


# Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Aidan's edition



Neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

March 2024

70p

# Wigan South Parish Contacts

<b>Hub Leader</b>	Rev Jeremy Thomas hubleader.south@churchwigan.org 01942 727275
<b>Associate Hub Leader</b>	Rev Sue Fulford ahl.south@churchwigan.org 01942 242369
<b>Ordained Local Minister</b>	Rev Izzy Schafer izzy@schaferassociates.co.uk 01942 717300
<b>SSM Curate</b>	Rev Sue Thomas sue.thomas@churchwigan.org 01942 727275
<b>Wardens</b>	Paula Gillespie 07716 667763 Helen Weaver 07796 334457
<b>Administrator</b>	Cheryl Knowles cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sarah Riley sarahtreasurerstthomas@outlook.com 07712 584954
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Tricia Hancox triciahancox@gmail.com
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Jess Bradley magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk



# 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](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk).

	March	April	May
Deadline for material	15th February	21 March	18 April
Publication date	25th February	31 March	28 April

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# The Gardener



Spring's a time for planting in the warming earth  
Seeds and saplings growing at this time of birth.  
Carefully we tend them, pulling out each weed  
Watering and weeding every plant and seed.

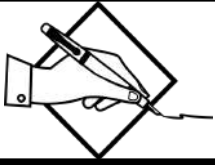
Yet we are just helpers – nothing done alone  
For without our Father, nothing will be grown;  
He's the Creator, He alone can bring  
Growth into our gardens each succeeding spring.

Let us praise our Maker who makes life appear,  
Praise Him in the springtime, and throughout the year;  
Praise Him for all nature – ev'ry tree and flower  
Gaze upon the garden, praise Him every hour!

God the gracious gardener cares for more than plants  
As to us, His children every breath He grants.  
He that for salvation gave His only Son,  
Do not fail to praise Him for all that He's done.



**By Nigel Beeton**



# Letter from Rosalyn

Dear Friends,

We are embarking on the Season of Lent a time when we think of the hardships that our Lord endured during his time in the wilderness, 40 days of intense heat by day and intense cold by night.

A time when He was tempted by the Devil testing his resilience, his patience and his endurance, almost like his own private war. He knew what the outcome would be in the end and he prepared himself for it.

In our lives we can endure our own time in the wilderness, it may be enduring illness, loss of a loved one, financial problems, broken or fractured friendships and relationships, all of which can cause great pain.

In all of this we must continue to pray as we ask for God's help and support to guide us along the right pathway of life with it many twists and turns to a positive end.

As a community in this South Hub we can all recognise the love and support of our Leaders, and all of our friends across all churches and we must be mindful that we are not alone and that there is always someone there for us.

**Wigan South Hub Churches**  
Holy Trinity | St Aidan's | St Andrew's | St Luke's | St Peter's | St Thomas'

## Bereavement Support Group

We invite you to come to a Safe Space

Don't Walk Your Journey Through Grief Alone

Share your experiences with a group of loving people

<b>St Luke's Church</b> Bolton Road Stubshaw Cross WN4 8UN 10.00am - 11.30am	<b>St Andrew's Church</b> 274 Garswood Road Garswood WN4 0TU 1.30pm - 3.00pm
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**1st Tuesday of every month - Starting December 2023**



Just recently a friend of mine visited a church in Peterborough and high above the Font was a Crucifix with some wording below, and this is what he sent me: "I was intrigued by the words on the Crucifix. I had never seen them before.

Stat crux dum volvitur orbis  
I looked up the meaning of course and found a short version below.....

The Cross is steady while the world turns".

The Cross is steady while the world turns.

It can serve as a reminder that no matter what happens in the world, God is always with us and so is his Church.

During this Lenten tide take these words with you as you look forward to the ultimate celebration of Jesus Christ is risen, He is Risen Indeed Alleluia!

**Blessings to you all**  
**Rosalyn xx**

# Parish News

## Weekly Events

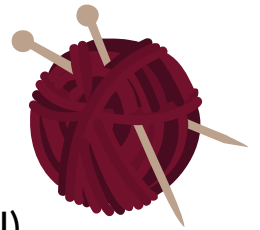
### Mondays

- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)
- 6.30pm: Girls Brigade (St Peter's)



### Tuesdays

- 10am - 12pm: Coffee Morning (St Thomas' church hall)
- 6pm: Boys Brigade (St Peter's)



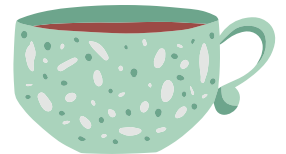
### Wednesdays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 2.30pm: Walk the Walls (St Thomas')
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group (St Peter's)
- 2.30pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y7 - Y11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)



### Thursdays

- 2pm - 3pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 2pm - 3.15pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)



### Fridays

- 2pm: Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)



### Sundays

- 1pm - 3pm: Asylum seeker and refugee drop in (St Thomas' church hall)

Please check locally for dates around term times



Together with local businesses, we are working to reduce the amount of food going to land fill.

The pantries are regularly stocked with food that is near its sell by date but can still be used to feed bellies not bins.



