

# St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Enabling People to find a living faith in a loving God

Winter 2017

SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1895



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES**

**Sunday 17th December: 11am Parish Nativity, 6.30 Carols by Candlelight**

**Monday 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](http://www.staidan.connor.anglican.org)  
[www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow](http://www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow)



## SERVICE TIMES December - February

### DECEMBER

**Sun 3rd: First Sunday of Advent** - 11am Parish Communion

**Sun 10th: Second Sunday of Advent** - 11am Morning Prayer

**Sun 17th: Third Sunday of Advent** - 11am Parish Nativity

6.30 Carols by Candlelight

**Sun 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent** - 11am Morning Prayer

**Christmas Day:** 11am Family Celebration with Communion

### JANUARY

**Sun 7th: First Sunday after Epiphany** - 11am Parish Communion

**Sun 14th: Second Sunday after Epiphany** - 11am

**Sun 21st: Third Sunday after Epiphany** - 11am Informal Service

**Sun 28th: Sunday after Epiphany** - 11am Morning Prayer

### FEBRUARY

**Sun 4th: Second Sunday before Lent** - 11am Parish Communion

**Sun 11th: Sunday before Lent** - 11am Morning Prayer

**Wed 14th: Ash Wednesday** - 7.30pm Penitential Service

**Sun 18th: Second Sunday in Lent** - 11am Informal Service with

Baptism

**Sun 25th: Second Sunday in Lent** - 11am Morning Prayer

**Mid Week Service** - First and Third Thursdays at 3.00pm



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### **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, Organist Daniel 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,**

Very many thanks to all who helped make the church so beautiful for our harvest services; special thanks to the children from Blythefield Primary School for their art work. As part of the harvest celebrations a McMillan coffee morning was held in church which raised £575.00.

Now we begin our preparations for Christmas. It is hard to avoid all the razzmatazz which increasingly surrounds this time of year. Easy to forget that it is a celebration of the most amazing and world-changing event in history.

God himself took on flesh and came into the world to share our humanity and show us God's love. The Christmas Gospel spells it out clearly: *And Christ became a human being and lived here on earth among us and was full of loving forgiveness and truth. John 1:14*

This magazine comes with a copy of the Daily Bible Reading Guide prepared each year by Bible Society. If you don't do so already, perhaps you could begin the New Year with a fresh determination to read a portion of scripture each day and discover for yourself the reality of the verse: *Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path. Ps.119:105*

I enjoy all the Christmas lights decorating homes and buildings at this time of year - they are a wonderful reminder of that enduring truth – Jesus is the Light of the World.

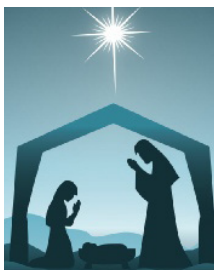
*Jesus said: 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' John 8:12*

May you know His Light, His Peace and His Joy during this Christmas season and in the year to come.

Warm greetings in Christ. *Revd Bobbie*



## **CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS IN DECEMBER**



**Sunday 3rd - 6.30 pm Christmas Lights switch-on at Church  
7pm Christmas Music and Readings with the Route Singers**

**Wednesday 13th - 6.30pm Christmas Celebration for all the Family  
organised by Sandy Row Church Together**

**Sunday 17th: 11am Parish Nativity, 6.30pm Carols by Candlelight**

**Christmas Day: 11am Christmas Family Celebration with Communion**



# ST AIDAN'S GIRLS BRIGADE



## WHAT'S HAPPENING AT GB?

GB recommenced on Friday 8th September and it was great to see so many girls returning together with quite a few new members. The number of girls in the younger sections is really encouraging but unfortunately our older section membership has reduced. We are always hopeful of new girls coming through the door and hopefully as girls get older these numbers will increase again.

Girls have enjoyed nights of craft, fun and games and bible stories. Explorers did a great job making a wall poster as part of their theme Jesus and the water. Their moving jelly fish were very impressive as were the moving Jonah and Whale craft that the Tiny-tots made.

Juniors have been in the kitchen baking and making a number of crafts including a night where we had an Artist, Sarah Jane, come to the hall and make hedgehogs with Explorers and Juniors taking in local nature.

September was a quiet month although the Brigaders and Officers spent some time at Culture Night held in Belfast City Centre.

We attended our Annual District Harvest Service held in Mountpottinger Methodist Church on Sunday 1st October. The girls were very generous in their gifts at this service which were donated to South Belfast Food Bank and Storehouse.

We held a Pyjama Party and Cinema night for the entire company before we stopped for Halloween break. The girls watched Minions the movie and had popcorn and juice along with a number of other spooky treats.

