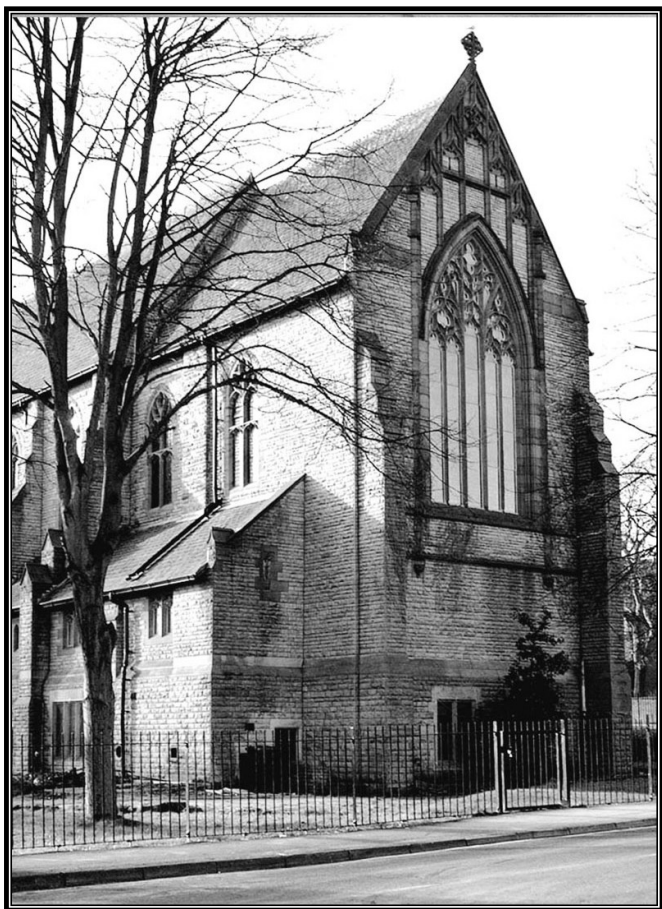


# PARISH MAGAZINE

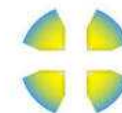
## DATE



**St. Augustine and St. Aidan  
Tonge Moor and Hall i' th' Wood**

**30p**

Find us on [facebook.com/groups/SASATM](https://www.facebook.com/groups/SASATM)  
[www.staugustinestm.org.uk](http://www.staugustinestm.org.uk)



FORWARDINFAITH

## SERVICES IN THE PARISH

All masses are held at St. Augustine's Church unless stated otherwise.

SUNDAY	9.00am	Sung Mass (St. Aidan's)
	10.30am	Sung Mass
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	6.30pm	Evensong and Benediction
Monday		No Mass
Tuesday	6.15pm	Said Mass
Wednesday	10.30am	Said Mass (St. Aidan's)
Thursday	6.15pm	Said Mass
Friday	10.00am	Said Mass
Saturday	10.00am	Said Mass
2 <sup>nd</sup> Saturday	11.00am	Messy Church (Parish Hall)

Holy Days and Feast Days – see notice board for details

Daily Offices	Morning Prayer:	9.00am Tuesday -Thursday
		9.15am Friday & Saturday
	Evening Prayer	5.45pm Tuesday - Saturday

Confessions are heard by arrangement with the Clergy

If you are unable to attend Church through sickness or infirmity, or because you are caring for someone who is, please see the clergy whose duty and privilege it is to bring the Sacrament of Our Lord to you at home. The Sacrament of Holy Anointing is also available in time of anxiety or sickness; please ask for it.

Arrangements for the Sacraments of Baptism and Marriage may be made at the Parish Office (below church) on Friday evenings, 7.00 – 7.30pm.

e-mail: [paroff@staugustinestm.org.uk](mailto:paroff@staugustinestm.org.uk)



Dear friends

The Church has now entered the season of Advent, and with it the Church's New Year has begun. We begin afresh the yearly cycle of contemplating the major events in the life and ministry of Jesus Christ.

