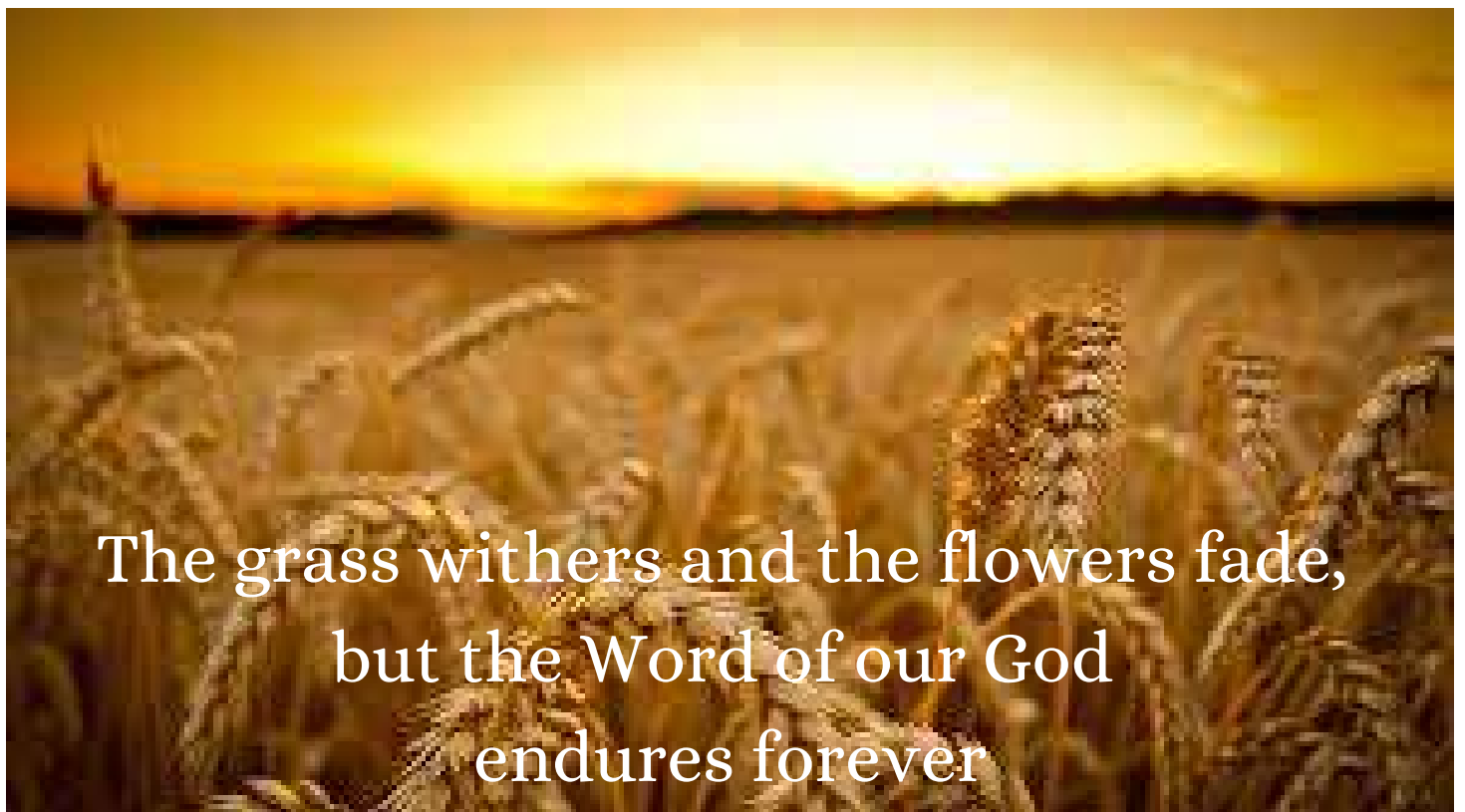


# Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Aidan's edition



September 2024

70p

# Wigan South Parish Contacts

<b>Hub Leader</b>	Rev Sandra Jones sandra.jones@churchwigan.org 01942 728238 / 07598847391
<b>Associate Hub Leader</b>	Rev Sue Fulford sue.fulford@churchwigan.org / 01942 242369
<b>Self Supporting Ministers</b>	Rev Izzy Schafer izzy@schaferassociates.co.uk / 01942 717300  Rev Sue Thomas sue.thomas@churchwigan.org / 07877704645
<b>Wardens</b>	Paula Gillepsie 07716667763  Helen Weavers 07796334457
<b>Administrator</b>	Cheryl Knowles cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org
<b>Treasurer</b>	Sarah Riley sarah.riley@churchwigan.org / 07712584954
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Jess Buckley jessbradley27@yahoo.co.uk
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Jess Buckley magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk



