

# Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Aidan's edition

NOW THE LORD IS THE  
SPIRIT, AND WHERE THE  
SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS,  
THERE IS FREEDOM.

2 CORINTHIANS 3:17

May 2024

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.

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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).

	<b>June</b>	<b>July</b>	<b>August</b>
<b>Deadline for material</b>	16 May	20 June	Summer break
<b>Publication date</b>	26 May	30 June	Summer break

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## **A poetic prayer for Pentecost**

Happy Birthday to all Christians,  
This is where it all began;  
Out from here went the apostles,  
Taking Christ to everyone.

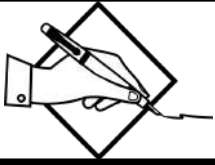
Able now to speak to nations,  
With the good news to proclaim;  
Crucified for our salvation,  
Hear His message, learn His name.

Out they went to every corner,  
Fearless as they spread the word;  
Bringing light to those in darkness,  
Giving hope to all that heard.

So must we with every blessing,  
Follow in the steps they trod;  
Showing love and help and kindness,  
All come from the breath of God.

**By Alan Millichip**





# May Letter

As we come into May, we enter a generally celebratory month. Along with (hopefully!) warmer weather and lighter evenings, both Pentecost Sunday and Trinity Sunday are celebrated. Both of which invoke images of bright colours and bright outlooks, a stark contrast to the more subtle period of Lent and the overcast scenes of Good Friday, which seem to have only just passed.

Here is a trick question: How many colours does your television set use?

Answer: Just three - red, green and blue. And in that order, just like a rainbow (where reds are at one side, blues at the opposite side, green in the middle). This is known as "RGB".

These are TV's three primary colours which, when their luminescence is fired at your eyes, give all the colours of the visible spectrum. These are all 'additive' colours. In fact, mix these three together in different proportions, and your screen can offer you 16 million colours!

You thought the sequence was red/yellow/blue? No, that's for painted or printed colours. A TV set positively gives out light in three different colours, whereas paint daubed on paper absorbs and removes some colours, to reflect back merely a small part of the light falling on it the colour that you see.

You'll soon call out the repair company (or consult Youtube if you're tech savvy!) if your television loses one of its three colours and all the presenters look as though they came from Mars. But change the intensity of any one colour (red, green or blue) even slightly and you change the overall colour.

Switch them all off, and you are left with black. Let all three of them shine at full brightness, at the same point - and then as if by magic you have a totally different colour: WHITE!

It's a parable which illustrates the Holy Trinity. Three completely distinct persons; Father, Son and Holy Spirit, just as your TV set has three quite separate colours: red, green, blue. Take away any one member of the Trinity, and you slip into theological error; take away any one of the three colours, and you call out the TV repair engineer!

So:-

It **DOES** matter that God is our Creator and Father - otherwise our whole life is merely a meaningless illusion.

It **DOES** matter that Jesus is God the Son, for otherwise His death is simply a human tragedy, with no promise of salvation or eternal life.

It **DOES** matter that the Holy Spirit is with us here and now, otherwise we are disconnected from God.

Yes it really does matter! Just as it is essential that a TV set can produce white by the equal intensity of all of its three colours. In fact, the more you think about it, the more it seems that the doctrine of the Trinity is far from being a complicated, but is a sort of theological test-card, to make sure that we've got the right picture of God, without distortion.

As we enter into this new period, refreshed and fired up from the miraculous events of Easter, may we take this time to reflect on our perspective of God and how we can further our understanding and reflection of this moving forwards. Is there any aspects of our lives where we feel we can refine this, improve our understanding or draw nearer to God? Indeed, as we come to our APCM, it is my prayer that we consider these things as a Parish and focus on how decisions we make in the coming year can continue to stoke the fire in Wigan South.

