

# Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Aidan's edition



February 2025

70p

# Wigan South Parish Contacts

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



# 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.

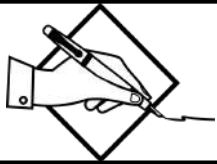
# Magazine Deadlines

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).

	March	April	May
Deadline for material	13th February	23rd March	17th April
Publication date	23th February	30th March	27th April

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# A Letter from Sue

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in.

**Matthew 25:35**

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*“The pantry has helped me in loads of ways they helped me to get out of the house and socialise in a safe space, because I’ve got anxiety issues. I couldn’t have survived without the pantry – they are more than generous with their portions and it’s all good quality things what you can make a meal out of. There’s been loads of times when I had nothing to live off and the pantry has saved the day.*

*They (the debt centre manager) helped me with my debt and got the (Debt) Relief Order. This took a massive anxiety away from me and I don’t feel suicidal anymore.”*

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Aidan’s Pantry opened in December 2023 and now serves an average of 45 members a week. They find that many people who come in are lonely and as they have plenty of volunteers, there is always someone to listen and chat to them. A few people have said that the food is just a bonus, and more and more people are staying to chat before or after their shop.

The Pop-Up Pantry at Holy Trinity celebrates its first birthday this month. Some of their regulars have not been into church before and it was wonderful to hear that some of them came to services over Christmas! With Rectory next door, staff and 4 or 5 pupils come in every week to help pack away the food ready to be taken up to Aidan’s and will bring a rail of pre-loved school uniforms in periodically.



Ashton Pantry find that many can't afford the £3 for a shop and so have a scheme to encourage members to help in some way, so they can have a free shop with dignity. They are about to launch a Crowdfunder to raise funds that are needed to start the work to refurbish the hall which will provide space for a Pay-As-You-Feel café and other initiatives that will support the financially vulnerable.

All our pantries provide space for support agencies, such as Green Doctors, benefit advice and the library at Holy Trinity. It's not just the people who are coming who are blessed by the pantries, but our volunteers are also blessed through serving our communities.

The pantries also offer an opportunity for us to share our faith and encourage discipleship through conversations and we are all exploring how we can start small groups around our pantry times.

“For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

**Matthew 18:20**

*Sue Thomas*

**Our verse for the year is:**

**Romans 15:13 NIV**

**May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.**

# Parish News

## Weekly Events

### Mondays

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

### Tuesdays

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

### Wednesdays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group (St Peter's)
- 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)

### Thursdays

- 9.30am - 11.30am: Warm Space (St Andrew's)
- 3pm - 4pm: 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 - 2.30pm: Asylum seeker support (St Thomas' church hall)



# Wigan South Hub Churches

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

## Bereavement Support Group

We invite you to come to a Safe Space

Don't Walk Your Journey Through Grief Alone

Share your experiences with a group of loving people

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



1st Tuesday of every month - Starting December 2023



# Warm Spaces

Each Thursday between 9.30am & 11.30am St Andrew's Mission Hall will be open as a 'Warm Space'.

Anyone is welcome to pop in for a cup of tea, coffee, toast and a warm welcome.



**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**

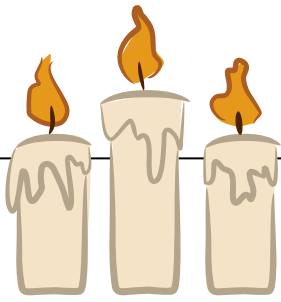
Friday 11am - 1.30pm



**Holy Trinity Church  
Downall Green**

Friday 9am - 10am

**Each Pantry has a £5 annual membership  
and minimum £3 donation per visit**



# Services in February

Sunday 2nd  
Candlemas

9am: Morning Worship  
9.30am: Holy Communion  
10am: Holy Communion  
10.30am: Morning Worship  
10.30am: Morning Prayer  
10.45am: Worship Together  
11am: Morning Worship