# 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.

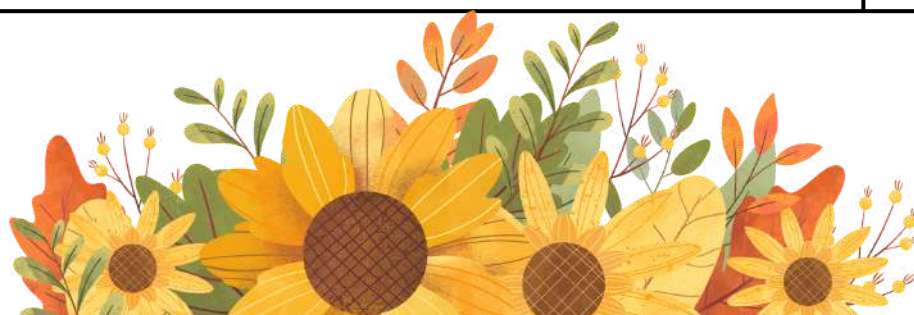
# Magazine Deadlines

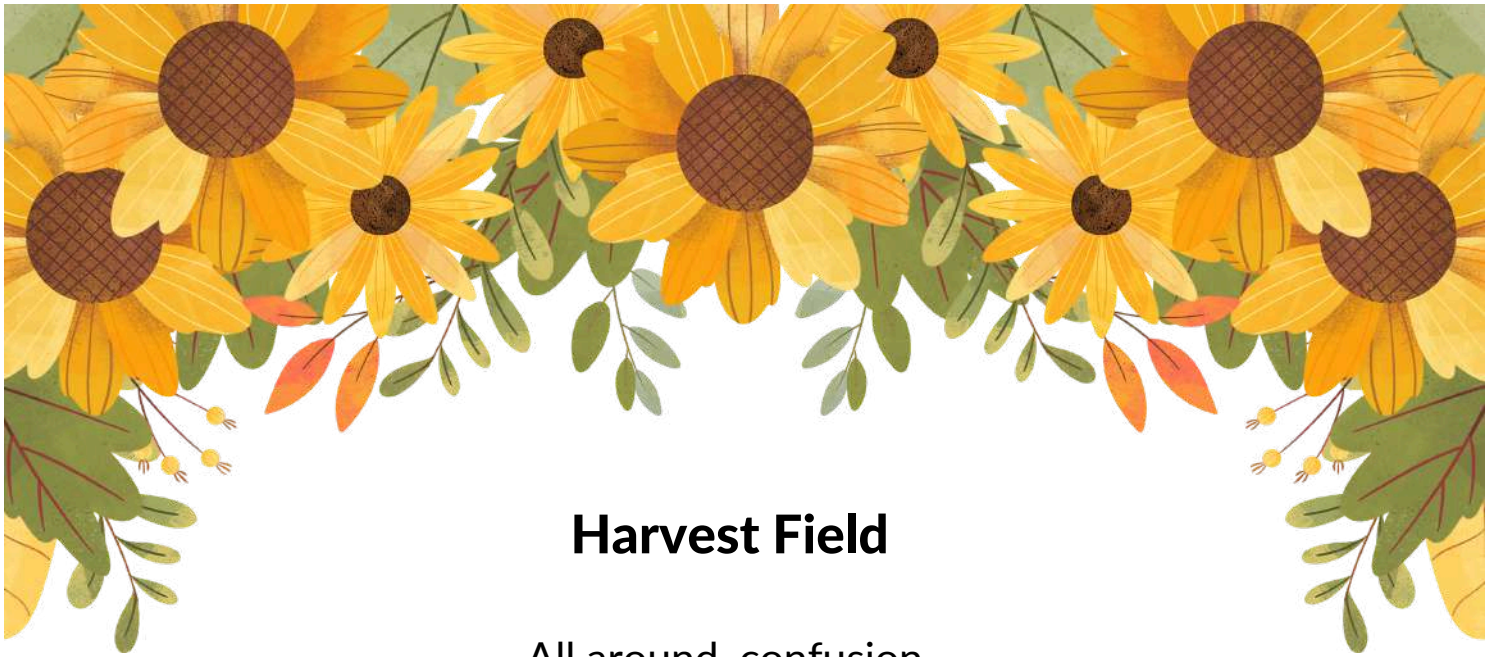
Please send any material for the magazine to your local assistant editor (see contact details at the back) or [magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk).

	<b>September</b>	<b>October</b>	<b>November</b>
<b>Deadline for material</b>	15 August	19 September	17 October
<b>Publication date</b>	25 August	29 September	27 October

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## Harvest Field

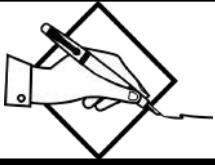
All around, confusion,  
All around, helplessness,  
People lost in the bad news of every day.  
Longing for purpose,  
Searching for security and significance  
Here in the white field of our generation.

The harvest is still great,  
The workers are still few,  
But the Lord of the harvest  
Is the same  
Yesterday, today and forever,

And this is His field.  
He planted, He will give growth  
If we will be His workforce  
And go out into the field - where He already is -  
To gather the harvest  
Of His kingdom compassion.

Lord of the harvest,  
In Your grace, we pray,  
Send us.

***By Daphne Kitching***



# Letter from Eth

Greetings from a field in North Wales!

I decided rather than write this letter from our holiday, wherever that may be, I would do it from our annual camp. As I am sure you all know St Peters BB and GB have a long tradition of taking our young people to camp.

We are in a field, on a farm in Caerwys North Wales, somewhere we have been a good few times now. It's a happy place for us mainly because the farmer and his wife make us so very welcome. The farmer's wife is the Church Warden at the local church and is a welcoming lady who readily smiles and laughs with us and greets us with warm hugs.

