

Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Aidan's edition



God is love

Whoever lives in love lives in God,
and God in them.

1 John 4:16

February 2024

70p

Wigan South Parish Contacts

Hub Leader	Rev Jeremy Thomas hubleader.south@churchwigan.org 01942 727275
Associate Hub Leader	Rev Sue Fulford ahl.south@churchwigan.org 01942 242369
Ordained Local Minister	Rev Izzy Schafer izzy@schaferassociates.co.uk 01942 717300
SSM Curate	Rev Sue Thomas sue.thomas@churchwigan.org 01942 727275
Wardens	Paula Gillespie 07716 667763 Helen Weaver 07796 334457
Administrator	Cheryl Knowles cheryl.knowles@churchwigan.org
Treasurer	Sarah Riley sarahtreasurerstthomas@outlook.com 07712 584954
PCC Secretary	Tricia Hancox triciahancox@gmail.com
Magazine Editor	Jess Bradley 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.

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.

	February	March	April
Deadline for material	18th January	15th February	21 March
Publication date	28th January	25th February	31 March

Contents

Winter Now	5
Letter from Sandra	6 - 7
News, Events & Services across Wigan South	8 - 12
Life on a Spin	13
Crossword	14 - 15
Let's Reclaim the Bible as Our Story	16 - 17
Faith Leaders call for change to asylum claims	18
News from our churches	25 - 26
The Registers	30
Donations	31



Winter Now

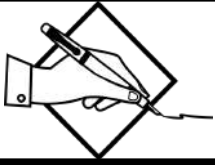
'Tis winter now; the fallen snow
Has left the heavens all coldly clear;
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow,
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn;
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn,
And clothes the boughs with glittering wreaths...

O God! Who giv'st the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold,
And keep us through life's wintry days.

*From a poem by Samuel Longfellow
1819-92*





Letter from Sandra

I am a mum to two adult children, Bethany 29, who is due to be married to her husband to be Joe in April, and Jacob 26. I am also mum to two Yorkshire Terrier dogs, Teddy and Tilly!

Prior to my curacy I was a deputy head and early years teacher (for 30 years). I worked all my teaching career in Crosby, Liverpool, with 25 of those years being in a church school.

Prior to ordination training, I was a lay reader at St Paul's Church in Skelmersdale, but even before my licensing, I knew God was calling me to full time ministry. I am excited to be joining the team in Wigan South and staying in Church Wigan, having served my curacy in the Northeast Hub.

When I have any spare time, I enjoy arts and craft, and making things.

Hello! I am really looking forward to being part of South Hub and getting to know everyone, but with 6 churches it might take me a while, so please bear with me, and keep reminding me of your name if I forget it. I'll get there eventually!

When I was an ordinand, training for the ministry, I never once thought that God would send me to Wigan, but he did, and slowly but surely, I have fallen in love with the people and places of Wigan. I knew, as I was coming to the end of my curacy, I didn't want to go anywhere else, but wanted to stay in Wigan, feeling that once again, this is where God was calling me.

I know that at the moment things are not easy for our churches and congregations with all that is going on with the challenges of aging population, finance and the Right Buildings process. But I firmly believe that God is in it all, that he is with us, and through prayer and discerning God's voice, He will lead and direct us.

I don't come with all the answers, but what I do come with is a desire to work with you all as we navigate the changing landscape together. I am very much a team player. I Corinthians 12 talks about how we each have different giftings, and that we are all different parts of the body, but we are all part of the body of Christ. I just want to thank each and every one of you who plays a part in the life of our six churches, however big or small, without you our churches wouldn't be the places they are.

My passion has always been for people to come into a deeper relationship with Jesus, and for us to grow together as disciples, journeying together in our walk of faith. Prayer is vitally important to me too, and I want to assure you that I will be upholding each worshipping community in my prayers and ask that you pray for me as I settle into South Hub.

Please also pray for my family who are staying behind in Skelmersdale, my daughter Bethany, soon to be son in law Joe, my son Jacob, and my mum Joan.

I pray God will bless each of you as we seek His will in our lives and the lives of His church.

***Blessings
Sandra***

Rev Sandra Jones will be licensed
at **10am on Sunday 4th February** in St Thomas'.