*14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God, and the fellowship of  
the Holy Spirit be with you all.*

2 Corinthians 13:14

# Parish News

## Weekly Events

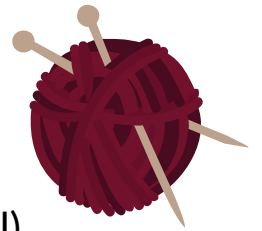
### Mondays

- 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)
- 3pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 4pm - 5pm: Discipleship Group for Y7 - 11 ( 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



# May Diary



## Tuesday 7th May

**11am:** Communion at Garswood House (organised by St Peter's)

## Saturday 11th May

**9am - 10.30am:** Prayer & Pastries (St Thomas' Vicarage)

**11am - 1pm:** Africa Fund Brunch (St Thomas')

## Sunday 12th May

**6.30pm - 7.30pm:** GAP worship, chat and chill for older teenagers and young adults (St Thomas')

## Tuesday 14th May

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

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

## Tuesday 21st May

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

## Saturday 18th May

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

## Tuesday 22nd May

**7.30pm:** Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) at St Thomas' church - EVERYONE welcome

## Wednesday 23rd May

**2pm:** Friendship Group with Brenda Bridge as guest speaker, talking about her recent travels in Australia (St Aidan's)

## Thursday 9th - Sunday 19th May

Thy Kingdom Come - encouraging everyone to pray for 5 people who do not yet know the love of God

# Prayer and pastries!

Do you have a heart for prayer, Jesus, and others? You are welcome to join us as we seek to hear God's voice and bring our requests to Him

*Refreshments will be served! All welcome*

*Saturday 11th May  
9.00-10.30am  
St Thomas Vicarage*

**Pray  
more  
worry less**



**Saturday 27th April**

**11am - 2pm**

**St Andrew's Mission Hall**



Admission only 20p!

With stalls including cakes, knitted goods, name the odoll, surprise bags and appearances from our friends at Holy Trinity and the Meningitis Charity

Refreshments available - Pie, peas and gravy, picnic plates, tea, coffee and juice

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 1.30pm - 3pm

\*Thursday new time for a trial period\*

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 11am - 1.30pm



**Holy Trinity Church  
Downall Green**

Friday 9am - 10am

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

# Services in May

Wednesday 1st	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 2nd	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 5th	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: Morning Worship 6.30pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 8th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 9th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion 7.00pm: Hub Ascension Day Service	St Thomas' St Aidan's
Sunday 12th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Sta's4all in school 10.30am: Morning Service 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Holy Communion 4.00pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's St Peter's Holy Trinity St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 15th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 16th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

Sunday 19th	<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  1.00pm: Pentecost Celebration  6.30pm: Evening Prayer</p>	<p>St Thomas'  St Andrew's  St Aidan's  St Peter's  Holy Trinity  St Thomas'  St Luke's  Downall Green  St Thomas'</p>
Wednesday 22nd	<p>10.00am: Holy Communion</p>	<p>Holy Trinity</p>
Thursday 23rd	<p>9.45am: BCP Holy Communion</p>	<p>St Thomas'</p>
Sunday 27th	<p>9.00am: Holy Communion  9.30am: Morning Worship  10.00am: St Aidan's Beacon  10.30am: Morning Prayer  10.30am: Holy Communion  10.45am: Worship Together  11.00am: Morning Worship  4pm: 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>