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

Wednesday 5th

10am: Holy Communion

St Aidan's

Thursday 6th

9.45am: BCP Holy Communion

St Thomas'

Sunday 9th

9am: Holy Communion  
9.30am: Morning Worship  
10.30am: Sta's4all  
10.30am: Holy Communion  
10.30am: Morning Service & Brigades  
10.45am: Worship Together  
11am: Holy Communion  
4pm: Evening Prayer

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

Wednesday 12th

10am: Holy Communion

Holy Trinity

Thursday 13th

9.45am: BCP Holy Communion

St Thomas'

Sunday 16th

9am: Morning Worship  
9.30am: Morning Worship  
10am: Morning Worship  
10.30am: Morning Worship  
10.30am: Holy Communion  
10.45am: Holy Communion  
11am: 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 19th	10am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 20th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 23rd	9am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Worship Together 11am: Morning Worship 4pm: Holy Communion	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
Wednesday 26th	10am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 27th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

# February Events

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## **Monday 3rd February**

11am: Communion Service at Garswood House  
(arranged by St Peter's)

## **Tuesday 4th January**

10am - 11.30am: Bereavement Support Group (St Luke's)  
1.30pm - 3pm: Bereavement Support Group (St Andrew's)

## **Tuesday 25th February**

Peace of Mind Dementia Cafe (St Andrew's)

We are pleased to share that the triennial theme for 2025-2027 is: **JOIN US AND JOIN IN.** So we take this time to extend an invitation to all across our Parish to join our local branch.

## **Whom could you invite to a Mothers' Union meeting or activity this year?**

Consider friends, neighbours or colleagues who might benefit from our fellowship and support. Your invitation could open doors to new relationships and community engagement. Perhaps someone reading this is considering joining us. Please just come along to one of our meetings. Remember you don't need to be a mum or a woman everyone is welcome.

Please reflect on the following:-

- The Mothers' Union is a global charitable organisation
- Mothers' Union is spearheading the global literacy campaign - 480 million women around the world are illiterate – meaning they cannot register the birth of a baby, read a medicine bottle, open a bank account or gain independence
- Their Rise Up Against Domestic Abuse campaign so far has achieved:  
130 registrations or awards  
111 branches have achieved their Bronze award  
8 branches have received their Silver award  
4 branches have received their Gold award
- The Mothers' Union provide grants for AFIA – Away from it all holidays and short breaks for families and the elderly who desperately need them
- We as a branch have helped to fund a parenting education program in a local prison by giving funds to buy workbooks in order that the chaplain can provide the course.
- As a branch we have helped to fund essential equipment for students in college locally who cannot obtain money to support them as they are estranged from parents so unable to provide earning information. This may be due to leaving care for example.

- The committee members organize a program of speakers and events most of which are free to attend. We organize special events such as The Summer Evening, a trip out, an annual meal at the Masonic Hall as well as a brunch in February

As we reflect on all the work that has been achieved and the impact around the world, may we remember the lives touched daily at all hours of the day when we pray for one another.

Please join with us again for another year of events and meetings. Envelopes will be distributed soon for you to register for another year and annual subs of £30 are due.

### Indoor Members

Our indoor members were delighted to receive a visit from Michelle and I. We took a Christmas card and tin of biscuits from the Mothers' Union. We aim to visit again at Easter. Please keep our indoor members in your prayers.

*O God, our heavenly Father, our strength and peace and joy, bless all who are Indoor Members. Give us your grace according to our need; help us to know and love and trust you more, to pray better and always to do your will, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen*

### February Prayer

*We give thanks to you, Lord for our membership in the global Mothers' Union. May we be blessed with a sense of connection and belonging. May we accept the call in the power of the Holy Spirit to grow in faith. May we be empowered in all that we do and say to help others. May we bloom where you plant us, O Lord. Amen*

**Respond**  
**Inform**      **Unite**  
**Support**    **Pray**  
**Empower**



**RISE UP Against Domestic Abuse**

**With love and best wishes  
for the New Year  
Patricia Hamilton-Whittaker  
Secretary St Thomas' and  
St Luke's Mothers' Union  
07895774720**



# ‘My First Sermon’

by John Everett Millais

There is a story of two men talking about their new vicar. One says to the other, “This new one’s not a patch on the old vicar. With the old one preaching I was asleep in five minutes. With the new one it takes all of ten.” Some churches in times past employed ‘sluggard-walkers’ who had long rods and walked down the aisles, ready to wake up the faithful if they had nodded off during the sermon.

