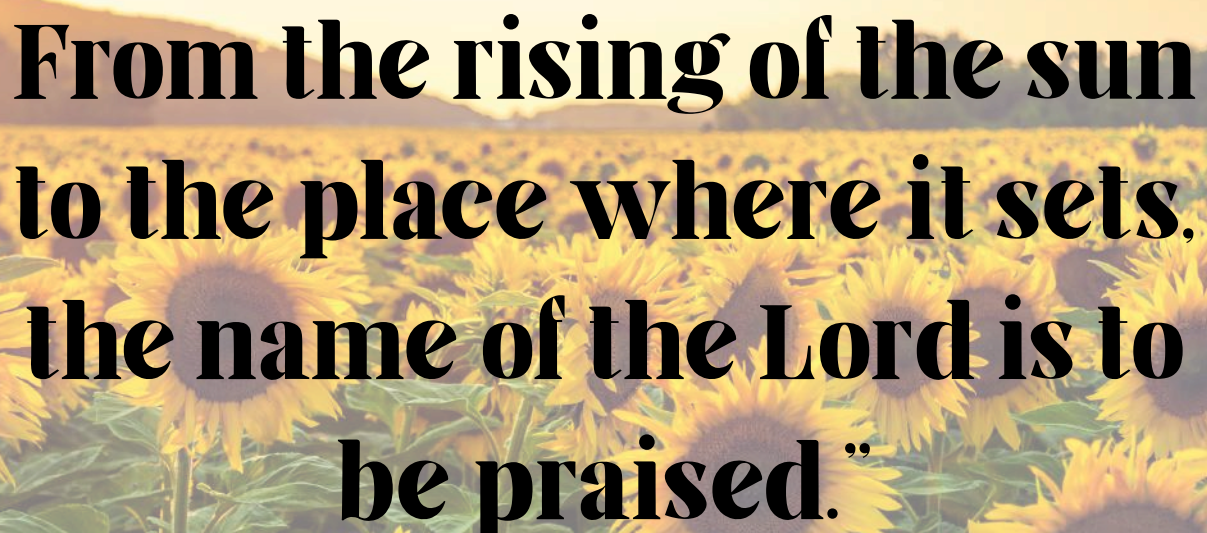


# Wigan South Parish Magazine

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

St Aidan's edition



**From the rising of the sun  
to the place where it sets,  
the name of the Lord is to  
be praised.”**

Psalm 113:3

July & August 2025

70p

# Wigan South Parish Contacts

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



# 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](mailto:magazine@stthomasstluke.org.uk).

	August	September	October
Deadline for material	Summer break	21 <sup>st</sup> August	18 <sup>th</sup> September
Publication date	Summer break	31 <sup>st</sup> August	28 <sup>th</sup> September

# Contents

A Letter from Revd Sandra	5 - 6
Parish News	6 - 7
Eco Church	7 - 8
Our Parish Magazines	9
Parish Weekly Events	10
Parish Events in July & August	11 - 15
Parish Services in July & August	17 - 19
Crossword	20 - 21
The Olympic Games	22
St Peter, St Thomas & St Aidan	23 - 25
The Burning of York Minster	26
New music released in response to Daily Prayer app	27
St Aidan's service	31
St Aidan's news	32 - 36
Donations & The Registers	37 - 39



# A Letter from

Rev'd Sandra

## Finding Rest and Renewal This Summer

*"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

— Matthew 11:28 (NIV)

As summer approaches, many of us begin to look forward to a change of pace. The warmer months often bring holidays, longer days, and perhaps a little more breathing space in our busy routines. Summer is a natural invitation to slow down, rest, and reconnect — not just with family and friends, but also with God.



The Bible reminds us that rest is not a luxury but a vital part of life. Jesus Himself invites us to come to Him when we are weary and promises to give us rest. This is not simply physical rest, but rest for our souls — deep, renewing peace that refreshes us from within.

Summer offers us a unique opportunity to step back from our usual busyness and listen more carefully for God's voice. Whether we find ourselves walking along the beach, sitting quietly in the garden, or simply enjoying unhurried moments at home, we can use this time to draw closer to Him. Perhaps it's a chance to linger a little longer in prayer, pick up a devotional book, or spend more time appreciating the beauty of God's creation.

It's easy to think that spiritual refreshment must come from doing something extraordinary, but often it is found in the small, simple moments when we intentionally make space for God.



For those who are traveling, may your journeys be safe and your hearts open to the ways God might speak to you in new surroundings. For those spending summer at home, may you find joy and rest right where you are, knowing that God is present with you in every season.

Wherever this summer takes you, I pray it will be a time of renewal, joy, and deeper connection with the Lord. Let us embrace this season as a gift – to rest, to recharge, and to remember that God is the true source of our peace.

Wishing you all a blessed, restful, and joy-filled summer.

