

St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Spring 2016

SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1895



HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

We join St Simons and Donegall Road Methodist for Holy Week Services at 7.30pm

24 Maundy Thursday Communion in Donegall Rd Methodist

25 Good Friday Meditation in St Simons

26 Easter Eve Vigil in St Aidans

27 11am Easter Communion Celebration St Aidan's

Minister in Charge: Revd Bobbie Moore

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

Website: www.staidan.connor.anglican.org

SERVICE TIMES March - May

MARCH

- 6 11am Parish Communion on Mothering Sunday
13 11am Morning Prayer
20 11am Family Service for Palm Sunday

We join St Simons and Donegall Road Methodist for Holy Week Services at 7.30pm

- 24 Maundy Thursday Communion in Donegall Rd Methodist
25 Good Friday Meditation in St Simons
26 Easter Eve Vigil in St Aidans
27 11am Easter Communion Celebration St Aidan's

APRIL

- 3 11am Parish Communion
10 11am Morning Prayer
17 11am Family Service with Baptism
24 11am Morning Prayer

MAY

- 1 11am Parish Communion
8 11am Morning Prayer
15 11am Family Service for Pentecost
22 11am Morning Prayer for Trinity Sunday
29 11am Special Service for Fifth Sunday
7pm Service of Healing and Wholeness in St Simon's



DAILY PRAYER POINTS – PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens!)

A suggested pattern for prayer during the week. Please use the magazine with the weekly pew sheet to focus your parish prayers and news reports to pray for the world.

Monday: Pray for the sick, the house bound and bereaved.

Tuesday: Choose one item from the news headlines and bring that situation to God in prayer.

Wednesday: Pray for young people and leaders involved in Children's Church, Messy Church, Girls' Brigade and remember Alison Shaw, Family Worker

Thursday: Pray for members of the Select Vestry, Church Wardens, and all who give their time to various church activities.

Friday: Pray for brothers and sisters in Christ who are being persecuted because of their faith. Look at the Open Doors website for up to date information.

Saturday: Pray for Sunday Services, for Revd Bobbie, John, Organists Daniel and Gerald and the Choir that our worship may glorify God and bind us together as members of God's family. Pray that St Aidan's will be a beacon of light in the community and a place of welcome and acceptance.

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

Dear Church Family,

This time last year we were in the midst of preparations for the 120th anniversary celebration service on 23 March. It's been quite a year as we have not only celebrated but reflected on 120 years of Ministry in Blythe Street. The new facilities are well used and greatly appreciated – particularly the hospitality area in the church. The Christmas Tree Festival which was launched at the community carol service was a great success. We appreciate so much the way local churches, organisations and businesses took up the challenge to contribute a tree. There are lots of pictures on the web site and on Face Book.



It is encouraging to be part of the local team of ministers in Sandy Row, working together to share the Good News of the Gospel in word and deed. One very practical outcome of this co-operation is the opening of a local distribution centre for the South Belfast Community Food Bank. This is now open every Thursday afternoon in Friendship House, staffed by volunteers from the local churches. Alison Shaw, St Aidan's family worker, has been a driving force in getting this established and she acts as local manager for the Centre. The Food Bank isn't simply a place to get food; there is a friendly welcome, a hot drink, time for a chat and, most importantly, information about where to get help and support. Call in on a Thursday or get in touch with Alison directly. Her contact details are on the back page.

This time of year often surprises us with a beautiful, bright sunny day, the promise of Spring. There is a particular quality to the light, it seems brighter, stronger somehow. Perhaps it's just the contrast with some of those darker, wintry days. Whatever it is, when the sun comes out it shows up those places which have been neglected, the corners where dust has accumulated. As we prepare for Easter, we ask for God's light to shine on us, to show up those areas we have neglected in our relationship with him. God's light is powerful, revealing, healing, restoring.

*Jesus once again addressed them: "I am the world's Light.
No one who follows me stumbles around in the darkness.
I provide plenty of light to live in." John 8:12*

Warm Greetings in Christ,
Revd Bobbie.



www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow



ST AIDAN'S GIRLS BRIGADE



What has been happening at GB?

Girls' Brigade continues to meet on a Friday evening from 6.45 pm. From our last update the girls enjoyed a few treats in December. The Officers arranged for a roller disco to visit the hall for the younger sections of the company. The girls were provided with skates and protective clothing, it was a great night and the girls seemed to really enjoy it. Thankfully no major injuries, although some officers were reported to having a few sore backs the day after trying to keep some girls on their feet, not an easy task! The evening finished with party food and drinks and girls getting a selection pack. The older girls were treated to a visit to the Waterfront Hall to see the pantomime Cinderella.

The company was represented in January by Zara Gregg and Amy Hendren in the Brigader Solo Competition at Inter-District level. Both girls gave a fantastic performance in what was a very high standard of competition. It is always good to see St. Aidan's name still on the programme, well done Zara and Amy!

In February the younger sections had a theme night "Teddy Bears Picnic". The girls brought along their favourite teddy bear and enjoyed games and their own picnic. Junior, Senior and Brigader sections will be sitting their annual bible class exam at end of the month. The officers would like to thank the Rector for giving of her time to prepare the girls.