Sluggard-walkers are not needed for this month’s painting, My First Sermon by John Everett Millais. It hangs in the Guildhall Art Gallery in London, which houses the art collection of our capital city. The Gallery is built on the site of an amphitheatre and was only completed in 1999, having replaced a building that was destroyed in the blitz of 1941. It has over 4000 works, many of them from the Victorian and Pre-Raphaelite period. Among them is this painting by Millais which depicts Effie, his 5-year-old daughter sitting in Kingston Church. She is dressed properly and sensibly for the occasion with feathered hat, muff and a cloak of vivid red. Her mother’s prayer book and gloves are by her side. Effie is listening with great concentration.



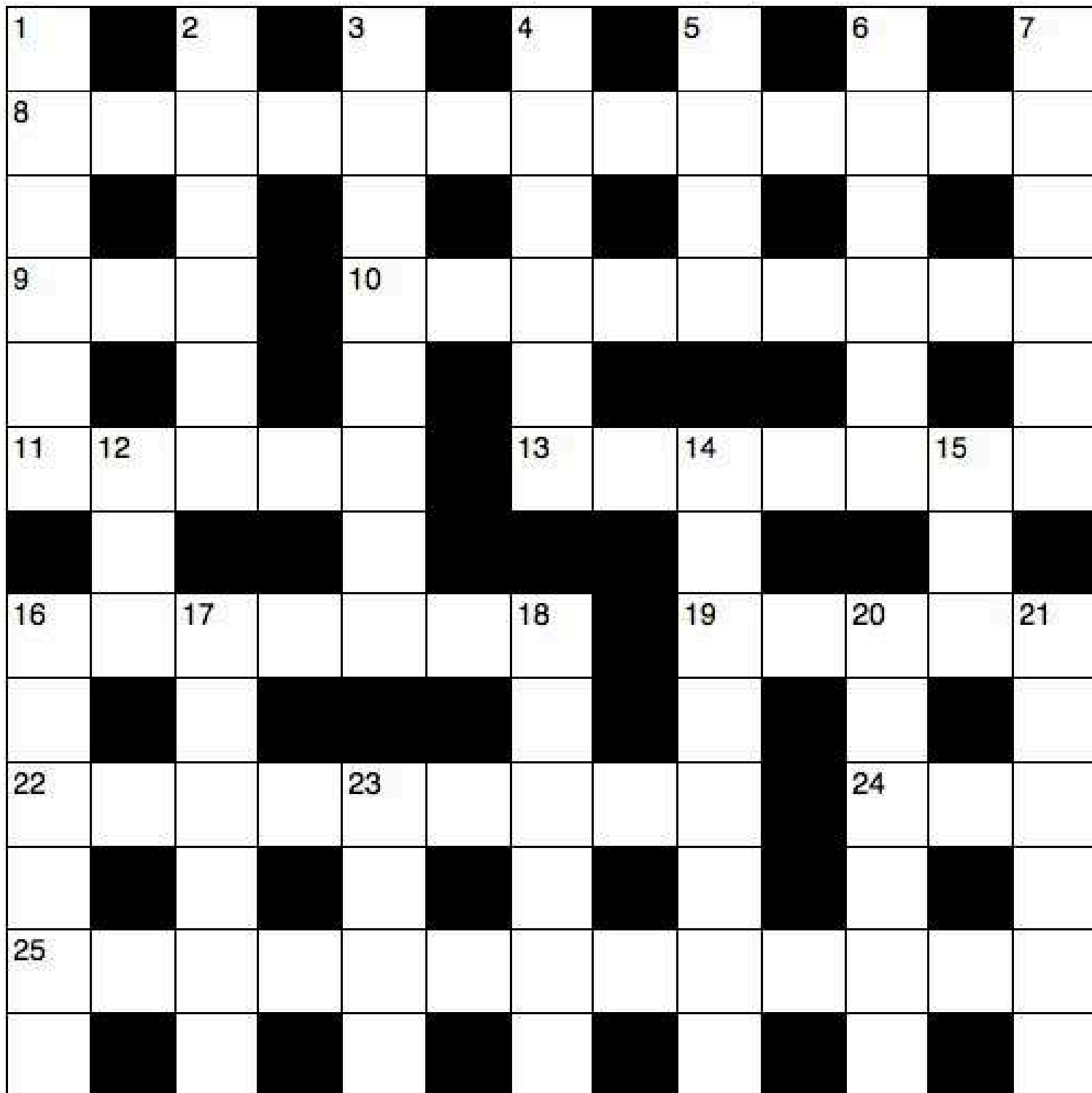
When the painting was exhibited in 1863, it was a great success. In the following year Millais produced *My Second Sermon* – a very different occasion, for Effie has now fallen asleep with her hat by her side. Millais was often criticised for his sentimental portraits of children as in *Cherry Ripe* and *Bubbles*. But in 1864 the Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Longley, praised this second painting for reminding us of ‘the evil of lengthy sermons and drowsy discourses.’