***Sandra***

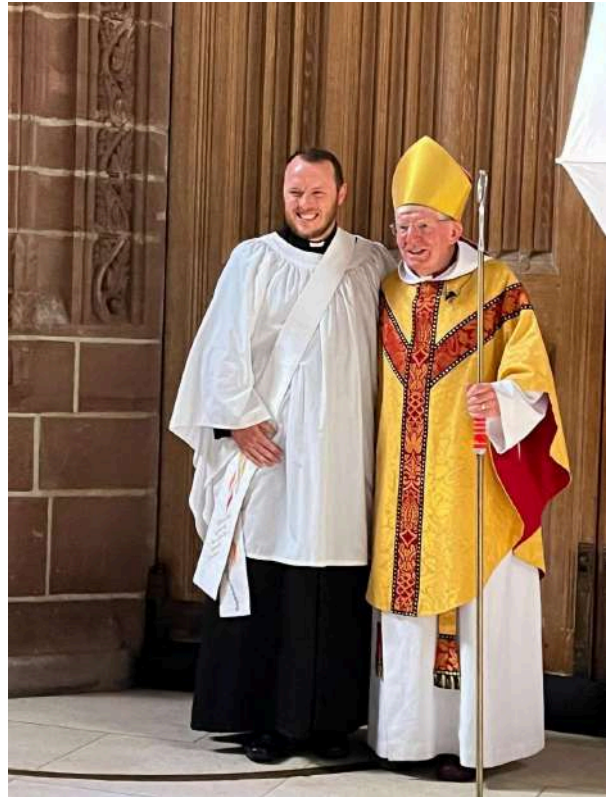


## **Confirmation Service**

On Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> June, 8 candidates from across Wigan South were confirmed at a lovely service St Thomas' church by Bishop Geoff. It was wonderful for so many to be a part of this special day for them all. We pray that God will continue to bless each one of them as they take the next steps on their journeys of faith.

## Ordination

And on a very warm Saturday 21st June, Adam Archer was ordained Deacon at Liverpool Cathedral. Please do continue to pray for Adam and his wife, Hannah, as they move to St Helens Parish Church where Adam will start his ministry.



## Eco Church

As you may have heard, St Thomas' has officially been awarded the Bronze Eco Church Award by A Rocha UK! This is a wonderful milestone in our journey to care for God's creation and live out our faith in a way that reflects good stewardship of the environment.



The Eco Church award scheme encourages churches across the UK to make positive changes in five key areas: worship and teaching, buildings, land, community, global engagement, and lifestyle. Over the past months, we have taken steps, big and small, to grow in these areas. Some of the initiatives that helped us reach this award include:

- Incorporating themes of creation care into our worship and prayers.
- Making practical improvements to how we use and manage our building, including energy use.
- Taking small actions to support wildlife and biodiversity around our church grounds.
- Encouraging conversations about sustainable living among our congregation.

Some examples of this in practice are dedicating some of our grounds to natural re-wilding, the use of bug hotels and bird boxes, composting continued pill packet recycling and installing a bike rack with even more plans to explore the use of solar panels, water butts and many other practises that further align with our duty to protect our planet.

This award is not the finish line, it's just the beginning. We are already looking ahead to how we can grow even further, perhaps toward the Silver Award. We would love your input, ideas, and energy as we continue to explore how we can be a church that cares for both people and planet.

If you're passionate about the environment or simply curious to learn more, we'd love you to join us in our Eco Church journey! We'd particularly be interested in expanding the initiatives across more of our churches too.

Together, we can be a community of hope, reflecting God's love for all creation.

If you would like to get to know more, please speak to a member of the Eco Team (Anne, Chris, Dan, Steve, Linda & Revd Sandra).





# Our Parish Magazines



Despite appeals in recent months, no one has stepped forward to take on the role of magazine editor. There is still time yet, and I do ask for your continued prayers that anyone who may feel called to take on this role, either before September or even later down the line, will prayerfully consider this and step forward. Sue Fulford, Sandra or I will happily chat about this further should you be interested in the role. At present, it is sadly likely that our parish magazines will be unable to continue come September, after the summer break.

I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to the dedicated service of all those - past and present - who have contributed over the years; writers, photographers, printers, distributors, and especially our dedicated editorial team who provide such wonderful stories, news and events to be shared with so many. Your time, creativity, and commitment have been deeply appreciated and have played a vital part in sharing parish life with so many.

Our parish magazines have existed for a long (long, long in some cases!) time and have provided a snapshot of parish life in both good and more difficult times. In more recent years, since the formation of Wigan South, it's been a privilege to share news from all corners of our worshipping communities.

The magazines are especially important to reaching those on the fringes of our parish, in particular the housebound or those who - even if only for a season - have not been able to attend our churches in person. It is my prayer that the spirit of connection and communication that the magazine fostered will continue through other channels within our parish.

Thank you for your support and readership.

# Parish News

## Weekly Events

\*\*please check for changes around the summer break

### 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)
- 1st & 3rd weeks, 7pm: Student Group (St Aidan'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 - 9pm: Women's Fellowship (St Peter's)

### Thursdays

- 1.30pm - 2.30pm: SWAP support & advice drop in
- 2pm - 3pm: Gentle dance class (St Luke's)
- 3pm - 4pm: English Classes (St Thomas' church hall)
- 7.30pm: Craft group (St Thomas' church hall)

### 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 support (St Thomas' church hall)



# July Events

## **Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June:**

**2pm onwards:** Walk of Witness to celebrate 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St Peter's school

## **Mondays 30<sup>th</sup> June, 7<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> July**

**7pm - 9pm:** Weeks 7 - 8 of the prayer course at Holy Trinity

## **Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July**

**10am - 11.30am:** Bereavement Group at St Luke's

**1.15pm - 2.45pm:** Bereavement Group at St Andrew's

## **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> July**

**10.45am - 12pm:** Bereavement Group at St Thomas'

## **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> July**

**11am:** Communion Service in Garswood House

## **Friday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

**1.30pm - 2.30pm:** St Aidan's Bereavement Group

## **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> July**

**10am - 1pm:** Churchyard tidy up at St Aidan's

## **Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> - Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July**

**All day:** Surf Stage at The Wayfarer, Parbold

## **Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> July**

**2.30pm:** Year 6 Leavers' Service

## **Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

**2pm:** Friendship Group at St Aidan's

## **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> July**

**7pm:** Mothers' Union & Friends Summer Evening in St Thomas'



Mothers Union members and friends Summer Evening  
Tickets are now on sale for £5 and include refreshments and entertainment from "Mr Sinatra" himself aka Kevin Siddall. Tickets are available from Patricia Hamilton-Whittaker, Margaret Lyon, Linda Bailey, Paula Gilesie and Michelle Rawsthorn. Please note this is a ticket only event in order to inform the catering.