The Church's year begins with Advent, a season of preparation for the great Festival of Christmas. Much of society concerns itself with the fripperies of the celebrations, in most cases anticipating the Christmas festival itself. Christians, not being killjoys, will often join with their family, friends and colleagues in these celebrations. However, we also take the opportunity to prepare ourselves to celebrate the heart and crux of Christmas - the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Babies are born in squalor - and even in stables - every day of the year and many parts of the world. What makes this particular birth so special is that in Jesus Christ we recognise Almighty God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe, being born in human flesh. Jesus is nothing less than the incarnate Son of God.

God became part of his own creation so that he could save it through the life and - especially - the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ, true God and true Man. Man can do nothing of himself to save himself from the consequences of his sins; only God could do that. And so Almighty God "emptied himself to assume the condition of a slave, and became as men are; and being as all men are, he was humbler yet, even to accepting death, death on a cross." (*Philippians 2.7,8*)

What a great gift God has given us. In that stable at Bethlehem God gave us himself in the person of a vulnerable, dependant baby, in order that he might save us from our sins, and restore to us the promise of eternal life.

So during this Advent, let us prepare ourselves to celebrate such a wonderful gift by setting ourselves at rights with God. As we joyfully look forward to the dawn of our salvation, let us ask God for the grace and help to bring before him those things we should rightly acknowledge and confess, allowing him to cleanse our souls enable us to celebrate this wonderful Feast with hearts and lives renewed.

We can do this in the silence of our own homes. If you feel drawn to do something more intentional, there is an article further on in this magazine about the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) that is being offered nearer to Christmas.

May I wish all our readers, parishioners and families a holy Advent, and a joyful and blessed Christmas.

With my love and prayers

*Fr Tony*

## CHRISTMAS 2022

The celebration of Our Lord's nativity in the parish begins on Sunday 11th December when - following Evensong & Benediction at 6.30pm - we will travel over to the Conservative Club for **Carols At The Club**, leading the regulars in the singing of carols, and perhaps have a glass or two of refreshment, too.

On the following Sunday, 18th December, we will have our traditional Service of **Nine Lessons and Carols** at 3.00pm, followed by mince pies and mulled wine. Come and join us as we sing carols and hear the message of God's salvation through the birth of the Christ-child.

The following Wednesday, being the Wednesday before Christmas, sees our **Carol Service** at St Aidan's at 7.30pm. This is a fairly informal service to which we specifically invite the residents of the Hall i'th' Wood estates. This is done by **delivering leaflets** to every house on the Hall i'th' Wood area. This year we are doing this in two stages: 2.00-3.15pm Saturday 17th, and 1.00-2.00pm on Sunday 18th, meeting in St Aidan's on both occasions. This is an important mission opportunity, and the larger the band of volunteers, the better - do come along.



**Midnight Mass** at St Augustine's begins at 11.30pm on Saturday 24th December, and the **Mass of Christmas Day** will be celebrated at the usual Sunday mass times: St Aidan's at 9.00am and at St Augustine's at 10.30am.

*Fr Tony*

## CHRISTINGLE



This year we are again combining our Christingle service with our Messy Church, on Saturday 17th December at 11.00am. The usual craft activities will take place in the Parish Hall from 11am, including the making of the Christingles themselves. After lunch we will go up into church for the Christingle Service itself, when the Christingles will be lit, spilling their light into the darkened nave! A marvellous reminder of Christ's light, brought into the world by his birth at Bethlehem, shining out and bringing hope into a world darkened by selfishness and sin.

*Fr Tony*

## TOY SERVICE

We are again supporting the Bolton Lions this year in their mission to provide Christmas gifts to families in Bolton whose children would not otherwise receive presents on Christmas Day.

We are therefore inviting parishioners to bring to church on Sunday 11th December toys or gifts that can be given in this way. We hope to contribute a wide range of gifts, for both boys and girls, and for all ages. Gifts should be new and unwrapped, please.

All gifts brought to church will be received on behalf of the Bolton Lions during the 10.30am sung mass.

*Fr Tony*

## PREPARING FOR OUR LORD'S NATIVITY

Many Christians take the opportunity to set themselves right with God before the major Christian festivals, particularly Christmas and Easter. I will be available to hear confessions in the Lady Chapel on Tuesday 20th December after the 6.15pm mass (6.45-7.30pm) and on Christmas Eve, 10.30-11.30am. If these times are inconvenient, please contact me to arrange a mutually convenient time.