As we look at Effie alert one Sunday, asleep the next, we can smile. But we might also ask how we respond to the Word that comes to us through the medium of words in the weekly sermon. The preacher has the daunting task of using this everyday coinage of words to draw us into that mysterious, life-giving realm of the Word, Jesus. The words spoken must make a straight path for the Lord to reach each human heart.



The two paintings of Millais depict the reality and fragility of this endeavour. Sometimes our attention is engaged; at others, drowsiness closes our eyes and even our hearts to the good news of salvation. On occasions the sermon sows seeds, which can bear fruit. At other times, all kinds of factors mitigate against the sermon's success. Let us pray that as listener or as preacher, we may be aware of the dynamic power of the Word, which, as Karl Rahner wrote, calls us ‘out of the little house of our homely, close-hugged truths into the strangeness of the mystery of God that is our real home.’

# Crossword



Answers on page 19



## Across

8 Interrogated (Acts 12:19) (5-8)

9 'Burn it in a wood fire on the – heap' (Leviticus 4:12) (3)

10 Tobit, Judith, Baruch, the books of Esdras and the Maccabees are part of it (9)

11 Science fiction (abbrev.) (3-2)

13 Clay pit (anag.) (7)

16 Went to (John 4:46) (7)

19 'Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to – your bodies as living sacrifices' (Romans 12:1) (5)

22 David's plea to God concerning those referred to in 14 Down: 'On – – let them escape' (Psalm 56:7) (2,7)

24 Royal Automobile Club (1,1,1) 25 How the book of Ezekiel refers to God more than 200 times (Ezekiel 2:4) (9,4)

## Down

1 Seas (Proverbs 8:24) (6)

2 One of the sons of Eli the priest, killed in battle (1 Samuel 4:11) (6)

3 Specialist in the study of the Muslim religion (8)

4 'Do not rebuke an older man harshly, but – him as if he were your father' (1 Timothy 5:1) (6)

5 One of Esau's grandsons (Genesis 36:11) (4)

6 Taking a chance (colloq.) (2,4)

7 God's instructions to the Israelites concerning grain offerings: ' – salt to – your offerings' (Leviticus 2:13) (3,3)

12 Confederation of British Industry (1,1,1)

14 'All day long they twist my words; they are always – to harm me' (Psalm 56:5) (8)