Everyone is welcome in church, but we do ask that you avoid using St Thomas' car park as Sandra's guests who don't know the area will need to park there.

If you would like to watch the service live on-line, please use this link <https://www.youtube.com/@stthomasstluke/streams> or you can watch it after it has been uploaded.

Parish News

Weekly Events in December & January

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)



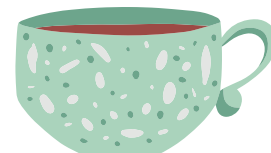
Wednesdays

- 1pm - 2.30pm: Wednesday Weenies (St Thomas' church hall)
- 1pm - 2.30pm: Walk the Walls (St Thomas')
- 1pm - 3pm: Knit and Chat group (St Peter's)
- 2.30pm - 4pm: Hot Spot for Y7 - Y11 (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)



Thursdays

- 2pm - 3pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 2pm - 3.15pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)



Fridays

- 2pm: Bible Study (St Thomas' church hall)
- 9.30am - 10.30am: 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

Services in February

Thursday 1st	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 4th	10.00am: Sandra's licensing service *All are encouraged to join this celebration*	St Thomas'
Wednesday 7th	10.00am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 8th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 11th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am Holy Communion 10.30am: Sta's4all in school 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Christingle Service 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 14th	10.00am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 15th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
Sunday 18th	9.00am: Morning Worship 9.30am Church café 10.00am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Holy Communion 11.00am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
Wednesday 21st	10.00am Holy Communion	St Aidan's
Thursday 22nd	9.45am BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

Sunday 25th	9.00am: Holy Communion 9.30am Morning Worship 10.00am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Worship Together 11.00am: Family 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 28th	10.00am Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
Thursday 29th	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

February Diary

Monday 5th February

10.30am: Communion at Garswood House (organised by St Peter's)

Tuesday 6th February

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

10am - 1.30pm: Pop up quality goods stall (Ashton Pantry)

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

Saturday 10th February

10am - 2pm: St Aidan's Antique Road Show

Saturday 17th February

11am - 1pm: Mothers' Union Winter Brunch at St Thomas'

Wednesday 21st February:

K4C (Kids4Christ) online group via St Aidan's

7pm: Mothers' Union Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 20th February

1.30pm - 3pm: Peace of Mind Dementia Cafe

Friday 1 March 11am: Mothers' Union Women's World Day of Prayer

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 3pm - 4pm
Saturday 11am - 12pm
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 11.30am - 2pm



**Holy Trinity Church
Downall Green**

Friday 9am - 10am

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

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



**Heavily discounted
prices for
one day only**

Clothing &
accessories, toys,
homeware, gifts.

We accept cash &
card.

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

Tuesday 6th February 2024
St Thomas Church,
Warrington Road,
Ashton in Makerfield,
Wigan,
WN4 9PL
10:00 – 13:30



Find us on facebook



**St Aidan's
Antique Road show**



**Saturday 10th
February
10am - 2pm**



Pay just £2 for a valuation
from our expert Steven
Parkinson.

You then have an option to sell through
Steven if you wish.

Why not come along and find out if that
vase of Aunty Mabel's that has been stuck
on the sideboard for years actually has
any value!

There will be a bucket for your old foreign
and English coins.
These will be sorted, any valuable coins
will be sold and the proceeds given to
church funds.

All contributions gratefully received.

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

Life on a spin

Many years ago, at the Pleasure Beach at Blackpool, there was a certain 'ride' or amusement that was strictly for the physically fit. It consisted of a flat wooden disc about 20 feet in diameter and set at an angle of 45 degrees in the floor. When it began to rotate, the aim was to get to the centre where there was a pole. As the disc rotated faster and faster, everyone who failed to get to the pole got flung off. Nowadays there's probably a European Community regulation banning it as far too dangerous!

The principle of the game was a basic law of physics. When any wheel rotates, the outer rim moves fastest of all. Half way to the centre and you are moving a lot more slowly. And, at least theoretically, at the absolute centre will be a point which is totally still. That's why anyone who reached that pole could stand there quite comfortably.

