

St. Aidan's Church June 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)

Services in June:

June 2nd Holy Communion at 10am

Wed June 5th Holy Communion presided by Jeremy (His last Wednesday Communion with us)

June 9th 10.30am Sta's4all at School, 4pm Evening prayer at Church

June 16th 10am Morning Worship, speaker Sandra Jones

Wed June 19th Holy Communion

July 23rd 10am Beacon Service, 4pm Holy Communion

June 30th being the fifth Sunday of the month, will see a Wigan South service at 10.30am at St Thomas' Church, Ashton. This will be Rev Jeremy Thomas' **last** last service before his retirement. All are welcome to join this service and to stay for cake with friends afterwards.

If you are not able to join in person you may wish to join on line using

<https://www.youtube.com/@stthomasstluke/streams>



Hub PCC

The APCM meeting on Wednesday 22nd May was prayerful and inspiring. Thanks was given to the 3 members from Hub churches who had 'served their time' on the PCC, including Lesley Hughes. We too thank Lesley for her service. St Aidan's PCC members, Joan Roberts and Philip Stott are joined on the PCC by Marilyn Richardson who was elected to the PCC at this meeting. We really appreciate Marilyn taking on this roll. Many thanks to each one of them for the work they do in being trustees of the whole Parish, and representing St Aidan's.

Please note that this work is a separate body to our St. Aidan's Church Committee which liaises with and implements the decisions of the PCC within our individual church environment. Our Church Committee are Peter Hughes (Chair), Barbara Goulden, Joan Roberts, Grant Dixon (Health and Safety) and Andy Peers. A big thanks to them also for their quiet and essential endeavours over the year.

Coast to Coast Sponsored Walk

Starting in the May half term, Alison Corkill begins a 12 day sponsored walk from St Bees in Cumbria to Robin Hood's Bay in North Yorkshire, a total of 192 miles. This is in aid of the Well Being and Therapy provision at St. Aidan's School, which is currently under

threat due to the underfunding of schools. School also support 'Hope's Heart' Charity and a donation from the fundraising will also be made to this charity. There is a sponsor form in church. Alison is a key member of our congregation and is SENDCo at St Aidan's School. If you are able, please sign up to sponsor her efforts.

Quiz Night

7th June at 7.30 p.m. in Church. John Bridge has kindly volunteered to provide the necessary questions. It will be like old times! I'm really looking forward to this.

There will be a raffle and refreshments with hot drinks. It has been approved that we can have bring your own alcohol and soft drinks too, but please take away our empties! The ticket price is £5.00. Please Contact Barbara Goulden if you would like a ticket.

Songs of Praise - July 14th 4pm

A reminder that next month our 4pm service on July 14th will be a Songs of Praise. Do you have a favourite hymn that you would like to sing? Please let Margaret and Philip Stott know by **Sunday June 16th** so that they can prepare the service. Ring them on 01744 895751 or email on philipjstott@icloud.com You might like to say why this song means so much to you.

Return of the St Aidan's Antique Road show!

This event takes place in St. Aidan's Church on Saturday June 22nd at the slightly earlier time of between 9am and 1pm. Participants will pay £2 for a valuation through our expert Steven Parkinson. You then have an option to sell through Steven if you wish.

We had great fun in February and would love to see you there. There will be a bucket to put your old foreign and English coins in. These will be sorted, any valuable coins will be sold and the proceeds given to church funds. All contributions gratefully received.



The **Friendship Group** meet in church on June 27th from 2pm. This is open to anyone who wishes to come to have a chat and share time together with refreshments. The guest speaker this month 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.

St Aidan's during the roadworks!

What an exciting time we had in May, when it was announced that Main Street would be closed on two Sundays. We had to say a few prayers! What were we to do? The details showed that our congregation would not be able to park very close to church, and who wanted to walk alongside those big noisy machines? Not good! But where else could we meet?

A huge thank you to Mrs Fisher who responded immediately to our request to use school for our services. She said - "Our hall is your hall." So both the evening prayer on May 12th

and our special Pentecost Morning Worship on May 19th was held in the School hall. Despite some trepidation beforehand, it worked very well and the services were well attended. We were reminded on Pentecost Sunday that the disciples were meeting in an upper room, they didn't have a 'church' to meet in. It is not the building that makes church (special though it is). The Church is the people of God meeting together to worship him and minister in His name. We can do that anywhere. Though let's hope that when we have our next 'fire safety' or 'health and safety' inspections we do not have find an alternative venue for a while!

Volunteers at St. Aidan's

A big thank you to Gill who came forward to help with cleaning, and John, Yumiko and Peter who are now able to help with funerals. We would really like a fourth person to be on the Funeral Verger team. Could it be you? Remember, you will be on a rota, in pairs, so that you have space in your diary, you will be seeing to the practical details like opening up the building, you are not there to offer the pastoral care, simply to be sensitive to the occasion and to enable it to happen! Contact Helen or Barbara if you can help. The number of funerals has dropped considerably, we think that in part it is because people are still saying that we have no vicar! Although they may not live in our Parish, we have 3 vicars (soon to be 2 admittedly) and 4 non-stipendiary Clergy assisting in our Parish!

We still have no-one to lead on flowers. In the meantime, please contact Barbara if you wish to have flowers done for a special occasion and she will arrange this. Could you help with this?

We also give a big thank you to the volunteers who weeded between the slabs at the front of church on 14th May. It has made such a difference!

Audio visuals at church

As you will know we have occasional problems with feedback and with connections from the laptop to the projector, and we have areas of the church where it is difficult to see the screen. Our Church Committee feel that it would improve the quality of the services and address some safety concerns to revamp the system but are concerned about the inevitable cost. An expert has been in church to look at the sound and visual systems and their accompanying wiring. A quote is to be made so that this can be considered further.

Memorial Garden

Names of deceased loved ones whose ashes have been interred in the memorial garden can be inscribed on the large granite memorial stone. Entries on the stone have cost £200, but costs are rising still, and we have to consider a change to the fees. The fees must be paid before any inscription is added.

Anyone wishing to have an inscription on the memorial stone should contact Barbara Goulden (894694). Please give details in writing and include a telephone number on which you can be contacted.

Politics!

There will be lots of hype in the coming weeks which many (including me) will prefer to avoid. But with the announcement of the General Election on July 4th, you may wish to be informed about issues from a Christian source. CARE (Christian Action, Research and Education) have launched a website to help you to prayerfully consider your vote - www.engage24.org.uk CARE is strictly politically neutral. They work with MPs from all parties when they are with them on their causes. The engaGE24 site will not tell you who to vote for but it will equip you to think through key issues, and help you connect with prospective candidates.

You'll also find a dedicated, 40-day prayer resource. God commands us to pray for all those in authority (1 Timothy 2:1-2). That is one indisputable thing we can do this election that will make a huge difference.

Prayer for the Parish



Please continue pray for Jeremy and Sue Thomas as they anticipate the changes in Jeremy's life, and pray for Sandra and Sue Fulford and they prepare for the inevitable changes to their work pattern from the beginning of July.

Please pray for volunteers to continue to come forward to all those places where we have a shortage, including service leaders, flowers, cleaners, a Funeral verger, organist/musical help.

Please pray for Lorraine Webb, Tracey-Ann Napier, Jeanette Caine, Judith Burns, Alan Chadwick, young Janie, June Phillips and those you know who need God's healing touch. And we remember the bereaved, the family and friends of David Locket, Angus Duncan and Wally Brookes and all who are feeling the pain of separation from their loved ones, whether that is recent or a while ago.