15 The crowd's reaction to Jesus reviving a widow's son in Nain (Luke 7:16) (3)

16 Disappear (Psalm 104:35) (6)

17 How Jeremiah was likely to die if he wasn't rescued from the cistern where he was imprisoned (Jeremiah 38:9) (6)

18 What the prophets do to a wall, with whitewash (Ezekiel 13:10, RSV) (4,2)

20 Made by a plough (Job 39:10) (6)

21 Noah was relieved when the flood waters continued to – (Genesis 8:5) (6)

23 Jesus gave the Twelve the power to do this to diseases (Luke 9:1) (4)

## Eric Liddell – from Olympic star to Japanese internment prisoner

Eighty years ago, on 21st February 1945, Scottish athlete Eric Liddell died. An Olympic gold medallist in 1924 at Paris, he had withdrawn from the 100m heat because it was held on a Sunday, and had entered the 400m instead. The story is featured in the film Chariots of Fire.



Liddell died in a Japanese internment camp in China, aged 43. He wrote to his wife on the day he died saying he was suffering from a nervous breakdown brought on by overwork, but he was also malnourished and had an undiagnosed brain tumour. Five months after his death, the camp was liberated.

Liddell was born in China to Scottish missionary parents and attended boarding school at Eltham College in South London, where he is remembered as an outstanding all-round athlete “entirely without vanity”. He later went to the University of Edinburgh, which awarded him a posthumous degree last year in recognition of his contribution to sport and humanity.

Originally intending to run in the 200m at Paris, Liddell discovered en route that the heats for the event would take place on a Sunday. So, he switched to the 400m – and won in an Olympic record time of 47.6 seconds.

“God made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure,” he said.

He returned to China the following year and stayed there until his death, apart from two furloughs to Scotland, during one of which in 1932 he was ordained a minister of the Congregational Union of Scotland. He then continued his selfless missionary work, largely as a teacher, in China, where he married Florence Mackenzie, a China-born Canadian. Their daughter Heather died in 2023.

When Scotsman Allan Wells won the 100m gold medal in Moscow in 1980, he dedicated his victory to Eric Liddell.

## Christmas and Easter congregations swell as C of E sees third year of growth

Attendance at Christmas services leapt by 20 per cent in 2023, and the number of worshippers at Easter was up 8.6 per cent, as Church of England congregations experienced a third year of growth, the latest statistics show.

The number of regular worshippers edged above a million in 2023 for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, according to the Statistics for Mission 2023 report.

Overall attendance remains below 2019 levels, but the report shows numbers recovering towards the pre-pandemic trend.

Overall weekly attendance at Church of England churches rose to 693,000 in 2023, from 663,000 in 2022, an increase of 4.5 per cent. Meanwhile the number of children attending weekly increased from 90,000 in 2022 to 95,000 (up 4.9 per cent in a year).

The Church of England's overall 'worshipping community' rose to 1,007,000 in 2023, from 982,000 the previous year. Just under two million people (1,961,000) attended services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day in 2023, up from 1,636,000 in 2022.

# Crossword Answers

**ACROSS:** 8, Cross-examined. 9, Ash. 10, Apocrypha. 11, Sci-fi. 13, Typical. 16, Visited. 19, Offer. 22, No account. 24, RAC. 25, Sovereign Lord.

**DOWN:** 1, Oceans. 2, Hophni. 3, Islamist. 4, Exhort. 5, Omar. 6, On spec. 7, Add all. 12, CBI. 14, Plotting. 15, Awe. 16, Vanish. 17, Starve. 18, Daub it. 20, Furrow. 21, Recede. 23, Cure.



Breakfast Club from  
7.30am and After  
School Club until  
5.30pm.  
Ambassador School for  
Hope Therapy Dogs  
Blossoms - 2 yr olds  
Nursery 3-4 yr olds



Come and join our St Aidan's Family.

Everyday is an Open Day.

We have a few places in school available  
for children.