The week on camp starts on Friday when we arrive with all our worldly goods on a large wagon. We unload a wooded sectional cook house, a shower, a marquee and various sizes of tents. A large industrial cooker a boiler a grill and various pots and pans which make up the cooking facilities (for further details speak to Sue and Mike Fulford!)

More than that we unload a whole host of memories that will be shared with the young people during the week as we chat and share time with them. We start each day with a short service around our flag, this is a time to spend time with God before we start the day, for me it is an important time. Over the years I have looked around the group gathered and seen people who we first took to camp as youngsters and who have grown into the adults they are today. Each with skills and talents that they use to benefit not just Brigade but the wider community.

God has blessed us with so much when we camp, Wales is such a beautiful place. On one camp a few years ago we went up Snowdon, Yr Wyddfa, the views going up the mountain were stunning and brought tears to my eyes (that could also have been the fact that it was a long long climb!!) Wherever we look around us we see God's glory in the countryside and it reminds us of His great love for us and his.

In Wales we are never far from a hill and it always brings me back to the wonderful Psalm 121:

*I look up to the mountains;  
does my strength come from mountains?  
No, my strength comes from God,  
who made heaven, and earth, and mountains.  
He won't let you stumble,  
your Guardian God won't fall asleep.  
Not on your life! Israel's  
Guardian will never doze or sleep.  
God's your Guardian,  
right at your side to protect you—  
Shielding you from sunstroke,  
sheltering you from moon stroke.  
God guards you from every evil,  
he guards your very life.  
He guards you when you leave and when you return,  
he guards you now, he guards you always.*

This is such a wonderful psalm of encouragement and praise and fits our camp perfectly. God has always kept us safe, He has always been there to protect and He has never let us down. We have encountered so many things on camp, it has never been an easy ride. We have had times of joy and delight and times of utter, utter devastation and sadness. But through all the years we have gone to camp Our Lord has been with us, He has never left us He has been our strength and our guide, even when we haven't realised it! We also have a church family who support us prayerfully.

So we say thank you to Him for His love and protection, we thank Him for the skills of the campers, for their never ending enthusiasm and fellowship, for the friendships we have forged and the fellowship we share. But most of all we thank Him for “guarding us when we leave and when we return, he guards us now, he guards us always.”

**Amen**  
**Eth**

# Parish News

## Weekly Events

### Mondays

- 9.30am - 10.30am: Mini Street Pop Up Play (St Andrew's)
- 6.30pm: Girls Brigade (St Peter's) - recommencing 9th Sept



### Tuesdays

- 10am - 12pm: Coffee Morning (St Thomas' church hall)
- 6pm: Boys Brigade (St Peter's) - recommencing 3rd Sept



### 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) - recommencing 4th Sept
- 3pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y7 - 11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 4pm - 5pm: Discipleship Group for Y7 - 11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's) - recommenced 11th Sept

### Thursdays

- 2.30pm - 3.30pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 2pm - 3pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)



### Fridays

- 2pm: Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 11.30am - 12.30pm: 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



# September Events



## Monday 2nd September

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

## Tuesday 3rd September

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

10am - 1.30pm: Pop up Sale (St Thomas')

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

## Wednesday 4th September

8pm - 10pm: Charity Jazz Music Festival (St Thomas')

## Sunday 15th September

6.30pm: Choral Evensong (St Thomas')

## Tuesday 24th September

1.30pm - 3pm: Dementia Café (St Andrew's)

## Thursday 26th September

2pm: Friendship Group (St Aidan's)

**POP UP SALE  
OF QUALITY  
HIGH STREET  
GOODS**

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All proceeds go to the Rebuild with Hope Foundation & Ashton Food Pantry

**Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2024**  
St Thomas Church,  
Warrington Road,  
Ashton in Makerfield,  
Wigan,  
WN4 9PL  
10:00 – 13:30

Find us on facebook

WeGot  
Tickets

FEATURING

CHRIS GASKELL  
ED HARRISON  
DAVE WALSH  
JAMIE BROWNFIELD  
MIKE SMITH  
TOM KINCAID



£10 ticket (plus £1 booking)

WARRINGTON ROAD, ASHTON-IN-MAKERFIELD

8-10PM

An evening of live jazz music to raise money for

Encephalitis International

WEDNESDAY 4TH SEPT

ST THOMAS'

# Wigan South Hub Churches

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

## Bereavement Support Group

Don't Walk Your  
Journey Through  
Grief Alone

A Pathway  
To Hope

**We invite you to  
come to a Safe Space**

Share your experiences with a  
group of loving people

**1st Tuesday of  
every month**

**Starting  
December 2023**

**St Luke's Church  
Bolton Road  
Stubshaw Cross  
WN4 8UN**

**10.00am - 11.30am**

**St Andrew's Church  
274 Garswood Road  
Garswood  
WN4 0TU**

**1.30pm - 3.00pm**

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 2pm - 3pm  
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 September

Sunday 1st	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Holy Communion 10.00am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Morning Worship	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's
Wednesday 4th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 5th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 8th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Stas4all 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Holy Communion 4.00pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 11th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 12th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 15th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Café Church 10.00am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Evensong	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'

Wednesday 18th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 19th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 22nd	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.00am: Beacon 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Café Church 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Morning Worship 4.00pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 25th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 26th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 29th	10.00am: Wigan South Holy Communion	Holy Trinity

*Amazing God, we come to worship you because in your great love you have reached out to us, and continue to reach out to us, in so many wonderful ways – in your Creation, in Jesus, and through your Holy Spirit.*

All are welcome to join any of the services across our Parish - you are sure to receive a warm welcome!