We have just started the Church's season of Lent. It's generally thought of as being a time for giving up chocolate, wine, whatever. But it's really a time to remind us that in our own rapidly spinning world, God is the still centre.

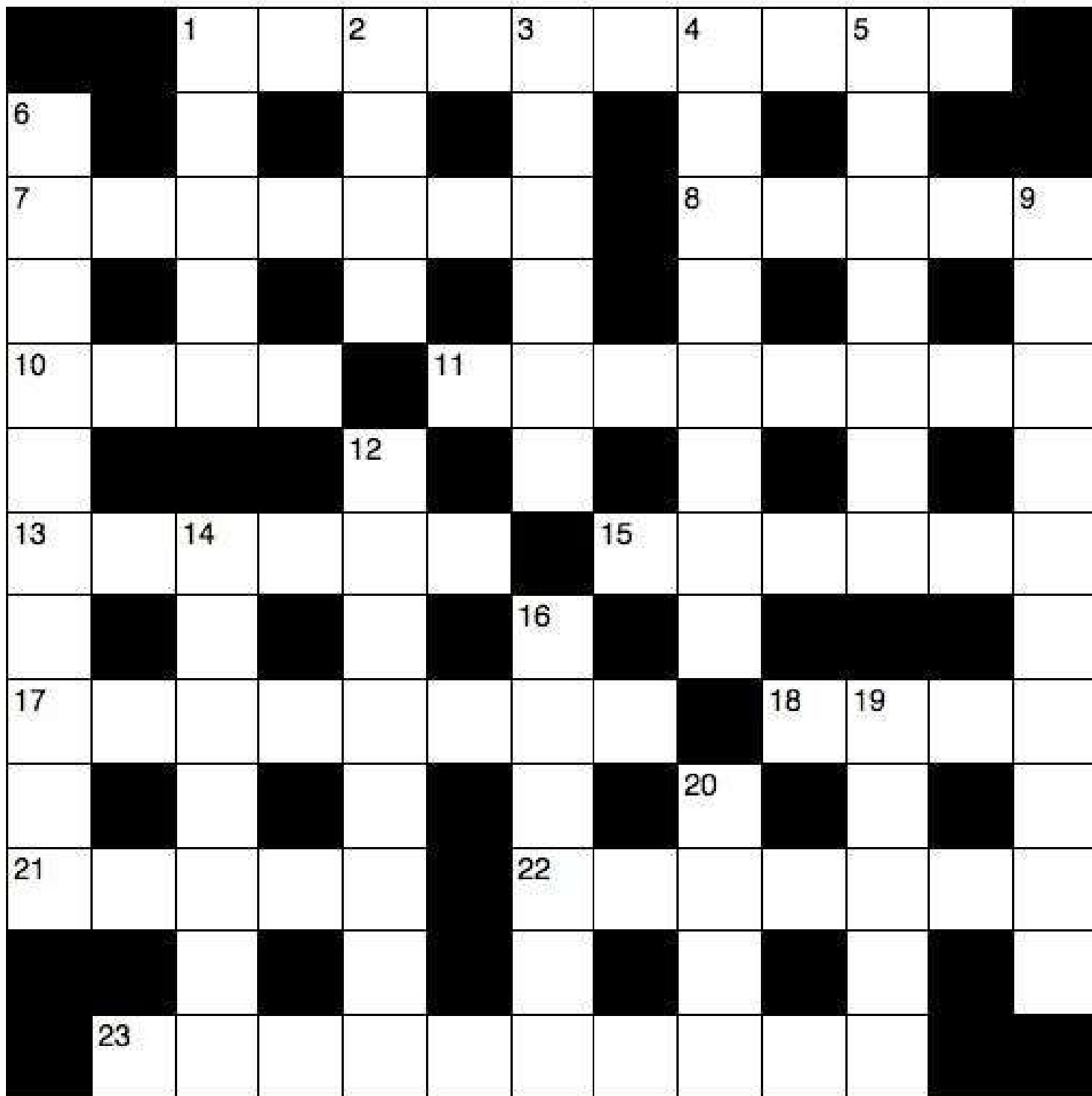
All around God is motion, sound, change and decay – galaxies circling, seasons and years rotating, life developing and decaying. And at the still centre, where there is no variableness, is God, the same yesterday, today and forever.

