

St. Aidan's Church May/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)

Worship with all of creation.



Forthcoming Services:

Remember that Main Street around the church will be closed for road repairs on Sunday May 12th and 19th. It will be open for the rest of the week:

Sunday May 12th 10.30 Sta's4all in School and 4pm Evening Prayer in **School Hall**, when our preacher will be Rev Sandra Jones.

Wednesday May 15th Holy Communion in church.

Sunday May 19th Pentecost Sunday - 10am Morning Worship in the **School Hall***

Sunday May 26th Trinity Sunday - 10am Beacon Service in Church

4pm Holy Communion in Church. This will be the last Sunday service at St Aidan's where Jeremy will be President.

Sunday June 2nd 10am in Church Holy Communion, 12.45pm Baptism service

Wednesday June 5th 10am in Church Holy Communion. This will be the last Wednesday Communion at St. Aidan's when Jeremy will be president.

June 9th 10.30 Sta's4ll in School, 4pm Evening Prayer in Church

June 16th 10am Morning Worship

*If you wish to take Holy Communion on Pentecost Sunday the Parish Communion Service will be at St. Thomas Ashton at 10.45 am.

Retirement of Rev'd Jeremy Thomas

Rev Jeremy Thomas approaches his retirement, as previously announced. His last services at St. Aidan's are listed above. His last service in Wigan South Parish will be the Communion service to be held at St. Thomas Church at 10.30 am. Where he will preside and preach. All will be welcome. If you are able to bring along a few cakes to share please let Helen or Barbara know.

We are making a collection for Jeremy. He is hoping to take a trip to Iona, and our contributions would help to enable this to happen. Please give your donations in an envelope marked 'Jeremy's retirement' to Joan Roberts or Helen, Peter or Barbara. Donations need to be in by June 16th.

Rev Sue Thomas will take a four month sabbatical from July, returning to continue her ministry amongst us on 3rd November. Please pray for them both as they seek Gods guidance as to what he has planned for Jeremy in the future.

Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) began on Thursday. It is a global prayer movement that invites Christians to pray from Ascension to Pentecost for more people to come to know Jesus. Church Wigan are encouraging everyone to take part to pray during these 11 days - either on your own, as a household, or small group.

The two main aspects of TKC are 'Pray For Five', taking five minutes each day to pray for five people you know to come to faith, and pray that God's rule and blessing becomes more evident in our own lives and the life of our community.

There are great resources on line to help you do this, which are all free. There are a few prayer booklets left in Church if you are not able to get on -line. Please let Helen know if you would like one and she will try to get it to you as soon as possible. More details can be found on the Church Wigan Notice sheet or via Church Wigan Facebook page or via Thy Kingdom Come Facebook page.

Reminder - Contact Number for Rev Sandra Jones

Please note that when Sandra moved into the vicarage in Ashton she was unable to keep the phone number that Jeremy and Sue had. Her new landline is 01942 728238. She may also be contacted by email using sandra.jones@churchwigan.org

Prayer and Pastries Do you have a heart for prayer, Jesus and others? Join in this exciting new venture for all of Wigan South Parish on Saturday 11 May from 9.00 am till 10.30 am at St Thomas' Vicarage. All are welcome to join us to hear God's Voice and bring our requests to Him.

Parish Annual Meeting (APCM)

The APCM for Wigan South will be held on Wednesday May 22nd. This very important meeting is a time to celebrate achievement and to think about who we are and what we can be in the next year. It starts at **7.00pm** and will be held at St. Thomas Church, Ashton. This meeting reports on the activities and finances of our churches within this group and new church wardens and parish council members will be elected. In order to be able to vote you must be on the Electoral Roll.

Advance notice - Songs of Praise

At 4pm on Sunday July 14th Margaret and Philip are hosting 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 philipstott@icloud.com You might like to say why this song means so much to you.

RISE UP

The Church Committee have agreed to support this worthy cause by allowing the donations in the 'bucket' in Church to be given to this worthy cause. This has been postponed to be during the month of June because of the disruption to services in May. Rise Up stands for Respond, Inform, Support, Empower, Unite and Pray. This is a Mother's Union campaign to raise awareness of and provide support for the victims of

domestic abuse. We no longer have a Mother's Union at St. Aidan's, but a number of our members from St. Aidan's are attending a group at another church.

On June 27th the speaker at the **Friendship Group** will be Jane Longworth who will be speaking about the Rise Up Campaign - RISE UP against domestic abuse. If you would like to know more please join them.

Quiz Night:

7th June at 7.30 p.m. in Church. John Bridge is our quiz master. It promises to be a lot of fun! There will be a raffle, refreshments and you can bring your own alcohol and soft drinks but please remember to take your empties away with you afterwards. There will be tea and coffee available. The ticket price is £5.00.

Advance notice: Return of the St Aidan's Antique Road show!

After the fun we had in February, this event is to return - 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 will again have 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.

June Phillips has come home from hospital. Please continue to pray for her as she continues her recovery at home and as she adapts to cope with her reduced mobility.

Volunteers:

We still need volunteers to enable the church to work efficiently and make our worship worthy of our Lord. This is urgent. Our most pressing needs currently are -

Flowers in church: We need someone who has an artistic eye and a love of flowers to use our good quality artificial flowers, and when sponsored for special occasions, fresh flowers to decorate our church. Please contact our Assistant Warden Barbara Goulden (01744 894694) for more information if you could offer your services.

Funeral Verger Team: We have a vacancy for a Funeral Verger. Could you work as part of a team? Being part of a team will allow those who help to do so on a rota basis. 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.

Fund Raising Group: New request! It would aid us tremendously to have a small group who would consider new and old ways of raising money to meet the £10,000 shortfall that we currently face each year. If you feel that you could help with this please let Joan Roberts, or Helen, Peter Hughes or Barbara Goulden know.

Prayer for the Parish



Please pray for Jeremy and Sue Thomas as they reach a significant milestone 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 come forward to all those places where we have a shortage and for an increase in our income that we may maintain our ministry in Billinge.

Please pray for Young Janie, Jeanette Caine, Judith Burns, Lorraine Webb, Vivienne Haugh, young Elsie Hickey, June Phillips, Roy Lawrence and those you know who need God's healing touch. And we remember the bereaved, known to God, both those recently bereaved and those who are still struggling with grief after some time.