## August Events

### **Friday 1<sup>st</sup> August**

**1.30pm - 2.30pm:** St Aidan's Bereavement Group

### **Monday 4<sup>th</sup> August**

**11am:** Communion Service in Garswood House

### **Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> August**

**10am - 11.30am:** Bereavement Group at St Luke's

**1.15pm - 2.45pm:** Bereavement Group at St Andrew's

### **Thursday 7th August**

**10.45am - 12pm:** Bereavement Group at St Thomas'

### **Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August**

**2pm - 4.30pm:** Wigan Heritage Society at Holy Trinity

### **Wednesdays in August**

**7pm - 9pm:** Throughout summer there will be events held at St Thomas' for all to get together - from games nights, to a BBQ, quizzes and much more. Keep your eyes peeled for more information.



## Surf Stage 2025 (5th-6th July)

Did you know that there is a Christian Festival that you don't have to travel far for and which is free? Gas Street, Philippa Hannah and Moses brothers will be leading the worship on the main stage, and there will be loads of different activities to choose from.

The children will have lots of activities in their own tent and a trail, there's also a games café, bouncy castles, Helter Skelter, giant games as well as the usual festival favourites – face and nail painting, hair braiding, tattoos & glitter bar. Young people have their own programme and, if they're over 11, can join Dan and the Next Gen Team camping for a small charge, and enjoy the out of hours activities.

It is held behind The Wayfarers in Parbold (WN8 7NL) and there is plenty of on-site parking (£3 per car) or you could walk from Parbold station.

If you'd like to know more or even help out, then please speak to Dan (07475 190099) or Sue T (07877 704645)

# SURF STAGE

## JOIN US IN THE FIELD

FESTIVAL

with  
MOSES BROTHERS,  
PHILIPPA HANNA &  
GAS STREET MUSIC



### 4 - 6 JULY 2025

A handmade celebration  
of music, arts, food and fun.

[surfstage.co.uk](http://surfstage.co.uk)

The Field // 1-3 Alder Lane // Parbold // WN8 7NL



## Wigan Local History & Heritage Society

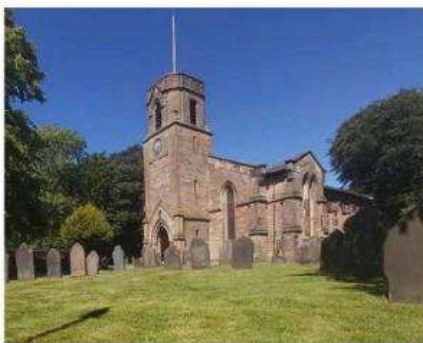
Members of Wigan Local History and Heritage Society are visiting Holy Trinity Church to hear about the history of this lovely church. The invitation to come along is extended to everyone.

There will be interesting talks at 2.30pm from Anthony Pilgrim, local Ashton historian known as The Ashton Rambler and Pat and Will Sharp who are researching the history of Wigan's Churches.

Visit the graveyard to see the grave of Stephen Walsh MP and some Commonwealth war graves.

Everyone is welcome to this event, refreshments available.

Wigan Local History Society celebrates the rich history and heritage of Wigan and its surrounding area. The society meets on the second Monday of each month at the Real Crafty in Upper Dicconson Street in Wigan to hear from an interesting range of speakers.



Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> August  
2025 - 2pm to 4:30pm



Refreshments  
available



Free entry!  
Parking available on  
school car park.



# Bereavement Support Group

We invite you to  
come to a  
Safe Space

Don't walk your  
journey of grief  
alone

## First Tuesday of the Month

**10am - 11.30am**

**St Luke's Church  
Bolton Road  
Stubshaw Cross**

**1.15pm - 2.45pm**

**St Andrew's Church  
Garswood Road  
Garswood**

## First Thursday of the Month

**10.45am - 12pm**

**St Thomas' Church  
Warrington Road  
Ashton-in-Makerfield**

## First Friday of the Month

**1.30pm - 2.30pm**

**St Aidan's Church  
Main Street  
Billinge**

**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

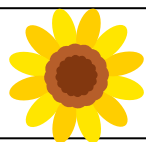


**Holy Trinity Church  
Downall Green**

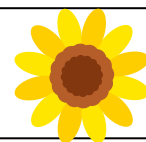
Friday 9am - 10am

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





# Services in July & August



<b>Wednesday 2nd</b>	10am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
<b>Thursday 3rd</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 6th</b>	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
<b>Wednesday 9th</b>	10am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
<b>Thursday 10th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 13th</b>	9am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 11am: Summer School Celebration 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: All Age 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
<b>Wednesday 16th</b>	10am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
<b>Thursday 17th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 20th</b>	9am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10am: Morning Prayer 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'

