

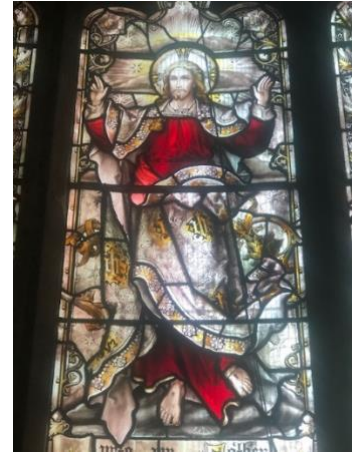
St. Aidan's Church October 2024

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)

A reminder that on Sunday September 29th there is a Hub service at Holy Trinity at 10am. There will be no service at St. Aidan's. This will be the last service using the theme of Giving in Grace. There will be a guest speaker from the Diocese - Steve Pierce who is a very able speaker. Do come along and be inspired.



Services in October

Oct 6th Holy Communion at 10am. This will be the first Communion for Megan and Elise, confirmed in July (then yr 6 at St. Aidan's). Please come along to support them.

Oct 13th Sta's4all 10.30am in School; 4pm Evening Prayer.

Oct 20th Morning Prayer at 10am; Remembering Loved Ones Service 4pm

Oct 27th 10am Beacon; 4pm Holy Communion

We had a great time at **Sta's4all** in September, welcoming our regulars back and greeting a few new families. The theme in October is the faith of the synagogue leader Jarius who ignored the pressure from leaders were against Jesus to ask for healing for his precious only daughter. Some of our older children will be acting out the story for us. There will be the usual craft activities, refreshments, singing and prayers. Newcomers are always welcome.

Remembering Loved Ones service - 4.00pm, 20th October

Sue Fulford will be with us for this special annual service. There will be refreshments served after the service. If you would like a name of a loved one to be read out and remembered please let Margaret Stott know by 16th October (Tel 01744 895751)

Beacon Service on October 27th is on the theme of 'light'. We will be joined by some pupils from St. Aidan's School.



The Friendship Group

October 24th at 2pm the speaker will be our very own Yumiko Peers. All are welcome to join them.

Craft Fair

It was suggested that we might have a Craft Fair as a fund raising event which would reach out into the community. Sadly no-one offered to help with this so it will not take place. It would be good if we could offer some social events to our community. Please think about how you might help.

'Vision Day for South Hub'

5 church members attended the very encouraging Vision Day on Saturday September 21st. It was great to be together as one group meeting old friends and making new ones. We remarked that such events enables us to build relationships across the Hub, assisting us whenever we can work together.

The aim was to discern where God is leading us **as a hub**. What can each church bring to the partnership? We considered where God has placed us (St. Aidan's), all that is worthy of praise within our ministry and how we relate together to the Mission and Ministry of Wigan South. We came up with **many** things to be thankful for!

We have a joint mission with all other churches to transform people and places through Jesus, doing what we see God doing. We must participate with God in growing disciples of Jesus whom we can talk to and with about Jesus. They and we need to be fed spiritually. Sunday worship is only a part of being a disciple. How might God be calling us as a church and as individuals? Sharing this task enables us to work together, especially where workers in individual churches may be thin on the ground. We will meet as a St. Aidan's Team to consider this further after a period, but now will continue the process in Monday's Review.

Right Buildings Review

A reminder that at 7pm on September 23rd we will be meeting in Church with our Hub clergy to do a review of St Aidan's and our mission, as part of the ongoing 'Right Buildings Review'. This is open to any regular members of our congregation. You don't have to have said in advance that you are coming. Please come and support our efforts to maintain our ministry to Billinge through the use of our building. Please continue to pray for the use of our church building as a base for our ministry in Billinge.

Group nights

There have been some changes to the small group sessions as part of our joint ministry, that were announced last month. The 'Start!' course now begins on **Tuesday 29th October**. It will still be at St. Luke's Church at Stubshaw Cross, Ashton and will be led by Sandra Jones and Sue Fulford. It is open to all Churches in South Hub. Start! introduces Christianity through six DVD based interactive, small-group sessions. The Start! course makes no assumptions about participants' background or

experience or knowledge of Christianity or the church. It really does start from scratch. Please contact Helen Steele for more details if you are interested.

The Prayer Course has had to be delayed till the new year but will be held at Holy Trinity, Downall Green. More details later in the year.

Bereavement Group

Rev Dave Hamlett would be willing to create a Group to support the bereaved at St. Aidan's. It could meet once a month offering refreshments and the chance to chat together for those who have recently been bereaved. For those who wished it there would also be the opportunity to be prayed for. This would need at least one volunteer to work with Dave, who could open up church and make refreshments. It would probably be on a Friday afternoon. If you could assist in this way please let Helen or Barbara know. Without a volunteer it will not take place.

Giving in Grace

During September we have been challenged to think about our giving in time, talents and money, to those in need and to the ministry of our church, a response to the God who gives so much to us all. Our giving is our appreciation for the life, ministry and mission of our church and our grateful gift in response to God's love and goodness to us as individuals. There are leaflets in church - do pick one up if you haven't had one so far. And if you have, do prayerfully consider how you will respond. In terms of financial giving, if you are a tax payer gift aiding your contributions can make a big difference! Joining the Parish Giving Scheme can also make a difference. Increasing your weekly contribution by a little makes a difference over the year too.

And talking of giving -

Hope's Heart and Hope's therapy Dogs

On Saturday 14th September a number of Church leaders were pleased to be invited to the Launch of Hope's Heart - a charity to support the mental health of children through animal assisted interventions and through art and music therapies. This took place at St. Aidan's school, where Hope was a pupil until she lost her hard fought fight against Brain Cancer. It was a splendid affair with information about the charity, musical and dance entertainment, a raffle and cake and craft stalls to raise money for the newly launched charity. You may have seen details of their work on the Northwest tonight 'making a difference' award, which they won.

You can find out more details about the work that they do by visiting www.hopesheart.org.uk and www.hopestherapydogs.co.uk. You can also find a page on Facebook. It is a non-profit organisation and every penny goes directly towards helping a child. We at St. Aidan's wish Ali and the team every success in the future.

Talent Competition

Many of you will know Helen Steele's granddaughter, Bethany. She is raising funds to spend 4 weeks in Kenya with Camps International in the summer of 2026 where she will do some voluntary conservation projects and other community project work. One venture to raise funds is a Talent Competition which will take place on Friday November 22nd at 7.30pm at St. Mary's Club. She is currently looking for 'talent' to take part. Do you know any dancers, singers, comedians or other entertainers who would like to take part. This is for both adults and children. Please email Bethany for more details on bm1404022011@gmail.com (or chat to Helen) For the technically minded more information about the work she will take part in can be found here:



Rev Sandra Jones and Rev Sue Fulford have decided to trial 'focused ministry'. Whilst both will assist and take services across the whole of Wigan South they would like to get to know members better, so each will focus on 3 churches and 2 schools for a year. Sue Fulford will be our primary link for that year.

Prayer for the Parish



Please pray for all those you know who need God's healing touch, those who are struggling in Body, Mind and Spirit. And we remember the bereaved and all who are feeling the pain of separation from their loved ones, whether that is recent or a while ago.

Please also pray for us to discern where God is taking us at this time, so that we can follow where He is leading.