

St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Enabling People to find a living faith in a loving God

Spring 2019

SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1895



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

March 6th Ash Wednesday: 7.30pm Penitential Service

April 14th Palm Sunday: 11am Informal Service

April 18th Maundy Thursday: 7.30pm HC Communion St Simon's

April 19th Good Friday Meditation: 7.30pm St Aidan's

April 21st Easter Communion Celebration: 11am

Minister in Charge: Revd Bobbie Moore

Church address: Blythe Street, Sandy Row, BT12 5HX

Website: www.staidan.connor.anglican.org

Charity Registration No. CCNI 101978



SERVICE TIMES March - May

MARCH

- 3 Sunday before Lent:** 11am Parish Communion
6 Ash Wednesday: 7.30pm Penitential Service
10 Lent 1: 11am Morning Prayer with Baptism
17 Lent 2: 11am Informal Service
24 Lent 3: 11am Morning Prayer
31 Lent 4: 11am Informal service for Mothering Sunday
6.30pm Service of Healing and Wholeness

APRIL

- 7 Lent 5:** 11am Parish Communion
14 Palm Sunday: 11am Informal Service
18 Maundy Thursday: 7.30pm HC Communion St Simon's
19 Good Friday Meditation: 7.30pm St Aidan's
21 Easter Communion Celebration: 11am
28 Easter 2: 11am Morning Prayer

MAY

- 5 Easter 3:** 11am Parish Communion
12 Easter 4: 11am Morning Prayer
19 Easter 5: 11am Children's Day
26 Easter 6: 11am Morning Prayer

MID-WEEK SERVICE: First and Third Thursdays at 3pm

LENT BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays at 7.30pm
6 March - 17 April



DAILY PRAYER POINTS – PUSH (PRAY UNTIL SOMETHING HAPPENS!)

A pattern for daily prayer in The Book of Common Prayer from page 139.

Mondays: Pray for the world – all the nations, our own country, those in authority, the peace of the world, racial harmony and the security forces.

Tuesdays: Pray for the community – the unemployed, young people in education, teachers and all those who maintain the life of the community.

Wednesdays: Pray for personal relationships – home and family life, the homeless, friends, relations and neighbours, all ministries of care.

Thursdays: Pray for the Church – worldwide and local, unity in the church, the mission of the church, renewal and all Christians in this place.

Fridays: Pray for the suffering – the hungry, refugees, prisoners, the persecuted, all who bring suffering to others, those who bring care and relief.

Saturdays: Pray for people in need – Those who are tempted, in despair, sick, with disabilities or special needs, dealing with addiction, the elderly, those who mourn.

Sundays: Pray together in God's house if possible.

Dear Church Family,

I'm writing this in Liverpool whilst on Grannie duty. On the train from the airport last night a young man asked me for directions. He wasn't sure if he was on the right train and as I was not from the area, I couldn't help. Happily another traveller was able to point him in the right direction. I've made that particular journey from the airport to my son's home several times now so I am familiar with the route. But I will remember the first time I travelled – I too had to ask for directions to make sure I reached my destination.



As I reflected on this encounter, I was reminded about my journey of faith. Along the way I have experienced times when I needed help in finding the way ahead. I have found that the most helpful advice often came from someone who had already travelled that path or was on the same journey. I wonder if that has been your experience too? One of the great strengths of belonging to a church family, being with people on a similar journey, is in sharing that experience. Encouraging and helping each other along the way.

During Lent this year we will be using the metaphor of journey for the bible study course. Pilgrim is a discipleship resource which helps us explore the Christian faith together. Our study of the Beatitudes will encourage us to build our lives on Jesus' teaching and example.

We begin with a service in church on Ash Wednesday 6 March at 7.30pm and then a further six sessions meeting in the parish hall on Wednesday evenings 7.30 - 9pm. Look forward to seeing you there.

*Warm Greetings in Christ,
Revd Bobbie.*



www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow



ST AIDAN'S GIRLS BRIGADE



The girls enjoyed their Christmas treat with a Sparkle Party in the hall. We would like to thank Brian Greer for giving up his time to provide music and disco lighting on the evening it is very much appreciated. The girls all looked lovely in their beautiful sparkle dresses and enjoyed party food and of course the 'big man in red' paid a visit as well. Afterwards the Officers enjoyed some time together with pizza. Junior girls visited Little Wing Pizza on Saturday 15th December when they got to make their own pizza. It was a great fun morning and they enjoyed garlic bread, pizza, ice cream and hot chocolate afterwards.