We have places in our Blossoms (2-year-olds)  
and Nursery (3 to 5-year-olds).

Funded places are available from April 2025,  
September 2025 and January 2026. Private  
funded places - start dates are flexible.



Like and Follow Us on Facebook - Billinge  
St Aidan's C of E Primary School and  
Billinge St Aidan's EYFS



St Aidan's C of E Primary  
School, London Fields,  
Billinge, WN5 7LS. Telephone  
Number: 01744 678042






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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)

# News from our churches

FEBRUARY 2025

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
26	27	28	29	30	31	1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	1

## Services in February

Sunday 2nd	10.00am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
Wednesday 5th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 9th	10.30am 4.00pm	No morning service in church - Sta's4all in school Evening Prayer
Sunday 16th	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 19th	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 23rd	10.00am 4.00pm	St Aidan's Beacon Holy Communion

**Sta's4all:** takes place in school on February 9th. We will be looking at the fabulous story of Joseph and his special coat. There will be the usual refreshment, craft activities on the theme and child friendly worship. We are expecting a visit from the puppets this month.



**Beacon:** We had a fabulous service for Christingle in January, supporting the Church of England Children's Society. Our service on Feb 23rd will be open to the Beacon Singers from St Aidan's School as usual. Our theme is friendship. This is the Sunday just before school starts it's second half of the Spring Term.

**Church Committee:** St. Aidan's Committee meets alternate months and the next meeting is on March 4th . If you wish to raise any issue for our meeting on please contact Grant Dixon (Health and Safety), Joan Roberts (Finance), Barbara Goulden and Peter Hughes (Assistant Wardens) or Andy Peers.



In January the horrendous bills for heating in the previous 2 months was discussed. It was also noted that non-church waste is again being put into the skip, which we have to pay to be emptied, further affecting our finances.

There are concerns about the security of our building. It is proposed that we install CCTV cameras in church. There will also be a key amnesty. If you have church keys but no longer have a need to enter the building for church business please hand your keys in to Barbara Goulden at the next service or event that you attend.



**Friendship Group:**  
Does not meet in February. Look out next month for news of our next meeting.

## Recycling: Good for the environment and for our future!

We continue to collect items which can be recycled at church which are not collected by our council. They can be placed in the drawers at the back of church when you come for a service or event.

- Stamps – please cut the stamps leaving a border of 5mm (a little less than ½ inch)
- Spectacles – please don't leave the glasses cases as they are labelled with the correct lens strength and sent to developing countries where people cannot afford to be tested or buy glasses
- Empty tablet blister packs – Sadly only one person was willing to make a contribution towards the recycling of these packages so we will no longer be collecting these for recycling. Please do not bring any further blister packs to church.



## Antiques Road show

We are planning a further event open to the whole community to bring antiques for valuation by an expert – Steven Parkinson. This will be held in church in February or March but the date is not yet confirmed. Look out for notifications on our Facebook page.



## Thanks to Roy Lawrence

One of our organists - Roy Lawrence has had difficulties with his mobility and experienced a number of falls over recent months. As a church, working with Rev Sandra Jones, our Hub leader, we have a duty of care. In order to maintain Roy's safety, the decision has been made that it is no longer safe for him to climb and descend the narrow stairs to the organ loft. The offer to use the electronic organ next to the lectern was put to Roy but he would rather not use it. Sadly, therefore, Roy is stepping down as organist. We thank Roy for all the help and service that he has given to St. Aidan's in this role over more than 30 years.



## Bible Reading Notes

For some time now Harry Wareing has collected the subscriptions and distributed Bible Study Notes on behalf of St. Aidan's Church. He now needs to retire from this activity. We give our profound thanks for this service which has allowed those who cannot easily access the reading notes booklets from the Christian Bookshop. The notes are 'Guidelines' and 'New Daylight' It is a very helpful way to read your Bible each day.