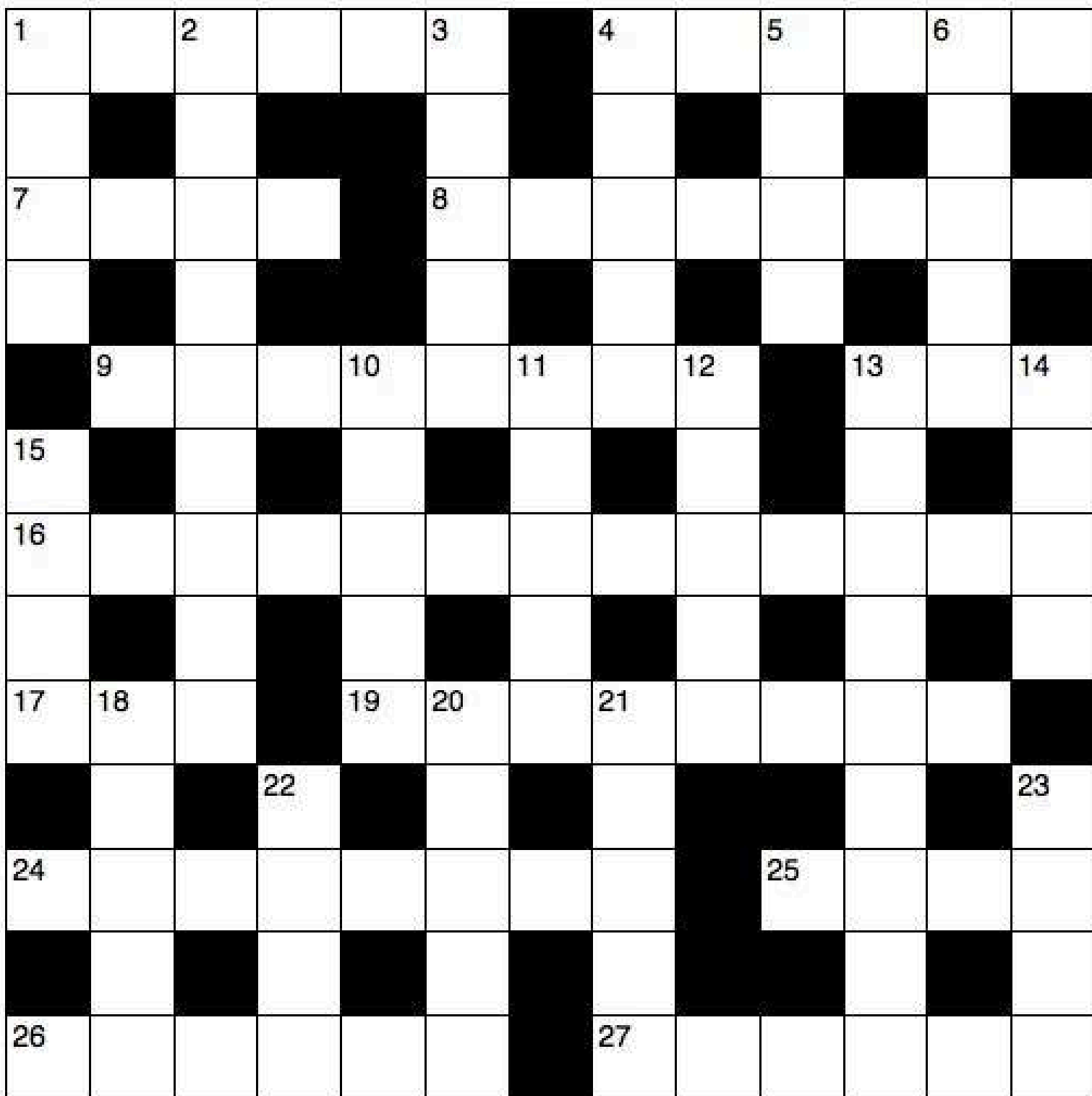


**Advanced Notice:**

Sunday 30th June, being the fifth Sunday of the month, will see a Wigan South service at 10.30am at St Thomas' Church. This will be Rev Jeremy Thomas' last service before his retirement.

All are welcome to join this service and to stay for cake with friends afterwards.

# Crossword



Answers on page 19

## Across

- 1 One who owes money, goods or services (Isaiah 24:2) (6)
- 4 'A good measure, pressed down, – together and running over' (Luke 6:38) (6)
- 7 Continuous dull pain (Proverbs 14:13) (4)
- 8 This bread contains yeast (Amos 4:5) (8)
- 9 'But take heart! I have – the world' (John 16:33) (8)
- 13 And the rest (abbrev.) (3)
- 16 What Paul was accused of by Tertullus, the high priest's lawyer, in his trial before Felix (Acts 24:5) (13)
- 17 Rap (anag.) (3)
- 19 Founder of the Jesuits in 1534 (8)
- 24 'For where your – is, there your heart will be also' (Luke 12:34) (8)
- 25 The first word written on the wall during King Belshazzar's great banquet (Daniel 5:25) (4)
- 26 'We all, like sheep, have gone – ' (Isaiah 53:6) (6)
- 27 One was given in honour of Jesus in Bethany (John 12:2) (6)

## Down

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the lame walk, the - hear, the dead are raised' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 2 Conduct (Colossians 1:21) (9)
- 3 In the Catholic and Orthodox traditions, the body of a saint or his belongings, venerated as holy (5)
- 4 'Like a – of locusts men pounce on it' (Isaiah 33:4) (5)
- 5 Very old (Genesis 44:20) (4)
- 6 In Calvinist theology, one who is predestined by God to receive salvation (5)
- 10 How Nicodemus addressed Jesus when he visited him (John 3:2) (5)
- 11 Sea (Psalm 148:7) (5)
- 12 'I will – you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever' (Psalm 145:1) (5)
- 13 One of the groups of philosophers that Paul met in Athens, who disagreed with his teaching about the resurrection (Acts 17:18) (9)
- 14 Barred enclosure (Ezekiel 19:9) (4)
- 15 'Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in - with the Spirit' (Galatians 5:25) (4)
- 18 Cares (anag.) (5)
- 20 Garish (Ezekiel 16:16) (5)
- 21 'So God said to Noah, "I am going to put – – to all people"' (Gen 6:13) (2,3)
- 22 Just (2 Corinthians 6:13) (4)
- 23 'The – of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge' (Proverbs 1:7) (4)



## Scottish Parliament recognises 'iconic' St Giles' as the congregation celebrates 900 years

A recent motion has been laid in the Scottish Parliament recognising St Giles' Cathedral as "a prominent part of the life of Edinburgh and Scotland for 900 years".



