

# St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Spring 2017

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

13 Maundy Thursday Communion in St Aidans

14 6.15pm Good Friday Focus on the Cross with GB in St Aidans

Good Friday Meditation in Donegall Rd Methodist

15 Easter Eve Vigil in St Simons

16 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](http://www.staidan.connor.anglican.org)

## SERVICE TIMES March - May

### MARCH

- 1 7.30pm Ash Wednesday Penitential Service
- 2 3pm Thursday @ 3
- 5 11am Lent 1: Parish Communion
- 9 7.30pm Thursday Lent Service
- 12 11am Lent 2: Morning Prayer
- 16 3pm Thursday @ 3, 7.30 Thursday Lent Service
- 19 11am Lent 3: Family Service
- 23 7.30 122nd Anniversary Service
- 26 11am Lent 4: Mothering Sunday
- 29 7.30pm Wednesday Lent Service in Lisburn Cathedral)

### APRIL

- 2 11am Lent 5: Parish Communion
- 6 3pm Thursday @ 3, 7.30pm Thursday Lent Service
- 9 11am Palm Sunday Family Service
- 13 7.30pm Maundy Thursday HC Communion St Aidans
- 14 6.15 Good Friday Service with GB St Aidans  
7.30pm Good Friday Meditation in Donegall Rd Methodist
- 15 7.30pm Easter Eve Vigil in St Simons
- 16 11am Easter Communion Celebration St Aidan's
- 23 11am Easter 2: Morning Prayer
- 30 11am Easter 3: Fifth Sunday Special Service  
7pm Service for Healing and Wholeness in St Simons

### MAY

- 4 3pm Thursday @ 3
- 7 11am Easter 4: Parish Communion
- 14 11am Easter 5: Morning Prayer



- 18 3pm Thursday @ 3
- 21 11am Easter 6: Family Service
- 28 11am Easter 7: Morning  
Prayer with baptism

## 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,

How good it is to come from the dark winter months and into the light and new life of spring time. This movement from darkness to life vividly illustrates the events of the death and resurrection of Jesus - the darkness of the crucifixion on Good Friday giving way to the light and new life of the resurrection on Easter Sunday. And we make that journey through the six weeks of Lent - a season of re-turning to God for healing and reconciliation. A sombre time as we acknowledge that we are a sinful people in need of God's forgiveness and healing. People often give up chocolate or sweets or maybe watching a favourite TV programme as part of their Lenten discipline - but perhaps a better response is to give up some time, time to reflect and pray. There will be an opportunity to do just that in church. During Lent there will be a mid-week service beginning on Ash Wednesday and then each Thursday evening at 7.30pm. We will take the story of Joseph as a theme - there is so much to learn from his experience of life!



The parish mission statement which we launched last October 'To enable people to find a living faith in a loving God by serving Christ in the Community' requires team work - already a strong feature in our church family. However we are aware that there remains much to be done as we reach out into the community and I am delighted that Canon Ken McReynolds has accepted our invitation to join the ministry team. In his role as assistant minister Canon Ken will be visiting in the parish and joining us for occasional Sunday services. We extend a warm welcome to Canon Ken and his wife Dorothy and look forward to all they will bring to St Aidan's Church Family.

In his letter to the church in Corinth, the Apostle Paul writes: 'you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it'. (1 Cor. 12:27). That strong thread of team work - whether it be in cleaning the church, counting the money, helping in the thrift shop or with the tea rota, arranging flowers, involvement in the various organisations or Sunday Services - everyone offering their own particular skill, is an excellent example of Paul's body image.

*'Each person is given something to do that shows who God is: Everyone gets in on it, everyone benefits'. The way God designed our bodies is a model for understanding our lives together as a church: every part dependent on every other part, the parts we mention and the parts we don't, the parts we see and the parts we don't. If one part hurts, every other part is involved in the hurt, and in the healing. If one part flourishes, every other part enters into the exuberance'.  
(1 Cor.12:11,25-26 TM)*

Warm Greetings in Christ,  
Rev'd Bobbie.



