

St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Enabling People to find a living faith in a loving God

Summer 2019

SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1895



Minister in Charge: Revd Bobbie Moore

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

Website: www.staidan.connor.anglican.org

Magazine can be viewed in colour on the website.

Charity Registration No. CCNI 101978



SERVICE TIMES June - August

Sunday services during the summer are at 11am as usual.

First Sunday - Parish Communion

Second and Fourth Sundays - Morning Prayer

Third and Fifth Sundays - informal service

Although Children's Church takes a break during the holiday season, children are welcome at all services. We don't provide a formal crèche but the church room is available for parents to supervise children if they become restless.

SPECIAL DATES TO NOTE

Sunday 30 June 11am

A Service of Thanksgiving for Family Pets:
Celebrating God's Creation
All pets and owners
welcome!



Sunday 25 August 11am

Hymns of Praise to celebrate
St Aidan's Day



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 Friends,

A quote by Nicky Gumbel, founder of the Alpha Course, recently caught my attention:

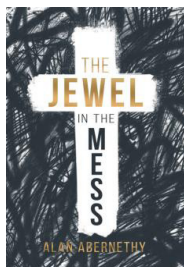
*Church is not an organisation you join –
It is a family where you belong, a home where you are loved
and a hospital where you find healing.*

All of us have experienced home and family and probably most of us have had some connection with hospital, either as a patient or visitor, so this analogy is something we can relate to. Thinking of church life in these terms should help us to understand the privilege of belonging and also the responsibility of contributing to the life of the family, the running of the home so that the healing ministry of the Gospel can be maintained.



With this issue of the magazine, you will receive a copy of the Annual Report containing a summary of the life and ministry of the church family. The financial report shows that we are barely making ends meet. As church is not an organisation there is no joining fee or annual charge. However there is a responsibility to contribute meaningfully - every family has bills to pay and the church family is no exception.

You will see in my report that I have suggested that if everyone were to increase their giving by at least the price of one cup of coffee per month that would make a difference. I make no apology for repeating that suggestion here. Please take the time to check your contribution and ask yourself if it is a realistic amount when compared to other costs you meet in your family and home life.



Bishop Alan is a much loved member of the Diocesan Church Family and is currently on sick leave receiving treatment for prostate cancer. In his recently published book, *The Jewel in the Mess* he writes 'Jesus is found in the brokenness and pain of people's lives and he finds ways of blessing them without fixing the situation. The lyrics of a song 'Blessings' by Laura Story have the same theme:

*What if Your blessings come through raindrops
What if Your healing comes through tears
What if a thousand sleepless nights are what it takes to know You're near
What if trials of this life are Your mercies in disguise.*

My prayer is that when we meet together in church, we will find it to be a place of healing and hope as we help each other cope with the 'mess' of life, discovering that Jesus is always ready to bless with his presence and his love. Everyone is welcome to the family that meets on Sundays at 11am in Blythe Street. I look forward to seeing you and am always ready to listen to any concerns you may have.

*Warm Greetings in Christ,
Revd Bobbie.*



www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow



G.B. CELEBRATES 70 YEARS!!



Our 2018-19 session was a very special time for our company as we celebrated 70 years of Girls' Brigade in St. Aidan's Parish. As a company we have played an active part in enhancing the lives of young girls, teenagers and woman in the Sandy Row and Donegall Road communities by way of physical activity, crafts and most importantly spiritual guidance through our programmes. We pride ourselves that we have managed to keep our company functioning through the many difficult and troubled years and although our numbers have diminished over the last few years the officers are still dedicated to their volunteering role and providing a varied and fun programme for the girls.

Our Family and Friends Evening was held on 12th April 2019 to celebrate this milestone and we were delighted to have Past Members join with us on this occasion. Everyone worked very hard to put a programme together using the themes

“Remembering the Past”, “Celebrating the Present” and “Inspiring the Future”.

The girls enjoyed performing their items especially getting dressed up for “The Little Red Hen” and “Little Red Riding Hood” not forgetting Baby Shark which we hear was a big hit with parents. The Officers would like to take the opportunity to thank all Past Members for giving up their time over the past few months. It was lovely to see so many old friends come together again and share treasured memories down the years. This is a testament in itself to what St. Aidan's Girls' Brigade meant in their lives and to so many others who have passed through the ranks including the current Officers and Sub-Officers.

Since the last report we have been concentrating on preparations for our Family and Friends Evening together with completing tasks to ensure girls had completed enough badgework, scripture etc. to attain their awards. Rev. Bobbie completed her Scripture Course with the girls, girls sat an exam issued by GBHQ in February. We would thank Rev. Bobbie for giving up of her time to complete this task.

The Officers and Sub Officers worked hard before Christmas preparing christmas decorations to sell at the Christmas Craft Sale and at our tuck shop on GB nights. We were delighted to be able to present a cheque to Rev. Bobbie at our Family and Friends Evening for £300 to help towards refurbishment/upgrading of the Church Hall facilities.