The Explorer girls will be taking part in the Explorer Choral Speaking competition on Saturday 27th February in Wallace High School, Lisburn. I am sure they will say their poem beautifully and would like to thank Margaret Close for training them over the past few months.

On 4th March Amy Greer and Rebecca Hendren will represent the company in the Associate Solo work, we wish them both well at the competition.

GB nights from March will be extremely busy for officers and girls when the serious preparations commence towards their GB Display which is being held on **Friday 22nd April 2016**. Please note that an independent adjudicator has been asked to attend on **Friday 18th March** to judge each section towards the physical section of their badge. Please keep these two dates in mind as it is very important that all girls attend.

The officers and girls look forward to your support at their display.

DATES FOR DIARY

Friday 18th March

6.45pm – Judging for awards

Friday 22nd April

7.30pm – Annual GB Display

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
PLEASE CONTACT FIONA ON 07776234830**

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

This year the members are focusing on the theme: '**Celebration of Faith**'
MU Members have at their disposal a valuable resource for prayer and action, i.e. their prayer diary to help them focus on the needs of MU and the world.

Lynne Tembey our MU world-wide president has written a positive letter to all the members on the opening page of the M.U. prayer diary.

Lynne writes "many in society find it difficult to love the unlovable, the outcast, the refugee – they simply turn away". To-day as members we are encouraged to be prayerful and loving in every situation we face, being Christ like in thought, word and deed. By simply doing what Christ asks us to: 'Love God and Love your neighbour as yourself?' inspiring words from Lynne?

In this season of Lent may we abide with our Lord Jesus Christ and allow him to deepen our faith in order to prepare us to serve him in new ways. Amen

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service will take place in St. Simon's Parish Church on **Friday 4th March at 7.30pm**. The theme for the service is: Receive Children – Receive Me and written by the Christian women of Cuba.

Sunday 6th March we will celebrate Mothering Sunday at 11am in the church.

M.U. Have a campaign 'Make a Mothers Day' which gives us the opportunity to support and make a difference to other's lives. Leaflets are available from MU members. We will be attending the Holy Week Services in March instead of meeting for the usual branch night. MU Festival in St Anne's Cathedral at **3.30pm**

Sunday 10th April 2016. *Barbara Bowden*

Messy Church

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Messy Church will meet in the Church Hall on:-

Fri. 11th March 4-6pm

Fri. 8th April 4-6pm

Fri. 13th May 4-6pm

Many thanks. *Alison Shaw*



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children's Church is growing. We have our faithful band of regulars and we have also welcomed back Poppy and Sasha, as well as meeting some new children for the first time. On a good day, with everyone there, we could have attendance in healthy double figures. Wow!!!!!!

We are also pleased to welcome Lynn to the Team and we have had offers of help, if needed, from Arlene. Thank you to all who support us with those, who pray for us.

Barbara, Gladys, Lynn and Dorothy.

Christmas Nativity





Christmas Tree Festival



Luke 2: 15
 Caesar Augustus
 issued a decree that a
 census should
 be taken
 of the entire
 Roman world.
 And everyone went to
 their own town to register.
 So Joseph also went up from
 the town of Nazareth in
 Galilee to Judea,
 to Bethlehem the
 town of David, because
 he belonged to the house
 and line of David.
 He went there to register with
 Mary, who was pledged to be
 married to him and was expecting a child.
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NOTICE BOARD

Women's World Day of Prayer

Area Service in
St Simons
Friday 4 March at
7.30pm

General Vestry Meeting

Thursday 7 April 7.30
Jameson Room

56th Girls Brigade - Annual Display

Friday 22nd April 2016
St. Aidan's Church Hall
7.30pm

Mothers' Union

meets at 8pm
on the third Thursday
of the month

Bowling Club

meets on Mondays
at 7.30

Children's Church

meets during
morning service at
11am

Messy Church

usually monthly on
Fridays - Church Hall
4-6pm

Thrift Shop

open most week-days
11am - 3pm

Palm Sunday.

Holy week begins with Palm Sunday, when the Church remembers how Jesus arrived at the gates of Jerusalem just a few days before the Passover was due to be held. He was the Messiah come to his own people in their capital city, and yet he came in humility, riding on a young donkey, not in triumph, riding on a war horse.

As Jesus entered the city, the crowds gave him a rapturous welcome, throwing palm fronds into his path. But sadly the welcome was short lived and shallow, for Jerusalem would soon reject her Messiah and put him to death.

On this day churches worldwide will distribute little crosses made from palm fronds in memory of Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem.

Maundy Thursday.

Maundy Thursday is famous for two things. The first one of the final acts that Jesus did before his death: the washing of his own disciples' feet. Jesus washed his disciples' feet for a purpose: "A new command I give you: Love one another, As I have loved you, so you must love one another." (The word "Mundy" is a corruption of the Latin 'mandatum' (or command).

But Thursday was also important because it was on that night that Jesus first introduced the Lord's Supper, or what we nowadays call Holy Communion.