Juniors had a night out in October visiting a local Police Station. The officers were very friendly and welcoming towards us and even had a special surprise organised for the girls, taking them to the dog handling centre in Lisburn. You can see some photos of the night. We are planning to visit a local Fire Station soon.

All sections continue to include various physical exercise in their programme each week. Company section girls have commenced their Bible Study programme with the theme being "Who is Jesus". Thanks again to Bobbie and Amy for taking the girls.

Explorers were practicing hard at their verse speaking to compete in our District competition on Saturday 11th November in Finaghy Methodist Church Hall. The girls did really well to be placed 2nd in their competition. Congratulations, well done Explorers. Thank you to Margaret once again for teaching the girls their poem.

Sunday 26th November 2017 is the date for our Annual Enrolment Service at 11 am and we would hope that all the girls would attend as this is a special day for the girls and in the life of Girls Brigade a very important day.

**IMPORTANT DATES:** Friday 8th December - Christmas Party Night – details to follow.  
Friday 27th April 2018 - Friends & Family Evening @ 7.30 pm

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

## ST. AIDAN'S MOTHERS' UNION

### **Advent**

Waiting and anticipating: We're at a time of year when Advent is nearly upon us and this time of waiting is central to the season. The time between His first and second coming is a time of hope and purpose. We read in Isaiah in Isaiah 9:2. The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.

An Advent prayer from the MU Diary: We pray for our members who work in places where there is darkness, that the light of Christ will help and sustain them. May they be filled with fresh hope this Advent, as they contemplate the coming of our Messiah.

### **Christmas**

Looking forward to Christmas we have the Nine Lessons and Carol's Service, in St. Simon's Parish Church on 14th December at 7.30pm. The members are having their Christmas Outing to - Dinner at 'Action Bro's' Olio on Saturday 16th December at 4 o' clock, followed by a visit to the pantomime in the Grand Opera House.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their attendance each month at branch level and also Area level over this past year. May this Christmas be to all of us, a time of worship and blessing.

### **The Theme: for 2018 ' Mary Sumner's Footsteps'**

The January meeting will be on Thursday 18th in the Parish Hall at 8pm. MU Service at beginning of the year will be Sunday 21st January 2018 in the Church at 11am.

The next meeting will be the 15th February at 8pm in the church hall. Happy Christmas and God's blessing to you all this coming New Year. Many Thanks. *Barbara Bowden.*











## **CHILDREN'S CHURCH** **NOVEMBER & DECEMBER** **2017**

We are going to have an exciting time in The Christmas Season. The children and members of our congregation are putting on a nativity play, which of course will follow the traditional story but watch out for the donkey. He has great ideas about himself. This will take place on Sunday 17th December during Morning Service. We also hope to create a nativity scene, as well as making decorations for our massive Christmas Tree.

We always need and value your prayers and support.

*Barbara, Dorothy, Gladys and Lynn.*

### **CRAFT GROUP**

Jaki Polly and her Craft group met on 31st October to create some Christmas Crafts. We look forward to seeing some of it in the church. **Don't forget to pass on any ideas you have to a member of the Relevant to All Ages Team.**

### **MESSY CHURCH**

In December we are looking forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus and sharing a Christmas dinner together.

**Our dates for the coming months are**  
**December 8th 4 – 6pm Christmas Dinner**  
**January 12th 4 – 6pm**  
**February 9th 4 – 6pm**

Many thanks to all who have supported Messy Church throughout the year. It has been wonderful to continue to meet and develop friendships with all the families involved.

Happy Christmas to all and a very Peaceful New Year. Alison.

## **RELEVANT TO ALL AGES**

The Relevant To All Ages Team consists of Alison Shaw, Alice Redpath, Dorothy, Margaret, Arlene, Brenda and Jaki, with of course, help from many people who support our efforts. On Wednesday the 15th of November we held a Tribute to Vera Lynn Evening, with a Wartime Song Singalong. It was well supported by the local community and everyone who attended really enjoyed the show. A light supper was served and everyone left with lifted spirits after singing the memorable wartime songs.

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **Christmas Light Switch On**

**Sunday 3rd December at 6.30**

#### **Games Night**

**Saturday 20th January at 6.30**

#### **St. Patrick's Barn Dance**

**Wednesday 14th March at 7.30**

### **ST. AIDAN'S BOWLING CLUB**

The Bowling Club has seen a decline in members over this last year but we continue to meet in the church hall each Monday evening at 7.30pm.