As a company we were also involved in the 125th Anniversary of Girls' Brigade in Northern Ireland making it a double celebration. Girls and Officers attended a few memorable events organised through GBNI to commemorate 125 years. As part of both our own 70th and GBNI 125th two trips have been organised for our girls to attend, section leaders will be in touch with arrangements, details on next page:

EXPLORERS
SATURDAY 8TH JUNE 2019
VISIT TO BELFAST ZOO

JUNIORS
SATURDAY 18TH MAY 2019
VISIT TO JUNGLE NI

To complete our 70th Anniversary celebrations a dinner has been organised for Friday 17th May 2019 in Grand Central Hotel, Belfast. I am sure it will prove to be a very enjoyable evening. The Officers would like to thank everyone for their support over the year, it is very much appreciated.

CUP WINNERS 2018 - 2019

Celebrating the Present

ALL ROUND CUPS

TINY TOT 1's

1ST Place - Emilee Adams

TINY TOT 2's

2ND Place - Evie McAllister

EXPLORER 1's

1ST Place - Olivia Henning

EXPLORER 2's

1ST Place - Maisie McComb

2ND Place - Abigail Sergeant

3RD Place - Rachel Fletcher

JUNIORS

1ST Place - Jessica Campbell

2ND Place - Alex Meehan

SCRIPTURE CUPS

JUNIOR

Tie 1ST Place - Zara Dickson/Alex Meehan

Tie 2ND Place - Jessica Campbell

Obehi Matthews. 3RD Place - Bobby Butler

BEST RECRUIT CUP

1ST Place - Eva Dougan

BADGEWORK CUP

1ST Place - Alex Meehan - Junior

BEST PROGRESS - YOUNGER SECTIONS

Tie 1ST Place - Hannah McAllister

Khaili Cooper

2ND Place - Indie Butler

BEST PROGRESS - COMPANY SECTION

1ST Place - Bobby Butler

2ND Place - Obehi Matthews

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GIRLS
IN THE COMPANY FOR COMPLETING
THEIR PROGRAMME TASKS AND
RECEIVING THEIR SECTION
AND SERVICE AWARDS.
WELL DONE !!**

70 YEAR ANNIVERSARY





Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

ST. AIDAN'S MOTHERS' UNION

The members will have had their visit to Dobbies in Lisburn as part of the MU Area Social. This is always a very relaxing day out in which we share in some fellowship with the branches from South Belfast, so please ask the members about their day.

On Sunday the 16th June we celebrate 'Father's Day' in our church.

In 1. John 3:1 we read: How great is the Love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

If you lived in Australia you would not be celebrating Father's Day until the 3rd September 2019. This is the start of spring and it is thought that when Father's Day was established in the USA on the third Sunday of June, it may have been that the Pacific countries heard of Father's Day being celebrated. Rather than waiting a year to celebrate, they placed it into the calendar in a similar season.

In the MU resource 'Families Worldwide Prayer Diary': we pray for all new fathers as they take on responsibility for a new and vulnerable life: May they seek God's help in bringing up their children to be good citizens of the world and to be his followers.

As we break for the summer, take time to enjoy your families and come back refreshed and enthused as we begin the winter programme on Thursday September 19th at 8pm in the Church hall.

Barbara Bowden



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The final - Children's Church with Prize-giving - before our Summer break will be on Sunday 19th May. Our

outing this year will be towards the end of August so that Dorothy will be able to join us. We do miss you very much Dorothy and really look forward to having you back with us. We are very thankful and encouraged by the faithful group of children each Sunday along with their supportive parents/grandparents and all those who give us support in any other way. Of course, we always have room for more children and would ask you to remember us in your prayers.

Dorothy, Gladys, Lynn & Barbara

CRAFT GROUP

Crafty Creations will continue throughout the summer months as usual on Tuesdays 10 – 12 noon.

Starting on Tuesday 2nd July
All welcome

FOODBANK

Thanks to all for the Easter collection. The South Belfast Food Bank really appreciates our support and since we put our donations into Friendship House, they are used for people in our own area. Monetary donations are used to buy items in short supply and to pay the rent for storage.

Update from Foodbank

We continue to be very busy; it is sad to see how quickly people can find themselves in difficulties especially through illness. The destitution of Asylum seekers is also sad to see as they wait years in limbo for decisions to be made. We thank all our food donors for making our work possible as we seek to show God's love and care through the work of the foodbank. We could not do this without our supporting Churches. So many, many thanks *Brenda Johnston*.