## The coming of Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer

Some 75 years ago, on 1st September 1949, the Christmas song Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer was released. It was sung by the American movie-star and singer Gene Autry, nicknamed the “Singing Cowboy”.



The song was adapted from a poem/story written by Robert L May for a children’s colouring book: it was an assignment given him by his employers, the Chicago-based Montgomery Ward retail group. It was published in 1939, and 2.4 million copies were distributed free in its first year.

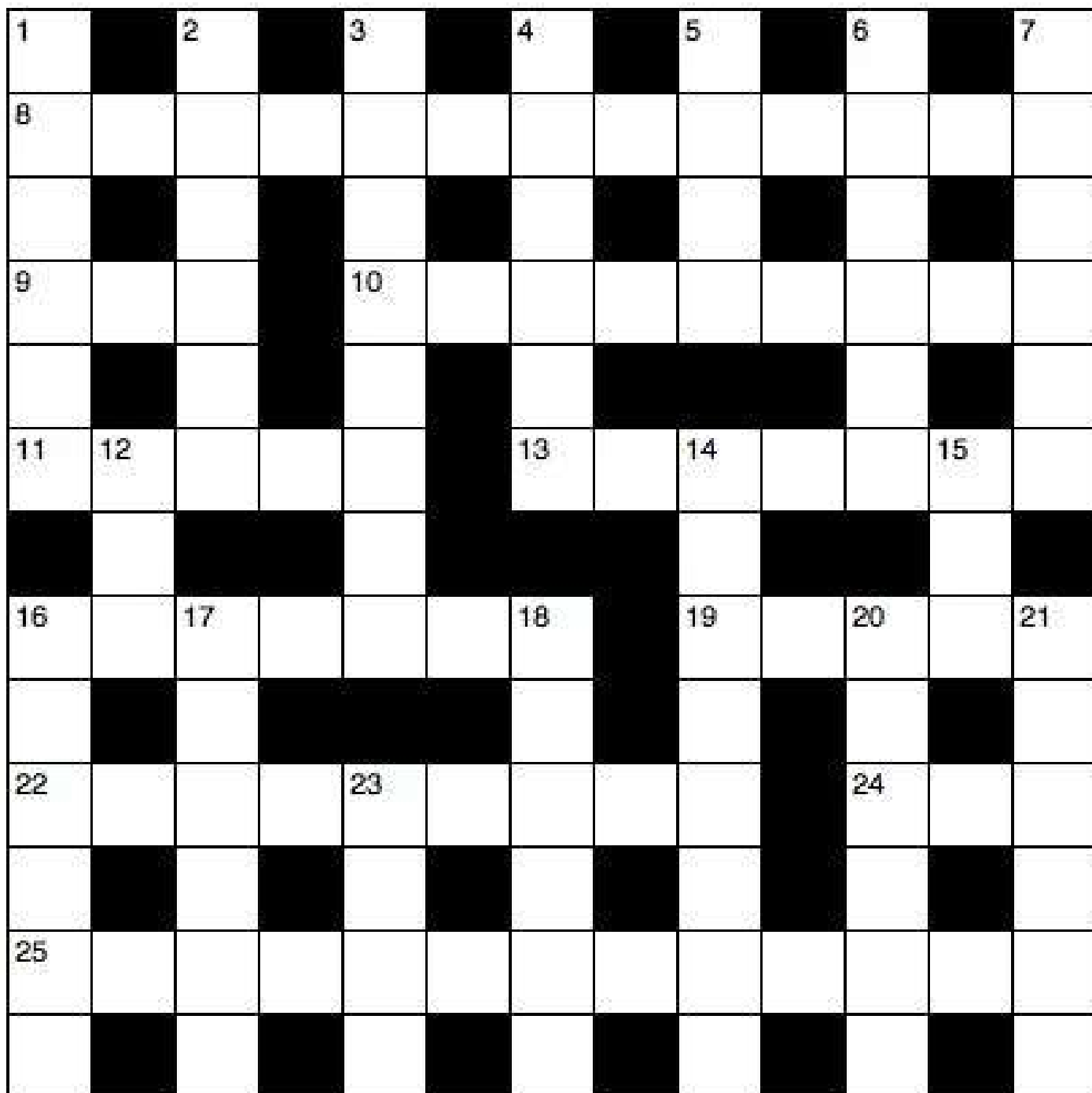
May initially considered the names Rollo or Reginald for his ‘ugly duck’ reindeer, but eventually settled on Rudolph. Concerned about how to make the reindeer distinctive, he was looking out of his office window when a thick fog blocked his view. This gave him the idea for Rudolph’s bright red nose, enabling Santa to see where he was going.

Robert May’s four-year-old daughter was used as a sounding board while he created the story, but it was initially rejected, partly because of the unfortunate associations of a red nose with chronic drunkenness at the time. However, May’s friend and colleague, Denver Gillen, drew ‘cute reindeer’, which persuaded the managers to go for the idea.

The story-poem was turned into a song by May’s brother-in-law, Johnny Marks. Several popular singers rejected it, but Gene Autry took it on, and his recording reached No 1 on the Billboard chart for pop singles in the week of Christmas 1949. It sold 2.5 million copies in the first year. Up to the 1980s it was the second best-selling record of all time.