It commends the "iconic" cathedral, which was probably founded by King David I in 1124, for "its various projects, designed to reach out to people of all ages, backgrounds and faiths across the city".

The citation continues stating that "1.5 million people from around the world visited St Giles' in 2023, underlining its status as a dynamic centre celebrating Scotland's heritage and culture, as well as being an active place of worship".

The motion was laid down by Miles Briggs, a Lothian MSP, and will now be circulated for other MSPs to sign. If you would like more information about the 900th anniversary, please check for updates on the St Giles' website.

### **Good dog!**

Recent scientific research has found evidence that having a dog is good for you. "Science is finally catching up with what humans have intuitively known for thousands of years." So says Professor Emeritus Aubrey Fine of Cal Poly University, a paediatric clinical psychologist.

A recent study at Konkuk University in Korea found that participants' alpha-band brain waves increased while playing and walking with dogs, while their beta-band brain waves increased while grooming, massaging, or playing with dogs. All participants were left feeling "less fatigued, depressed and stressed".

In one American academic journal, *Circulation: Cardiovascular Quality and Outcomes*, a study found that, overall, dog owners have a 24 per cent decreased risk of all-cause mortality, and that that percentage rises to 31 per cent for cardiovascular-related issues.



## Faith in Families to run Wales' first multibank

Cwtch Mawr, Wales' first 'multibank', has been officially opened by First Minister Mark Drakeford and Gordon Brown, the former Prime Minister.

Multibanks are based on the foodbank model, but provide a wider range of non-perishable goods, enabling businesses to redistribute surplus unsold items to people for free.

Cwtch Mawr will be run by Faith in Families, with support from Gordon Brown and Amazon, who co-founded the multibank initiative. The Welsh Government is providing £125,000 for the start-up of the project, with other support coming from local partners including Swansea Council, Pobl Housing Association and The Moondance Foundation.

Cwtch Mawr will be supported by donations from Amazon and other companies, including cleaning wipes, sanitary products, toilet paper, kitchen rolls and toys. New and reusable household goods, food, clothes, toiletries, furnishings, bedding, children and baby goods are expected to be provided in future.

The multibank model encourages businesses to cut down on waste through the creation of a bank of surplus household goods. Cwtch Mawr plans to donate more than 300,000 surplus essential goods to 40,000 families in poverty this year.



## 9th May - Ascension Day, 40 Days with the Risen Christ

40 days after Easter comes Ascension Day. These are the 40 days during which the Risen Christ appeared again and again to His disciples, following His death and resurrection. (Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; and John 20.)

The Gospels give us little of Christ's teachings and deeds during those 40 days. Jesus was seen by numerous of His disciples: on the road to Emmaus, by the Sea of Galilee, in houses, etc. He strengthened and encouraged His disciples, and at last opened their eyes to all that the Scriptures had promised about the Messiah. Jesus also told them that as the Father had sent Him, He was now going to send them - to all corners of the earth, as His witnesses.

Surely the most tender, moving 'farewell' in history took place on Ascension Day. Luke records the story with great poignancy: 'When Jesus had led them out to the vicinity of Bethany, He lifted up His hands - and blessed them.'

As Christmas began the story of Jesus' life on earth, so Ascension Day completes it, with His return to His Father in heaven. Jesus' last act on earth was to bless His disciples. He and they had a bond as close as could be: they had just lived through three tumultuous years of public ministry and miracles - persecution and death - and resurrection! Just as we part from our nearest and dearest by still looking at them with love and memories in our eyes, so exactly did Jesus: 'While He was blessing them, He left them and was taken up into heaven.' (Luke 24:50-1) He was not forsaking them, but merely going on ahead to a kingdom which would also be theirs one day: 'I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and your God...' (John 20:17)

The disciples were surely the most favoured folk in history. Imagine being one of the last few people on earth to be face to face with Jesus, and to have Him look on you with love. No wonder then that Luke goes on: 'they worshipped Him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they stayed continually at the temple, praising God.' (Luke 24:52,53)

No wonder they praised God! They knew they would see Jesus again one day! 'I am going to prepare a place for you... I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.' (John 14:2,3) In the meantime, Jesus had work for them to do: to take the Gospel to every nation on earth.

