

## St. Aidan's Church August 2024

Hub Leader	Rev Sandra Jones	07598 847391
Associate Hub Leader	Rev Sue Fulford	01942 242369
Self-Supporting Minister	Rev Sue Thomas	07877 704645
Reader	Helen Steele	01744 894111
Assistant Warden	Barbara Goulden	01744 894694
Assistant Warden	Peter Hughes	01744 732890

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)*

It's holiday season! Not all the usual activities will take place as normal, but Aidan's Pantry carries on. Well done to Joan and their volunteers!

Services in August

Aug 4<sup>th</sup> Holy Communion at 10am.

Aug 11<sup>th</sup> Evening Prayer at 4pm. Reflection by Rev Sandra Jones. It will be lovely to see June Phillips back in leadership at this service.

Aug 18<sup>th</sup> Morning Prayer

Aug 25<sup>th</sup> 10am Beacon, 4pm Holy Communion

Please note that the **Beacon Service** on Sunday August 25<sup>th</sup> will not include the Beacon Singers.

We had a fabulous service and picnic at the Beacon Service in School on July 21<sup>st</sup>, with over 85 people attending. Year 6 pupils took a prominent part in the service. It was a chance to reach out and model God's love for this community. Jesus himself went out to people where they were rather than always expecting them to come to him!

Congratulations to the Codling children for winning the tower building competition. We proved practically that like the wise man it is better to build upon the stable rock that is Jesus' teachings than the shifting sands of the latest trends, but it also helps to build with strong materials like the Gospel values rather than spaghetti and marshmallows!

The **Confirmation service** early in July was a joyful event, both the service and the social time which followed. Congratulations to all the candidates. Our two adult Candidates Peter and Angela gave a wonderful testimony at the service. They will be taking their first Communion at the 4pm service on July 24<sup>th</sup>. Megan and Elise will join us after the school holidays.





The **Friendship Group's** afternoon Strawberry Tea in church was a very uplifting event, enjoyed by all who came. A big thank You to those who did the most excellent organising and catering.

It was lovely to see some 'old friends' amongst us. The occasion raised £350 towards the new sound system. A magnificent effort. Thank you to those who came, and those who sent in a donation.



There will be no Friendship Group in August, but it starts again in September.

### **Leadership in Church**

Can I please ask that people go through the proper channels when giving information, about issues in church, particularly when there is an urgent event. It is not fair to loyal members of our congregation to be asked to sort out things that are no longer their responsibility, and it makes difficulties when those who are responsible are unaware of the situation. I know that sometimes people are not available - we all have home lives and responsibilities - but there is a line of leadership to follow.

Queries about Church Services - Helen Steele 894111 or [hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk)

If you have to leave an answer on the answer machine and it is **urgent** contact one of our 2 church Wardens , Barbara or Peter (phone numbers above)

Financial issues - Joan Roberts 895151 or [joan.roberts53@outlook.com](mailto:joan.roberts53@outlook.com)

Queries/information about Pastoral Care - Margaret Stott 895751 or [margaret.stott@icloud.com](mailto:margaret.stott@icloud.com) If you have has to leave an answer on the answer machine and it is **urgent** contact Barbara or Helen.

Queries about Pantry - Joan Roberts 895151

Queries about safeguarding contact Helen Steele (see above)

All other queries/information contact our Church Wardens

If you have any questions about any issues in church please address them to the Church Committee via the suggestion box (see below) so that we can deal with them.

## **Right Buildings Review**

We were all very relieved when we found that St. Aidan's was not being recommended for closure under the Right Building's Review, but that process across Wigan is ongoing. We need to improve our financial provision, but also we need to be able to show how we are engaging with our community in worship and activities. Our building cannot be just for Sunday worship, nor would we wish it to be. It now has more community use than ever, with the introduction of Aidan's Pantry, but could we do more? In late September a team of leaders from St. Aidan's will be meeting with our Hub clergy to do a review of St Aidan's and our mission, as part of the ongoing 'Right Buildings Review'. Please continue to pray for the use of our church building.

## **A Service review**

On Monday July 22<sup>nd</sup> many of the team of people who help to provide your services each month came together to evaluate our current organisation and practices in services and to look at how we continue to glorify God through our worship and serve the community in which we serve. This included service leaders, those who read scripture, do intercessions and communion. A big thank you to Rev Sue F who came along to support us in this. We thought about the ethos and vision that we have as a church. That vision may be different for different types of service and activity. We provide a range of worship styles each month for a range of people. Our vision is both for those who have been with us for many years, but also for those whom God is calling even now. The vision shared by members included: Reach out to the community with God's love in practical ways and in worship, modelling God's love to that community; showing a united church; building stronger links with school; growing disciples and building relationships.

We will need to condense these visions down to make an over-riding statement for vision for the whole church. This will be very useful for when we meet for the Right Buildings review. What is your vision? What activities do you think would help us to glorify God and serve our community. It has been suggested that we have a 'suggestion box' at the back of church. Join in the debate by posting your thoughts.

**Advance notice:** On Saturday September 21<sup>st</sup> there is a 'Vision Day' for South Hub churches to try to discern where God is leading us **as a hub**. It will take place outside of the Parish, at St Paul's at Skelmersdale. It starts at 9.30 for a 9.45 start and will finish at approximately 2.15pm. You are asked to bring your own lunch but drinks and biscuits will be provided. Please let Helen know if you would like to attend.

## Prayer for the Parish



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