Only about seven weeks ago Christians worldwide were thinking of God getting involved in a special way in the ever moving and changing life of the world. And one great characteristic of Jesus was His stillness. Busy, harassed, injured people found someone with neither clever chat nor idle gossip, neither vulgar boasting nor loud opinion. His life always seemed to rotate round a still central point, which gave Him balance and authority.

“Be still then and know that I am God” wrote the Psalmist. Lent is a time for us to try and do just that – to find the still centre of God in our own individual lives.

Of course, we're all of us very much in the world, and must live our lives in all of its busyness. But it may do none of us any harm to be a little more silent than we often are – quick to listen and slow to speak. And the more silent spaces we give ourselves, the more we'll give that still, small voice within each one of us the chance to be heard.

Crossword



Answers on page 18

Across

- 1 Success or wealth (Deuteronomy 28:11) (10)
- 7 Forbidden fruit for Nazirites (Numbers 6:3) (7)
- 8 Concede (Job 27:5) (5)
- 10 Look at (Psalm 48:13) (4)
- 11 Much in evidence after weddings (8)
- 13 Condense (Job 36:27) (6)
- 15 Breakwater (6)
- 17 Give a tan (anag.) (8)
- 18 More usually now called Pentecost, – Sunday (4)
- 21 After living for 365 years, it was said of him that 'he walked with God' (Genesis 5:23–24) (5)
- 22 Trampled (Judges 9:27) (7)
- 23 For example, Miriam, Deborah (Exodus 15:20; Judges 4:4) (10)

Down

- 1 Arrogance (Proverbs 8:13) (5)
- 2 Roman poet from first century BC (4)
- 3 So rapt (anag.) (6)
- 4 Declare again (2 Corinthians 2:8) (8)
- 5 Paul's 'fellow worker', to whom he sent two epistles (Romans 16:21) (7)
- 6 God's foreseeing care and protection (Job 10:12) (10)
- 9 Traditional form of Roman Catholic Mass (10)
- 12 'The Lord... has given the – of Israel to David and his descendants for ever' (2 Chronicles 13:5) (8)
- 14 'My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my – ' (Luke 1:46–47) (7)
- 16 The central element in Nebuchadnezzar's dream, identified and interpreted by Daniel (Daniel 2:31) (6)
- 19 'On this rock I will build my church, and the gates of – will not overcome it' (Matthew 16:18) (5)
- 20 City where Paul was under house arrest for two years (Acts 28:16) (4)

Let's Reclaim the Bible as our Story

Happy
New Year

Dear friends,
A Happy New Year to all.

"As Christians we watch the years pass not with nostalgia or sentimentality but with the joy of those moving forward to an encounter with true life"

~ Oscar Romero

May we be able to fill the year ahead with peace and love.

I pray for peace in our world, especially in the Holy Land, and wish a ceasefire including the release of the hostages.

I hope that you had a blessed Christmas and feel refreshed as we begin this new year. I pray for you and your community as you seek to work humbly for God in whatever way you are called to serve.

As you do so I would like to encourage you to consider how the bible will feature in your thoughts during this year. It may seem strange for a bishop to be saying this to a Christian community.



Yet as I have spoken before this is a longstanding concern of mine. That Christians have lost the knowledge of God's great story as written in the sixty-six books that make up our bible. We must reclaim that story and see it as our story. And we must be confident in telling it. Young and old, lay and clergy, we must be confident in the story and be able to show how our story fits into God's great story.

I don't want this to be a fad or an initiative. I want us to consciously weave our understanding of the bible and biblical study into all that we do over the next and future years.

We have the rule of life where we are encouraged to pray, read and learn and I would ask you think about how you use this discipline to reengage with your bible, to maybe delve into places that you haven't visited for a while. You will find great joy in the exploration. Our rule of life challenges us to continue to place scripture at the heart of what we are doing.

