coffin go by. He was dearly loved by them as the 'Poor Man's Earl'.

One biographer wrote: 'No man has in fact ever done more to lessen the extent of human misery, or to add to the sum total of human happiness.' The great preacher Charles Spurgeon called him 'the best man of the age'. He 'lived for the oppressed', he was a 'moral anchor in a drifting generation', 'friend of every living thing', 'he had a fervent love to God, and hearty love to man.'

Bibles for all

Just last week I was driving through Bala on my way to Barmouth for a weekend with a group of friends. On the way we passed a sign for the 'Mary Jones museum' to which we all queried who Mary Jones was! You can imagine my delight when I then came across this article a few days later, detailing Mary's journey to obtain her own bible.

Think for a moment about something you really want. How much would you spend to buy it? How far would you go to get it?

Young Mary knew what she wanted. It took years before she could afford it. She was ready to walk 25 miles over mountainous terrain to get it. Mary just wanted a Bible.

Mary Jones lived in a small village in Wales at the end of the 18th century. From an early age, Mary loved to hear stories from the Bible. Every Sunday she attended her local chapel and enjoyed listening to people reading from the Scriptures.

When Mary was only nine years old, she decided on the most important thing in her life. She wanted to read from her own Bible. Unfortunately, Bibles were hard to come by. They were expensive and Mary's parents couldn't afford to buy one. So, Mary decided to do odd jobs for people and earn enough money to buy a Bible.

Six years later, Mary had saved enough money for her special book. Although the nearest shop which sold Bibles was in Bala, 25 miles away, undaunted she set out on her long journey. In Bala, she discovered that the book shop had sold out of all the Bibles! We can only imagine how upset and disappointed she was.



When the bookseller, Thomas Charles, heard about her long walk and that she would return home empty handed, he gave her his Bible. Later, Thomas Charles wondered if there were other children (and adults) around the country who wanted a Bible but had problems getting one.

Soon after Mary's visit, Thomas Charles went to London. Here, he met influential people including William Wilberforce and shared with them the story of Mary Jones. From this meeting came a response to Mary's situation. On 7th March 1804 the British and Foreign Bible Society was formed. Its purpose was to provide Bibles throughout the world, in a language people could understand and at a price they could afford.

After this, other national societies were created and in 1946 the United Bible Societies was established to co-ordinate the work worldwide. Today, there are over 100 Bible Societies, working in nearly 200 countries. While they are busy with translation, production and distribution programmes, there are still countless numbers of people who do not have the Scriptures.

If we own a Bible, let's give thanks we have God's Word in our hands and, where possible, support a Bible Society with their valuable work.

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Deacon. 4, Appear. 7, Wits. 8, Heavenly. 9, Argument. 13, Mob. 16, Broken-hearted. 17, Ran. 19, Suddenly. 24, Obstacle. 25, John. 26, Enable. 27, Market.

DOWN: 1, Dawn. 2, Afternoon. 3, Nehum. 4, Again. 5, Prey. 6, All to. 10, Users. 11, Ephod. 12, Trace. 13, Metalwork. 14, Body. 15, Eber. 18, Alban. 20, Uncle. 21, Dream. 22, Stab. 23, Gnat.

A Bear called Paddington

It was 65 years ago, on 14th October 1958, that Michael Bond's children's book, A Bear Called Paddington, was published. It marked the debut of the lovable Paddington Bear, who is now a household name after appearing in two irresistible films.



Paddington starred in more than 20 books written by Bond, who died aged 91 in 2017. The original story was inspired by the author witnessing Jewish and British evacuee children passing through Reading station. Bond wanted the bear to have come from “darkest Africa”, but this was changed to Peru when his agent pointed out that there were no bears in Africa.

Many people have found Christian characteristics in the bespectacled, kind, red-hatted, innocent Paddington, who always tries to do the right thing but often gets into trouble as a result. He is invariably polite, but has a “hard stare” for those who behave badly. The two hugely successful films, with Ben Whishaw voicing Paddington and household names in other roles, established the bear in the national psyche – a natural successor to Winnie the Pooh.

A stuffed toy Paddington Bear was chosen by British tunnellers as the first item to be passed to their French counterparts when the two sides of the Channel Tunnel came together in 1994. The books have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies.

Paddington has also reached the very top of society. Comedian and later President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky dubbed him in the Ukrainian version of the films, and to cap everything, Paddington joined the late Queen in one of her last public appearances – a brilliant comedy segment in the Platinum Party at the Palace on 4th June 2022, in which the Queen ‘revealed’ that she always carried a marmalade sandwich – Paddington’s favourite food – in her handbag.