[www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow](http://www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow)



# ST AIDAN'S GIRLS BRIGADE



## What has been happening at GB?

In our last report we mentioned younger girls going to "Christmas at Crawfordsburn". Thankfully we were blessed with pleasant weather which made the night more enjoyable. The evening provided the girls with a great variety of games, a night trail hearing the Christmas Story with the aid of torches, crafts, visit to see Baby Jesus in the stable and of course Santa's house where we all sang carols and each girl received a gift. The night finished off with a hot dog and drink before getting on the coach for our return journey. It was something different from other years and the girls really seemed to have a fun night as you can see from the photographs.

The older sections attended Pantomime at Stranmillis College "Red Riding Hood". Although it was a late night the girls and officers appeared to really enjoy it.

Unfortunately as in previous years we have to report that our numbers have dropped since returning after the Christmas break. Please remember the Officers as they continue to volunteer each week and strive to keep the girls interested.

Our Explorers were participating in the Northern Ireland Choral Speaking Competition on Saturday 25th February 2017 in Wallace High School, Lisburn. The support of parents and friends are greatly appreciated and encourage the girls as they are working hard each week to give their best performance under the good guidance of Margaret.

The Officers and girls in the company section will be attending the Good Friday service in church at 6.15pm. Please note that company will meet as normal the following week Friday 21st April. It is important to have all girls attend as this will be the last week of GB before our display.

Over the next few weeks the company section will be sitting their Bible Class exam, judging for awards will be held during March. All sections are starting to prepare for our display to be held on Friday 28th April 2017 at 7.30pm in the church hall, the officers and girls would again appreciate your support.

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday 17th March - St Patrick's Day. There will be no GB.**

**Friday 14th Good Friday - Service in Church 6.15pm**

**Friday 28th April - 7.30pm – Annual GB Display**

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

**THANK YOU  
THE OFFICERS**

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

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

The members are focusing on the MU theme: **'Faith in Action'**

On **Wednesday the 1st of March** we as a church begin the season of Lent.

As members we look to the Mothers Union Prayer Diary.

Where our habits reflect our sin and not your love, forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. As he who knew no sin became sin for us, it's never too late to say "sorry" and move on.

A prayer from the wave of prayer: Jesus, Lord of life, by the power of your word and through your actions of Love, call us to be your disciples.

**GIVE US STRENGTH** to be different, to **STAND UP FOR JUSTICE** and **PEACE** and be signs of your reconciling **LOVE** for all. Amen.

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 Sandy Row Methodist Church on Friday 3rd March at 7.30pm. The theme for the

service is: **AM I BEING UNFAIR TO YOU?**

Which has been prepared by the Christian women of the Philippines.

**Sunday 26th 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.

The **March** meeting will be held in the Jamison Room on the 16th at 8pm.

In **April** we begin with the MU Festival in St Anne's Cathedral at 3.30pm

Lady Eames will address the members in this **130th Anniversary Year** on Sunday 2nd April 2017.

Mothers Union members are asked to attend the Maunday Thursday Service 13th April and the Good Friday Service 14th April to be held in the Church. There is to be no branch evening on the 27th.

In **May** MU Area are planning an outing, details will be given later.

Many thanks from Barbara Bowden

## Messy Church

### DATES FOR THE DIARY

*Messy Church will meet in the Church Hall on:-*

**Fri. 10th March 4-6pm**

**Fri. 14th April 4-6pm**

**Fri. 12th May 4-6pm**

Many Thanks. *Alison Shaw*



### CHILDREN'S CHURCH MARCH / APRIL / MAY

Children's Church is doing well. We have our faithful group of children who are regular attenders and also some children who come as often as they can. On a good day, with everyone there, we have had attendance in double figures.