Is anyone willing to take on the task of buying and distributing Bible Reading notes to parish members? Harry Wareing has distributed the final issue of the financial year for the start of January. This lasts for 4 months, till 30th April. Orders and payment would need to be collected by a new co-ordinator in the February or March 2025 if this is to continue from May onwards. There is a copy of a large print version for January to March available to look at if you would like to see it. If you are interested in this role please contact Helen Steele for more details.

The following was written by a child at St Aidan's school. It was published in Lancashire Life magazine and received a runner up prize in their Young Writers competition.

## We Have a Problem!

We have a problem, and it needs sorting out!

I have a condition called AUTISM and that means I see the world differently. I don't like changes and do NOT like people messing with my stuff. I have got very good hearing and can sometimes hear from a mile away! I am also very good at remembering and I am good at maths, but I don't like English even though I am also good at that.

As I said before I see the world differently and that can be good or bad. We have a problem, and this is what it is.

Everywhere I go people speak jargon and gobbledegook to me and I do not understand it. It just does not make sense all that rubbish, nonsensical things, and words.

We have a problem! It DEFFINETLY needs sorting out.

I get worried easily and sometimes it is good and sometimes it is bad. I worry about smokers and the effects on them and the environment! I worry about not being on time for lessons and activities. I even worry about leaving my belongings behind somewhere and if other people have left their belongings behind somewhere. They are just three of the million worries I worry about.

We have a problem! My brain works differently to others.

Every day I try to fit in with other people around me, but do NOT always copy their behaviour if their behaviour is bad. I find people's behaviour silly and nonsense almost all the time, but I think they find their behaviour (themselves being silly) normal!!! I copy people's behaviour, but I still am honest and kind. I do behave normally (be myself) myself at home though, but that is a good normal me.

People at school call me a snitch just because I tell them off for a good reason because they are not being nice.

A snitch to me is a person who tells on people for no reason and too often, but a snitch to them is a person who tells them off.

So that is a bit about me. An AUTISTIC person who sees the world differently.

We have a problem! But that's just how it is.  
That's me, a person who has autism.

A child from St Aidan's, age 11

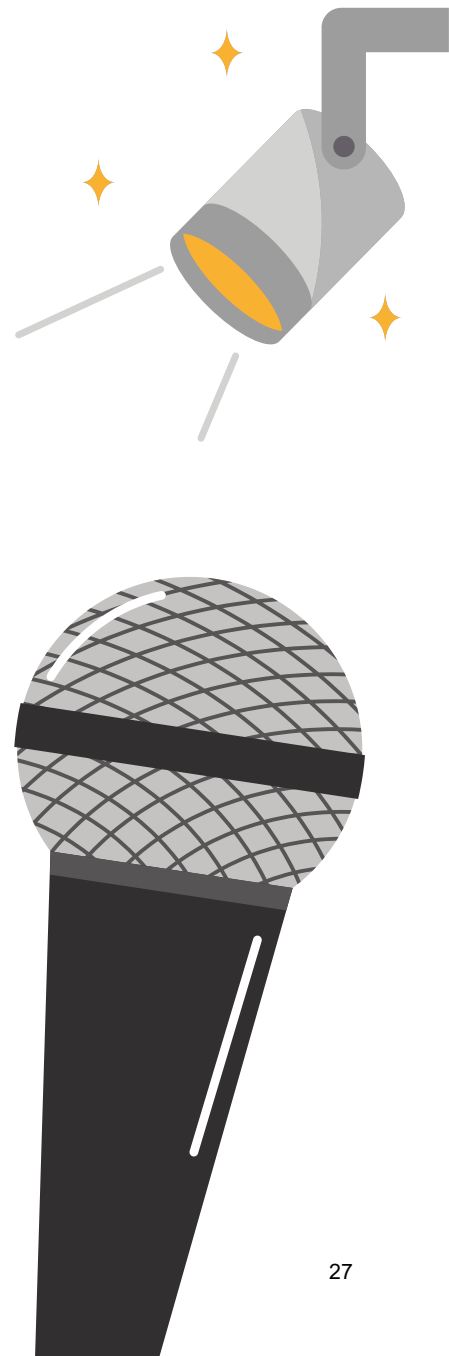
## Talent Competition and Open Mike Night

Sadly Helen Steele's granddaughter, Bethany had to postpone her Talent Show and Open Mike Night that was due to take place in November. She is raising funds to join a 4 week trip to Kenya with Camps International in the summer of 2026 to support needy communities with conservation projects and other community project work.