<b>Wednesday 23rd</b>	10am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
<b>Thursday 24th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 27th</b>	9am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10am: St Aidan's Beacon 10.30am: Holy Communion No service due to camp 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
<b>Thursday 31st</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'

<b>Sunday 3rd</b>	9am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Holy Communion 10am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Worship No service due to camp 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
<b>Wednesday 6th</b>	10am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
<b>Thursday 7th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 10th</b>	9am: Holy Communion 9.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.30am: Morning Prayer 10.45am: Worship Together 11am: Holy Communion 4pm: Evening Prayer	St Thomas' St Andrew's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Aidan's
<b>Wednesday 13th</b>	10am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity

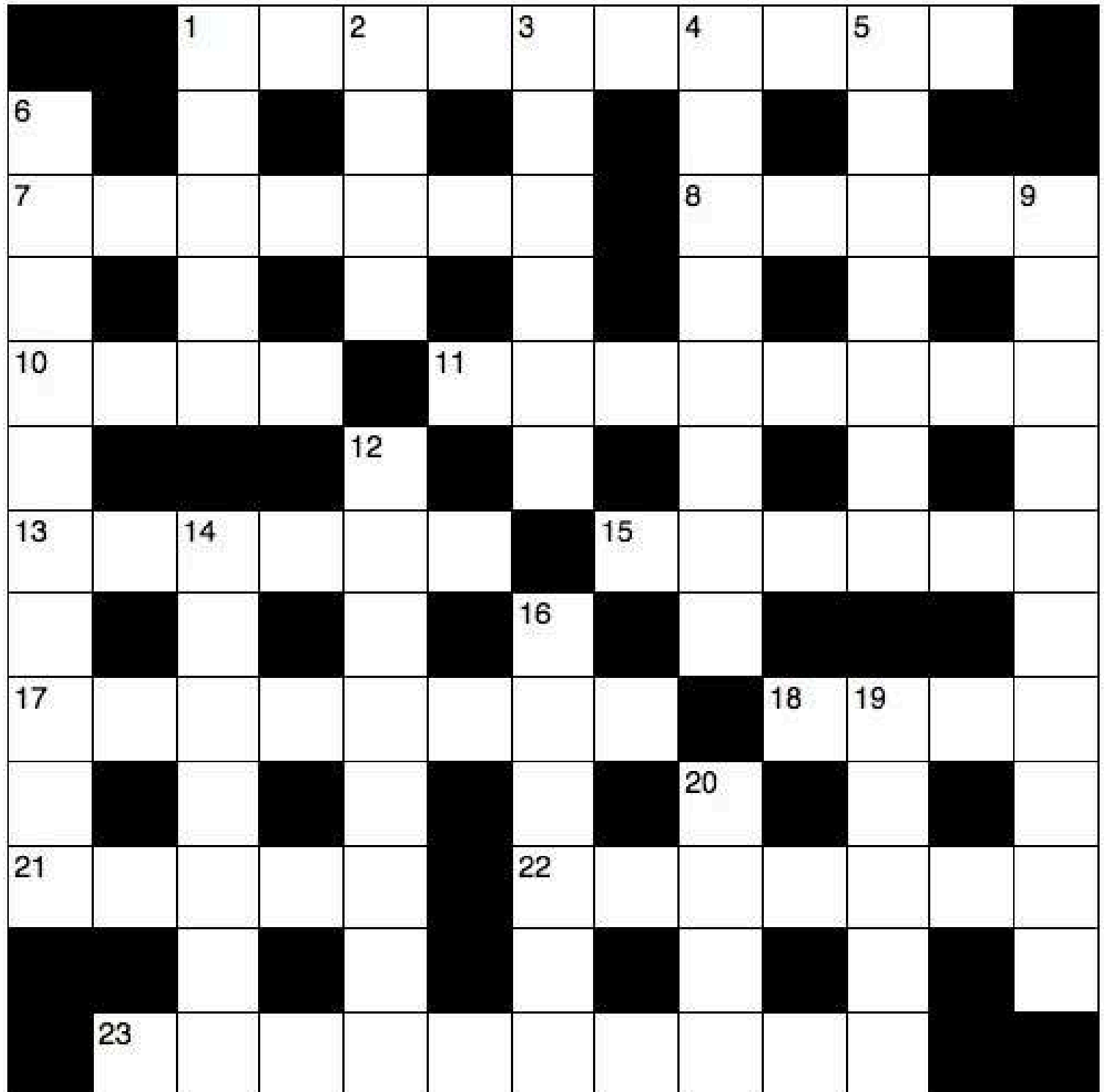
<b>Thursday 14th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 17th</b>	9am: Morning Worship 9.30am: Morning Worship 10am: Morning Prayer 10.30am: Morning Worship 10.30am: Holy Communion 10.45am: Holy Communion 11am: Family Worship 6.30pm: Evensong	St Thomas' St Andrew's St Aidan's Holy Trinity St Peter's St Thomas' St Luke's St Thomas'
<b>Wednesday 20th</b>	10am: Holy Communion	St Aidan's
<b>Thursday 21st</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 24th</b>	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
<b>Wednesday 27th</b>	10am: Holy Communion	Holy Trinity
<b>Thursday 28th</b>	9.45am: BCP Holy Communion	St Thomas'
<b>Sunday 31st</b>	10am: Wigan South Holy Comunion	St Aidan's

**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.

# Crossword



Answers on page 26



## Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John – (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)
- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was – in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

## Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will – over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and – from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

# The Olympic Games

In describing the Christian life as a marathon race, the writer of Hebrews (12:1-2) challenges us to finish well.