DEVOTIONAL THOUGHT ON CONTENTMENT

I don't want this couch - I want a leather one!
I don't like this house - I want a bigger one!
I'm not satisfied with my husband - I want hers!
While such words rarely escape our lips, The thoughts behind them are regular enough. So too with the Israelites who griped and grumbled to God during their wanderings in the wilderness. They fussed at God because they didn't think they had enough food. Then they raised their fists at him because all he provided was manna and they wanted meat. They griped about not being in the Promised Land when they were in the desert. And yet, it was in the desert that God offered unique and tangible demonstrations of his presence: a pillar of fire, a cloud of presence, manna and quail from the sky. How like the Israelites we are! We say we want certain things from God and yet when we have them, we look longingly back at the way things were before, never fully satisfied. So, what's our beef with God? Do we want the Promised Land or his presence in our life? Better a dry crust with peace and quiet than a house full of feasting, with strife.
Proverbs 17:1

ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK

Yes folks, it's that time of year again. Get those walking shoes on and prepare for our Annual Sponsored Walk, which this year will be taking place on Friday 7th June. Leaving Church Hall for Shaw's Bridge venue between 7 & 7.30pm. We will be walking back to the hall where we will have some refreshments on our return. Please come along and join us, the more the merrier. If for some reason you cannot join us in the walk, perhaps you could help in other ways, maybe by contributing to the refreshments, sponsoring someone to walk, or perhaps help setting up the hall. We would love to have your support by whatever means. We would also remind you that all donations can be Gift Aided.

RELEVANT TO ALL AGES GROUP

The relevant to all ages team worked very hard on the production of the concert, celebrating with a "Tribute to the Centenary of WW1 and Old Tyme Music Hall." Our team leader Dorothy Coates has been out of action since January this year due to surgery and is still recuperating. However, we still have a few items hanging in the back boiler and we hope to bring information regarding these in the next magazine. Watch out, we have talent scouts about!!! Will keep you posted on upcoming events.



Messy Church will be taking a break over the summer.

BOWLS

The members enjoyed a friendly game of bowls on the final evening of the spring season. They attended the evening services held during Holy Week in the Easter calendar and each received an Easter egg from Mrs G Hollywood and good wishes for the coming summer break. Our next meeting will take place on Monday 9th September 2019 at the usual time of 7.30pm. God Bless. *Gladys*.



A WORD FROM CANON KEN



It was a cold winter's day in February, just after I had taken up duty in St Aidan's, and I wasn't having much success finding some addresses. To a countryman this area is like a rabbit's warren! I noticed that there had obviously been some 'activity' in the area because every time I looked in the rear window, I spotted a police car.

After some time, it dawned on me that my movements might have been interpreted as suspicious; driving along streets looking at door numbers, turning and driving slowly back the way I had come - and then repeating the process in several other streets.

Due to the inclement weather I had a coat and scarf on and my clerical collar wouldn't have been visible. I decided I needed to identify myself. I turned into another street and, sure enough when I looked behind another police car was turning it to view. I got out of the car, opened my coat and scarf so that my collar came into view and as I approached the car the officer was speaking on the radio. When he had finished on the radio he turned his window down and before I got speaking he said, "It's all right Mr McReynolds, we know who you are now!" They had identified me by my car registration number!

I know what you're thinking, 'That man is always getting himself in 'rare pickles'! But the truth is people often act in a suspicious way - either unintentionally or for some ulterior reason. Others act in a way that conceals who they actually are inside - what kind of person they REALLY are. Most of us (perhaps unconsciously) work hard at trying to ensure that what people see in us is our 'best side'. Truth is we want people to think well of us.

Well, like most of my tales, there is a point to all this and it's this. Wouldn't it be great if when people see us as we really are - get to know the real us, manage to see behind our mask - what they see is people who know they are sinners in need of God's grace and the forgiveness earned by Jesus on the cross, whose priority in life is to love and serve him for ever - to walk humbly with our God in the service of others. To be KNOWN as we really are.

When our hearts and witness are transparently Christ filled and motivated, we won't need to depend on (clerical) collars, denominational tags, loyal church attendance or even a good reputation. What people will see in and through us is JESUS! They'll know who/what we are before we even tell them.

I hope people see even a little of Jesus in me. *Canon Ken*

COLLECTION FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you for all the donations to the Welcome Centre for the Homeless in Belfast.

A box full of clothes etc. were gratefully received by staff at the centre.

On a personal note may I say a big "Thank You" for your continued support in our Mission Work out in the community. *E. Collins*

PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

WYLIE WILMA GLADYS EGERTON - 10 MARCH 2019

FUNERALS

HENRIETTA (HETTY) MCCLELLAND - 8 MARCH

WILLIAM MCBRIDE - 26 MARCH 2019

SMYTH LOCKHART - 24 APRIL 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. Please inform Revd Bobbie or the

Flower Rota

June

2nd Mrs. I. McCreery

9th Mrs. W. Campbell

16th Mrs. N. Baillie

23rd Mrs. I. Annett

July

7th Ms. P. Williams &

Mrs. E. Beggs

14th

21st

28th Mrs. B. Wilson.

August

4th

11th Mrs. E. Collins

18th Mr. & Mrs. B. Richardson

25th The Walsh Family

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 Autumn Magazine reach Liz Adair / Margaret Close by the 1st August. 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: Margaret Couchman

07752 528572

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

07815 758457

People's Glebe Warden: Mr. Eddie Murray

02890 586733

Members of Select Vestry for 2019 – 2020

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, Mrs. M. Couchman

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: Mrs. M. Couchman

07752 528572

Friday Girls Brigade: Mrs Fiona Hendren

07776234830

Messy Church: Mrs Alison Shaw 07547030451