**St Thomas' Church Hall,  
Ashton in Makerfield**

Tuesday 11am - 12pm  
Thursday 3pm - 4pm  
Saturday 11am - 12pm  
Sunday 3pm - 4pm

Max 2 visits per week

Additional donations welcome to be used to build a pantry and kitchen behind the church hall.



**St Aidan's Church,  
Billinge**

Friday 11.30am - 2pm



**Holy Trinity Church  
Downall Green**

Friday 9am - 10am

**Each Pantry has a £5 annual membership  
and minimum £3 donation per visit**

# Services in March

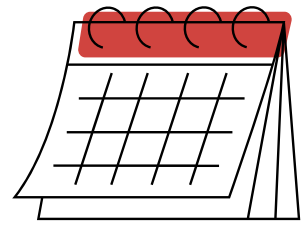


<p>Sunday 3rd</p>	<p>9.00am: Morning Worship            9.30am: Morning Worship            10.00am: Holy Communion            10.30am: Morning Worship            10.30am: Holy Communion            10.45am: Worship Together            11.00am: Family Worship            6.30pm: Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'            St Andrew's            St Aidan's            Holy Trinity            St Peter's            St Thomas'            St Luke's            St Thomas'</p>
<p>Wednesday 6th</p>	<p>10.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Aidan's</p>
<p>Thursday 7th</p>	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
<p>Sunday 10th (Mothering Sunday)</p>	<p>9.00am: Holy Communion            9.30am Holy Communion            10.30am: Sta's4all in school            10.30am: Holy Communion            10.30am: Morning Worship with Brigades            10.45am: Worship Together            11.00am: Holy Communion            4.00pm: Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas'            St Andrew's            St Aidan's            Holy Trinity            St Peter's            St Thomas'            St Luke's            St Aidan's</p>
<p>Wednesday 13th</p>	<p>10.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>Holy Trinity</p>
<p>Thursday 14th</p>	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
<p>Sunday 17th</p>	<p>9.00am: Morning Worship            9.30am Church café            10.00am: Morning Worship            10.30am: Morning Worship            10.30am: Morning Prayer            10.45am: Holy Communion            11.00am: Family Worship            6.30pm: Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas'            St Andrew's            St Aidan's            Holy Trinity            St Peter's            St Thomas'            St Luke's            St Thomas'</p>

Wednesday 20th	10.00am Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 21st	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 24th (Psalm Sunday)	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Café Church 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Family Worship 4.00pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 27th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 28th (Maundy Thursday)	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion 7.00pm: Hub Holy Communion	St Thomas' Holy Trinity
Friday 29th (Good Friday)	10.00am: Reflective Service TBC: Service of Reflection TBC: Good Friday Service 11.00am: Service on the Green with local churches	St Aidan's St Thomas' St Peter's Downall Green
Sunday 31st (Easter Sunday)	6.30am: Hub Holy Communion 9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Holy Communion 10.00am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Holy Communion	Three Sisters St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's

Everyone is welcome to attend any services  
at any of our churches  
and will receive a warm welcome.

# March Diary



**Thursday 29th February, 7pm:** Mothers' Union meeting (St Thomas')

**Friday 1st March, 11am:** Mothers' Union Women's World Day of Prayer (Holy Trinity)

**Monday 4th March, 10.30am:** Communion at Garswood House (organised by St Peter's)

## Tuesday 5th March

**10am - 11.30am:** Bereavement Support Group (St Luke's)

**1.30pm - 3pm:** Bereavement Support Group (St Andrew's)

## Saturday 16th March

**10am:** Litter Pick (meeting at St Thomas' church car park)

**2pm:** Afternoon Tea (St Andrew's)

## Tuesday 19th March

**1.30pm - 3pm:** Peace of Mind Dementia Cafe

**DRINK DEEPLY**

PRAYING FOR REFRESHING IN  
THE CHURCH & COMMUNITY  
4-22 MARCH

**GET A DAILY DEVOTIONS SHEET**  
email [prayer@churchwigan.org](mailto:prayer@churchwigan.org)

**JOIN ONLINE PRAYER**  
MON-FRI 9AM, FROM 4-22 MARCH  
CHURCH WIGAN FACEBOOK

**PRAYERS ON ZOOM**  
THU 7, 14 21 MARCH, 7.30-8.15PM  
email [prayer@churchwigan.org](mailto:prayer@churchwigan.org) for link

**IN PERSON NIGHT OF PRAYER**  
FRI 22 MARCH, 7.30-9.30PM  
ST ANNE BEECH HILL, WN6 7TA

Wigan House of Prayer

*With joy you will draw water  
from wells of salvation.*  
ISAIAH 12.3

## Lent ad clerum

### Bishop John's message at the beginning of Lent

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The calendar dictates that we have hardly had time to pause for breath after the Christmas season

and we find lent upon us. My prayer is that you have the opportunity to use Lent wisely for you and your worshipping community. The spiritual disciplines that we can properly observe during the Lenten season are for our benefit as we seek to grow as disciples of Christ.