## **‘throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles’**

As in a normal race, we have to get rid of any burdens that weigh us down (eg possessions, worries, what others think of us) and besetting sins (wrong habits or attitudes). We can cast our burdens on the Lord (Ps 55:22) and be assured of His forgiveness (1 John 1:9).

## **‘run with perseverance the race marked out for us’**

The Christian life is like a marathon not a sprint race, which calls for endurance. The course is marked out for us, as we all have a unique race to run, with its opportunities and difficulties. God knows our path and will provide all that we need to complete the race.

## **‘fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith’**

The runner keeps their focus on the finishing line and avoids all distractions. Our focus is on Jesus, who has run the race before us (‘author’), but is the one who can show us how to finish well (‘perfecter’).

## **We are also surrounded by a ‘great cloud of witnesses’**

These are God’s people, both past and present, who are cheering us on!

During the 1992 Barcelona Olympics, the British athlete Derek Redmond was running in the 400 metres semi-finals. About 250 metres from the finish his hamstring tore, and he fell to the ground in pain. However, his father ran on to the track to support him in completing the race. Let’s not forget that whatever we face, God is there beside to enable us to finish the race!

100 years ago, on 11th July 1924 that British sprinter Eric Liddell won the men’s 400 metres gold medal at the 1924 Olympics in Paris. He preferred the 100 metres, but the heats were held on a Sunday, and he refused to run in them.

On 29<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July and 31<sup>st</sup> August we remember St Peter, St Thomas and St Aidan respectively. Here is a little bit more about each in honour of the three of our six churches to which they are named.

### **St. Peter: A Fisherman Called to Lead**

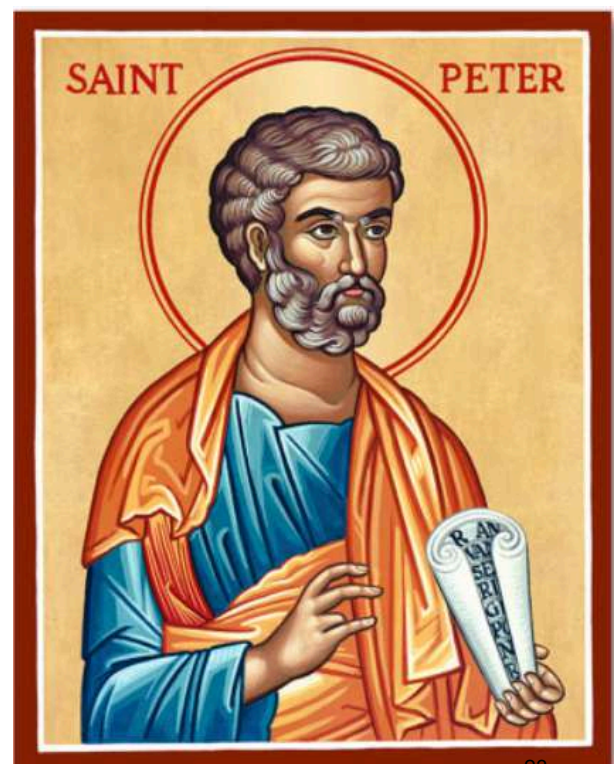
St. Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, holds a special place in the life of the Church. Born as Simon in a small fishing village, he was called by Jesus to leave his nets and follow him — a call that would change the course of his life and the history of Christianity.

Jesus renamed him Peter, meaning "rock," saying, "on this rock I will build my church" (Matthew 16:18). This was not because Peter was perfect — far from it. He was impulsive, outspoken, and famously denied Jesus three times during His trial. But after the resurrection, Peter was forgiven, restored, and empowered to become a bold witness to the gospel.

In the Book of Acts, we see Peter preaching at Pentecost, healing in Jesus' name, and helping guide the early Church. Tradition holds that he was eventually martyred in Rome, giving his life for the faith he once feared to confess.

In the Church of England, Peter is honoured not only as an apostle but as a model of grace and transformation. His feast day, shared with St. Paul on 29 June, is a time to reflect on how God uses ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

St. Peter reminds us that the Church is not built on perfection, but on grace — and on Christ, who called even a fisherman to help change the world.



# Doubts about the Christian faith? – take action now!

Do you have doubts about the Christian faith? July is the month for you to decide what to do about them. This month the Church remembers Doubting Thomas, and there IS action you can take, either way.

You know the story: Thomas was the only apostle not present when Jesus appeared to the disciples on the evening of His resurrection. When the rejoicing disciples later told Thomas that Jesus was alive, he flatly refused to believe them. He had seen the crucifixion.



The gospel goes on to relate that a week later Jesus indeed appeared to Thomas, and invited him to put his hand into the holes in His hands and feet. Thomas was utterly overwhelmed. His response was ‘My Lord and My God!’ He saw, he believed.

Then Jesus said something which is relevant to us today. “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (Jn 20:29) Jesus KNOWS it can be hard for you, who have never seen Him, to believe that He is indeed alive, and Lord of all.

Which is, of course, where we are today. Perhaps you really struggle with doubt. Well, there are two courses of action you can take.

