

St. Aidan's Church Autumn 23 (2)

Wigan South Bible passage for 2023:

God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Upcoming Services:

A reminder that at 4pm on November 12th the Civic Remembrance Service will be held in church. Church, decorated with knitted poppies, looks lovely.

On November 19th it will be Morning Worship. A plate will be available from 19th for contributions to relief efforts in the Middle East (see below).

The Beacon Service on November 26th will include our annual Toy Service. You are asked to bring gifts suitable for children and teenagers in the parish who are in need this Christmas. This will be given to the Mayor's Christmas Appeal. Please do not wrap the gifts, this will be done by volunteers. There is a special need for gifts for the teenagers! Thank you in anticipation of your great generosity.

Donations may also be brought to the 4pm Evening Prayer Service.

December - 3rd the usual Holy Communion, 10th St. Aidan's will be in church at 10.30am, and the Candlelit Carol Service will be at 4pm, 17th at 10am, the Beacon Service is brought forward a week and this will include the Crib Service, at 4pm there will be an Evening Prayer. On December 24th there will be our usual Christmas Communion at 8.30pm. On December 31st (5th Sunday) the Hub service will be at St. Aidan's Church. Please note that it will be at the later time of 10.30am.

Meeting regarding Right Buildings

Thank you so much to those who attended the last meeting. Your questions and comments have been welcomed. You are reminded that we will hold a further meeting to discuss the implications of the Review after the 10am Morning Worship service on Sunday November 19th, starting at approximately 11am. Rev Sue Fulford will be with us again to lead the meeting. It will be an opportunity to ask further questions, but we also need to consider how we can support our churches in the amber/red zone. Although St. Aidan's is in the Green zone (to be retained) we will need to do a review to look at our future mission plans. This will be an opportunity to give your thoughts on this. To enable the smooth running of the meeting, if you have a question or comment for this next meeting please either email them to hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk or place them in the red box at the back of church. We will endeavour to conduct the meeting quickly and efficiently.



Volunteers in Church

Volunteers - we cannot function without you! Thank you so much for all that you do. Our established volunteers will remember that in the past each volunteer was given a role description and other paperwork to ensure that all had an understanding of the responsibilities and limits of the job. Although some aspects of these roles remain the same, these badly need updating. We have become aware that we have let this slip over recent years and we need to tighten up our procedures for everyone's safety. As they become ready new role descriptions will be given to each volunteer and we will check the required paperwork with each volunteer.

Following incidents of deplorable abuse within this country the Church of England would like volunteers to be aware of safeguarding regulations, so that our services and activities remain a safe place for anyone to come in to, therefore some of our volunteers will be asked to undergo safeguarding training. This sounds a bit onerous, but we will give assistance to help with this training. It is a sign of how much we value the safety and well being of our children and vulnerable adults and how important it is to safeguard our volunteers too. Helen will be in touch with those involved.

Interviews for our new hub leader took place on 9th November. We have not yet heard who has been appointed to take this role. The practice is to release such information on the same day in all our churches and the church that the minister will be leaving. Please pray that our individual churches and our joint Hub activities may receive the leadership needed to fulfil God's will for our parish and that we all feel supported in our mission and our spiritual walk with Jesus.

*We have all seen accounts of the atrocities in the Middle East recently and the subsequent escalation of violence. Christian Aid has been working with the poorest and most vulnerable people in that region since the early 1950s, providing humanitarian relief to Palestinian refugees. They have established partners in Gaza and are ready to respond with medical relief and community-led initiatives such as food, shelter, sanitation and protection. Christian Aid are also actively exploring ways in which they might also support Israeli civilians who've been directly impacted by the violence. We will be supporting Christian Aid through a collection plate in services for 2 weeks.

Prayer for the Parish

If anyone needs to be added to our prayer list please let Helen or Margaret Stott know. The family **must give permission** for any name to be added to the list. The list that has been on these updates is also used in church services.

For confidential prayer needs contact Jennifer Berry for the St Aidan's Prayer Circle on 01942 389715 or Brenda Bridge on 01744 894528.



Please continue to pray for those who need God's healing touch, including Brenda, Tracey-Ann Napier, Young Janie, Jeanette Caine, Judith Burns, Dorothy Ashall and Lorraine Webb. We also remember all those who are grieving the loss of a loved one.

On this Remembrance Sunday we pray for those who have given their lives for our freedoms.

A prayer of commemoration for the fallen

Father of all, remember your holy promise, and look with love on all your people, living and departed. On this day we especially ask that you would hold forever all who have suffered during war, those who returned scarred by warfare, those who waited anxiously at home, and those who returned wounded, and disillusioned; those who mourned, and those communities that were diminished and suffered loss. Remember too those who acted with kindly compassion, those who bravely risked their own lives for their comrades, and those who in the aftermath of war, worked tirelessly for a more peaceful world. And as you remember them, remember us, O Lord; grant us peace in our time and a longing for the day when people of every language, race, and nation will be brought into the unity of Christ's kingdom. This we ask in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Over the next weeks you may wish to pray for areas of conflict. Suggestions to pray for the Middle East overleaf, taken from the Tear Fund Website, can also be applied to other areas of conflict, such as Ukraine and Yemen:

A prayer from the Tear Fund Website:

Dear God, We cry out to you on behalf of the people seriously affected by the conflict in Gaza and Israel. Our hearts break at the devastation and suffering that we see, and we know it breaks yours, too. We ask that you would stretch out your mighty hand to bring an end to this war. We cry out for people who have been injured or traumatised, who have lost loved ones or their homes. Please provide everything they need and be their comfort, their hope, their healer, and their safe refuge. We pray for your peace to reign. We look to you as our Saviour and the hope of the world. **Amen.**

Pray for peace

- Pray for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the violence.
- Pray for world leaders with influence in the region to make wise decisions that lead to lasting peace.
- Pray that God's peace would fill the hearts and minds of everyone who is suffering as a result of this conflict.

Pray for safety

- Pray for all civilians - that God would protect them from harm, particularly the most vulnerable, including children, older people, and people with disabilities.
- Pray for humanitarian workers - for protection for those who are working to provide humanitarian assistance and medical supplies.
- Pray for safe access to food, water, sanitary items, medical supplies, fuel and electricity.
- Pray for people forced to flee their homes - pray for safe places to stay and that they will be able to return home.

Pray for strength

- Pray for church leaders - for wisdom and strength to lead people through fear and uncertainty. Pray for bravery as they guide their communities and offer loving support.
- Pray for Christian communities and faith leaders across the region - for unity, connection and mutual understanding so that they can help bring people together and show kindness.
- Pray for humanitarian workers - that God would strengthen their resolve and ability to provide relief and humanitarian assistance.

Pray for hope

- Pray for those who are terrified, mourning and suffering in Israel and Gaza. Ask God to save them from despair - for the trauma and violence they've experienced not to overshadow hope.
- Pray that people in Gaza and Israel and those in the wider region wouldn't lose hope that peace is possible. 'With God, all things are possible' (Matthew 19:26).

Pray for healing

- Pray for people who have been traumatised or injured; ask God to heal their physical and emotional wounds and bring them deep comfort.
- Pray for hospitals and medical workers who are struggling with limited resources and overwhelming needs. Ask God to provide all the resources and equipment they need to treat the sick and injured.

'With God, all things are possible' Matthew 19:26