For me lent is about focusing my heart and mind on the direction that God wants for me. Observing spiritual disciplines are a challenge in the modern world with the pressures of commercialism swirling around us. Ash Wednesday occurs on Valentine's Day this year as we try to engage with a serious message at a time when the world seems focused elsewhere. These pressures are often strong enough to lure us into a spirituality that is consumerist, rather than a path of love.

In one sense, love is revealing to someone one's beauty. I need someone else to help me discover my own beauty. By receiving someone else's love, you discover yourself. By accepting God's immeasurable love, we discover ourselves fully. Can we, in this Lenten season, find quiet and private time to get to know a bit more about ourselves and about others who are around us, and spend time in our inner room with shut doors to discover something more of the profundity of God?

Warnings in Matthew 6, 1-6 and 16-18 about almsgiving, prayer, and fasting – the classic disciplines of the penitent – point to the need to shed superficiality, to remove any traces of attention getting, to eschew mixed motives. These warnings are a call to self-disclosure, the disclosure of some of our secrets.



But they are also a guarantee that going to God in intimacy will unveil for us some of God's own profound truths and mysteries. And such an encounter with God is not going to keep us where we are; rather it would lead us to where we are expected to be. The challenge of Lent here is one for change and transformation: to become what we are meant to be.

The gospels show how Jesus modeled taking time to focus on being close to God. Yet he also showed us the resolution and determination to focus on the task God appointed him for. He was set for Jerusalem to fill his purpose in his death and resurrection. He was not to be diverted from this divine task.

We must be determined face the challenges before us as we serve God in the contexts he called us to. At our last Diocesan Synod we heard of the financial challenges, pressure on church numbers, the loss of giving and the strain that places on all church communities. We need to support each other through the challenges but we need to have a Jesus-like clarity to remain on course.

We have a clear vision and purpose. We want to see more people knowing Jesus and have more justice in the world. We know that if we are to achieve that then we all need to introduce people to Jesus and deepen their discipleship. From there we can grow leaders and have communities working for justice. Agreed by synod and one that I, my senior colleagues and all who serve at St James House are working towards. We hope that this is something you have signed up to and are working towards.

It is easy to be swayed off course. It is tempting to find the easy way out, to duck the challenges and to follow other paths believing this is right. It is tempting to lose heart besieged by tales of failure and overcome by a sense of responsibility for the place we find the church in. This does us no good. We are part of God's church, called by Jesus to make disciples and we can do that together.

Togetherness in Christ's service is massively important. Our diocese carries the marvelous legacy of the Sheppard Worlock vision of being better together. This vision was carried forward by their successors and I am honoured to hold it now. As such I was privileged to be part of prayers for unity in Merseyside then conferring with Anglican and Roman Catholic bishops in Norwich.

In our diocese, parishes are still aiming to come together in the discernment over Fit for Mission. It is the people of God discerning locally how best we do the mission of God – locally, determinedly, and humbly. This reimagining of church trying to create a parish system for the 21st century that maintains a resilient Christian presence in every community will only succeed if we work at it and pray for it together.