1. Don't read the Bible. Begin to forget what Christianity teaches. Don't go to church. Don't ask God, or anyone else, for help. Your 'doubts' are perfectly honest questions, but stop looking for answers. Assume that because you have questions, there are no answers.
2. Look for some answers. Find out what the New Testament actually says about Jesus - by reading it! Do not be confused into thinking that you 'doubt'



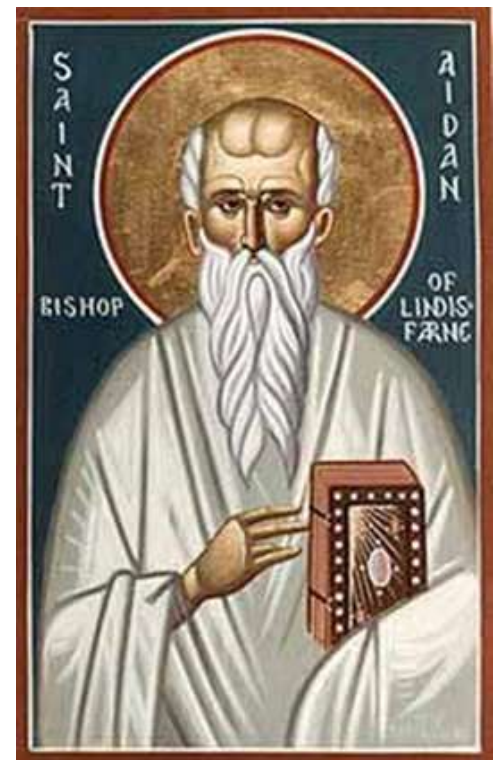
something which you may not even really ‘know.’ Pray – remember that Jesus said that those who believe without seeing are ‘blessed’. So, ask God that, if He is there, please would He ‘bless’ you by opening your eyes to spiritual realities. Go to church. Yes, the Christian faith demands that we take God at His word, with no evidence other than His Word. But though we believe in Jesus without seeing Him, we do NOT believe without considering Him. Faith is not blind credulity and unthinking naiveté. We have faith in the historic person of Jesus Christ.

Peter writes some real encouragement in his first epistle, “Though you have not seen Him, you love Him; and even though you do not see Him now, you believe in Him and are filled with an inexpressible and glorious joy, for you are receiving the goal of your faith, the salvation of your souls” (1 Peter 1:8-9).

## St Aidan

Though Aidan was born in Ireland, became a monk in Iona, Scotland, he was called to Northumberland, where he led it’s King, Oswald, to Christianity, so became an Apostle to the English. A British Man!

King Oswald of Northumbria often interpreted for Aidan until he was able to speak English! Aidan founded a monastery on Holy Island, where he became the first Bishop. He was a great evangelist who walked everywhere so that he could talk to the people he met on the roadside, rich and poor alike. He showed great generosity and love to all. His love for Christ shone through and he is often portrayed holding a lantern – the light of Christ which he carried. He died on August 31st 651 in Bamburgh, and so we celebrate Saint Aidan on August 31st. We are proud to have him as our Patron Saint at St Aidan’s Billinge.



## 1984 - the burning of York Minster

Forty years ago, on 9th July 1984, York Minster was struck by lightning, which set fire to the roof and destroyed the south transept. It was the most recent of five fires that have occurred there over the years: the causes have ranged from workmen burning coals (1753) through arson using torn-up hymnbooks (1829) to an unattended candle (1840) and a tarpaulin catching fire (1971). Although night lightning was the official explanation in 1984, some suggested that God might have been reacting to the very recent appointment as Bishop of Durham of the Rt Revd David Jenkins, a famously controversial cleric whose comments had seemed to cast doubt on the virgin birth and the Resurrection. He had been consecrated at York Minster three days earlier.

The Archbishop of York, Dr John Habgood, described that idea as “ridiculous”, though some felt that arson by objectors could not be ruled out. As many as 114 firefighters from over North Yorkshire were involved in tackling the blaze. The damage to the south transept, with its wooden vaulted roof, amounted to £2.25 million.

York Minster is a huge landmark and tourist attraction in the city: many consider it to be one of Europe’s most impressive Gothic buildings. The glass in its famous 16th century Rose Window, which had recently been renovated, cracked into 40,000 pieces, but the new lead edges held it all together.

Queen Elizabeth attended the rededication ceremony in October 1988. This year a new exhibition called Out of the Ashes tells the story of the blaze and marks its anniversary.

## Crossword Answers

**ACROSS:** 1, Sabbatical. 7, Opinion. 8, Laing. 10, Olga. 11, Galilean. 13, Sardis. 15, Severe. 17, Adultery. 18, Flea. 21, Swazi. 22, Acetate. 23, Revelation.

**DOWN:** 1, Sling. 2, Brim. 3, Annual. 4, Ill-timed. 5, Abilene. 6, Colossians. 9, Gennesaret. 12, Diatribe. 14, Roulade. 16, Errata. 19, Learn. 20, Levi.

# New musical album released as demand for Daily Prayer app soars

A new album of music, *The Gift of This New Day*, has been released in response to demand from listeners of the Church of England's Daily Prayer app and podcast.



Now available on CD and major streaming platforms, the album features all-new recordings of the most requested musical pieces from Morning Prayer, performed by St Martin's Voices.

Since its launch in 2021, the Daily Prayer audio service has become a spiritual companion for millions, with over 3.1 million unique users and nearly 12 million downloads. Music has been a central part of the experience from the beginning, offering beauty, comfort, and space for reflection, especially during the isolation of the UK's third lockdown.

The album includes a blend of chant, public domain sacred works, and five newly commissioned pieces by leading composers: Cecilia McDowall, Nils Greenhow, Sarah MacDonald, Owain Park, and Lucy Walker. The music reflects a range of styles designed to support prayer and contemplation.