The United States Postal Service issued a series of postage stamps featuring Rudolph on 6th November 2014.

# Crossword



Answers on page 21



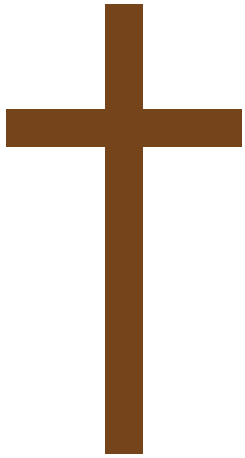
## Across

- 8 Where the ark of the covenant was kept for 20 years (1 Samuel 7:1) (7,6)  
9 One of the parts of the body on which blood and oil were put in the ritual cleansing from infectious skin diseases (Leviticus 14:14–17) (3)  
10 Uncomfortable (3,2,4) 11 'Yet I have loved Jacob, but Esau I have — ' (Malachi 1:3) (5)  
13 Where Paul said farewell to elders of the church in Ephesus (Acts 20:17) (7)  
16 'Jesus bent down and — to write on the ground with his finger' (John 8:6) (7)  
19 Prophet from Moresheth (Jeremiah 26:18) (5)  
22 Comes between Exodus and Numbers (9)  
24 and 2 Down 'Then Elkanah went home to Ramah, but the boy ministered before the Lord under — the — ' (1 Samuel 2:11) (3,6)  
25 There was no room for them in the inn (Luke 2:7) (4,3,6)

## Down

- 1 Rough drawing (2 Kings 16:10) (6)  
2 See 24 Across  
3 Underground literature circulated in the Soviet Union (8)  
4 Lo, mash (anag.) (6)  
5 The Bible's shortest verse: 'Jesus — ' (John 11:35) (4)  
6 'Can a mother forget the baby at her — and have no compassion on the child she has borne?' (Isaiah 49:15) (6)  
7 Can be seen in a dying fire (Psalm 102:3) (6)  
12 'Send me, therefore, a man... experienced in the — of engraving, to work in Judah and Jerusalem' (2 Chronicles 2:7) (3)  
14 Second city of Cyprus (8)  
15 United Nations Association (1,1,1)  
16 One of the women who first heard that Jesus had risen from the dead (Mark 16:1) (6)  
17 Braved (anag.) (6)  
18 — of Evangelism, outreach initiative in the 1990s (6)  
20 'Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and — in their own sight' (Isaiah 5:21) (6)  
21 'Neither — nor depth... will be able to separate us from the love of God' (Romans 8:39) (6)  
23 What Jesus shed in 5 Down (4)

## 14th September Holy Cross Day



On Holy Cross Day the Church celebrates the Cross as a symbol of triumph, as the sign of Christ's victory over death. Holy Cross Day goes right back to 14 September 335, and we have the mother of a Roman Emperor to thank for it.

Helena was a devout Christian, and after her son, Constantine, was converted, they agreed that she should travel from Rome to Israel, to seek out the places of special significance to Christians.

Of course, much of Jerusalem had been destroyed by the Romans around 135 AD. But even so, Helena finally located what she believed to be the sites of the Crucifixion and of the Burial (and modern archaeologists think she may well be correct). The sites were so close together that she built one large church over them - the Church of the Holy Sepulchre.

That church, built in honour of the Cross, was dedicated on 14 September 335.

The sign of the Cross has been used by Christians since early times. Tertullian, writing his *De Corona* (3:2) around AD 211, noted that Christians seldom did anything significant without making the sign of the Cross.

What is its significance? Well, people often put their initials or some sort of personal mark on something to show that it belongs to them. The Cross is the personal mark of our Lord Jesus Christ, and we mark it on ourselves as a sign that we belong to him. Even in the book of Revelation, we read that the servants of God are 'sealed' or 'marked' on their foreheads as a sign that they are His.

A preacher once put it this way: if you were explaining to someone how to make a cross, you would say: "Draw an I." That is you, standing before the Lord, saying, 'here I am'. Then cancel that vertical stroke with a horizontal stroke - as if to say: "Lord, I abandon my self-will and make You the centre of my life instead. I abandon myself to Your love and service."

On Holy Cross Day, we recall Jesus' wonderful promise: "And when I am lifted up,<sup>1†</sup> will draw all men unto me." (John 12:32)

## 18th September St Joseph of Copertino, the awkward saint

Joseph of Copertino (1603 – 63) should be the patron saint of all awkward people who mean well, but who drive those around them to distraction – especially their church leaders.

Joseph began life in a garden shed, because his father had sold the house to pay debts. Then he grew up wandering about open-mouthed – his mother despised him and called him ‘the Gaper’.

Young Joseph’s intense devotion to God led him to try and join the Capuchin monks – but he drove them crazy: forgetting to do what he was told, dropping piles of plates on the kitchen floor, and neglecting to tend the all-important kitchen fire. He was finally accepted by the Franciscans as a servant, and grew so religiously fervent that he was accepted as a novice in 1625, and ordained a priest in 1628.

