

St. Aidan's Church July 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)

Services in July

July 7th 10m Holy Communion at 10am.

July 14th Songs of Praise at 4pm.

July 21st Beacon Service at School, starting at 11am, celebrating with our pupils, particularly Year 6 pupils the school year that finishes on Tuesday 23rd July

July 28th 10am Morning Worship, 4pm Holy Communion



Please note that the **Beacon Service** on Sunday July 21st is the only service on that day and it takes place at St. Aidan's School. There will be no service in Church. We are marking the end of a school year (school closes on Tuesday 23rd) and the achievements of the children. It will be a special occasion and we invite all our congregation to come for this special service. Please note that it starts at the unusual time of 11 am because at approximately 12 noon you are invited to join us for a 'bring your own' picnic. There will be hot and cold drinks available.

St Aidan's Antique Road show!

A great morning again. This month we had a few less visitors and we must await the total in the coins bucket.



The **Friendship Group** are organising an afternoon Strawberry Tea in church to help raise funds for the Audio repairs. The cost is £10 - a good price compared with commercial Cream teas! This will take place on Thursday July 25th starting at 2pm. All are welcome, but in order to facilitate catering you will need to pre-book by contacting Jennifer Berry 01942 537325 or Brenda Bridge 01744 894528 or Barbara Goulden 01744 894694 by July 14th. Thank You



It was an emotional Hub Service on Sunday when we said farewell to Rev Jeremy as he retires from his role as Hub Minister. Jeremy preached an encouraging sermon and he spoke fondly of his work with each congregation and the friendships that he has made. Jeremy was presented with his own 'Farewell Tour' T shirt with the dates of his final services in each of the Hub churches. The contributions that were given by Parish members were also given to Jeremy after the service.

Jeremy's encouragement and support was key in enabling us to begin to work together as a Parish within the changing environment of Hub Parish life whilst maintaining our identity as St. Aidan's Parish. His thoughtful ministry will be greatly missed.

I would also like to share something from someone within the prayer circle this week: 'I have particular reasons for being so thankful for Jeremy's kind words of encouragement as, in the early days, not long after Alan Overend left, I was one of the team who occasionally gave a talk or led a service leading up to the actual Communion service (this was before training was available) Though most people were kind and encouraging, there were one or two people who showed their hurt at "losing our Vicar" by picking on the slightest word or phrase that one of the leaders may have unintentionally left out! I could understand their concern and it is good that training was established but of course, it is upsetting to have one's mistakes or omissions pointed out in this way! At such times, Jeremy was so positive and encouraging and in fact pointed out that vicars can also accidentally leave things out! Incidentally, I think a lot of people now are beginning to realise that, although they do not live in the parish, we will in fact have 2 vicars and 4 non-stipendiary clergy to assist us. This message needs to reach the rest of our community--another matter for prayer!'

Rev'd Sue Thomas will be taking a break from ministry from 01 July until 03 November to spend time with Jeremy, following his retirement, with family and with God, helping Jeremy to discern where and how God is calling him to minister. She also plans to decorate, garden, take a few holidays and catch up with old friends and extended family.

Volunteers at St. Aidan's

A very big thank you to those who came forward to help with much needed work on the graveyard last Saturday (June 29th). We were blessed by assistance from young families, some from Sta's4all, people from other Parishes within the hub, as well as our usual stalwarts! This all helped to enable the whole of the middle graveyard to be strimmed on a day when the weather didn't help! There is still work to be done, and we will need assistance on further weeks to keep the grass under control in this wet and warm weather! But an excellent start has been made and it feels like it may be manageable at last!

Only two weeks before the next **Exploring the Psalms** session on Saturday July 13th from 9.30 am till 1pm. It takes place at St. Francis, Kitt Green. This is an opportunity for the thirsty to drink the Living Water. This session we are exploring Psalms of lament thinking about how we pray in the times of suffering and sorrow, and also discussing some of the more difficult parts to pray in the Psalms. The first session was well received. The following two sessions are on September 14th (Psalms of God's word and Wisdom) and November 2nd (Psalms to pray 'Your Kingdom come'). If people can book in using the QR code or on website <https://buytickets.at/churchwigan> it helps so we can send out info beforehand and handouts afterwards.

God bless,
Peter

Rev'd Peter Whittington

Associate Priest with Discipleship Lead, Church Wigan
Tutor in Theology at Emmanuel Theological College



Archdeacon's Parish Review

This takes place on July 4th. Our assistant wardens, Barbara and Peter, treasurer Joan and Leader Helen have been working hard to ensure that all the paperwork is up to date. Some of you will have received extra paperwork regarding Safeguarding, or been contacted to confirm dates etc. It's amazing how much goes on behind the scenes and it all has to be accurately recorded.

Recycling - stamps, pill packets, spectacles and print cartridges are now recycled through St Thomas church. Please leave your contributions at the back of church in the drawers to the left of the entrance door.

We now have to pay for the pill packets to be recycled. This is something that helps our world, so in the interests of cleaning it up and respecting the environment we may feel that it should continue - please give any contributions to Helen or Barbara. If we are not willing to make a small contribution then we will need to stop collecting them. Please let them know if you feel that we should no longer collect pill packets.



Sta's4all - Some Sta's4all volunteers

had great fun at the School summer Fayre last Friday, showing off the puppets, showing the sorts of activities that are included in our Sta's4all monthly events, and giving out information to the children who came to our stall. Thank you to School for the invitation!

Prayer for the Parish



Please pray for Lorraine Webb, Tracey-Ann Napier, Jeanette Caine, Judith Burns, Alan Chadwick, young Janie, June Phillips, David, Roy Lawrence, Katrina, Brenda Williams and 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.

Please also pray for our School Staff and pupils at this very busy time in the school year. As a retired teacher I know that many people think that this is the time of year for slowing down - that couldn't be further from the truth for our Primary schools. This Friday they have their transition day, when pupils will visit their new classrooms and teachers, and next Wednesday there is a meet the teacher night. There are school trips and a Nursery graduation, a musical to be performed and leaver's events. Please pray that the staff have the strength they need to complete their school year and the good health that they can enjoy their summer break, not just use it as a time of recovery!

Please pray for families that will struggle to cope with the change in routine when the children are at home for 6 weeks, both the parents and the children who find this difficult, and pray for the safety of the children as they play out more. Please also pray for the older generation who may be taking a break from caring during the holidays, or who may be involved in more care! Praise God for the care that this 'grandparent' generation are able to give.

We pray also for safety for all people travelling during the summer holidays, and safety in different environments - around water, busy roads and rail lines.