An accompanying music book, published by the Royal School of Church Music (RSCM), provides sheet music for over 30 canticles, psalms, and responses from Common Worship: Daily Prayer. It is designed for use by individuals, small groups, choirs and congregations alike.

The project is a collaboration between the Church of England's publishing arm, Church House Publishing, and the RSCM, building on their shared commitment to resourcing worship in every context: digital and physical, personal and communal.





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.

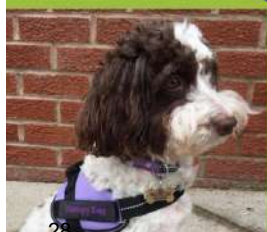
We have a few places in school available  
for children.

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



**RB Foot Care**

Foot Health Practitioner

Ruth Brannelly Dip.PRFHC



**Mobile Services across St Helens**

07983 598444

ruthbrannelly.fhp@gmail.com



- ✓ Routine foot treatment
- ✓ Cutting toenails
- ✓ Removing corns and calluses
- ✓ Custom made toe separators
- ✓ Interdigital wedges
- ✓ Dorsal toe protectors
- ✓ Managing nail infections and ingrowing toenails

Fully insured and a registered member of Professional Register for Foot Health Care.



## **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



# ARTISAN FRAMING SERVICES

All aspects of Framing

Sports & other Memorabilia

Photos, Paintings, Cross Stitch, Needlework

Canvas Stretching

Free on site customer car parking

**01942 718602**

**info@artisanframingservices.co.uk**

**www.artisanframingservices.co.uk**



25 Bolton Road, Ashton-in-Makerfield, Wigan WN4 8AA



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)

# News from our churches

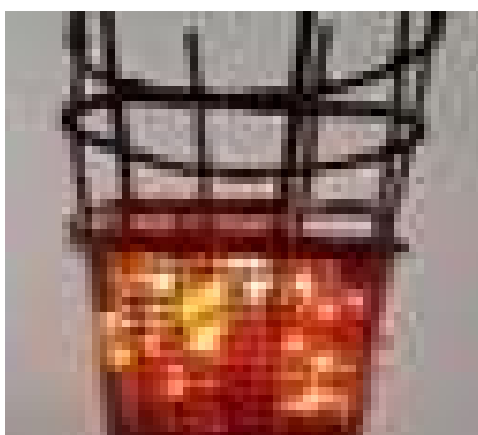
## Services in July & August

Wednesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 6 <sup>th</sup> July	10am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
Sunday 13 <sup>th</sup> July	11am 4pm	School Summer Celebration Evening Prayer
Wednesday 16 <sup>th</sup> July	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	10am	Morning Prayer
Sunday 27 <sup>th</sup> July	10am 4pm	Beacon Service Holy Communion
Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> August	10am 12.45pm	Holy Communion Baptism Service
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> August	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> August	4pm	Evening Prayer
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> August	10am	Morning Prayer
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> August	10am	Holy Communion
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> August	10am 4pm	Beacon Service Holy Communion
Sunday 31 <sup>st</sup> August	10am	Wigan South Holy Communion

31st August is a fifth Sunday and the Hub service is at St Aidan's, on St Aidan's Day. There will be a guest speaker from Compassion UK.

## Sta's4all

On July 13th Sta's4all, Beacon families and Year 6 pupils from school are all invited to join in a special Summer Celebration at school starting at 11am.. All are welcome to join us. Please bring a box to help to build the walls of Jericho. You are also invited to bring a picnic to have after the crafts and service ends about 12 noon. There will be drinks available. In August there will be no Sta's4all as school is closed.



## Beacon

Our Beacon Service on July 27th and August 24th will not include the Beacon choir, but families are still invited and it will be a contemporary service as all Beacon services are. All are welcome.

## St Aidan's Friendship Group

At their meeting on July 24th The friendship Group are having an afternoon tea. They continue to meet on the 4th Thursday in most months, with a speaker or event, refreshments and time to chat and make friends. They do not meet in August, (or in January or February). They will reopen on September 25th with a Holy Communion Service. Further details are available from Jennifer Berry (see back page for contact details).



## St Aidan's Bereavement Support Group

The launch of this group on Friday 6th June went well and will continue on the first Friday of each month, from 1.30pm (immediately following the Pantry) till 2.30pm. Please note that this is a bereavement support group, we will not be providing Counselling. Meeting with others who have been bereaved can help you to feel less isolated. This is a chance to get out of the house, to talk to others, to be prayed for if you wish, to have a cup of tea. You can come just once, or make it a routine for as long as you need it.

## Confirmation on June 17th

Congratulations go to Rob Whitty, who was confirmed at this very moving and uplifting service along with others from across our Hub churches. Rob was supported by a number of church members as well as his family. Bishop Geoff gave an encouraging address. He explained that 'O Jesus, I have promised' was written as a confirmation present by John Bode for his 3 children who were to be confirmed that year. We were all encouraged to continue to 'serve thee to the end'.



## A date for your diary

Sunday 7th September there will be a Gift Day at St. Aidan's Church.

You will be aware that like many people, we are struggling to pay our ever increasing bills. Contrary to popular opinion, the Church of England is not paid for by the Government! We are reliant on the generosity of our supporters.

And we do thank you for your generosity to all of our special fund raising in recent years. This year we are restoring a previous practice of having an annual Gift Day to supplement the monthly or weekly giving of our members.