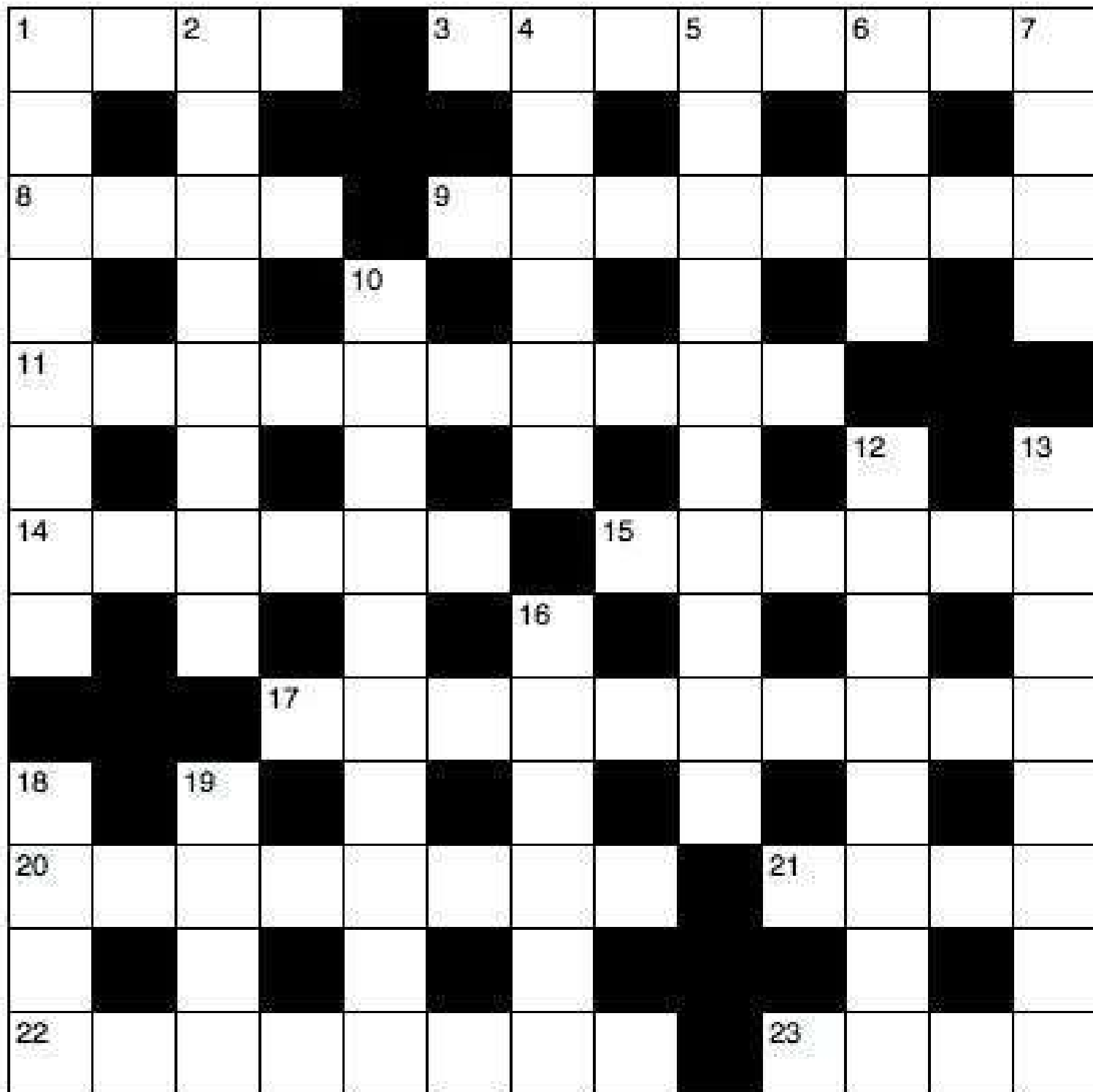
Lent marks the time before Jesus started his public ministry. The bible shows us that he was tempted to shape that ministry according to the patterns that might have made him popular in the short-term. During his journey to Jerusalem, his enemies are shown to be trying to prevent him achieve his purpose. He remained resolute.

I call on you to spend this lent to focus your heart and mind on God's purpose for you. I encourage you to support each other in this. And I hope that, as part of your spiritual discipline, you will join me at the diocesan Chrism Eucharist where we renew our commitment together. Then my prayer for you is that you remain resolute in achieving that purpose as you seek to build the kingdom in the context God has called you to serve in.

**With every blessing**

**Bishop John**

# Crossword



Answers on page 21



## Across

- 1 Made from the fruit of the vine, symbol of the blood of Christ (4)
- 3 'You are to set an ambush behind the city. Don't go very far from it. All of you be on — — ' (Joshua 8:4) (3,5)
- 8 Seep (4)
- 9 Celebrated by Jesus on the night of his betrayal (Luke 22:15) (8)
- 11 One of the supposed sites of Christ's burial place in Jerusalem (6,4)
- 14 'A city on a hill — be hidden' (Matthew 5:14) (6)
- 15 He inherited Elijah's mantle (2 Kings 2:12-13) (6)
- 17 Where Jesus prayed 'Not as I will, but as you will' (Matthew 26:36, 39) (10)
- 20 'Only in his home town and in his — — is a prophet without honour' (Matthew 13:57) (3,5)
- 21 Sail (anag.) (4) 22 How Jesus was punished before his crucifixion (Matthew 27:26) (8)
- 23 Eye sore (4)

## Down

- 1 Can't grow (anag.) (5,3)
- 2 A servant girl to Peter, 'You also were with that — , Jesus' (Mark 14:67) (8)
- 4 Well-being (Proverbs 3:8) (6)
- 5 Pentecostal denomination, — of God (10)
- 6 One of the 'obvious' acts of the sinful nature (Galatians 5:19, 21) (4)
- 7 'I preached that they should repent and — to God' (Acts 26:20) (4)
- 10 ' — — , the world will not see me any more, but you will see me' (John 14:19) (6,4)
- 12 He betrayed Jesus: Judas — (Luke 6:16) (8)
- 13 Jesus to Peter: ' — — of my sheep' (John 21:16) (4,4)
- 16 The centurion said, 'Surely this man was — — of God' (Mark 15:39) (3,3)
- 18 Baked bread (Mark 8:14) (4)
- 19 'Blessing and honour, glory and power, be — Him' (Handel's Messiah) (4)

## Reflecting Faith: Lychgates

On the moors near to where I used to live in West Yorkshire, there were a couple of large stones with crosses marked on them. Many people thought that they were boundary or marker stones, and in so far as they marked the way towards the oldest church in that area they were. To be more exact, they were on the route towards the oldest churchyard.

In ages past bodies were carried by hand, sometimes over long distances, and there were restrictions placed on where they could be laid to allow the bearers to rest. These two stones were 'resting' stones.

When a body arrived at the church for burial, it would again be put down while the administrative formalities were carried out, and again the bearers could rest. So, a resting stone was placed at the edge or start of the consecrated land around the church.

