

## St. Aidan's Church February 2024

Wigan South Bible passage for 2024:

*Shout with joy to the Lord, all the earth! Worship the Lord with gladness. Come before him, singing with joy. Psalm 100:1-2 (NLT)*

### **Special Service:**

On Sunday February 4<sup>th</sup> the Rev Sandra Jones will be installed as our Team Vicar at a special Hub service. This will be held at St. Thomas, Ashton starting at 10am. She will be licensed by the Bishop of Liverpool - Right Reverend John Perumbalath. There is far more parking space in Ashton but it is likely to be a packed church and parking will be at a premium. We are asked to leave St Thomas Car park for Sandra's family and friends who don't know the area. We can park on the Market car park or Chapel Street car park (near the Salvation Army/The Presidential pub). There is some on street parking but please be mindful of neighbours. There will be simple refreshments after the service.



If you would like to follow the service but are unable to make it, you may like to watch the live stream on <https://www.youtube.com/@stthomasstluke/streams>  
This can also be viewed later in the day using the same link.

### **Upcoming Services:**

For the rest of February services at St. Aidan's will follow our usual pattern - Sundays Feb 11<sup>th</sup> (Sta's4all in school) Evening Prayer at 4pm, Feb 18<sup>th</sup> + Morning Worship at 10am, Feb 25<sup>th</sup>, Beacon Service at 10am and Holy Communion at 4pm.

Wednesday February 14<sup>th</sup> is Ash Wednesday - the beginning of Lent. There will be a service of Holy Communion at 10am at Holy Trinity, Downall Green, and a Wigan South (our Hub) Holy Communion Service at Brigade Hall at Bryn, hosted by St. Peter's at 7pm. You may opt to receive anointing with Ashes at this service.

**Beacon:** The Christingles on January 28<sup>th</sup> looked fabulous - thanks to those who made this possible. Thanks too to Elliot - our lifesize Christingle! We look forward to our next Beacon on February 25<sup>th</sup> .



In February at **Sta's4all**, in school starting at 10.30am, we will be thinking about loving others, especially when they are different to ourselves.



We were unsure about the **Easter Day** service, as it falls on March 31<sup>st</sup> - a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, when it had become the practice to have a united hub service. I am very glad to let you know that it has been agreed between all of the Hub churches that we should hold services in our individual churches on this very special day.

### **Antiques and Collectables Valuation Roadshow**

Next weekend! Please see the advert on the back page. If you would be able to help with the serving of refreshments, providing of some cakes, serving teas, acting as stewards, then please contact Barbara Goulden 01744 894694 or Peter Hughes 01744 732890 to let them know. This should be an exciting event, and an interesting way of donating to our very bare coffers! There is no entrance fee as such, just donations for valuations. It is open to anyone - please encourage your friends and neighbours to come along.

### **Confirmation:**

The confirmation service for Wigan South will be on Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. Year 6 at St. Aidan's will be invited to be included. If there are any older children or adults of any age who would like to be confirmed this year please let Helen Steele know as soon as possible (01744 894111 or [hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk)).

**Aidan's Pantry** opened on the 1st December and we now have 74 members! The opening times, including time to come and share in a warm space, are 11.30am until 2.00pm on a Friday. We are so blessed with the volunteers who give whole heartedly to the Pantry.

We would like to thank our local suppliers Windy Arbour Farm and Co op in Billinge who supply us with food. As a group of seven pantries under the Lifted Mission of Church Wigan we also get food supplied from Heinz and Costco and I am also in the process of negotiating with other bigger outlets but as you can imagine these companies must be inundated with requests.

We are also able to offer long life food items to those who are struggling, so your donations are important. There is a plastic box at the back of church into which food donations can be placed when attending for a service or event. If you are in a position to donate money or food, tinned or dried, it would be appreciated. Our aim is to make sure that no one has to make a choice on whether to eat or pay a bill. The Pantry is open to everyone. It is such a wonderful atmosphere where people come to shop but also sit and have a chat with a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. It is not just a food pantry but a place to meet people and make new friends. You can just come for a chat without joining the pantry or if you just want to have a look around you are more than welcome.

Joan Roberts

### Church Yard:

Unfortunately during the recent gales we lost our dustbin! It is proving more difficult to replace that you might think. We don't have the manpower to remove all the black plastic bags that are appearing in the location that the bin previously occupied, and it is becoming very unsightly. Could you please either take your waste home or take it to the tip until we can sort this situation out. Thank You



**The Church of England's** challenge for Lent is to 'Watch and Pray - Wisdom and hope for Lent and Life'. The Archbishops say: Watch and Pray challenges us to seek God in both familiar and unfamiliar places: in darkness and in quiet; in movement and migration; in the healing and transforming work of the Spirit; in the weeping of Holy Week and in the joy of Easter morning." The booklets can be ordered from their website for

£2.50 ([www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org))

### 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 all those who have been on the previous list and those you know who need God's healing touch. And we remember the bereaved who are feeling the pain of separation from their loved ones at this time.

A Prayer for today:

Just for today, help me, God, to remember that my life is a gift, that my health is a blessing, that this new day is filled with awesome potential, that I have the capacity to bring something wholly new and unique and good into this world.

Just for today, help me, God, to remember to be kind and patient to the people who love me, and to those who work with me too. Teach me to see all the beauty that I so often ignore, and to listen to the silent longing of my own soul. Just for today, help me, God, to remember You.

Let this be a good day, God, full of joy and love.

Amen

# Antiques & collectables Valuation Roadshow

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Everybody Welcome



St Aidans Church

Main Street, Billinge, WN5 7LA

**Saturday 10th February**

**10am - 2pm**

**Donations for valuations**

£2 per item or

£5 for 3 or more items

**Refreshments available**



Steven Parkinson MNAVA

Senior valuer for Adam Partridge Auctioneers is based at the Catterall office, Steven will be giving valuations on all your antiques, collectables, especially jewellery, watches, coins, all art, modern art, pottery & porcelain, art, toys etc.

What if your treasures are worth a fortune and you want to sell them?  
Our valuers will give you an itemised receipt and enter it/them in to the  
next live internet auction.

For more information regarding this valuation event please call Steven Parkinson on 01772 347 380