## THY KINGDOM COME – 9th to 19th May 2024

This year more than a million Christians worldwide will be joining in long-distance prayer between Ascension Day to Pentecost (9th – 19th May).

What started in 2016 with the Archbishops of Canterbury and York inviting the CofE to pray, has grown into an annual international and ecumenical call to 11 days of specific prayer that more people will come to know Jesus.

According to the organisers of Kingdom Come, the movement is now in nearly 90% of countries worldwide, and spread among 85 different denominations and traditions.

Kingdom Come explains that it encourages: “Every person, household and church to pray that those who have not yet heard the Good News of Jesus Christ and His love for the world, will hear it for themselves and respond and follow Him.

“Specifically, we again invite each Christian to pray that God’s Spirit might work in the lives of 5 people whom they know, who have not responded with their ‘Yes’ to God’s call.”

Whether you have joined in ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ before or not, you are invited to take part this year. Archbishop Justin Welby says: “In praying ‘Thy Kingdom Come’ we all commit to playing our part in the renewal of the nations and the transformation of communities.”

# Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Debtor. 4, Shaken. 7, Ache. 8, Leavened. 9, Overcome. 13, Etc. 16, Troublemaking. 17, Par. 19, Ignatius. 24, Treasure. 25, Mene. 26, Astray. 27, Dinner.

DOWN: 1, Deaf. 2, Behaviour. 3, Relic. 4, Swarm. 5, Aged. 6, Elect. 10, Rabbi. 11, Ocean. 12, Exalt. 13, Epicurean. 14, Cage. 15, Step. 18, Acres. 20, Gaudy. 21, An end. 22, Fair. 23, Fear.

# The Story behind the Hymn 'Praise my Soul the King of Heaven'

*Praise my soul the King of heaven,  
To His feet thy tribute bring;  
Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,  
Evermore his praises sing.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting King.*

*Praise Him for His grace and favour  
To our fathers in distress;  
Praise Him, still the same as ever,  
Slow to chide and swift to bless.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Glorious in His faithfulness.*

*Fatherlike, He tends and spares us;  
Well our feeble frame He knows;  
In His hands He gently bears us,  
Rescues us from all our foes.  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Widely yet His mercy flows.*

*Angels in the height, adore Him,  
Ye behold Him face to face;  
Sun and moon bow down before Him,  
Dwellers all in time and space;  
Praise Him! Praise him!  
Praise with us the God of grace!*

**By Henry Francis Lyte (1793-1847)**

This stately poetic paraphrase of Psalm 103 has been included in probably more solemn ceremonies than any other hymn in the English language. It was even chosen by Queen Elizabeth for her wedding to the Duke of Edinburgh in 1947.

Henry Lyte had been a brilliant theological student at university in Dublin, with a gift for versifying. After graduation he moved to a tiny and remote parish in County Wexford to serve his curacy. It was here, when he was about 25, that Henry had a religious experience which would transform his life.



A close friend of his, another clergyman, had fallen ill, and was clearly dying. Henry went to visit him. The friend was not as distressed as Henry had imagined he would be. Instead, the friend confessed that he had been re-reading the New Testament, with an eye on eternity, and had made a great discovery. There was no need to rely on religious duties and formalities and good deeds to gain peace with God. Instead, we can trust completely in the mercy of Christ and His saving power.

Henry was sophisticated and had been very formal in his ministry. But this encounter with his friend's faith at death's very door, made him reconsider his faith. He wrote later that his dear friend 'who died happy in the thought that there was One who would atone for his delinquencies' made him 'study my Bible and preach in another manner than I had previously done'. And soon after this hymn appeared, in 1834.

Lyte rejoices in the majesty and wonder of the living God, who in turn loves us. He captures the measure of the Psalm in enduring lyrics, which combine time, eternity, God and man all swept up into one embrace. Its last verse summons all the created order to join in a great act of joyous praise – surely a preview of eternity!