The priest conducting the funeral would meet the cortege here, not originally out of respect, but rather to receive the required legal certificate for burial before he allowed them to enter the church grounds.

Because of typical English weather - rain and wind - it was usually sheltered, and benches were built for the bearers. There would also be a cross within the construction to signify the start of holy land. This is what today we call the 'lych-gate'; lych coming from the anglo-saxon word lich or lic, related to the modern German word leiche, all meaning corpse.

Few old lychgates remain today, as many were destroyed or damaged after the Reformation, and most of those that survived were constructed of timber and have since decayed. In the eighteenth century, when the use for the resting stones and thus lychgates declined, many were removed and replaced with gates, often retaining the shelter as it continues to be a meeting place for the priest to receive funeral parties.

# The Coventry Passion Cross

“He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities, the chastisement that bought us peace was upon Him and by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:4-6

Coventry Cathedral uses as its emblem the Coventry Passion Cross – three nails together forming the Cross of Christ. Here is my reflection on the Coventry Passion Cross; what does this design mean to you?

The first nail is the carpenter’s nail and focuses us on the purpose of the nail. We are reminded that Jesus worked as a carpenter before entering His ministry. As He sat there in His carpenter’s workshop, smoothing and working the wood with love, did He contemplate the rugged cross on which He would one day be crucified? As He hammered nails into wood, did He ever accidentally hammer one into His finger, and as He felt that pain, did He foresee the nails of His crucifixion? As He carried large logs to His workshop to make tables, chairs, and doors, did He contemplate the cross he would one day carry to Calvary?

The second nail is the nail of Passion, it represents the nails in Jesus’ hands and feet that He accepted because of His passionate love for us.

The third nail is the nail of Promise, like the promise He made to the dying thief on the cross. It was that if we believe in Him, then we will reign with Him in paradise. This is the nail that Christ offers to you and to me. Will you accept this nail as a sign of His passionate love, His forgiveness of your sin and promise of eternal life for all who will come to Him? If so, why not pray the following prayer this Eastertide?

*Dear Lord Jesus, thank You that You have a plan and a purpose for my life, thank You for Your passionate love for me, thank You that Your blood was shed for my sins, thank You for Your promise of eternal life. As I think about that nail of promise, I receive Your passion, Your grace and Your forgiveness, may I fulfil Your plan and purpose for my life, In Jesus name, Amen.*

## Time for the Great Daffodil Appeal

The month of March brings us the Great Daffodil Appeal. This annual campaign is a fundraising initiative by the Marie Curie charity, which provides care and support to people living with terminal illnesses and their families.

The Great Daffodil Appeal says: "Right now one in four people don't get the care they need at the end of life. With your support, we can help bring end of life care and support to everyone who needs it, in their homes and in our hospices."

Here are some ways to participate:

- Purchase a Daffodil Pin: And wear it as a symbol of support.
- Organise or Attend Fundraising Events: Many events, such as charity walks, bake sales, and concerts, are organised to raise funds during the appeal.
- Donate Online: Visit the Marie Curie website to make a donation online, which goes directly to providing care for those in need.
- Volunteer Your Time: to help with various activities during the appeal.
- Spread Awareness: Use social media to encourage others to get involved and donate.

The Marie Curie Great Daffodil Appeal was established to honour the memory of Marie Curie, a pioneering scientist known for her work on radioactivity, as well as her dedication to providing care to those with cancer. The daffodil, a symbol of renewal and hope, was chosen to represent the campaign's message of support and care for individuals with terminal illnesses.

## Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Wine. 3, The alert. 8, Ooze. 9, Passover. 11, Garden Tomb. 14, Cannot. 15, Elisha. 17, Gethsemane. 20, Own house. 21, Lisa. 22, Flogging. 23, Stye.

DOWN: 1, Wrong act. 2, Nazarene. 4, Health. 5, Assemblies. 6, Envy. 7, Turn. 10, Before long. 12, Iscariot. 13, Take care. 16, The Son. 18, Loaf. 19, Unto.

## Why saying hello is important



What lessons can Christians learn from a London rail worker who was recently honoured by King Charles, for talking 29 people out of taking their own lives?

Maybe something about the power of conversation and being willing to 'stop for a chat.'

Rizwan Javed helped to save each life over a period of eight years, by being alert and approaching vulnerable individuals in difficult situations. He was awarded an MBE in the New Year Honours earlier this year.

Rizwan was alert, and willing to engage people in conversation.

Anglican priest Jemima Prasadam's style of talking with people has been described as 'bus stop theology.' She put it into action on the half-mile walk from her home to the church in Lozells, an inner-city area of West Birmingham, with high unemployment and poverty. Her engaging approach is featured in *Stick with Love*, a recent book by Arun Arora, Bishop of Kirkstall in northern England.

She explained: "I don't go out looking to talk to people, but I am ready to do it. I don't pass anybody without saying 'Hello' and when I leave, I always say 'God bless you.' Meetings happen on a daily basis, but often only last as long as it takes for the bus to arrive.