Following the Christmas break we have been preparing girls for judging, display items and Junior girls for their bible class exam. Rev. Bobbie has been teaching the girls on Friday nights. Officers appreciate Bobbie giving her time to be involved in the company.

On 3rd February the company attended a District Anniversary Service in Finaghy Methodist Church to celebrate 125 years of Girl's Brigade. It was a lovely service, girls enjoyed singing and actions to the lovely choruses. The girls also enjoyed the story based around the birthday theme.

Friday 22nd February was the date for the Junior bible class exam and company judging for awards by an external adjudicator. It is hoped that our explorer girls will take part in a team game challenge within our district in March, details to follow. As you may know we are celebrating 70 years of St. Aidan's Girls' Brigade. We are hoping to get as many past members to attend some practice nights to put together a few items for Family and Friends Evening. If interested, please speak to Margaret Close for further details or alternatively you can call Fiona Hendren on 07776 224830.

We hope you enjoy the photos included some of which are of our 70th Enrolment and Thanksgiving Service at which the officers were delighted to have two new Sub-Officers Bethany Martin and Zara Gregg enrolled and join the leadership team. *The Officers.*

DATES FOR DIARY

Family & Friends Evening – Friday 12th April 2019 @ 7 pm
(Please make note of earlier start time).

Tuesday/Wednesday evenings – Past Member practices at present
subject to change.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT FIONA ON 07776234830 THANK YOU - THE OFFICERS

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The women's world day of prayer service this year will take place in St Aidan's Parish Church, Blythe Street, Belfast at 7.30pm.

This service has been written by the Christian women of Slovenia, who have chosen for their theme: "Come everything is ready!"

Please do join us as we participate in this annual service.

MULOA

On Thursday the 14th March in St. Thomas's Church Hall there is to be an evening of discussion for members on **MULOA**.

The next MU meeting will be on 21st March at 8pm in the church hall.

THE MU FESTIVAL SERVICE will take place in St. Anne's Cathedral at 3.30pm on Sunday 7th April 2019. This annual service is well supported by the members from across the diocese.

THE MU SOUTH BELFAST AREA SOCIAL

will take place on the 11th May at 10.30am with a trip to Dobbies.

Please let Barbara know if you wish to enjoy a days shopping and some delicious tea and scones.

MOTHERING SUNDAY

31st March is the day when many celebrate the love of their Mothers.

MU is no different in that they to reach out with your help to 'make a difference' in Mothers lives around the world.

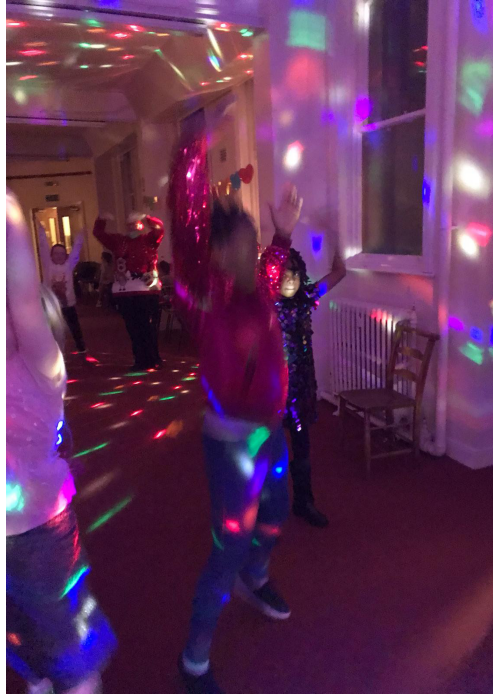
It helps communities, through training, providing self help for families to flourish, increasing incomes and well-being through education of soil management, in growing food to sell as well as providing for the families needs.

If you wish to 'Make a Mothers Day' donation, please see order booklets or speak to myself.

I will have all the details required.

Barbara Bowden







OUTREACH TO HOMELESS

After hearing of the tragic death of a homeless gentleman on the streets of Belfast in January 2019, it prompted me to think of how we could help the homeless as part of Saint Aidan's outreach into the community. So, I contacted the Welcome Centre, a Charity working on the streets with the homeless. Every year they provide 40,000 meals and 200,000 cups of coffee at their Drop- In centre, along with other projects aiming to make life better for the homeless. As part of our outreach, it would be nice if we could assist over Lent, supplying any of the items listed, or leaving a monetary donation towards the purchase of the following items which would be considered as a priority by the Charity.

