

St. Aidan's Church March/April 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)

I do hope that you are finding time to come aside with Jesus in prayer and meditation to continue your Lenten journey. The Watch and Pray series from the Church of England has been excellent for this. As was the daily devotional sheets from 'Drink Deeply' - prayer for refreshing in the church and community.



We had a great time at the Beacon Service on Sunday. Including a bunch of disciples and a visit from a very special donkey called Aidan! Many thanks to Kirsty for this welcome addition to our Palm Sunday parade.



Holy Week

It's such a busy week this week so here are some new information and some reminders:

On Wednesday at 1.30pm our school are coming to church for their Easter Service.

On Thursday March 28th at 2pm the Friendship Group meet in church. Helen is the guest speaker, speaking about her trip last year to Jordan.

Also March 28th at 7pm - there is a joint Parish Holy Communion Service for Maundy Thursday at Holy Trinity, Downall Green. Do join us for this special service.

On Good Friday - our own reflective service from 10am. Also, All Saint's Church, Wigan are offering 'Three Hours at the Cross' from 12 noon -3pm. Rvd Whittingham will be leading reflections "Psalms from the Cross". (see advert on the end page)

March 31st Easter Sunday Family Holy Communion at 10am which will include an Easter Egg hunt, a name the Rabbit competition (prize an Easter Egg) as well as our act of Holy Communion.

Services for April:

April 3rd and 17th 10am Wednesday Holy Communion

April 7th 10am Holy Communion and a Baptism Service at 12.45pm

April 14th 10.30 Sta's4all in School, 4pm Evening Prayer

April 21st 10am Morning Worship

April 28th 10am Beacon Service 4pm Holy Communion

"Exploring the Psalms"

The first of five free sessions, organised by Church Wigan, (all of which will investigate the Book of Psalms and the different types of Psalms) takes place on April 20th at St. Francis of Assissi Church from 9.30am - 1pm. The topic this time is the prayers of David, Jesus and us.

You are welcome to attend any of the sessions. I will advertise each as they come up. They are free, but for organisational purposes they need to know how many to expect, so we are asked to book via the website - <https://buytickets.at/churchwigan> or use the QR code given here. The next session will be June 8th .



Volunteers in church: We take very seriously the need to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in our church and we follow the Church of England guidelines on safer recruiting of all our volunteers. Any new volunteers need to complete a self declaration form and references before they can begin any work within the church. And we desperately need some volunteers at this time. A small number of people are struggling to do the things that they see need doing because they think no-one else will help, and perhaps no-one offers help because they think that they're not needed. There is a great need for people to come forward to be a part of the Body of Christ at St. Aidan's. It is His ministry to which we are volunteers.

In this Easter season we are posed the question - Life or death? Jesus chose death in order that we, and His Church might have life. But what does life as a church mean? It must be more than simply coming to church on a Sunday for our favourite services. We need to grow together as disciples of Christ. We have a Gospel to proclaim! We want people who come to events to see Jesus in us, alive and working to bring pardon from sin and a peace that endures, to grow in love the family of God. That means that everyone must take on family responsibilities appropriate to their fitness and their faith. But at present I see a church that is struggling to fulfil it's day to day maintenance let alone reaching out to others. So I ask you to consider the following pleas:

Flowers in church: We give a big thank you to Joan Andrew who for many years has helped with flowers in church for our Sunday Services. But she feels that it is time for her to give up this role. Could you help us? We need someone who has an artistic eye and a love of flowers to replace Joan in this role. It may not need doing on a weekly basis. Because of our financial situation at times we use good quality artificial flowers, but for special occasions and when sponsored by a member (often in memory of a loved one) fresh flowers are arranged on the altar. Please contact our Assistant Warden Barbara Goulden (01744 894694) for more information if you could offer your services.

Funeral Verger Team: Don't think that this role is not for you! Please read on. We have a vacancy for a Funeral Verger. Funerals are arranged at fairly short notice, and no-one wishes to close their diary to all future events 'just in case'. So we wish to put together a team of 2 or 3 people that can share the task. We may go several weeks without a funeral, but can then have several in a short space of time. This is a very practical role. It is not to provide pastoral care for the family - that is the role of the minister. The role involves unlocking church, making sure the building is ready, such as putting out the service sheets, reserving seats for those who will follow the coffin in, maybe putting on a CD in the service, recording the numbers attending and locking up after all have left. If you think that you could help with this please contact Barbara Goulden (01744 894694)

Barbara will continue to co-ordinate the details and will give full training to willing helpers.

Church Cleaners

A small group meet every other Thursday morning from 10am - 11am to keep our lovely church clean. This is not just for our church members, of course, as members of our community and their guests also attend Church for baptisms, funerals, Pantry and special events. This is a valued job which benefits a wide range of people. Because of ill health the group size is depleted and they urgently need one or two people to help in this role. Could you give an hour every other week? If so please ring Jean Breeze on 01942 519618 for more information, or let Helen Steele know that you are interested.

Recycling: We have recycled a number of items at Church in support of charities over a number of years and encourage the recycling of as much as we can, but also need to tidy up at the back of church. Therefore we have moved our collection points to 2 labelled purple boxes in the Narthex. We need to change the charities that we are supporting as we can no longer access the previous ones. We will be collecting - **Stamps** - these can be sold to raise funds for the RNIB, please leave a surround of at least 1cm

Medicine packaging & blister packs - these can be made into useful items such as garden benches

Spectacles - these are sorted and will be sent to Sri Lanka through a Christian charity in Leicester

Used (or unused) printer cartridges - these are sold to raise funds to ship the spectacles.

These items can be brought to any service or event and placed in the drawers.

Contributions to the Aidan's Pantry can also be left in the containers at the back of church, supporting those who are struggling at present.

Bible Reading notes:

The yearly subscription for New Daylight and Guidelines for 1st May 2024 to 30th April 2025 is now due. The New Daylight subscription for this period is £13-47, a saving of 10%. The New Daylight large print subscription for the year is £17-16, a saving of 10%. Guidelines subscription for the year is £13-47, a saving of 10%.

Anyone wishing to join our regular subscribers for any of The Bible Reading Notes, please contact Harry Wareing, Tel. 01744 894759, Mobile 07724060881, or email harrywareing@talktalk.net

Quinquennial Inspection: Every 5 years our church and grounds must be inspected by the Diocese to ensure that they are safe. There is always a worry that we will be faced with expensive and urgent repairs. Praise God that last month we passed our inspection with no major surprises. There are a few issues in need of non-urgent attention which we can work on over the next few years. We were already aware that the Church wall and

railings need some attention. Thus we have ongoing repairs to do so we need to be vigilant in accruing monies for repairs over the next five years. The Church Committee will be ordering and prioritising the works at their next meeting.

Easter Egg Appeal

Thank you to all who contributed to Councillor Sue Murphy's Easter Egg appeal to provide a little joy into the lives of children of families living in this area who are finding it difficult to manage at this difficult time. Your generosity is much appreciated.

The Church Committee and worship leaders wish you all a very blessed Easter. May you know the peace and joy of the Risen Christ!

Prayer for the Parish



Please pray for Tracey-Ann Napier, Young Janie, Jeanette Caine, Judith Burns, Lorraine Webb, young Kai Pritchard Vivienne Haugh, young Elsie Hickey 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 festival time.

Living the Psalms Psalms from the Cross

**Good Friday 29th March
Three Hours at the Cross 12-3pm
All Saints Church, Wigan**

**12-2pm Reflections on the echoes of the Psalms
in the words of Jesus on the Cross.**

Please feel able join us for any part or all of the time of reflection.

2-3pm Choral Good Friday Liturgy