"People often say they are not religious, but I say we are all spiritual beings, and they agree. So, I simply tell them that weak and simple people like me call that God."

Sadly, we are living in a society where conversations are being closed down. People who might have chatted on the bus or train, are now deeply involved with their mobile phones.

Supermarkets are phasing out staffed checkout points, so that elderly people and others who live alone are deprived of those conversations that can make a difference to their day.

Jesus asked questions as a vital component of His earthly ministry. His deep conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well in John 4 begins with Him asking for a drink.

Maybe we, as Christians and churches, need to be looking out for more chances to start conversations, to give people the opportunity to open up about their lives. In our busy, rushing-around world, there are many people out there who are just longing for a chat...

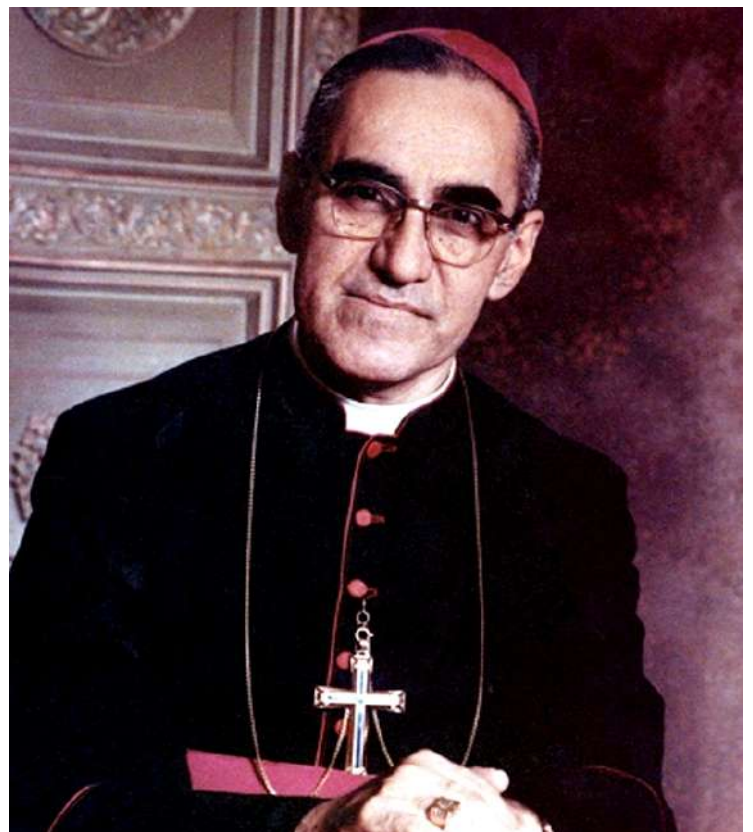
## **24th March - Oscar Romero, Archbishop of San Salvador, martyr 1980**

(this is his normal place in the church calendar)

Oscar Romero was a bit of a modern Thomas Becket – loyal to the authorities until he was given great responsibility for the Church. Then, like Becket, there was trouble.

In Romero's case, it all began when he was born Ciudad Barrios in El Salvador back in 1917. Devout from a young age, he was ordained in 1942, and became a parish priest in the diocese of San Miguel.

For 25 years Romero worked hard in his parish, where he was a traditional priest, very conservative, ascetic, and devoted to the Virgin Mary. In 1967 he was appointed Secretary to the



Episcopal Conference of El Salvador. He was elevated to be Bishop of San Salvador and then Bishop of Santiago de Maria. An admirer of the conservative Opus Dei movement, Romero firmly opposed any liberation theology.

Then in 1977 Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador. The Salvadorian government saw him as a safe pair of hands for the job.

But they were in for a shock. For Romero's new responsibilities made him look afresh at the relationship between Church and State in El Salvador. He did not like what he saw. Romero saw that social unrest and poverty were the direct result of government repression, and even worse, that the Church played its part in the on-going violence of Salvadorian society. After the murder of several outspoken priests and then the expulsion of several allegedly Marxist Jesuits, Romero felt compelled to speak out.

The right-wing Latin American governments were well used to priests who worked with the poor speaking out against them. But this was the first time that an Archbishop had raised his voice, and they were furious.

But Romero became a champion of liberation theology. He condemned government violence and championed the right of the poor to economic and social justice. He even wrote a pastoral letter from the Salvadorian bishops, supporting proportionate counter-violence towards the oppressive right-wing regime. When, nonetheless, he also still tried to act as a mediator between the rival groups, he was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize.

For several years Romero received death threats from both left- and right-wing paramilitary groups. Finally, while celebrating Mass, he was shot through the heart by a government assassin. It was 24th March 1980, and 40 more people died in the gunfire and explosions at his funeral. The Church worldwide mourned for him.