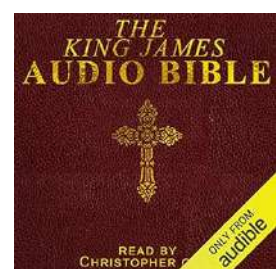
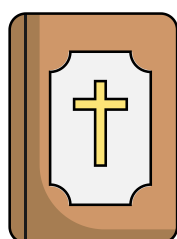
As will the rhythm of our clergy study and retreat days. I want to model what you can also do in your settings and places where you gather and worship. I am using the opportunities from our calendar to be able to think around the bible. I want to encourage you to do the same in your setting.

Some of you may choose to read the whole Bible in this year. Some may want to read the books in the Bible you are not familiar with. Some may want to re-read the familiar parts of the Bible with fresh eyes and ears. You may want to look at the provision you have in your congregation for studying the Bible. 'Disciple' means 'student.' We are all called to be learners as disciples of Christ.

Let's make 2024 a year where we consciously read, engage with, and study the Bible in every possible context, making a commitment to learn our own story in Christ and to share it confidently.

+John

Rt Revd Dr John Perumbalath, Bishop of Liverpool



Faith leaders call for change to asylum-claim system

Bishops and other faith leaders have joined forces with the Bishop of London to call on the Government to make a change in the leave-to-remain status situation for asylum seekers.

They say they want practice to match policy, for there to be better communication with asylum seekers, and for the timeframe to be extended.

While the faith leaders welcomed the Home Office's efforts to tackle the backlog in asylum claims, they expressed concern "at the number of refugees who, on receiving their leave-to-remain, are becoming street homeless."

The faith leaders said this meant a growing demand on London's churches, mosques, gurdwaras, synagogues and temples, for support with accommodation for those who have just achieved refugee status.

The faith leaders ask that Home Office to abide by its policy that refugees be given a minimum of 28 days from the date when they receive their biometric residence permit (BRP) before having to leave their accommodation. They also ask that the eviction notice period be extended from 28 days to 56, to allow adequate time to apply for Universal Credit and other benefits.

Bishop Mullally said: "Our churches are doing what they can to meet the need, and we all want to avoid further strain on our crisis systems. Homelessness increases the burden on the NHS, and has an overall impact on health, well-being, and the economy."

Crossword Answers

ACROSS: 1, Prosperity. 7, Raisins. 8, Admit. 10, View. 11, Confetti. 13, Distil. 15, Groyne. 17, Navigate. 18, Whit. 21, Enoch. 22, Trodden. 23, Prophetess.

DOWN: 1, Pride. 2, Ovid. 3, Pastor. 4, Reaffirm. 5, Timothy. 6, Providence. 9, Tridentine. 12, Kingship. 14, Saviour. 16, Statue. 19, Hades. 20, Rome.



C & A Hornby Ltd
 Plumbing and Heating Services
 11 Rydal Close, Ashton in Makerfield,
 Wigan, WN4 8AU.



Gas Safe: 11641

GTS0286

www.cahornbyplumbing.co.uk

Telephone: Phil on 01942 727890 or 07867 576164

A local family run business, established for over 25 years and DBS checked.

Contact us for:

All your plumbing needs including emergencies, repairs and replacements.



Boiler replacements and repairs including full systems and upgrades.



Gas Fire replacements and repairs.



All domestic gas work including emergencies.
 Boiler and Gas Fire Service, Landlords Gas Safety Certificates,
 House Move Gas Safety Certificates.



All bathroom work undertaken - complete bathroom refurbishment with design service.



All kitchen work undertaken - complete kitchen refurbishment with design service.



Rental Property Maintenance.



Insurance work undertaken



Find us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram



Pro Clean ECS

(External Cleaning Services)

External Cleaning Specialist

- UPVC & Conservatory cleaning
- Pressure Washing for Driveways and Patios
- Roof Cleaning, Sealing & Coating
- Drain Clearing & Cleaning
- Decking Cleaning & Sealing
- Imprinted Concrete Sealing & Re-colouring

**WE'LL GET THE
JOB DONE!**

BILLINGE-BASED

CALL **DARREN** (BRITISH ARMY VETERAN)

FOR A FREE QUOTE

07931 688 881

www.proclean-ecs.co.uk

quote@procleanecs.co.uk

F.W. Marsh

EST 1907

SAIF

**Private Family Funeral Service Director
&**

Monumental Mason

In the time of bereavement our personally supervised services relieves you of all responsibility.