## Prayer for Schools Fortnight – 6th to 20th May

Our local schools are busy places, and draw in many people, especially students, teachers, governors, parents, caterers, and school grounds support services. These people need our prayer, as they face many daily challenges.

And so it was that four years ago a network made up of Churches Together England, CARE, Youth for Christ, Scripture Union, New Generation, the Association of Christian Teachers, came together to launch the Prayer for Schools Fortnight.

It now exists to promote prayer for schools in partnership with prayer groups, churches and Christian organisations. The vision is to see all 30,000 schools in the UK being regularly prayed for.

The theme this year is Running the Race, based on Hebrews 12, and highlighting the perseverance and team mentality needed for schools to operate successfully.

Mike Simmonds, director and education consultant of Go Ministries which supports governors in schools, said: "Schools have almost always been at the heart of the Church's mission. Praying for teachers, other staff, governors, and children must surely underpin our hopes and vision that the next generation will flourish in every way possible.

"For most, school will be the only place they encounter God - that must be a prayer priority."

More details at:

<https://www.eauk.org/church/pray-with-us/pray-for-schools.cfm>







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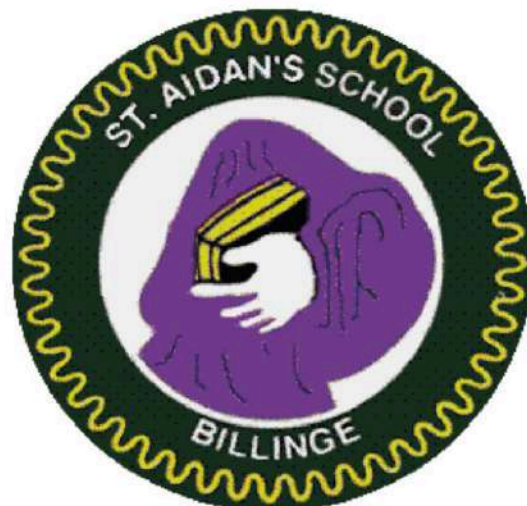
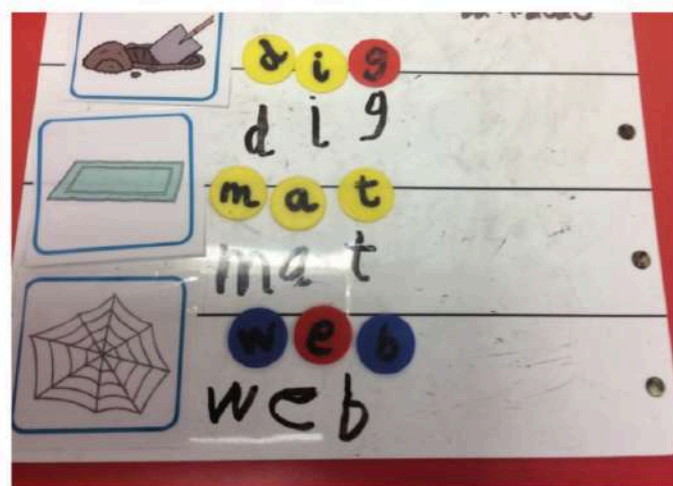
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199 Warrington Road, Whiston Tel: 0151 431 0696

1 Queen St; Newton-le-Willows WA12 9AS Tel: 01925 291060

177 Ormskirk Road, Rainford, WA11 8HR Tel 01744 882645





## Welcoming you to our St Aidan's Family

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

Please contact school on:

01744 678042

[staidansb@sthelens.org.uk](mailto:staidansb@sthelens.org.uk)





A Private Day Nursery, rated Good by Ofsted, caring for babies and children from 3 months to 4 years old.

Funded places available for 2, 3 & 4 year olds and limited 'term time' places are available.



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Please contact the Nursery for more information or pop in anytime for a visit.

Tel: 01744 886166

Email:

[admin@cranknursery.net](mailto:admin@cranknursery.net)



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NICEIC approved  
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**BILLINGE**  
MEDICAL PRACTICE

*Here to represent Billinge Medical Practice patients*

**Patient  
Participation  
Group**

**... needs your  
artwork!**

**Tired of a boring, plain GP waiting room?  
Nothing interesting to look at to distract you?  
Help us make our practice a warm and welcoming place!**

We are looking for local artists and poets who would like their creations displayed in the practice. Pieces that make our heart warm, reflect positivity and help showcase our pride in unique features of Billinge and Orrell! Medical themed artwork is particularly invited, and we would be keen to consider work encouraging vaccination uptake, healthy diet and lifestyle and the benefits of stopping smoking.