If you are willing to try something different over these dark winter evenings, we would be glad to have you join us. If you would like to give it a try come along and join us in a friendly game of bowls followed by a welcome cup of tea. It's a great way of doing gentle exercise and enjoying a bit of craic at the same time. All ages welcome. THE Christmas Season will soon be upon us. I'd like to thank all the members for their commitment to the Bowling Club and wish them a Blessed Christmas with their family and friends and a very Happy and Prosperous New Year  
GOD BLESS - *Gladys*





## **A LETTER FROM JESUS**

If you look for me at Christmas you won't need a special star,  
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right there where you are,  
You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations,  
You'll have to look beyond the stores and all the decorations,  
But if you take a moment from your lists of things to do  
And listen to your heart, you'll find, I'm waiting there for you.  
You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came,  
And you'll find me in the stillness as I'm whispering your name  
*Love Jesus.*

## **THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS**

In today's day and time, It's easy to lose sight,  
Of the true meaning of Christmas and one special night.  
When we go shopping, we say, how much will it cost,  
Then the true meaning of Christmas somehow becomes lost.  
Amidst the tinsel, glitter and ribbons of gold,  
We forget about the child born on the night so cold.  
The children look for Santa in his big red sleigh,  
Never thinking of the child whose bed was made of hay.  
In reality, when we look into the night sky,  
We don't see a sleigh, but a star burning bright and high.  
A faithful reminder, of that night so long ago  
And of the child we call Jesus,  
Whose Love The World Would Know.  
*Brian K. Walters*

## **Just a little Donkey**

Just a little Donkey  
But on my back I bore,  
The One and Only Saviour  
The World was waiting for.

Just a little Donkey  
But I was strong and proud,  
I gladly carried Mary  
Through the chaos of the crowd.

I brought her to a stable  
Where she made a tiny bed,  
A place for Baby Jesus  
To lay his little head.

I Pray the World Remembers  
That Special Christmas Night,  
When Just a Little Donkey  
Carried Heavens Precious Light.

**Rita S. Beer.**

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## **SOUTH BELFAST FOODBANK**

<http://bit.ly/2z6DejF>

This is the link if anyone would have time to help with the food collection in Tesco Superstore off the Knock Dual Carriageway. This is one of two major food collections during the year. There is no heavy lifting, as it is simply a case of giving out leaflets and thanking people, as they place food into trolleys. It can be cold so wear good warm clothes and of course a woolly hat. Your help is not only necessary but much appreciated. Thanks to both congregation and Girls' Brigade for the recent harvest food collection. *Dorothy*

## A Word From Canon Ken



I was in a well known supermarket the other day and noticed a large crowd that seemed to be gathering around the check-out area.

I wondered if there had been some kind of ‘incident’ – an attempted robbery perhaps, someone taken ill, or a fight? No, it was too quiet.

I confess I was curious and so, it seemed, was everyone else as shoppers began moving quickly towards the tills! Rumours were

spreading rapidly and at least one of these convinced me I should perhaps identify myself as a clergyman. Maybe someone had collapsed - even died.

So, I squeezed through the crowds – some of whom were now filming on their mobiles.

There certainly was a buzz growing! When I got to where all the attention was focussed I discovered the nature of the tragedy. The computers had closed down and none of the tills would process payment by debit or credit cards. Only those paying for their groceries in cash were being checked out – but you’ve probably guessed it – very few people had real money! However the crowd was still gathering, people were still filming the chaos on their phones and the staff seemed powerless to detract the crowd’s attention from their embarrassing predicament!

As I made my way back to my car (without my groceries – can’t get much for £1.65!) it occurred to me that I had never before witnessed so much interest in nothing!

So, I wondered, how come WE have GOOD NEWS and most people are not interested? Maybe the first thing we need to do is TELL it. This Christmas we could start by talking about Jesus in our homes, in work, in the shops we visit, amongst our friends and neighbours – create a buzz; a buzz with Jesus at its heart.

*Ken McReynolds*

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### **Bible Study Group**

New Six Week Session during Lent

Every Wednesday 7.30-9pm

Beginning with a service in Church on Ash Wednesday 14 February

## PARISH REGISTER

### Funerals:

Herbie Sproule – 12th October 2017

## 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.

Please ensure that all articles for Spring magazine reach Liz Adair / Margaret Close by the 9th February. Thank you

# Flower Rota

## December

3rd - Mrs M McBride & McAllister Family

10th - Mrs M. Griffin

17th - The Coote Family

24th - The Hill Family & The Mothers Union-

## January

7th - Mrs. M. Close

14th -----

21st - The Mercer Family

28th - The Crawford Family

## February

4th - Mrs. M. McBride

11th - The Hill Family

18th - Mrs. N. Baillie

25th -----



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

**Assistant Minister: Canon Ken McReynolds**

**Parish Reader: Mr John Collins BSc.**

**Community Outreach Worker: Mrs Alison Shaw**

07547030451

**Organist: Daniel Clements**

**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 2017 – 2018**

**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 G Hollywood**

**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