The Church of England's teaching on the Sacrament of Reconciliation is that "All may, some should, none must". If you feel that God is drawing you to make use of this healing and wonderful Sacrament, please have a word with me. Be assured that, because your confession is being made to God, the priest is bound by the Seal of the Confessional and will not under any circumstances disclose what is said.

*Fr Tony*

## **WALSINGHAM FESTIVAL AT ST. GEORGE'S, PRESTON, 29<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2022.**

I was collected from home at 08.30. The weather was less than kind, and the drive to pick up our third member from Warrington was very wet and not very encouraging. We parked at the Park and Ride on the outskirts of Preston and got the bus in to the town centre. Having detoured into Marks and Spenser for a rejuvenating cup of coffee, we walked to St George's with the aid of a map on a phone, and, in the process, we passed the famous Preston Guild.

The church was warm and had the most stunning wall paintings. We were early enough to have a sneaky peek at the items that Keith Tuck had brought up from the shop in Walsingham. Mass opened with the hymn "Joy to Thee, Queen" which put us all in the mood for the treat that was in store for us.

Bishop Philip North started his homily by mentioning how far from Walsingham Preston is, and how boring the A17 can be when you are stuck behind caravans! His journey from Burnley had taken him well over an hour, due to roadworks and the one-way system. The Park and Ride had proved to be a very wise choice!

He went on to say that when pilgrims go to Walsingham, their friends often tell them to enjoy Walsingham. He stressed that a pilgrimage to Walsingham should be more than a holiday with God tacked on the end. As you go into the shrine, Mary of Sorrows is near the door, and she carries us straight to the Gospel. She has the joy of holding the Christ Child, but also bears the sorrow of seeing Jesus on the Cross.

At Walsingham, Mary is our role model. If we share in her joy, we must also share in her pain. We take our pain and hearts pierced with sin and lay them at the foot of the Cross. As we stand at the foot of the Cross, we stand in company with Mary, John, all the angels and the saints. We find

hope and can open our hearts to receive the gift of healing that can come from the sacrament of confession, anointing with holy oil and sprinkling with water from the well.

He finished by stating that intercession is at the heart of Walsingham and has been for over 100 years, and that Shrine prayers are said every day including Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day.

During lunch Keith Tuck, ably assisted by our Linda Parkington, gave a presentation on Walsingham. He talked about membership to the Shrine and teased us with photographs taken from around the Shrine grounds.

Lunch was followed by Sprinkling with Walsingham well water, and Benediction.

After Benediction there was time to take photos of church and the wall paintings, and to buy more items from the Walsingham stall. All good things eventually had to end, and we made our way back to the bus stop and the car.

If you ever venture as far north as Preston, St George's is well worth a look, and they have a small, but very smart, coffee area and extremely clean loos!

*Pam Davies*

## 100 CLUB NEWS

The eighth draw for this term was drawn on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November 2022

**First Prize Number 100 – Louise Harrison – wins £25**  
**Second Prize Number 14 – Aidan Anderson – wins £15**  
**Third Prize Number 79 – Fr Tony – wins £10**

The ninth draw for this term will be on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> December 2022

**It is just £12 per number (£1 per month).**

If you are not a member and would like to join or want to take an extra number, please see David or Ruth Taylor.

## CHURCH CLEANING

There is a small group of parishioners who give up a morning each month. Apart from the cleaning they have tea/coffee, biscuits and social chat as well, they meet every 4 weeks.



The dates for cleaning this month is  
**19th December 2022.**  
**Meeting at 10.00am.**

Many hands make light work!

The date/time could be subject to change, but usually decided by the Sunday, the day before, and is coordinated by Lilian Schofield

01204 303137



# CHRISTMAS — FAIR —

Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2022 11.00am – 2.00pm

At time of going to print this event hasn't taken place.  
Full list of winners and results in January edition.



"Does anyone have a light, please?"