24 Hour Service

Private Chapels of Rest

Pre- Payment Funeral Plans

55 Main Street

Billinge

Wigan

Tel: 01744 892260

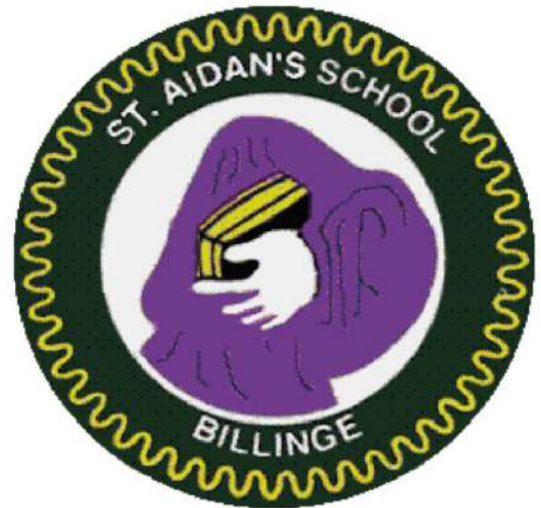
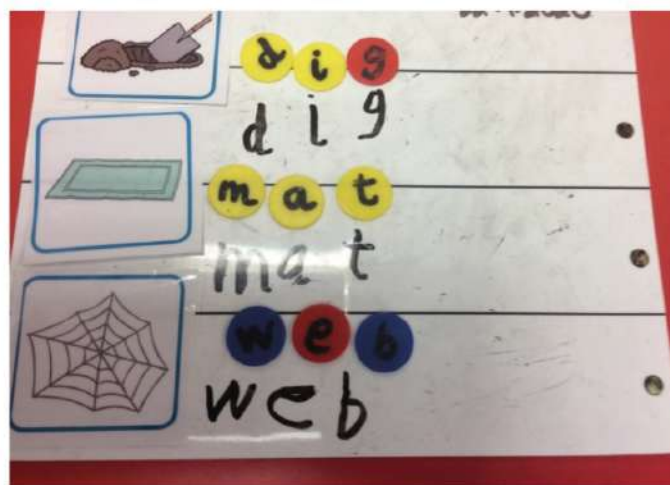
Also

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





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



S.J.T Decorators

Time served
Painter and Decorators
with over
30 years experience

Free Estimates – O.A.P.
Discount
No job too small

Tel 01744 892049
Mobile 07940 483199

Billinge Electrical Services

Fully qualified local
NICEIC approved
Electrician,

20 years experience
no jobs to small or to big

Simon Roberts
07912294790

Computer Repairs Bodtree Systems

Home / business PC
Laptop Support
Wireless / Networking
Consultations / Upgrades

Out of hours service - just call
Catherine Boyd IT Consultant

Catherine@bodtree.co.uk
www.bodtree.co.uk

Tel. - 01744 778381
Mob. - 07540222787

News from our churches

February Services at St Aidan's

Sunday 4th February	10.00am	Sandra's licensing at St Thomas'
Wednesday 7th February	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 11th February	10.30am 4.00pm	Sta's4all in school Evening Prayer
Sunday 18th February	10.00am	Morning Worship
Wednesday 21st February	10.00am	Holy Communion
Sunday 25th February	10.00am 4.00pm	St Aidan's Beacon Holy Communion

On February 4th our usual service has been cancelled to allow us to attend the special Hub Service in which our New Hub Leader, Rev Sandra Jones, will be licensed by the Bishop of Liverpool – Right Reverend John Perumbalath.

It is likely to be a packed church and parking will be at a premium. We are asked to leave St Thomas Car park for Sandra's family and friends who will be less familiar with the local area. We can park on the Market car park or Chapel Street car park (near the Salvation Army/The Presidential pub). There is some on street parking but please be mindful of neighbours.

If you would like to follow the service but are unable to make it, you may like to watch the live stream on:

<https://www.youtube.com/@stthomasstluke/streams>

This can also be viewed later in the day using the same link.

Sta's4all: In February we celebrate love for our neighbour, reflecting on the Good Samaritan. There will be the usual refreshments, singing, stories and activities on the theme. Starting at 10.30am - see you there!