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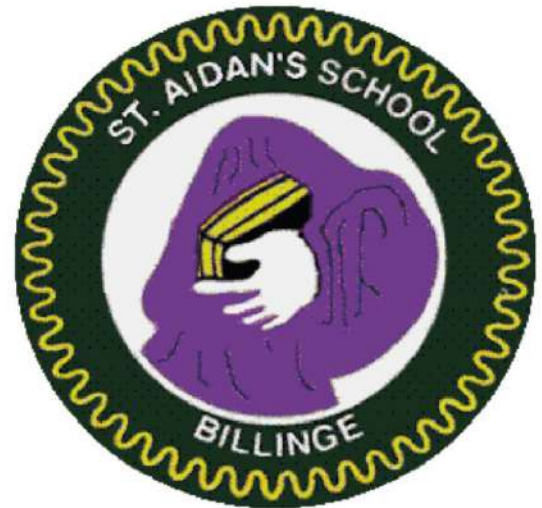
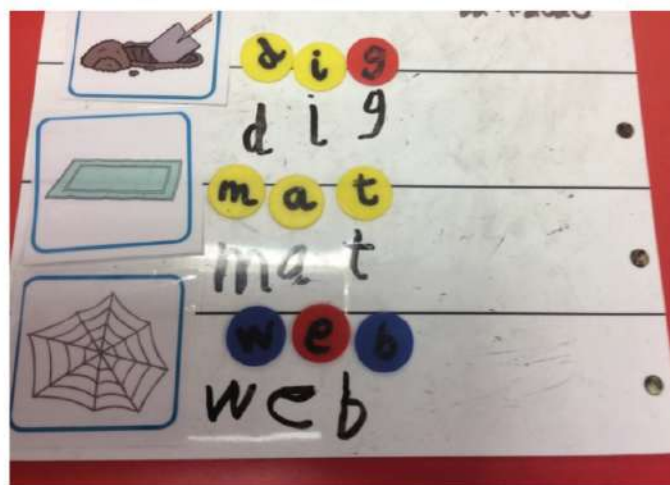
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## Welcoming you to our St Aidan's Family

Funded places available in our Nursery for September 2023 for 3 and 4 year olds.

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# News from our churches

## March Services at St Aidan's

Sunday 3rd March	10.00am	Holy Communion
Wednesday 6th March	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10th March	10.30am 4.00pm	Sta's4all in school Evening Prayer
Sunday 17th March	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 20th March	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24th March	10.00am 4.00pm	St Aidan's Beacon Holy Communion
Friday 29th March	10.00am	Reflective Service
Sunday 31st March	10.00am	Holy Communion

As we approach the Easter season we have some extra services to the usual pattern:

Thursday 28th March at 7pm there is a joint Hub service for Maundy Thursday at Holy Trinity, Downall Green.

Friday 29th March there is a quiet reflective service at St. Aidan's with readings, prayers, music and time to think about the implications of the great sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf.

Easter Sunday is a 5th Sunday, so usually we have a joint Hub Service, but as it is such a special day, each Hub Church will celebrate in their own churches. Although everyone is welcome to join the hub 6.30am service at the Three Sisters on Easter Morning.

## New Hub leader for Wigan South

It was a lovely service on Feb 4th to welcome and licence the Revd Sandra Jones as our Team vicar in Wigan South. Thank you to Church members who took part in the service and those who provided cakes to help with the refreshments. A number of church members have now met Sandra at various events and meetings at St. Aidan's during February, as well as the 4pm Holy Communion Service on Feb 25th. She is keen to meet her congregations and get to know us. I am confident that she will be a blessing in her new role as we navigate the next steps of mission, ministry and pastoral care together we are very pleased to welcome her.

**Sta's4all** – On March 11th, Mothering Sunday, we will be reflecting of the amazing Motherly relationship of Naomi and Ruth which reflects the love of God our

Father. This can be found in the Old Testament book of Ruth. There will be the usual refreshments, singing, stories and activities on the theme. Starts at 10.30am. The traditional daffodil gifts will be given to the mothers at this service, as well as the evening Prayer in church. Anyone will be most welcome to join us.



**The Friendship Group** have their first meeting of this year on 28th March. The group meet in church from 2pm. This is open to anyone who wishes to come to have a chat, share time together with refreshments and some input from a guest speaker. This month Helen Steele will be telling us about her trip to Jordan last year.



**Beacon:** Our next Beacon service is on March 24th which is Palm Sunday. Will there be a donkey in church? Well, not a real live one, but what is in store will be fun. Join our young at heart congregation and our Beacon Singers from school.



## 2024 Tuesday morning Study Course - Be Still

This course explores the simple, transformative practice of a daily quiet time with God. There are five sessions each including a video with teaching from Brian Heasley and friends, a group discussion guide with questions to work through and a practical challenge to develop our daily quiet time.

- Session 1 Encounter. In this session we'll explore the importance of encountering God in the quiet time.
- Session 2 Scripture. We unpick the significance of the Bible and how we can use, learn and memorise the word of God in our quiet time
- Session 3 Wonder. We explore how practising wonder and using our imagination in our quiet time can help us to discover more of God's presence.
- Session 4 Hiddenness. We tackle the challenges of persevering and hiddenness in our daily time with God, and how they can help us to grow in faith.
- Session 5 Mission. In the final session of the Be Still series, we'll think about how our quiet time can prepare us to share our faith in Jesus with the world.