Jesus and his close friends had met in a secret upper room to share the Passover meal together - for the last time. And there Jesus transformed the Passover into the Lord's Supper, saying "this is my body" and "this is my blood" as he, the Lamb of God, prepared to die for the sins of the whole world.

Good Friday.

Good Friday is the day on which Jesus died on the cross. It is the most solemn day in the Christian year and is widely marked by the removal of all decorations from churches. The custom of observing a period of three hours devotion from 12 midday to 3pm on Good Friday goes back to the 18th century. The 'Three Hours of the Cross' often take the form of an extended meditation on the 'Seven Last Words from the Cross', with periods of silence, prayer or hymn singing.

Easter.

Easter of course is the most special day of the Christian year: the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. Why does the date move around so much? Because the date of Passover moves around and according to the biblical account, Easter is tied to the Passover.

Most people will tell you that Easter falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon after the Spring equinox, which is broadly true. But the precise calculations are unbelievably complicated and involve something called an 'ecclesiastical full moon', which is not the same as the moon in the sky. The earliest date for Easter in the West is 22nd March, which last fell in 1818 and won't fall again until 2285. The latest is 25th April, which last happened in 1943 and is next due in 2038.

Finally, why Easter eggs? On one hand, they are an ancient symbol of birth in most European cultures. On the other hand, hens start laying regularly again each Spring. Since eggs were forbidden during Lent, it's easy to see how decorating and eating them became a practical way to celebrate Easter.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The Bible Study Group will be meeting in the Jameson Room on Wednesday nights 7.30-9.00 during the six weeks of Lent

They will be reading the newly printed booklet "Beyond Belief" which is a daily reflection of Lent based on the Nicene Creed.

It has been written by David Huss, the Rector of the Donegal Group of Parishes and Archdeacon of Raphoe.

SPONSORED WALK

The final total for the sponsored walk is £2646-80. This is a magnificent effort by all those who participated and who donated and sponsored the walkers. We received £388-80 of gift aid which gave us this final total of £2646-80. Gift aid is a magnificent way to swell the total and it doesn't cost the donors anything.

Once again thank you to everyone that participated sponsored donated or helped in any way to make this event such a success.

Margaret Griffin



BOWLS Monday nights 7.30pm
Is anyone looking for a bit of gentle exercise, nothing too strenuous, just enough to keep the joints supple. Well come on down and join us for a wee game of bowls in our Church Hall on a Monday night. If you've never played bowls before, we would be glad to show you the ropes (or rather, the bowls). Come along and join in the fun, you will even get a cup of tea and a biscuit afterwards to replace the calories you lost while bowling. See you there. *Glady's*.

MOTHERS DAY

A Mother's Love is something that no one can explain.

It is made of deep devotion and of sacrifice and pain.

It is endless and unselfish and enduring, come what may,

For nothing can destroy it or take the love away.

It is patient and forgiving when all others are forsaking,

And it never fails or falters even though the heart is breaking.

It believes beyond believing when the world around condemns,

And it glows with all the beauty of the rarest, brightest gems.

It is far beyond defining, it defies all explanation,

And it still remains a secret like the mysteries of creation.

A many-splendored miracle we cannot understand.

And another wondrous evidence of God's tender, guiding hand.

Helen Steiner Rice



ST PATRICK

The shamrock is undoubtedly the most identifiable symbol of Ireland. Shamrock comes from the Irish Gaelic word Seamrog, a word that refers to the plant's three leaves. The shamrock as symbol of Ireland and St. Patrick's Day is partly due to the natural abundance of clover plants in the country, but largely due to its strong association with Christianity. Legend says that St. Patrick used the shamrock to visually illustrate the concept of the Trinity (the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit) when trying to convert polytheistic pagans to Christianity. In Christianity, God is three persons, but it's not the same as three gods. The simple analogy is thought to have helped non-Christians understand a fundamental element of the Christian religion. Whether or not this story is true, the shamrock is regarded as the national plant of Ireland and always worn on St. Patrick's Day



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Connor George McDougall

17th February 2016

Faith Paula Couchman

21st February 2016

FUNERALS

Thomas (Tommy) McCormack

9th January 2016

James (Jimmy) Hutchinson

2nd February 2016

PASTORAL NOTES

Baptisms: Are usually held during Family Service on the third Sunday of each month. 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.

Flower Rota

March

6th.....

13th Mrs. W. Campbell

20th The Mackey & Leith Families

27th Mrs. D. Hamill

April

3rd Mrs. M. Hoy

10th.....

17th The Hilditch Family

24th Mrs. B. Weir

May

1st Mrs. I. Pritchard

8th Mrs. G. Hollywood &

Mrs. B. Bowden

15th Mrs. L. Fullerton

22nd 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.**



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

Parish Reader: Mr John Collins BSc.

Family Parish Worker: Mrs Alison Shaw

07547030451

Organist: Mrs Ellie Leckey

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 2015 – 2016

Mr. J. Griffin, Ms. B. Weir, 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. G. Hollywood.

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