Your artwork can be paintings, drawings, photographs, mixed media or poetry. Pieces can be dropped off during opening hours at the practice reception, or let us know if we can help with collection.

This is just the start of an ongoing project allowing us to rotate pieces showcasing all our local budding artists across the year! We plan to also display pieces online in the future, and artists will be credited for their kind donations if they wish.

**The PPG thank you for your support to enhance our GP practice.  
Look out for future Patient Participation Group (PPG) ideas.**

The Practice is welcoming new and returning patients.  
Billinge Medical Practice, Recreation Drive, Wigan. WN5 7LY.  
(01744) 892205

# ARTISAN FRAMING SERVICES

All aspects of Framing

Sports & other Memorabilia

Photos, Paintings, Cross Stitch, Needlework

Canvas Stretching

Free on site customer car parking

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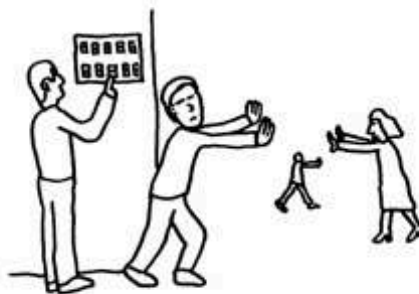
25 Bolton Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8AA

## LEAVING CHURCH

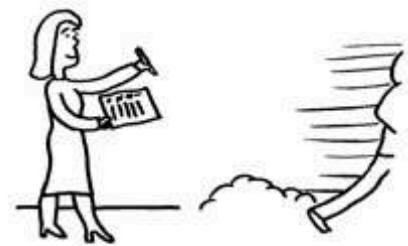
SOMETIMES IT CAN BE DIFFICULT TO ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO LEAVE AFTER A SERVICE BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN HAVING SUCH A GREAT TIME. THESE ARE SOME OF THE TACTICS THAT THE CHURCHWARDENS ADOPT:



JANGLING KEYS



TURNING OUT THE LIGHTS



APPROACHING PEOPLE WITH A ROTA



ORGANISING A WORK PARTY



THE COMMENCEMENT OF A GROUP HUG



SOME ODD OR UNPREDICTABLE BEHAVIOUR

# News from our churches

Wednesday 1st May	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 5th May	10am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
Thursday 9th May	7pm	Hub Ascension Day Service
Sunday 12th May	10.30am 4pm	Sta's4all in school Evening Prayer
Wednesday 15th May	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 19th May	10am	Morning Worship
Sunday 26th May	10am 4pm	St Aidan's Beacon Holy Communion

May 9th – The joint Holy Communion Service for Wigan South for Ascension Day will take place at St. Aidan's. We look forward to welcoming our friends from the 5 other churches in Wigan South.

**Sta's4all** – On May 12th we will be thinking about Zaccheus up a tree! There will be the usual refreshments, singing, stories and activities on the theme. Starts at 10.30am. Late comers should be aware that we will be closing the front door at 10.50 am, but you can come round to the back door to enter the hall.



**Beacon** - Our next Beacon service is on May 26th. Our theme this month is all about that great celebration of the Holy Spirit – Pentecost. Join our young at heart congregation and our Beacon Singers from school. There will be refreshments after the service, so do stay and chat.







**The Friendship Group** meet in church on May 23rd 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 Brenda Bridge tells us about her epic trip to Australia.

In June the speaker will be Jane Longworth who will be speaking about the Rise Up Campaign - RISE UP against domestic abuse.

Rise Up stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. This is part of a Mother’s Union campaign to raise awareness of domestic abuse. If you would like to know more please join them. Donations in the ‘bucket’ in Church given in May will be given to this cause.



**Billinge Parish Council Awards**

Congratulations to our church members who received an award in April – George Cooper and Harry Thompson who were awarded the Young Citizen Award, and Colin Philips, Peter Preston and Joan Roberts who gained a Service to the Community Award for their service to the Aidan’s Food Pantry. We are very proud of you all!



**Antiques Road Show**

Following on from the success of the Antiques Roadshow in February it is proposed to hold another event in church. We will let you know when a date has been confirmed.

## **Thy Kingdom Come**

From Ascension Day (May 9th) to Pentecost Sunday (May 19th) we join with individuals from all around the world in praying for God's Kingdom to come here in our local community, and God's will to be done as it is in heaven.