If you could make special one off gift at this time it would make a big difference. The church will be open before and after the morning service, and exact times will be available on our website soon.

## St Aidan's Churchyard

Thanks to all those who have helped in the past months with the tidy ups of the church yard. This is such a big task! And they have made a wonderful job of it. Peter Preston is planning another graveyard tidy on Saturday 5th July from 10am to 13.00. Volunteers to help with this or to help with making the cups of tea will be gratefully welcomed.

## St Aidan's Web site

We remind you that our new website can be found using the location "St Aidan's Billinge" in [www.achurchnearyou.com](http://www.achurchnearyou.com). Monthly newsletters are included in the 'news and notices' section. Service details and events can also be found in the relevant section. If you are having difficulties in using the site Peter Preston is willing to give assistance. Contact Helen who will pass on your contact details to Peter.





## Billinge in Bloom

St Aidan's give our thanks to the Bilinge in Bloom Team, whose flowers make a such a difference to our village. They are not funded by the council, as many think, but must raise their own funds. Lucelle, from the Bilinge in Bloom team says:

We are pleased to announce that we have joined forces with our local allotment teams. This enabled us to fill all the railing planters throughout the village with plants donated by them. A big thank you to all helped us achieve this goal.

We have also linked up with St Aidans school, the children grew and planted areas outside the school and at the bench on Ashgrove. We hope to extend this approach with Chapel End school and St Mary's school.

Everyone is welcome to join us and get involved whether it's planting, maintaining or fundraising or simply spreading the word about what we do. Every little contribution helps us continue our mission which is all about making our village brighter, greener and a more welcoming place for everyone.

We believe when a community takes pride in its surroundings it fosters a sense of belonging and well being and makes Bilinge a place to be proud of.

Dates and planting times will be posted our Facebook page in a timely manner.



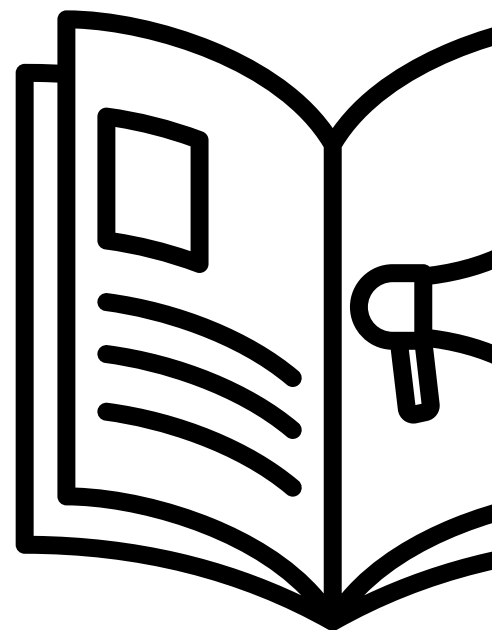
# Our Magazine

As noted last month, Jess is 'retiring' from the role of editor after this July issue. To date no-one from any of the 6 churches in Wigan South has come forward to take on this role. Unless someone comes forward urgently this will be the last copy of St Aidan's Magazine. If this is the case the monthly Registers and record of gifts to St Aidan's will be acknowledged on our monthly newsletter which is available on our Website, or by email.

If you wish to be added to the email list please contact Helen on [hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:hrsteele@tiscali.co.uk). If you do not have access to a computer or e-mail please pass your details on to Helen Steele through Church and we will investigate whether we can bring you news through another church member.

The church committee wish to thank all those, past and present, who have delivered church magazines, especially Sandra Ferry and Joan Andrew who have co-ordinated these deliveries. We also thank those, past and present, who have been involved in printing these magazines. We value the ministry that you have all participated in, helping to keep our village in touch and informed of church events. I still am praying that this will be able to continue!

We will shortly be in contact with those who have their magazine delivered to update you on progress in getting a new editor.



# The Registers

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

1 June 2025

Henry Luke Thomasson

6 July 2025

Margot Rosie Mousdell

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

3 June 2025

Doris Hurst

4 June 2025

Susan Robinson

9 June 2025

Harold Plant

11 June 2025

Betty Parkin

14 June 2025

Leslie Parkinson

Gracious and Eternal God,

You are with us in every season of life— in our joyous beginnings,  
our sacred commitments, and even in the moments of parting.

At the waters of baptism,  
we thank You for the gift of new life.

At the altar of marriage,  
we celebrate love that mirrors Your covenant with us.

At the graveside,  
we entrust our loved ones to Your mercy.

Through every joy and every tear,  
may we know Your steadfast presence.  
Bind us together in love that never ends,  
and guide us always toward Your peace.

In Your holy name we pray, Amen.

# With thanks for their kind ..... donations

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

## **General Fund**

With thanks from the family of Lorraine Webb. We cannot express enough the gratitude for all the kind thoughts and prayers of all the congregation at St Aidan's

In Memory of Leslie (Les) Parkinson; a loving Dad, Grandad and Great Grandad. Rest in peace. Love from Ian, Lynn and Lorraine and their families  
In loving Memory of Les Parkinson. Rest in Peace from family and Friends

## **St Aidan's Pantry**

With thanks to all the anonymous donations  
In memory of Richard Ferry a much loved and very much missed husband. With Love from Sandra Ferry

## **Church Clock**

With thanks for your kind donation from Enid Hitchen



## 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  
staidansbillingeveryer@yahoo.com



St Aidan's Billinge

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