As a priest he was devout, but apt to do anything – much to the irritation of his superiors. One problem was his repeated levitations, of which there were 70 reported instances. The most spectacular stories are of his flying to images placed high above the altars and helping workmen to erect a Calvary Cross 36 feet high by lifting it into place while he was hanging in mid-air himself. Such feats earned him the name of ‘the Flying Friar’ by admiring locals, but gave his superiors headaches. They were also disturbed by his habit of going into states of ecstasy, from which nothing could wake him.

Joseph’s reputation for flying about and for occasional ecstasy drew the crowds: they were all eager to see what would happen next. What did happen next was that his superiors kept him in virtual isolation for many years, eager to contain this intensely emotional and erratic priest. In 1767 he was canonised, not for his levitations, but for his extreme patience and humility.

## Reflecting Faith: Arts and Crafts Churches

Originally, the theology behind church building was to build church buildings on higher land, so that people would have to lift their heads to look upon them; with the tower or spire giving it extra height.

This was reflecting the faith of lifting our eyes to God and recognising our place in His Creation – and yet He still came to earth for us.

Often a clock would have been placed on the tower or spire for the local people who would not have had personal time-pieces, and again they would have lifted their eyes heavenward to see it. The clock might have chimed, or would have been connected with the church bells to enable illiterate people to know the time.

There were 612 Commissioner churches built in the early 1800's, when society was becoming industrialised, and folk were moving away from rural life and into towns.

By the middle of that century the Arts and Crafts Movement was well under way, and church buildings were being 'targeted'.

Between 1884 and 1918 there were about 5000 churches built in the UK, of which around 350 can be identified as Arts and Crafts churches. Much depended on the Patron of the church and their generosity.

In East and North Yorkshire there are a set of 17 churches which were restored or built by the local patron(s) – father and son of the Sykes Family of Sledmere House – between 1866 and 1913. They say they are unparalleled elsewhere in Britain.

### **This month:**

*Have a look at a church near you and see if you can see the influence in it of this Arts and Crafts Movement. It was intended to make buildings less austere, more decorative, more 'emotive'. Do you think it does?*

## Did you know...?

The Rt Rev Timothy Dudley - Smith is a clergyman who recently died. He was Suffragan Bishop of Thetford in Norwich Diocese and before that was Archdeacon of Norwich. He is well known for writing hymns, upwards of 450, his most well known being 'Tell Out My Soul' and "Lord For The Years', the latter being written on a train journey from Nottingham to London. These two hymns are often sung and enjoyed by the congregation at Holy Trinity.

40 years ago, on 10th Sept 1984 that British geneticist Alec Jeffreys discovered genetic fingerprinting, also known as DNA profiling. It allowed criminals to be identified from hair, blood, or sweat left at crime scenes. It also allowed families to trace their lineages or determine the paternity of children.

21st September is St Matthew's day. He was also known as Levi and was a Jew who collected taxes for the Romans at Capernaum in Galilee. Here Jesus met him and called him to be an apostle (Luke 5:27-28). Venerated as the author of the Gospel which highlights Jesus' role as Messiah and underlines the presence of the Kingdom of God in the Church.

400 years ago, on 10th Sept 1624 that Thomas Sydenham, English physician, was born. He became known as the 'father of English medicine'. His textbook on medicine became the standard medical textbook in England for the next 200 years.

# Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 8, Kiriath Jearim. 9, Toe. 10, Ill at ease. 11, Hated. 13, Miletus. 16, Started. 19, Micah. 22, Leviticus. 24, Eli. 25, Mary and Joseph.

DOWN: 1, Sketch. 2, Priest. 3, Samizdat. 4, Shalom. 5, Wept. 6, Breast. 7, Embers. 12, Art. 14, Limassol. 15, UNA. 16, Salome. 17, Adverb. 18, Decade. 20, Clever. 21, Height. 23, Tear.

## Sailing with the Spirit

On a calm, windless day, it can be frustrating to be in a sailboat. Your sails are ready to go, but with no wind and only calm waters, you aren't going anywhere!

Some sailors try to propel their little boat forward by paddling with their hands. Others fret over the lack of wind. But others simply stay on land, and patiently wait. For it isn't until a breeze blows up, and the sails fill out, that a sailboat can skim out towards the open sea.

This scene is similar as to how the Holy Spirit works in our lives. The Bible describes the Spirit as wind and sometimes, like the sailors, we may have to wait for His energising power to guide and move us onwards. There are occasions, from a spiritual standpoint, nothing seems to be happening – for weeks and months on end. During these waiting times we may wonder what purpose God has for us.

But while some of the people in the sailing club might have left their boats to do other things, they were also watching for signs of the coming wind. No one was packing up and going home! They were waiting with a purpose.

In our times of stillness and waiting, we can also wait with a purpose. We can pray for the Church, our community and the world. We can pray that we will be ready for God to move us into the next course He has planned for us. And we can keep our sails ready, for the Spirit to blow afresh into our lives!