These precious days can be infused with expectation and anticipation by setting these days apart to pray, individually and together, for a fresh outpouring of the Holy Spirit. We can cry out to God for more people to come to know the life transforming love of God.

Each year the organisation invites us to choose five people who do not yet know the love of God for themselves, and pray for them each day. This year's Prayer Journal, found on the 'Thy Kingdom Come' website, explores a variety of ways to pray from across different denominations and traditions. As you journey through these 11 days, faithfully interceding for your five people, their hope is that you will be refreshed by what you learn, and inspired to encounter God in new ways. Why not give it a go!

## **Parish Annual Meeting (APCM)**

I hope that many of you will be able to attend the APCM for Wigan South to be held on Wednesday 22nd May. It starts at 7.30pm and will be held at St. Thomas Church, Ashton. This meeting reports on the activities and finances of our churches within this group. New church wardens and parish council members will be elected. In order to be able to vote you must be on the Electoral Roll.

This year there is a minor revision of role members. If you are already on the electoral roll you do not need to do anything, but if you are not a member and wish to become one, then you must fill in an application form, available in church. The next major revision (when everyone must reapply) takes place in 2025.



## **Volunteers in church**

We are still looking for help in keeping our Church as we would like to!



Flowers in church: Please contact our Assistant Warden Barbara Goulden (01744 894694) if you could offer your services to arrange flowers.

Cleaning of Church: On alternate Thursdays from 10 am – 11am. For more information please contact Jean Breeze on 01942 519618, or Helen Steele (01744 894111).

Funeral Verger Team – to organise the practical side of the service. Please contact our Assistant Warden Barbara Goulden (01744 894694)

## **The Memorial Stone:**

There are a few names outstanding to be engraved onto the memorial stone. This can only take place when the weather is fine. The firm who do this have informed us that they will not be able to attend for at least 3 month because of a backlog of work caused by the bad weather.

In previous years places have been reserved on the stone for people to be listed alongside of a spouse. In some cases the family may not be aware that this had been the wishes of the loved one. Unfortunately contact details of the family were not recorded at the time and we are now unable to contact some families to ensure that they are able to take up the reserved spot on the death of this loved one. If you know phone numbers or email addresses to help us contact family members please contact Barbara Goulden or Peter Hughes (contact details on back page).

Thank you

## Food Pantry

Aidan's Pantry is growing weekly and we now have 117 members. It is an honour to serve the community of Billinge and our Pantry has now become a warm and friendly meeting place where people come and chat over light refreshments whilst being able to do some shopping from food. We are being supported by local businesses and donations of food and cash but as we grow weekly the need for food donation is growing. We are now registered with Fare Share who supply food from the large supermarkets but as you can imagine there is a waiting list and we just have to await our turn to receive this food on a weekly basis.



Our aim is not just to feed our community but to be there as a helping hand. You can just come along and meet us all and we will be so pleased to see you. If you know of any local business who are willing to donate food that is usually close to use by date instead of throwing away this food then please contact me either by email [joan.roberts53@outlook.com](mailto:joan.roberts53@outlook.com) or 07743408390.

*Joan Roberts*

## Note from Treasurer

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

Sort code: 60 24 02      Account No: 04035135

Please insert the name of the person you wish us to remember as the reference and email [joan.roberts530@outlook.com](mailto: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.

# Donations & Remembrance

## GENERAL FUND

Loving birthday memories of Lilian and Eric Thomas,  
loving Mum, Dad, Grandma and Grandad from  
Susan, Barry and Emily

In loving memory of Peter Dart

With thanks for the donation from Roy Lawrence

2 Anon Donations

## FLOWERS

With thanks from Susan

## FOOD PANTRY

With thanks for the donations from Sandra Ferry Marion boardman and  
Barbara Goulden.

# The Registers



## Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'

7th April

Arthur Michael Barlow

# St Aidan's Church Officials

## **Reader**

Helen Steele  
hrsteele@tiscali.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 893251

## **Baptism Enquiries**

Margaret Stott  
01744 895751

## **Wedding Bookings**

Barbara Goulden  
staidansverger@yahoo.com  
01744 894694

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

Rachel Fisher  
rachel.fisher@sthelens.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  
staidansbillingeveryger@yahoo.com



St Aidan's Billinge

[www.staidanbillinge.org.uk](http://www.staidanbillinge.org.uk)