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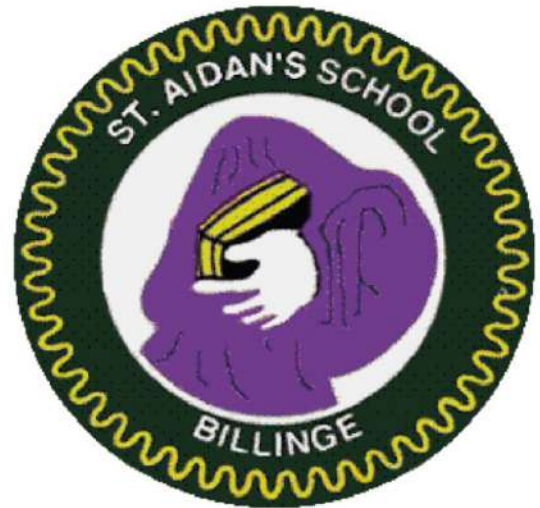
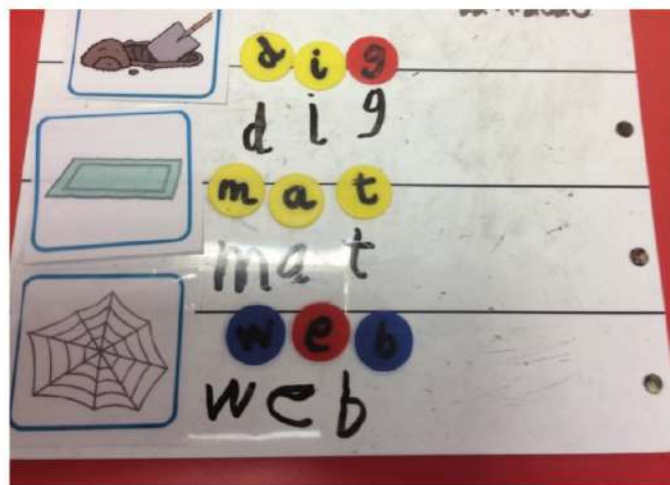
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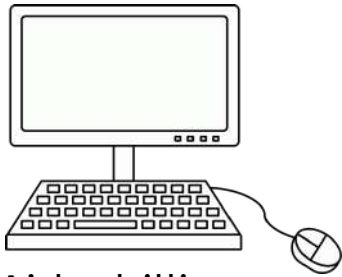


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News from our churches

Sunday 1st October	10.00am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
Wednesday 4th October	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th October	10.30am 4.00pm	Sta's4all in school No morning service in church Evening Prayer
Sunday 15th October	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 18th October	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd October	10.00am 4.00pm	St Aidan's Beacon Holy Communion

On October 29th we will be joining with other Churches in Wigan South for a joint service.

Remembering Loved Ones Service

On Sunday 15th October at 4.00pm there will be a service of Remembering Loved Ones held in church. Families of those who have had a funeral at St Aidan's will be invited but this service will be open to everyone. If you have been bereaved recently and would like a name to be read out, please will you contact Margaret Stott by email or phone at Margaret.stott@icloud.com Tel 01744 895751 or Barbara Goulden at 894694.





Sta's4all

In October we are recalling the story of Noah's Ark – a story of God's and Noah's perseverance and the hope for the future that we see in God's care and promises to Mankind. The puppets will be there, and there will be refreshments, singing, stories and activities on the theme.



Beacon

Our next Beacon service is on October 22nd. As the evening are closing in, and it's shortly before the darkness of Halloween, we will be thinking about 'light'.

Changes for Lesley Leppard

Last year the pressure of work in her paid job as a teacher prevented Lesley from completing her training as a Reader. As we know, Lesley is very accomplished in the role that she has been doing here at St. Aidan's. She may not have completed the formal training but her leading of services and preaching is appreciated by our congregation, especially at the 4pm services. She feels, at this time, she is not able to continue the formal course but would like to continue to support St. Aidan's as our other Service Leaders are doing.

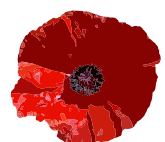
We are very grateful to Lesley for this. We will still be able to benefit from her leadership and her thoughtful, spiritual insights.

Macmillan Cancer Coffee Morning

Patricia and John Martin is once again holding a Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 29th September from 10.00am onwards at Sunny Mount, 89 Newton Road. All are welcome.

Remembrance Day Poppies

Once again we are requesting knitted poppies for our enhanced Remembrance Day display. Last year we had a hugely successful response and we hope to build on last year's display. If you would like to help, there are patterns on the notice board at the rear of church, or you can contact Barbara Goulden (01744 894694 or barbaragoulden@yahoo.com).



Prayer changes things!

At St. Aidan's we believe in the power of prayer. It is something that we can do at any time, in any place, even if we are not able to get out and about. We can all pray on our own at home, with others in our church services, in small groups with a common goal, (as we do at Sta's4all planning meetings) and we can also pray as individuals with a common aim. For instance

- St Aidan's Emergency Prayer Group pray for individuals in need within or known to our congregation:

Do you know someone in need of prayer support? Sickness, anxious, feeling unloved, bereaved, depressed? Prayer enables us to be encircled in love. This emergency prayer group will pray in confidence for your loved one. Ring Jennifer on 01942 537325 or Brenda on 01744 894528 to share the need.