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&**

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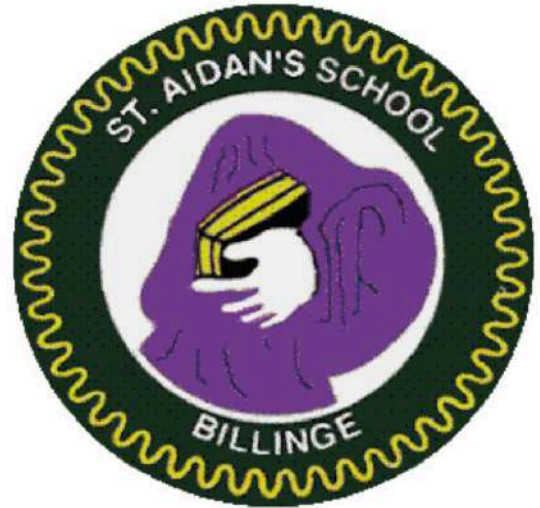
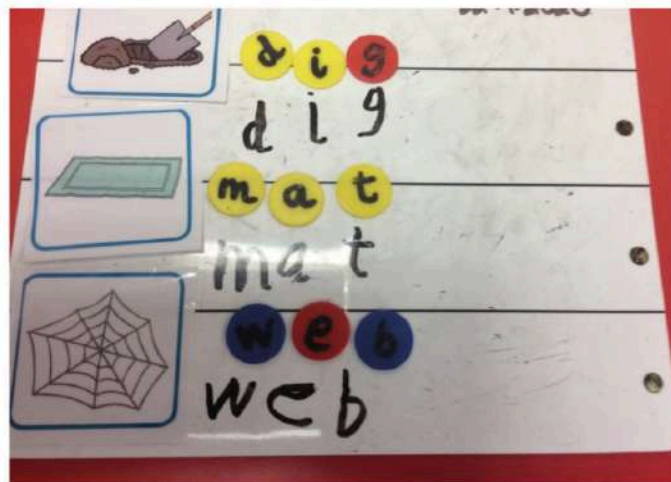
100 Parr Stocks Road. Tel: 01744 27928

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.



We are open Monday to Friday, 7.30am until 6pm.

We have a highly dedicated, qualified and caring team looking after your children.

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)



## **S.J.T Decorators**

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# RB Foot Care

## Foot Health Practitioner

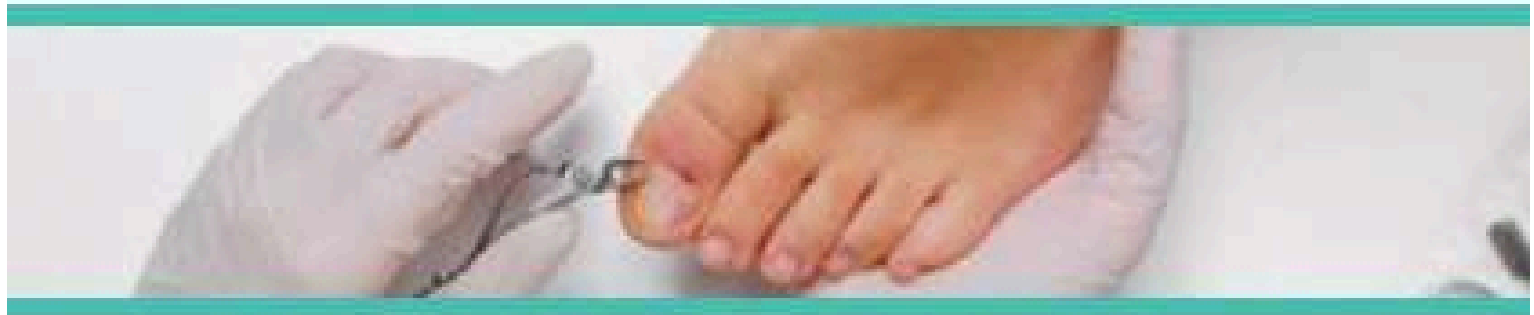


Ruth Brannelly Dip.PRFHC



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## THE CHAIRS

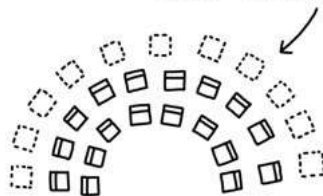
WAYS TO ARRANGE THEM

PERFECTLY  
NEAT ROWS



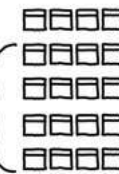
THE REGIMENTAL

EVERYONE SITS IN THE  
SECOND ROW, THEN  
ADDS CHAIRS BEHIND



THE SEMICIRCLE

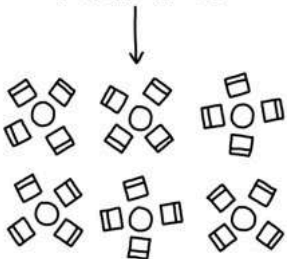
FIRST  
FOUR  
ROWS  
RESERVED



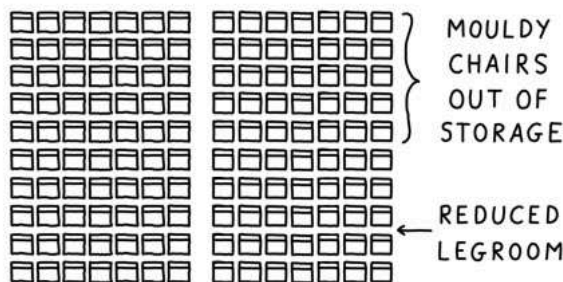
ONE ROW  
AT THE  
BACK  
FOR THE  
CONGREGATION

THE BAPTISM

A GOOD WAY TO  
MAKE THE PLACE  
LOOK A BIT BUSIER  
THAN IT IS



THE CAFE-STYLE



THE FESTIVAL

EVERYONE  
IN THE BACK  
TWO ROWS



THE USUAL

# News from our churches

Sunday 1st September	10am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
Wednesday 4th September	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 8th September	10.30am 4pm	Sta's4all at school Evening Prayer
Sunday 15th September	10am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 18th September	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 22nd September	10am 4pm	Beacon Service Holy Communion
Sunday 29th September	10.00am	Wigan South Holy Communion at Holy Trinity

Sunday September 22nd is the date of our Harvest festival Services. You may bring a contribution to either of our services on that day.