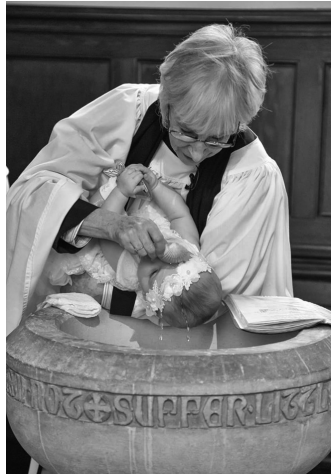
Thank you to all who support us with their children/grandchildren, and to all those who pray for us.

*Barbara, Gladys, Lynn and Dorothy.*









## St Aidan's Activities & Events



## Valentine's

The flowers, candy, red hearts and romance are out of sight for another year on the passing of St. Valentine's Day, that's what we have come to believe, that's what it's all about, right, well maybe not. The origin of this holiday for the expression of love isn't romantic at all - at least not in the traditional sense.

Valentine was a Roman Priest at a time when Emperor Claudius persecuted the Church. Claudius had an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. This was based on the hypothesis that unmarried soldiers fought better than married soldiers because married soldiers might be afraid of what might happen to their wives or families if they should die. Bear in mind that it was a very permissive society in which Valentine lived. Polygamy would have been much more popular than just one woman and one man living together. Yet some of them were attracted to the Christian Faith.

Obviously the Church thought that marriage was very sacred between one man and one woman for life and that it was to be encouraged.

The idea of encouraging couples to marry within the Christian Church was what Valentine was about and he secretly married them because of the edict from Claudius.

Valentine was eventually caught, imprisoned and tortured for performing marriage ceremonies against the command of Emperor Claudius the second.

There are legends surrounding Valentine's actions while in prison. One of the men who was to judge him in line with Roman Law was a man called Asterius whose daughter was blind. Valentine supposedly prayed with and healed the young girl with such astonishing effect that Asterius himself became a Christian as a result.

Valentine was sent to a three part execution of a beating, stoning and finally a decapitation all because of his stand on Christian marriage. The story goes that the last words he wrote were in a note to the daughter of Asterius. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it "from your Valentine."

There comes a time when you have to lay your life on the line for what you believe and with the power of the Holy Spirit we can do that - even to the point of death.

Valentine's martyrdom has not gone un-noticed by the general public. In fact Whitefriars Street Church Dublin is one of three churches that claim to house the remains of Valentine.

Today many people make the pilgrimage to the church to honour the courage and memory of this Christian Saint. St. Valentine has become to be known as the patron Saint of Lovers.

*(Taken from an article by Father Frank O'Gara. Whitefriars Street. Church Dublin)*

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## WHY GOD MADE MUMS (Answers given by primary school children 6-10yrs)

### Why did God make Mothers?

- She's the only one who knows where the sellotape is
- Mostly to clean the house.

### How did God make Mothers?

- He used dirt just like for the rest of us
- God made my mum just the same like he made me, he just used bigger parts.



## **What ingredients are Mothers made of?**

- God made mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
- They had to get their start from men's bones, then they mostly use string I think.

## **Why did God give you your Mother and not some other Mum?**

- We're related
  - God knew she liked me a lot more than other people's mums like me.
- 

### **Joseph**

By the time you read this our production of Joseph will be over. We have had such fun working on this with a faithful band of cast, who have given their very best to make this a success. Margaret Close has been tireless in her desire to make the production and the cast achieve as near to perfect as possible. I do really hope that we will have had a good turnout on Sunday 26th and that all will have enjoyed our production of Joseph and His Amazing Technicolour Dream Coat. Thanks to all who support us in so many ways. Dorothy

### **Relevant To All Ages**

We have been having a great time trying to find ways to engage with our church community and the wider neighbourhood community. The Relevant To All Ages Team consists of Alison, Dorothy, Margaret, Arlene, Brenda and Jaki, with of course, help from many people who support our efforts. We have had two Big Breakfasts which were well attended. Thanks not only to our usual breakfasters but also to the Ranger's Supporters, who joined us on Saturday 4th February. Rangers Club on Donegall Road also donated bread as well as the visitors. A lot of hard work for all who served, and washed dishes. Thanks to Eddie Gill for cooking up a treat.