Sleeping Bags, Metal/Plastic teaspoons, New underwear for men/women. Socks.

If you would like to help please contact me on 07484601914

Many thanks. Elizabeth Collins



Homeless Jesus was designed by Timothy Schmalz, a Canadian sculptor. It depicts Jesus as a Homeless person, sleeping on a park bench. His face and hands are obscured, hidden under a blanket but crucifixion wounds on his feet reveal his true identity. The statue has been described as a "visual translation" of the Gospel of Matthew passage in which Jesus tells his disciples, "as you did it to one of the least of my brothers, you did it to me"

Matthew 25:45.

Schmalz intended for the bronze sculpture to be provocative, admitting, "That's essentially what the sculpture is there to do. It's meant to challenge people."



At Messy Church we have continued to meet on the second Friday of each month. In December we enjoyed our Christmas dinner and in January we were glad to begin a new year together.

GOD PROVIDES

In our February meeting we were delighted to welcome a team of 6 Canadian girls who were working in conjunction with the Presbyterian Church in Friendship House. They were a tremendous help, particularly because our team of regular helpers were somewhat depleted due to sickness. Our best wishes and prayers for renewed health and strength go to Dorothy and Natalie.

We were also extremely grateful to Donna who stepped in at short notice to cook our meal - many thanks Donna. God provides!!

Dates for next three months

8 March Cancelled

12 April 4-6pm

10 May 4-6pm

St Aidan's church hall

Many Thanks. Alison Shaw

CRAFT GROUP

Don't forget to pass on any ideas you have for community outreach or fundraising to a member of the Relevant to All Ages Team

FOR MOTHERS DAY

No gift to your Mother can ever equal her gift to you – LIFE.

Mothers hold their childrens hands for a short while but their hearts forever. (Anon)

Of all the gifts that life has to offer, a loving Mother is the greatest of them all. (unknown)

All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my Angel Mother. (Abraham Lincoln)

Happy Mothers Day to all the Mums, Grannies, Great Grannies, Step Mums, Foster Mums and those who lost their Mums.

Mums are Priceless.

A PRAYER FOR EASTER SUNDAY

Lord God,

You loved this world so much,

That you gave your one and only son,

That we might be called your children too,

Lord, help us to live in the gladness and grace

Of Easter Sunday, every day.

Let us have hearts of thankfulness

For your sacrifice.

Let us have eyes that look upon

Your grace and rejoice in our salvation.

Help us to walk in that mighty grace

And tell your good news to the world.

All for your glory do we pray, Lord.

Amen.

Rachel Marie Stone (crosswalk.com)

BOWLS

The members of the Bowling Club continue to meet in the Church hall on a Monday evening at 7.30pm. If you are willing to try something new, we would be delighted to have you join us. Come along and join with us in a friendly game of bowls followed by a welcome cup of tea. Easter is a time of celebration and our members are asked to attend the Holy week Church services. We hope to see you there. Happy Easter to all our members. God Bless.Gladys.



A WORD FROM CANON KEN



Those of you who read my contribution to the last magazine (and there were at least thee of you!) know that I don't always have the right answer when asked, what would seem to most people, a straightforward question!

I was coming out of the city hospital late one Saturday night and hurriedly returning to my car on the upper deck of the carpark. There had been rain earlier in the day but now it was freezing hard, and I was unprepared for a frozen puddle – just remember my feet going up in the air, my head hitting the ground, stars - - and then a few moments later (don't know how long) coming round and being concerned about a nice new blazer I was wearing.

Foolishly I drove home to Lisburn (I remember at one point realising I was driving along at 10 miles per hour!) and when Dorothy saw the gash on the back of my head – which I didn't even know I had - and the colour of my face, she insisted on taking me to Lagan Valley A+E. Anyway, because I had knocked myself out and my blood pressure was up, they insisted on me staying in a few hours for observation (all right for them, they didn't have a sermon to finish!)

Believe it or not there is a purpose to this story! Anyway, a doctor came along to check me over, and a short conversation ensued.

"I see you're a clergyman", as he checked my neck movement. "Yes" (my collar was a bit of a giveaway!) Started shining a torch back and forward in front of my eyes.