## Beacon

Our next Beacon service is on September 22nd. It will be lovely to see the Beacon Singers from St. Aidan's school with us once again.

Our theme this month is Harvest. We are inviting you to give generously to feed others, as our Heavenly Father gives generously to feed us.



Please bring contributions of tinned or dried goods suitable to stock our Food Pantry as Harvest gifts.

## Sta's4all

We return to school on September 8th when we have the exciting theme of Daniel in the Lion's Den. We look forward to welcoming families from any of our primary schools.



This is a reminder that Sta's4all is short for St. Aidan's for everyone. You do not have to have a child attending St. Aidan's school in order to be able to come. Even pensioners have come in the past to enjoy some craft activities and puzzles on a theme, refreshments, time to chat to others and a relaxed style of worship. All are welcome.

A large proportion of our members are children of primary school age. We could not operate without the generous time and energy of our volunteers. All have received safeguarding training. Following guidance from the safeguarding team in the Liverpool Diocese, all who attend are required to sign in and records are kept in a secure place.

The Friendship Group are meeting together on Thursday September 26th at 2pm, sharing together in Holy Communion as well as chat and refreshments.



All are welcome to come along.

Exploring the Psalms: This an event organised by Church Wigan continues. The next session is on Saturday 14th September 2024 from 9.30am – 1pm at St. Francis of Assisi Church WN5 0BA.

The theme this time will be Psalms of God's word and wisdom You don't have to have attended any of the previous sessions to be able to go. Tickets are free, but in order to prepare we are asked to pre book on line at <https://buytickets.at/churchwigan> or use the QR code



The next event will be on 2nd November.

## 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 review 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'.

Do you have any thoughts on our Building? Please email Helen or the Church Wardens to share your thoughts. Or pop a message in the red box at the back of church. Please continue to pray for the use of our church building.



Thank you to all who supported the Strawberry Tea in July, we raised £350 to go to the fund-raising efforts for a new sound system.

A great time was had by all who came along. There were strawberries galore! And fine cakes and sandwiches too.



Thank you to the team who did all the hard work in setting up the tables and providing all the goodies including Barbara Goulden, Jennifer Berry, Jean Grundy and Peter Preston.





## **Aidan's Pantry**

Do you grow your own? Perishable goods can be useful items for the Pantry at any time of year, especially if you have a glut! But because Pantry is on a Friday and perishable goods can only be offered on one week these would need to be brought to church early on the Friday or contact Peter Preston on 07903 949744 to see when church will be open on the Thursday.



## **Bible Study opportunities**

A bible studies is being set up across the hub for anyone who wishes to attend. A Prayer Course will start on Thursday 12th September and will be on alternate Thursdays. A second course called 'Start' begins on Wednesday 9th October.

At the time of going to press I do not have the confirmed location or start time but probably will by the time you are likely to be reading this. Please contact Helen Steele for more details if you are interested.

## **Garden of Remembrance Memorial stone**

New rules now apply to having an inscription engraved on the stone.

Any entry must be paid for at the rate when the stone-mason does the work. We will advise you of this charge beforehand. You may also arrange for a line to be reserved below this inscription for a loved one by paying a £50 deposit. When the time comes to fill in the reserved line the charge at that time will apply less the £50 deposit. The fee must be paid before any inscription is added.

Unfortunately, we have had to make this change because rising costs have left the Church having to pay a shortfall of the fee charged at the time a second line was requested.

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

# Donations & Remembrance

## **SOUND SYSTEM**

I would like to thank everyone who attended the Quiz night. Antiques Roadshow and Afternoon Tea which were held to raise funds for the much needed new Sound System. All three events raised a total of £820.29

2 Anonymous donations

Norah Hughes

John and Brenda Bridge

Marion Boardman

In memory of our Mum Elizabeth, with love Janet and Helen

Joan Roberts in memory of a much loved friend, David McDonald who passed away recently

Joan Roberts in memory of a dear Mum and Dad, Joan and Norman Heaton

## **GENERAL FUND**

1 Anonymous Donation

A. Orford for helping him with his personal project

In loving memory of David McDonald from Phyllis Lee

In memory of Eileen

## **ORGAN**

In memory of David McDonald a friend to many from Margaret Gibbins

## **FLOWERS**

In memory of my loving wife Elizabeth. I miss you every day Clifford

## **FOOD PANTRY**

3 Anonymous donations

Jennifer Berry

Jean Grundy

Marion Boardman

## 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 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.

# The Registers



## Funerals or Burials of Ashes 'May they rest in peace'

16 July	David McDonald	93
8 August	Eileen Hollins	
27 August	Peter Robert Painter	

# 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@gmail.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**

Barbara Goulden  
staidansverger@gmail.com  
01744 894694

## **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  
staidansbillingeveryer@yahoo.com



St Aidan's Billinge

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