The new date is Friday 7th March 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 forms of talent who would like to take part. This is for both adults and children.

Please email Bethany for more details on [bm1404022011@gmail.com](mailto:bm1404022011@gmail.com) (or chat to Helen)

Tickets are on sale at **£4 per adult** and **£2 per child**. Available from Helen.



## St Aidan's in the Community

Well done to St Aidan's Pantry volunteers who supported local people affected by the flooding in January. Thanks to all who contributed food and cleaning materials to be taken to distribution centres.

Thanks to all who participated in The 'Church Christmas Card' which raised £100 for St Helens YMCA Christmas Appeal to assist them in their youth work.

## St Aidan's Pantry

I would like to thank everyone for their kind donations of food and money over the past two months. This has helped us to put together 52 food parcels which have been distributed to families of Billinge through the three schools, St Aidan's. Chapel End and St Mary's as the schools finished for Christmas.

It is hard to believe that we have been going 12 months and I don't think anyone imagined how the pantry would evolve.

I stress that the Pantry is not a food bank. It is open to everyone without prejudice. You can come and do a shop and have a chat over a drink and some pastries. It is not just for people who are struggling with choices over whether they eat or heat their homes.

It is a social place or perhaps you believe in landfill as a lot of our food is given by some of our biggest supermarkets and local businesses.

One lady said to me that the food shopping was just the bonus as she so enjoyed meeting people and having a chat.

We are also a safe space for people to come if they need help in any way. All our volunteers have had safeguard training.

We are open every Friday **11.00.a.m.- until 13.00p.m.**

Membership is **£5 per year** and every time you visit you are entitled to 15 items for £3.

If anyone is struggling in any way then please come along and we will do our best to support you. If we cannot we will sign post you and direct you to the people who can.

I hope you have all had a great New Year and Look Forward to seeing some new members in this New year.



# Donations & Remembrance



**St. Aidan's Treasurer and Church Committee would like to acknowledge with thanks the kind donations: -**

## **General Fund**

In loving memory of Betty  
from Cliff Stockley

Kind Donation from Unite NW Ashworth/Mersey Care NHS Branch

In memory of Dorothy Walker  
from Agnes Walker

In memory Ethel and Jesse Ashton  
from the Ashton Family

In loving memory of Doreen Rooney (4th February 2000)  
from all her family.

In loving memory of Norman Heaton who would have been  
90 on the 13th January.

From his family who miss him so much, Joan and Kevin Roberts.

## **St Aidan's Food Pantry**

With thanks to Philip and Margaret Stott

With thanks to Margaret Boardman

Kind donation from Unite NW Ashworth/Mersey Care NHS Branch

## Sound System

4 anonymous donations for which we give thanks

In memory of my beloved wife Elizabeth.  
You are missed every day, Clifford

For the legacy received from Perpetua Gloria Margaret Birchall

## Organ Fund

In loving memory of all Loved ones  
from Margaret, Ian and Joanne Gibbins

In remembrance of Peter Lee. A dearly loved Husband, Dad and Grandad  
from Phyllis and family.



# The Registers



## Holy Baptism 'We welcome them into the Lord's family'

12th December

Freya Norah Lyons

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

15th January

Doreen Barlow

John Ashton

## **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.

## **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

# 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  
joan.roberts530@outlook.com  
01744 895151

## **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

staidansbillingerger@yahoo.com



St Aidan's Billinge

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