

St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Enabling People to find a living faith in a loving God

Winter 2018

SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1895



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday 23rd December: 11am Parish Nativity, 6.30 Carols by Candlelight

**Tuesday 25th December: 11am Christmas Family Celebration
with Communion**

Minister in Charge: Revd Bobbie Moore

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

Website: www.staidan.connor.anglican.org

www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow

Charity Registration No. CCNI 101978



SERVICE TIMES December - February

DECEMBER

Sun 2nd: Advent - 11am Parish Communion & 7pm Advent Carol Service

Sun 9th: Second Sunday of Advent - 11am Morning Prayer with Baptism

Sun 16th: Third Sunday of Advent - 11am Christingle

Sun 23rd: Fourth Sunday of Advent - 11am Parish Nativity & 6.30 Carols by Candlelight

Tues 25th: Christmas Day - 11am Christmas Celebration with Communion

Sun 30th: First Sunday of Christmas - 11am Morning Prayer

JANUARY

Sun 6th: Epiphany - 11am Parish Communion

Sun 13th: First Sunday after Epiphany - 11am MU Enrolment Service

Sun 20th: Second Sunday after Epiphany - 11am Informal Service

Sun 27th: Third Sunday after Epiphany - 11am Morning Prayer with Baptism

FEBRUARY

Sun 3rd: Fourth Sunday after Epiphany - 11am Parish Communion

Sun 10th: Fourth Sunday before Lent - 11am Morning Prayer & 6.30pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving

Sun 17th: Third Sunday before Lent - 11am Informal Service

Sun 24th: Second Sunday before Lent - 11am morning Prayer

Mid Week Service - First and Third Thursdays at 3pm



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, Canon Ken, John, Organists Edna 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,

I don't know about you, but I am increasingly conscious of the swift passage of time. Apparently it's an age thing – as we get older time seems to go faster! Particularly at this time of year we can find ourselves with too much to do and not enough time to fit everything in – we can be so focussed on all the things we need to do to prepare to celebrate Christmas, that we actually miss out on the reason for the celebration. Racing round the shops to find gifts for family members and friends takes time and there just never seems to be enough of it.



Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life* writes: “Time is your most precious gift because you only have a set amount of it. You can make more money, but you can't make more time. When you give someone your time, you are giving them a portion of your life that you'll never get back. Your time is your life. That is why the greatest gift you can give someone is your time”.

While many of us struggle to find enough hours in the day, others, especially the house bound, are lonely and the hours just seem to drag by. Maybe we could all take a good hard look at how we spend our time remembering – the best way to spell love is “T-I-M-E.

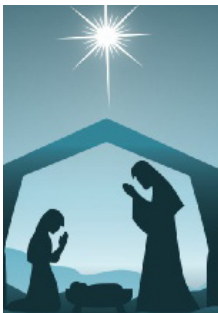
“Time is free, but it's priceless. You can't own it, but you can use it. You can't keep it, but you can spend it. Once you've lost it, you can never get it back.” (Harvey MacKay).

This year let's all make time to celebrate the event which changed the world's timeline from BC (before Christ) to AD (anno domini, Latin for “in the year of the lord,” referring specifically to the birth of Jesus Christ).

Warm greetings in Christ. *Revd Bobbie*



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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS IN DECEMBER

**Sunday 2nd Advent - 6.30pm Christmas Lights switch-on at Church
7pm Christmas Music and Readings with the Route Choir**

**Sunday 16th Third Sunday of Advent- 11.00am Christingle Service
with Holy Communion**

**Sunday 23rd: Fourth Sunday of Advent - Parish Nativity 11.00pm &
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight**

Christmas Day: 11am Christmas Family Celebration with Communion



ST AIDAN'S GIRLS BRIGADE



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GB?