*Mothers Union  
Annual Christmas Meal*

Percivals the Caterers have been booked for our annual Christmas meal to be held at

**St Augustine's Parish Hall**  
Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2023  
7.00pm for 7.30pm



The cost is £25 for a 3 course Festive Dinner (Vegetarian option available)

Tea/coffee & After Dinner mints  
Do feel free to bring your own drinks

***Names and £10 deposit to Ruth Taylor by 18<sup>th</sup> December 2022.***

***Also please let us know who you want to sit near so a seating plan can be arranged.***

A poster for a Christmas concert. The top is decorated with a green garland of holly leaves and red berries. The text reads: "TONGE WITH THE HAUGH COMMUNITY CHOIR" in red, "St Augustine's Church At 4pm 17 December 2022" in black, and "Christmas Concert" in bold black. Below this, it says "Adults £3 (accompanied children free)" and "There are also refreshments and a mince pie available for £1". At the bottom, there are icons of a coffee cup, two mince pies, and another coffee cup. A red musical note icon is also present.



The last Messy Church had us finding out about Trust

The next session has us finding out about

**Christingle**

Build your own and find out the story behind them

**Saturday  
17<sup>th</sup> December  
2022  
11am - 1pm**



**St Augustine's Parish Hall**

- Whatever your age – come and enjoy being creative!
- Join us for activities, crafts, and a short period of worship then a simple meal.
- Children will need to be accompanied by an adult at all times.
- There will be a collection in aid of The Children's Society

## Fortnightly Bible Study Meetings

Our fortnightly Bible Study meetings re-start after the Christmas break on Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> January 2023. All sessions begin at 7.30 pm in St Augustine's Parish Hall.



Why not make joining the group one of your New Year resolutions? We are a friendly group and newcomers are always welcome. If you wish to listen, rather than join in the discussion, that is perfectly acceptable.

See you on 16<sup>th</sup> January when we shall be continuing with our study of *The Acts of the Apostles*.

May God bless you at Christmas and throughout the New Year.

*Ken Fisher*



The MU Manchester Diocese Advent Carol Service is at 11.00am on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> December at St. Ann's Church, St. Ann's Square, Manchester.

This month we hold our Festive Afternoon on 14<sup>th</sup> December when we will watch the film *Love Actually*. Tickets are £2 which includes cheese and wine / festive refreshments (tea and coffee will be available). Everyone is welcome.

The Festive Meal for January will be on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> January in the Parish Hall. The price is £25 for a three course meal.

There will be one craft afternoon this month on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December from 1.30pm in the Parish Hall.

*Elsie Hollinrake*

## HOW FATHER CHRISTMAS GOT WHERE HE IS TODAY

One person you are bound to run into this Christmas season is Father Christmas. These days he seems to frequent shopping malls and garden centres. If he looks tired, just remember that he has been around a long time and gone through a lot of transformations.

Father Christmas wasn't always the red-suited, white-bearded star of the retail trade that he is today. He began life as Nicholas, born way back about AD260 in Patara, an important port on the southern coast of what is now Turkey. When his parents died and left him a fortune, Nicholas gave it away to the poor. He became a bishop of the nearby city of Myra, where he almost certainly suffered persecution and imprisonment at the hand of the Roman Emperor Diocletian.

Nicholas was a serious theologian: he was a participant at the First Council of Nicaea, which formulated the Creed which we still say today. He even, reportedly, slapped another bishop in a squabble over the exact nature of the Trinity.

Nicholas died in Myra about AD343, but the stories of his generosity and kindness were just beginning. One enduring tale tells of the three girls whom he rescued from certain prostitution by giving them gold for their dowries. When the father confronted him to thank him, Nicholas said he should thank God alone.

In the UK, Nicholas became the basis for Father Christmas, who emerged in Victorian times as a jolly-faced bearded character. Meanwhile, Dutch and German settlers had taken him to America with them as Sinter Klaas and Sankt Nicklas.

It was in America that Nicholas received his final two great breaks into real stardom. The first was when the Rev Clement C Moore, a New York Episcopal minister, turned from his life-work of writing a Hebrew/English lexicon, to write a fun poem for his children one Christmas. His 'The Visit of St Nicholas' is now universally known by its first line: 'T'was the Night Before Christmas'.