K4C (Kids for Christ) continue to offer an online experience for pre-school children. They meet on line on the third Wednesday of the month. The next session will be on Wednesday 21st February. If you are interested in joining them please email Harry Wareing for an invitation (harrywareing@talktalk.net).

The Friendship Group are still on their winter break, but start again in March on Thursday 28th March. The group meet in church from 2pm. This is open to anyone who wishes to come to have a chat, share time together with refreshments and some input from a guest speaker.

Beacon: Our next Beacon service is on Sunday 25th February. Join our young at heart congregation and our Beacon Singers.



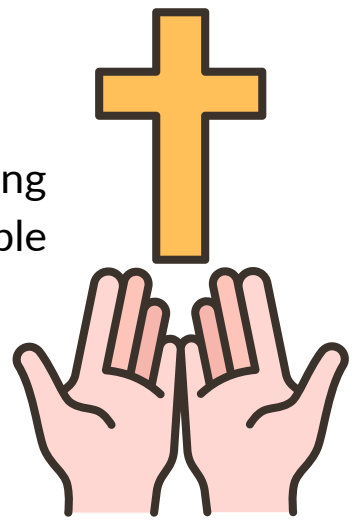
St. Aidan's Church Web site: We apologise that there were problems with our website in December. Information was transferred to the 'A Church Near You' (ACNY) website. The problems have now been resolved, and information can be found both on our website, www.staidanbillinge.org.uk as well as A Church Near You St. Aidans Billinge (use a search engine)

New Hub leader for Wigan South: It was announced in December that Revd Sandra Jones has been appointed as our Hub Leader. Sandra will be familiar to some of you as part of the Wigan clergy team, where she served as curate in the North East hub. So she is already tuned in to where we are on the Wigan journey. She will be a blessing in her new role as we navigate the next steps of mission, ministry and pastoral care together. Sandra is known by some of our congregation and we are very pleased to welcome her.

Revd Sandra says: 'I'm looking forward to continuing to work where God has called me and working with and ministering to the people of Billinge, Downall Green, Garswood, Bryn, Stubshaw Cross and Ashton in Makerfield.'

Prayer changes things!

At St. Aidan's we believe in the power of prayer. It is something that we can do at any time, in any place, even if we are not able to get out and about. We can all pray on our own at home, with others in our church services, in small groups with a common goal, (as we do at Sta's4all planning meetings) and we can also pray as individuals with a common aim.



For instance:

St Aidan's Emergency Prayer Group pray for individuals in need within or known to our congregation: do you know someone in need of prayer support? Sickness, anxious, feeling unloved, bereaved, depressed? Prayer enables us to be encircled in love. This emergency prayer group will pray in confidence for your loved one.

Ring Jennifer on 01942 537325 or Brenda on 01744 894528 to share the need.

Prayer for the Mission and Ministry of St. Aidan's pray for all aspects which affect our church mission to reach out to our community and for the practical aspects of our church building and services and our position within Wigan South.

This is co-ordinated by one of our prayer warriors, Pauline Griffiths. We hope to meet face to face occasionally, but this currently works by prayer needs being emailed by Pauline to the prayer support group for them to pray in their own time.

Recent topics have included for the appointment of the right person as leader of our Parish of Wigan South, progress with the Food Pantry, our school and teachers, Sta's4all and Beacon Services, upkeep of the churchyard, the process of the Right buildings review, and more.

If you would like to be a part of the team of prayers for the Mission and Ministry of St. Aidan's please contact Pauline on paulinesonia@hotmail.co.uk

In December, we held our 4th Christmas Tree Festival. The church looked amazing with 22 trees decorated to advertise the schools, local groups and companies that kindly sponsored the trees. The trees were kept in church until the new year so many people could enjoy the wonderful spectacle of the display of colourful trees.

I would like to thank everyone who helped to make this event so successful. This includes those who sponsored a tree; helped to find sponsors; decorated the trees; set up the church ready for the trees; manned the church during the event; helped with the children's film night; baked cakes and provided/ served refreshments and attended the event and finally thanks to the team who kindly helped to dismantle the trees last week and return the church to its normal state. Your help is very much appreciated.