GB started back in September, focusing as usual on a programme set out by GB Headquarters under the themes of spiritual, physical, educational and service. Each Friday night the girls have covered a variety of activities such as Bible class, Marching, Dance evenings, PE, Games nights and have produced many lovely Crafts.

As you may know our company is celebrating 70 years providing Girl's Brigade in St. Aidan's and we hope you enjoyed our special Enrolment and Thanksgiving Service held in November. It was great to have past members of the company come along and join us on this special occasion and we would like to take the opportunity to especially thank those who agreed to share their memories.

The Officers have also been enjoying time together making Christmas crafts which they hope to sell and raise funds to help the Church with their renovations.

Girl's Brigade across Northern Ireland celebrated with a 125 year anniversary service in September, all officers and girls worshipping together at the same time and receiving the same Christian message at various locations. Our company attended a very enjoyable service at Whitewell Metropolitan Tabernacle and it was great for our company to be part of such special celebrations. The Officers and girls would appreciate your continued prayer and support. *Thank you. The Officers.*



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

ST. AIDAN'S MOTHERS' UNION

The feast of the annunciation also known as Lady Day has a special place in Mothers' Union since 1897. This feast is celebrated on the 25th March each year. You may ask why I have chosen this time to write about Mary's encounter with the angel Gabriel? In this Christmas issue of the Parish News, let us set the scene. Mary is betrothed to Joseph but imagine the drama that is about to unfold for her, it would be enough to send anyone into a panic, but not Mary, her reply to the Angel Gabriel, "I am the lords servant, may your word to me be fulfilled" (Luke 1. 46-55).

Mary welcomes the gift of God's Love with a song of thanksgiving known as the Magnificat, Luke records for us Mary's Song, in which the words suggest that she understood her role within the history of the people of God.

Mary plays a vital role in 'the Word became flesh' and this is a very good reason for us as members of Mothers' Union to celebrate her courage and humility as the one who carried and bore our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Christmas Celebrations:

Looking forward to Christmas we have the Nine Lessons and Carol's Service in St. Aidan's Parish Church on 13th December at 7.30pm.

The members of St. Simon's MU & Ladies Guild will be attending the service.

The members Christmas Outing to Dinner at 'Action Bro's' Olio will be on Saturday 15th December at 4.30pm then a visit to the pantomime in the Grand Opera House at 7pm.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their attendance each month at branch, and Area events during the year?

The Theme: for 2019 - 'LISTEN, OBSERVE, and ACT – IN STEP WITH GOD'.

The January meeting will be on Thursday 17th in the Parish Hall at 8pm.

MU Service at beginning of the year will be Sunday 13th January 2019 in the Church at 11am.

The February meeting will be on Thursday 21st in the parish hall at 8pm.

Happy Christmas and God's blessing to you all this coming New Year.

Many Thanks. *Barbara Bowden.*







ST AIDAN'S
TRIBUTE TO CENTENARY OF WW1
And OLDE TYME MUSIC HALL
WEDNESDAY 14 NOVEMBER 2018







FOOD BANK LETTER FROM BRENDA JOHNSTON

8th November 2018

Dear St. Aidan's Parish Church,
South Belfast Foodbank wishes to thank you for your fabulous Harvest collection. We really appreciate the generous support of your Church. Demand on the foodbank is high so your donation is very much needed. You collected 56.3kg which equates roughly to 54 meals to help those who find themselves in food poverty. We value every meal we are able to supply with your support. If you would like to know more about our work please just let us know. With thanks and kind regards, South Belfast Foodbank Management Team.



A Christmas Prayer.

Loving Father,
Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
That we may share in the song of the angels,
The gladness of the shepherds,
And worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate
And open the door of love all over the world,
Let kindness come with every gift
And good desires with every greeting,
Deliver us from evil by the blessing which Christ brings,
And teach us to be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
Make us happy to be thy children,
And Christmas evening bring us to our beds
With grateful thoughts,
Forgiving and forgiven,
For Jesus' sake.
Amen.