The course will start on Tuesday 5th March 2024 at 10.15 for 10.30 and each session will last for 1 hour 30 minutes.

Venue : 18 St Mary's Avenue, Billinge

All are welcome



### St Aidan's Antique Valuation Road show!

This event went well. Thank you to all who took part - to those who helped with refreshments, and those who brought items to be valued. There was a steady trickle of people from all around the area who brought items to be valued. It was quite exciting. Many of us are waiting to see what our objects will raise at Auction. Others went home with little history better known. Thanks also to those who brought old English coins and foreign coins. Our bucket was full.

We await the value of this from Steven Parkinson, but we are pleased to know that we have at least £200 to add to our funds



Aidan's Pantry now has more than 90 members with 40 people regularly visiting us each week. The purpose of the pantry is to make food available to those struggling with financially or anyone who wishes to reduce food that goes to landfill.



We also run it a 'warm space' area where everyone can come for a chat over a cup of tea and biscuit. We have volunteers there who are available to listen if you wish to talk to someone or if you need help. We have great connections with many local initiatives and can call upon others for professional help across Church Wigan, Christians Against Poverty (CAP) who offer financial advice, St Helens Voluntary Community Action group which has further access to many support services, Torus and local councillors.


The highlight of February was two cookery demonstrations from a wonderful gentleman called Martyn from Torus who showed us how to make some really substantial, healthy meals at a small cost.

From the 1st March we will be changing the opening hours to 11.00am to 1.30pm. There will be people in beforehand setting up, but the doors will only open at 11am. We do try to ensure that there is enough food available no matter what time you call in.

### **Easter Egg Appeal**

Councillor Sue Murphy is organising an Easter Egg appeal to provide Easter Eggs for families in the area who are finding things difficult at present, to work in a similar way to the Toy appeal at Christmas. St Aidan's is acting as a reception point for these donations. If you are able to donate an Easter Egg to this appeal you can bring it to St. Aidan's Church to any of our services or events, such as the Pantry,





St. Aidan's Treasurer and Church Committee would like to  
acknowledge with thanks the kind donations: -

### **GENERAL FUND**

With thanks for all your thoughts and prayers throughout this difficult time.  
Blessings to one and all

In Loving Memory of Doreen Rooney (4th February 2000) for all her family  
L Rooney

In Memory of Peter Dart who passed away January 2024  
From John and Patricia Nicol

Birthday Memories of my beloved husband, Reg  
From Nora Hughes

In Memory of George Halsall  
From daughter Joanne and all of the family

### **FLOWERS**

In Loving Memory of a dear mum and nan, Elizabeth Cunliffe  
From Christine and Joan

### **CHURCHYARD FUND**

In Loving Memory of Les Parkinson, he would have been 90  
from Jean and Roy

### **NEW HOOVER**

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## Note from Treasurer

If you wish to make a donation by Bank Transfer the details are:

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Please insert the name of the person you wish us to remember as the reference and email joan.roberts530@outlook.com with any wording for the donation to go in the magazine.

Cheque made payable to St Aidan's Parish Church or (in exceptional circumstances) cash donations in an envelope can be given to the treasurer in church. Alternatively, please pass to a Church Warden or leader only, marked for the attention of the treasurer.

This shall ensure all monies are recorded, gift aid claimed and donations placed in the magazine in a timely manner.

# The Registers



<b>Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'</b>		
31 January	Beatrice Margaret Hamilton	88
12 February	Dorothy Ashall	101
14 February	George Fairbrother Halsall	85
20 February	Clifford Dawson	87

# St Aidan's Church Officials

## **Reader**

Helen Steele  
hrsteele@ticali.co.uk  
01744 894111

## **Assistant Wardens**

Barbara Goulden  
barbaragoulden@yahoo.com  
01744 894694

Peter Hughes  
pjh1950@hotmail.com  
01744 732890

## **Assistant Treasurer**

Joan Roberts  
joanroberts@blueyonder.co.uk  
01744 895151 / 07743408930

## **Baptism Enquiries**

Margaret Stott  
01744 895751

## **Wedding Bookings**

Barbara Goulden  
staidansverger@yahoo.com  
01744 894694

## **St Aidan's School Headteacher**

Rachel Fisher  
rachel.fisher@sthelems.org.uk  
01744 678042

## **St Aidan's Friendship Group**

Jennifer Berry  
jenrenberry@gmail.com  
01942 537325

## **Gift Aid**

Philip Stott  
philipjstott@icloud.com  
01744 895751

## **C.E Children's Society**

Jean Grundy  
jeangrundy49@gmail.com  
01744 603208

## **USPG Boxes**

John & Brenda Bridge  
rjohnbridge@gmail.com  
01744 894528

## **Flowers**

Joan Andrew  
joanandrew@live.com  
01744 892877

## **Bible Reading Notes**

Harry Wareing  
harrywareing@talktalk.net  
01744 894759

## **Magazine Editor**

Vacant

Funerals are always booked through the undertaker. Other enquiries about funerals contact  
staidansbillingeveryer@yahoo.com



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