From Clement Moore we discovered that St Nicholas is round and pink-cheeked and white-bearded, and that he travels at night with sleigh, reindeer and a sack of toys on his back. It was Clement Moore who also revealed that St Nicholas enters houses down chimneys and fills children's stockings with toys and sweets.

So how did we find out that Father Christmas wears red? That was the US Coca-Cola advertising campaign of 1931, who finally released the latest, up-to-date pictures of Father Christmas: wearing a bright red, fur-trimmed coat and a large belt.

These days, it is good that Father Christmas uses reindeer and doesn't have to pay for petrol. In order to get round all the children in the world on Christmas Eve, he will have to travel 221



million miles at an average speed of 1279 miles a second, 6,395 times the speed of sound. For all those of us who are already exhausted just rushing around getting ready for Christmas, that is a sobering thought.

The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren



I have been slightly surprised that in your ministry so far, you have never been asked to give an after-dinner speech. Now you have delivered your first one, I can understand why. Speeches after any dinner come at the point where stomachs are dealing with a little too much food and brains with about the same quantity of wine. They should be short and witty; yours was neither.

An hour-long speech on the Herodians and Second Temple Judaism at the time of the birth of Christ was not quite what we had expected. I applauded your enthusiasm, but I was the only one; the rest of them were asleep. Long after you had left, the catering staff gently vacuumed the carpets around the audience, and it was only when the night security guard arrived that the last diners were woken and politely sent home. I suspect you will have put many marriages under strain as husbands, returning home in the early hours of the morning, had to explain to wives

why they were so late. Their truthful answers would have been unbelievable.

When the head waiter appeared in a dressing gown and started placing chairs on tables, even you must have suspected that hints were being dropped and I have never heard of a hotel manager interrupting a speech to place his keys on the top table and asking if the last person to leave would kindly lock the main door.

I know that your clerical attire is more usually T-shirt and jeans, but borrowing the curate's dinner suit from your next-door parish was also not a good idea. He is a foot taller and several stones heavier than you. The result was quite worrying - several people wondered if you had just recovered from some dreadful disease that had made you shrink.

In the light of your qualified success, thank you for offering to come to repeat your speech after our annual Christmas dinner, but no thank you. The verger's son wants to share with us how many potholes he has counted in and around the town, and that should be most interesting.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace

## **Santa**

*I am terrified of the Santa at the shopping centre where I work. Our HR lady talked it over with me and has discovered I am Claustrophobic.*

*Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.*

*What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.*

*What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire?  
- Frostbite.*

*A little boy rushed home from school and said excitedly: "I got a part in the Christmas play!"  
"What part?" asked his mother.  
"I'm one of the three wise guys!"*

## **I heard the Bells on Christmas Day**

I heard the bells on Christmas day  
Their old familiar carols play,  
And wild and sweet the words repeat  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

I thought how, as the day had come,  
The belfries of all Christendom  
Had rolled along th'unbroken song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

And in despair I bowed my head:  
'There is no peace on earth,' I said  
'For hate is strong, and mocks the song  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:  
'God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;  
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
With peace on earth, good will to men.'

Till, ringing, singing on its way,  
The world revolved from night to day  
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime,  
Of peace on earth, good will to men.

*By Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

## **Lord's Prayer, updated**

*I had been teaching my three-year-old daughter, Caitlin, the Lord's Prayer. For several evenings at bedtime, she would repeat after me the lines from the prayer. Finally, she decided to go solo. I listened with pride as she carefully enunciated each word right up to the end of the prayer. Then she implored: "and lead us not into temptation but deliver us some e-mail."*

## PARISH DATES

Sat 3rd	Litter Picking in the area
Mon 5th	7.30pm: Bible Study group
Tue 6th	Home Communions in the area ( <i>exact date to be confirmed</i> )
SUN 11th	Toy Service Sunday 10.30am: Family Service 3.30pm: Baptism Preparation Class 6.30pm: Evensong & Benediction, followed by... Carols At The Club (Conservative Club)
Mon 12th	1.30pm: Craft Afternoon
Wed 14th	2.00pm: Mothers' Union Festive Afternoon
Sat 17th	11.00am: Messy Church and Christingle (until 1.30pm)
SUN 18th	3.00pm: Service of 9 Lessons & Carols
Mon 19th	7.30pm: Bible Study group
Wed 21st	7.30pm: Carol Service at St Aidan's
Sat 24th	11.30pm: Midnight Mass
SUN 25th	CHRISTMAS DAY: Masses as usual
Tue 27th	Christmas Home Communions in the area
SUN Jan 1st	Masses as usual

## FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

### CHRISTIAN FUNERALS

October 2nd	Scott (Frank) Murphy (ashes interred)
20th	Kathleen Connor (87) ( <i>correction</i> )
November 22nd	Kathleen Connor (ashes interred)

## Calendar and Intentions for December 2022

Thu 1	feria: Our local Councillors and Borough officials
Fri 2	feria: Those who care for our parish's environment
Sat 3	S Francis Xavier: The Church in the East Indies and Japan
<b>SUN 4</b>	<b>2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon 5	feria: A deepening of our love for Scripture
Tue 6	feria: Those receiving the Blessed Sacrament in their homes this month
Wed 7	S Ambrose: All whose vocation is discerned by the wider Church
Thu 8	THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION OF THE BVM: The Parish and the People of God
Fri 9	feria: The work of ACS and Vocations to the Sacred Priesthood
Sat 10	feria: The Bolton Lions and their charitable work
<b>SUN 11</b>	<b>3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon 12	feria: Our Sunday School and the Schools in the Parish
Tue 13	S Lucy: All who are persecuted for their faith in Christ
Wed 14	S John of the Cross: All Christian mystics and poets
Thu 15	feria: The Bishop of Beverley, and all Bishops of The Society
Fri 16	feria: The homeless, the unemployed and the lonely
Sat 17	feria: Those attending our Messy Church today
<b>SUN 18</b>	<b>4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon 19	feria: Those receiving invitations to our Christmas services
Tue 20	feria: The work of Social Services
Wed 21	feria: Those attending our Carol Service at St Aidan's
Thu 22	feria: All those travelling over the Christmas period.
Fri 23	feria: Gratitude for the blessings of the past year
Sat 24	feria: The joy and peace of the Christ-child
<b>SUN 25</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS DAY: The Parish and the People of God</b>
Mon 26	<b>S STEPHEN:</b> Those persecuted for their Christian faith
Tue 27	<b>S JOHN:</b> Evangelism
Wed 28	<b>THE HOLY INNOCENTS:</b> The Children's Society
Thu 29	S Thomas Becket: Right relations between Church and State
Fri 30	HOLY FAMILY: The Parish and the People of God
Sat 31	Seventh Day in Christmas Octave: The Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham and its Priests Associate

Parish Priest - Father Tony Davies  
*St Augustine's Vicarage, Redthorpe Close,  
Tonge Moor, Bolton, BL2 2PQ  
Tel & Fax (01204) 523899  
Mobile 07866 359864*

*Email: pp@staugustinestm.org.uk*

**CHURCH WARDEN**

Ruth Taylor: 31 Wisbeck Road. Tel: 01204 396409

**OFFICERS AND ORGANISERS**

*email addresses can be completed by adding "staugustinestm.org.uk"*

PCC Secretary: Katherine Taylor Tel. 01204 531053 - email: pccsec@

Treasurer: Sue Loftus Tel 01204 302051 - email: treasurer@

Walsingham Cell: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586

Church Flowers: please contact the wardens for the time being

Child Protection and Safeguarding: Margaret Mullen Tel: 01204 695964  
- email: safeguarding@

Brownies: Nichola Smith Tel: 07748 188215 - email: brownies@

Sunday School: Ruth Taylor Tel: 01204 396409

Mothers' Union: Elsie Hollinrake Tel: 07486 982586 - email: mu@

Organist: (St Augustine's) Mike Cheetham Tel: 01204 391963

Organist: (St. Aidan's) -

Parish Hall Bookings: Sandra Anderson Tel: 01204 383158

- email: hallbookings@

Wednesday Morning Coffee Shop: June Aspinall

Caretaker - St Aidan's Hall: Andrew Settle Tel: 01204 450321

Parish Magazine: Mike Cheetham - email: magazine@



Luke 2:14