Robert Louis Stevenson

THE ARMISTICE 1918 - 2018

The 11th November, 2018 marked the Centenary of the Armistice which ended the First World War.

A decision was made that all bodies of the fallen should be buried where they fell and not brought home. As only the wealthy could have afforded to bring their loved ones home it was only right that no difference should be made between the rank, class or creed of the fallen.

Many bodies were never recovered and relatives at home had no grave to visit to grieve or couldn't afford to travel to the grave sites. It was in response to this that the idea of the Cenotaph Memorial and Tomb of the Unknown Soldier was born.

The idea of such a burial seems first to have come to a chaplain at the Front, the Reverend David Railton (1884-1955), when he noticed in 1916 in a back garden at Armentieres, a grave with a rough cross on which were pencilled the words, "An Unknown British Soldier". It grieved him when he thought of the family of the young man and of many others who had no known grave. He wrote to the Dean of Westminster, Herbert Ryle, through whose energies this memorial was carried into effect.

TOMB OF THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

At the west end of the nave of Westminster Abbey is the grave of the Unknown Warrior, whose body was brought from France to be buried there on 11th November 1920. The grave which contains soil from France, is covered by a slab of black Belgian marble from a quarry near Namur. On it is the following inscription, composed by Herbert Ryle, Dean of Westminster.

BENEATH THIS STONE RESTS THE BODY
OF A BRITISH WARRIOR
UNKNOWN BY NAME OR RANK
BROUGHT FROM FRANCE TO LIE AMONG
THE MOST ILLUSTRIOUS OF THE LAND
AND BURIED HERE ON ARMISTICE DAY
11 NOV: 1920, IN THE PRESENCE OF
HIS MAJESTY KING GEORGE V
HIS MINISTERS OF STATE
THE CHIEFS OF HIS FORCES
AND A VAST CONCOURSE OF THE
NATION
THUS ARE COMMEMORATED THE MANY
MULTITUDES WHO DURING THE GREAT
WAR OF 1914-1918 GAVE THE MOST THAT
MAN CAN GIVE LIFE ITSELF
FOR GOD
FOR KING AND COUNTRY

FOR LOVED ONES HOME AND EMPIRE
FOR THE SACRED CAUSE OF JUSTICE
AND
THE FREEDOM OF THE WORLD
THEY BURIED HIM AMONG THE KINGS
BECAUSE HE
HAD DONE GOOD TOWARD GOD AND
TOWARD
HIS HOUSE

Around the main inscription are four texts:
(Top) THE LORD KNOWETH THEM THAT
ARE HIS,

(Sides) GREATER LOVE HATH NO MAN
THAN THIS....

UNKNOWN AND YET WELL KNOWN,
DYING AND BEHOLD WE LIVE,

(Base) IN CHRIST SHALL ALL BE MADE
ALIVE.

A WORD FROM CANON KEN



“Don’t worry sir, we’ll have someone with you in no time at all. Now, if you can just tell me where you are.”

Silence.

“Sir?”

Silence.

“Sir, Can you give me your location?”

“I don’t actually know – not exactly”

“Sir”, said the concerned voice, “Do you have anybody with you?”

“I’m O.K.”, I assured the lady from the motorway recovery centre, “It’s just that I don’t know precisely where I am on the M1”, adding sheepishly, “Is between Belfast and Moira any good?”

I was headed home from preaching at St Simon’s Harvest and was due back in St Aidan’s in a few hours so, to be honest, as soon as I ‘hit’ the motorway my mind went in to ‘sermon mode’. My eyes were on the road – but in my mind I was preaching! UNTIL MY CAR GROUND TO A HALT!

Well Sir, it would help if we could be a little more precise! Do you remember passing the

‘Applegreen’ Station?” “I think so.”

“Saintfield roundabout?” “Not sure – really sorry.”

“Recognise any landmarks?” “Not really – it’s a motorway!”