We received a lot of very positive feedback from people who visited church during the month of December; it has been an extremely successful community event.

We also held a raffle and I would like to thank everyone who donated prizes and those who supported the raffle. The winners were:

- Rose W
- Jennifer B
- Stephanie L
- Barbara G
- Kath M
- Alison Ch
- Susan F
- E Crank
- Christine S
- M Green
- Nora C
- Sybal
- Sam S
- Faith F
- Fiona T
- Jean G
- Alex F
- Jean B
- Traceyann

Although we recognise that this event is held for the community, we are delighted to announce that a small profit has been made. We have raised approximately £500.



Once again a huge thank you to all involved
Alison Corkill

Aidan's Pantry

Aidan's pantry opened on the 1st December and we now have 74 members!

The opening times, including time to come and share in a warm space, are 11.30am until 2.00pm on a Friday.



We are so blessed with the volunteers who give whole heartedly to the Pantry. We would like to thank our local suppliers Windy Arbour Farm and Co op in Billinge who supply us with food. As a group of seven pantries under the Lifted Mission of Church Wigan we also get food supplied from Heinz and Costco and I am also in the process of negotiating with other bigger outlets but as you can imagine these companies must be inundated with requests.

If you are in a position to donate money or food, tinned or dried would be appreciated. Our aim is to make sure that no one has to make a choice on whether to eat or pay a bill.

The Pantry is open to everyone. It is such a wonderful atmosphere where people come to shop but also sit and have a chat with a cup of tea or coffee and a piece of cake. It is not just a food pantry but a place to meet people and make new friends. You can just come for a chat without joining the pantry or if you just want to have a look around you are more than welcome.

Joan Roberts

Church Grounds

Please note that any enquiries about graves or the burial of ashes must go to our Assistant Warden Barbara Goulden on 01744 894694 or email - staidansverger@yahoo.com. not the team who work to keep the graveyard tidy.

Wigan South Hub Churches Bereavement Support group

operates to support those bereaved across our local area. We invite those bereaved to a safe space – don't walk through your journey of grief alone.

This takes place on the first Tuesday of each month, 10 – 11.30am at St Luke's, Bolton Road Stubshaw Cross, WN4 8UN and 1.30 – 3pm at St. Andrew's, 274 Garwood Road, WN4 OTU.

The group is open to all members of our churches and anyone in our communities.



The Peace of Mind Dementia Café also operates for South Hub churches and their parishioners. It takes place at St Andrew's Church in Garswood on the third Tuesday of each month from 1.30pm - 3pm.

Contact Ros Unsworth for more details (01942 712390).

The Registers



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

1 December	Joan O'Malley	92
7 December	William Robinson	93
18 December	Mavis Peel	85
20 December	Evelyn Cunliffe	80
17 January	Andrew Timson	59



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

With thanks to the Friendship Group
for their kind donation and ongoing support.

To all at St Aidan's thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers
throughout this difficult time
Lorraine and Peter

In loving memory of a dear Mum and Nan Elizabeth Cunliffe
17th February
Christine and Joan

In loving memory of Norman Heaton
much loved Dad very much missed
Joan and Kevin Roberts

Colin Betts

Thank you for all the anonymous donations



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.

Cheque made payable to St Aidan's Parish Church or cash donations in an
envelope can be dropped off at 4 Alder Ave, Billinge, WN5 7PY. If you are
unable to get out, please ring Joan Roberts on 01744 895151 / 07743408390.

St Aidan's Church Officials

Reader

Helen Steele
hrsteele@ticali.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 895151 / 07743408930

Baptism Enquiries

Margaret Stott
01744 895751

Wedding Bookings

Barbara Goulden
staidansverger@yahoo.com
01744 894694

St Aidan's School Headteacher

Rachel Fisher
rachel.fisher@sthelems.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

Joan Grundy
jeangrundy49@gmail.com
01744 603208

USPG Boxes

John & Brenda Bridge
rjohnbridge@gmail.com
01744 894528

Flowers

Joan Andrew
joanandrew@live.com
01744 892877

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

staidansbillingeeverger@yahoo.com



St Aidan's Billinge
www.staidanbillinge.org.uk