"And where are you now?" "Lambeg Church of Ireland", I replied (clergy are often asked that). Concerned look on his face.

"Where are you at present?" "Lambeg Parish" I repeated (Is this man deaf?).

"I want you to think very carefully Mr. McReynolds. Where are you at this precise moment?"

"LAMBEG PAR. . . ., O you mean at THIS moment. Lagan Valley Hospital!" Look of relief on his face – no concussion! **I told you there was a purpose to all of this!**

This Lent God asks of us, **"Where are you now?"** Not at some point in the past – not at some moment in our spiritual journey even if that moment was special. But "Where are you at this precise moment? Living close to the heart of God? Closer than you've ever been? Your first thought when you awake and your last thought at night? Do you desire to please him?" Or are you in another place – one of YOUR choosing?

Easter is a time of renewal and resurrection. Lent is a time to prepare for that. Let's hear the question and make this Lent special!

Canon Ken

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

KOBAN BOBBY MCALLISTER 18 NOVEMBER 2018
GEORGIA HELEN WIGHTMAN 9 DECEMBER 2018

FUNERALS

MARGARET ORMEROD 23 JANUARY 2019
MOORE MCCARTNEY 1 FEBRUARY 2019

PASTORAL NOTES

Baptisms: Parents should contact Revd Bobbie who will be happy to discuss what is involved.

Baptism is the beginning of a faith journey: parents and godparents are required to make promises before God, that they will nurture faith in their children.

Weddings: Couples should contact Revd Bobbie to discuss arrangements before any firm bookings are made.

Funerals: Please notify Revd Bobbie immediately upon serious illness or death. Clergy should always be consulted before any funeral plans or times are arranged. The Church is available for any funeral service.

Finance: Details of Freewill Offering Envelopes, Gift Aid and Parish Financial Report are all available on request.



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Day Sunday 19th May
Barbara, Dorothy, Gladys and
Lynn.

Flower Rota

March

3rd
10th Mrs. W. Campbell
17th The Mackey Family
24th Mrs. D. Hamill

April

7th Mrs. M. Hoy
14th Mrs. S. Sloan
21st The Hilditch Family
28th Mrs. B. Weir

May

5th
12th Mrs. G. Hollywood &
Mrs. B. Bowden
19th Mr. & Mrs. B. Richardson
26th Mrs. E. Williamson

Please inform Revd Bobbie or the Church Wardens of parishioners who are ill at home or in hospital and those who wish to receive Communion at home. Also let us know if you would like a name added to the weekly parish prayer list or contact the prayer line: **07733 712942.**

Please ensure that all articles for Summer Magazine reach Liz Adair / Margaret Close by the 1st May. Thank you



Thrift Shop

OPEN MOST WEEKDAYS

11am – 3pm BRIC A BRAC

& CLOTHING

Providing a service to the community

WHO'S WHO IN ST AIDAN'S

Minister in Charge: Rev. Bobbie Moore

02892 682789 / 07746583470

Assistant Minister: Canon Ken McReynolds

07922358091

Parish Reader: Mr John Collins BSc.

Community Outreach Worker: Mrs Alison Shaw

07547030451

Organist: Vacant

Honorary Secretary: Mr. John Griffin

07729204457

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Coates

02890 692132

Rector's Church Warden: Mrs. Barbara Bowden

02890 312620

People's Church Warden: Mr. Robert Redpath

Rector's Glebe Warden: Mr. Alwyn Campbell

07712935504

People's Glebe Warden: Mr. Eddie Murray

02890 586733

Members of Select Vestry for 2018 – 2019

Mr. J. Griffin, Mr. R. Griffin,

Mr. A. Serplus, Mrs. E. Adair,

Mr. J. Hunter, Mrs. M. Close,

Mrs. E. Collins, Mr. J. Collins,

Mrs. D. Coates, Mrs. A. Hunter,

Mrs. A Richardson.

Parish Organisations & Contacts

Sunday Children's Church: Mrs Dorothy Coates

02890 692132

Monday Bowls: Mrs Gladys Holywood

Wednesday Bible Study Group: Revd Bobbie

07746583470

Thursday Mothers' Union: Mrs Barbara Bowden

02890 312620

Select Vestry: Mr John Griffin

07729204457

Friday Girls Brigade: Mrs Fiona Hendren

07776234830

Messy Church: Mrs Alison Shaw 07547030451