- Prayer for the Mission and Ministry of St. Aidan's pray for all aspects which affect our church mission to reach out to our community and for the practical aspects of our church building and services and our position within Wigan South

This is co-ordinated by one of our prayer warriors - Pauline Griffiths. We hope to meet face to face occasionally, but this currently works by prayer needs being emailed by Pauline to the prayer support group for them to pray in their own time. Recent topics have included for the appointment of the right person as leader of our Parish of Wigan South, progress with the Food Pantry, our school and teachers, Sta's4all and Beacon Services, upkeep of the churchyard, the process of the Right buildings review, and more.

If you would like to be a part of the team of prayers for the Mission and Ministry of St. Aidan's please contact Pauline on paulinesonia@hotmail.co.uk

Food Pantry

After many months of planning we are now getting ready to open a food pantry at St Aidan's. The pantry will be called Aidan's Pantry and will be open on a Friday afternoon, 2.00pm - 4.00pm.

The food pantry is being funded by the Lifted Mission under the umbrella of Church Wigan and Wigan Deanery Trust. This means we will have access to lots of other organisations who can offer help and advice, like Christians Against Poverty.

The difference between a food pantry and food bank is that the pantry is open to everyone and stocks food from supermarkets and factories, such as Heinz. This prevents food from being sent to land fill sites and helps families of all incomes, ages and sizes access food at a very low cost.

Annual membership to use the pantry will be £5 and you will be able to purchase a wide range of 15 items for £3 every week.

There have been a number of pantries that have been opened throughout Church Wigan. They have been successful in feeding many people but also become places for socialising, advice, outreach and much more. Once established we hope to be able to expand our Pantry into much more.

This will be a warm and welcoming place where the people of Billinge can not only have access to good low priced, quality food but a place to make friends.

Everyone will be sure to receive a warm welcome.



Memorials

Names of deceased loved ones whose ashes have been interred in the memorial garden can be inscribed on the large granite memorial stone. Entries on the stone cost £200. If the partner or other relative wishes to reserve an adjacent space this can also be arranged, the cost being the same as the original entry and with no further charge when the inscription is completed. In order to ensure that the reserved line is kept the date of birth of the person for whom it is reserved will be added. The fee/s must be paid before any inscription is added.

Anyone wishing to make use of this memorial should contact Barbara Goulden (894694). Please give details in writing and include a telephone number on which you can be contacted.

St Aidan's Remembrance Book

Applications for Entries to the Remembrance Book can be made by filling in the request form, which gives full details of how to go about it.

Fees for entries cost £10.00. Forms are obtainable from the back of Church with details of what to do and who to return the form to.

The Opened Book shows 4 days dates per view and the pages are turned on a regular basis according to that day's date. The Book is on Display in the Glass topped Cabinet, in the Prayer corner. It has a Hinged glass top, which allows people to turn the page or pages so that their entry can be viewed at any time. Please use the pair of white cotton gloves provided to turn the pages. If you turn the pages to see a particular entry please return it to the day's date before leaving. All the entries are written in the Calligraphic style of writing with the First Letter in colour.

Church Grounds

Please note that any enquiries about graves or the burial of ashes must go to our Assistant Warden Barbara Goulden on 01744 894694 or email - staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com. not the team who work to keep the graveyard tidy.

St Aidan's Church Officials

Reader

Helen Steele 01744 894111
hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk

Reader in Training

Lesley Leppard 01744 892713
rednib2@hotmail.co.uk

Assistant Wardens

Barbara Goulden 01744 894694
Peter Hughes 01744 732890
Vacant

Assistant Treasurers

Joan Roberts 01744 895151
joanroberts@blueyonder.co.uk
Lorraine Webb 01744 608363
lorraineawebb@hotmail.co.uk

St Aidan's Friendship Group

Jennifer Berry 01942 537325
jenrenberry@gmail.com

Gift Aid

Philip Stott 01744 895751
philipjstott@icloud.com

Bible Reading Notes

Harry Wareing 01744 894759
harrywareing@talktalk.net

Baptism Enquiries

Margaret Stott 01744 895751

C.E Children's Society

Jean Grundy 01744 603208
jeangrundy49@gmail.com

Wedding Bookings

Barbara Goulden
staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com

Church Yard Volunteers

Tracey Holland 01744 893905
tracey.cattery5@btinternet.com

USPG Boxes

John & Brenda Bridge 01744 894528
rjohnbridge@gmail.com

St Aidan's School Headteacher

Rachel Fisher 01744 678042

Flowers

Joan Andrew 01744 892877
joanandrew@live.com

Assistant Magazine Editor

Vacant

Funerals are always booked through the undertaker. Other enquiries about funerals contact staidansbillingeeverger@gmail.com

St Aidan's Billinge
www.staidanbillinge.org.uk