Boy, did I feel stupid! (Especially since I had a satnav on the dashboard that told me where the next roundabout was. But at least I knew where I had left and where I hoped to get!

Now I know I could over-spiritualise this experience and demand of you, “Do you know where you are – in the sight of God? ” I’ll resist from that - but maybe we do need to have a serious look at our lives from time to time to check where exactly we are in what we perceive to be God’s will for our lives.

Are we ‘walking with him’, ‘keeping our eyes on him’, ‘communicating with him in prayer’, ‘constantly seeking his guidance’, ‘desiring his will above all else’, ‘looking for signposts along the way’? “Keeping in step with the Spirit?” (Galatians 5.25)?

God Bless

Canon Ken P.S. I was found – eventually!!!



CHILDREN'S CHURCH **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER** **2018**

It was good to welcome back the children after the Summer. Matthew is now staying in church, but has assured us that he is still available when needed. It was lovely to welcome Ben.

Christmas is always an exciting time in St. Aidan's We will be having our Nativity service on Sunday 23rd December, which again will, hopefully, be a different slant on the usual story but will still bring the true meaning of Christmas. Again thanks to everyone who prays for us and supports us. Barbara, Dorothy, Gladys and Lynn.

CRAFT GROUP

Jaki Polly and her craft group will meet at least once during December.



7th December. We meet in the Church hall from 4-6pm.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Christmas Light Switch On
Sunday 2nd December
at 6.30pm
Route Choir - 7pm

Craft Fair
Saturday 8th December from
2pm - 4pm Tables £10
Come and see unique gifts for
Christmas - Details from Sylvia
Tel: 079 4934 7390

RELEVANT TO ALL AGES

The Relevant To All Ages Team consists of Alison Shaw, Alice Redpath, Dorothy, Margaret, Arlene, Brenda, Andrea and Jaki, with of course help from many people who support our efforts. By the time you read this I hope you will have enjoyed our Tribute to WW1 Centenary and Olde Tyme Music Hall Night. We certainly had fun getting ready for it and really appreciated the help we got from so many people in the community. Christopher Stalford's Constituency Team Tracey and Nathan, Graham and Kim Harris from Harris Kilts, Oliver McIlwaine and GCS Café. Frankie Quinn got us a tandem and Graham Bowden provided crutches. Of course we had our team of May, Patsy, Jackie and Andrea, who made costumes and poppies, Alan Serplus who made sense of our music needs, Andrew Hollywood, who managed to get us on and off the stage and last, but by no means least, our choir and cast led and directed by Margaret Close.

ST. AIDAN'S BOWLING CLUB

The Bowling Club will recess for Christmas on Monday the 10th December 2018 and will resume on January 22nd, 2019 DV.

We were very shocked and saddened to learn of the death of one of our past members, Mr. Joe Cairns. Joe will be very much missed by all our members and we convey our sincere sympathy to his wife and family. - Gladys



PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms:

Jodylee Sloss (Adult) - 19th August 2018
Aaron Spence (Adult) - 19th August 2018
Taliah Brown - 19th August 2018
Klaye-James McClatchey - 19th August 2018
Marlee Bailie McAllister - 19th August 2018
Gracie Willow Close - 23th September 2018
George Stanley Bowden - 28th October 2018

Funerals:

Pearl McDowell - 5th September 2018
Kelly Townsend - 26th October 2018

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 all funeral services.

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

Flower Rota

December

2nd - Mrs. M. McBride &
The McAllister Family
9th - Mrs M. Griffin
16th - The Cote Family
23rd - The Hill Family & The Mothers Union

January

6th - Mrs. M. Close
13th - The Mercer Family
20th - The Crawford Family
27th -----

February

3rd - Mrs. M. McBride
10th - The Hill Family
17th - Mrs. N. Baillie
24th -----



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 Spring magazine reach Liz Adair / Margaret Close by the 1st February. 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