We also had a brilliant Burns Night with Line Dancing led by Muriel Robinson from Missouri Line Dancers, Supper and an address to the Haggis delivered in fine style by Bobbie Griffin.

### **Future Plans**

We are planning another Big Breakfast on Saturday 8th April 10.00 till 12.00 and a History evening in May. More details later.

### **Food Bank**

We support the Foodbank, which operates out of Friendship House every Thursday afternoon between two and four. Alison Shaw, our Outreach Worker, helps with this and they are most grateful for our contribution. In a recent communication from Brenda Johnston Coordinator of South Belfast

Food bank, she has advised that the list of items needed remains the same. She is also asking support for a Lenten appeal. Whereby supporters of the Foodbank put aside 40p per day for the forty days of Lent, which raises nearly £20 per person with the addition of Gift Aid. Please see poster on display in church.

### **Big Breakfast**

St. Mary Magdalene are having a Big Breakfast on Saturday morning 13th May between 10.00 & 12.00. If you are going into town and fancy filling up before you go, head down the Pass for a Big Fry Up. You will be made most welcome.

## MESSY CHURCH



Merry church enjoyed their third Christmas together in December. We were delighted to have a puppet show from Jill Hamilton and Karen Webb. The families were enthralled by the entertaining and thoughtful presentation. We then had a delicious festive meal together.

We continued to meet in January and February and were very glad to welcome a team of four young people from Canada who were working in the area for four weeks. We focused on the story of Joseph in preparation for the Joseph evening in the church. Looking forward for the next few months we plan to meet on on Friday 10th March 4-6pm.

As always any newcomers are very welcome to join us in our very relaxed gathering.

## BOWLS



The Bowls will be meeting as usual on Monday 10th April. We also ask members to attend the Good Friday Service in Church on the 14th. See you there. *Gladys.*

## LENTEN SERVICES

Lenten Services on Thursdays at 7.30 Beginning with service on Ash Wednesday 1st March.

## MOTHERING SUNDAY

*For Mothering Sunday 26th March*

### Pal of my Cradle Days

What a friend, what a pal, only now I can see

How you dreamed and you planned all for me

I never knew what a mother goes through

There's nothing that you didn't do

*Chorus*

Pal of my cradle days, I've needed you always

Since I was a baby upon your knee

You sacrificed everything for me

I stole the gold from your hair

I put the silver threads there

I don't know anyway I could ever repay

Pal of my cradle days

Greatest friend, dearest pal

It was me who caused you  
Every sorrow and heartache  
you knew

Your face so fair I have  
wrinkled with care

I placed every line that is  
there.

*Chorus (repeat)*



## COME AND WORSHIP FIRST AND THIRD THURSDAYS @ THREE

**MAR 2ND & 16TH  
APR 6TH  
MAY 4TH & 18TH**

**FOLLOWED BY  
REFRESHMENTS**

## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

Louis Marshall Pilkington on 11th December  
Mia Rose Pilkington - 11th December 2016  
Jovie Curry - 15th January 2017

### FUNERALS

Ellen Taft - 22nd October 2016  
Eileen Clelland - 2nd December 2016  
Mark James Whittley - 6th December 2016  
Thomas Willils - 8th December 2016  
Stewart Armstrong - 3rd January 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 any funeral service.

Finance: Details of Freewill Offering  
Envelopes, Gift Aid and Parish Financial

## Flower Rota

### March

5th.....  
12th Mrs. W. Campbell  
19th The Mackey & Leith Families  
26th Mrs. D. Hamill

### April

2nd Mrs. M. Hoy  
9th Mrs. S. Sloan  
16th The Hilditch Family  
23th Mrs. B. Weir

### May

7th Mrs. I. Pritchard  
14th Mrs. G. Hollywood &  
Mrs. B. Bowden  
21st.....  
28th Mrs. E. Williamson

Report are all available on request.

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.**

**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 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