

The image shows the interior of a church, looking towards the altar. The ceiling is a large, dark wooden dome with radial beams. The walls are white with three large, arched stained glass windows in the center, each depicting a different figure. Below the windows is a wooden altar with a vase of yellow and white flowers. To the left and right of the altar are wooden pulpits and a large silver chalice. The foreground shows the wooden railings of the pews.

*St. Aidan's Parish Magazine*  
*120 year Anniversary Edition*

*March, April, May 2015*

*Serving Christ in the  
community since 1895*

## OUR WORSHIP FOR MARCH – MAY 2015

11am each Sunday Morning with Children's Church  
1st Sunday Holy Communion  
2nd and 4th Sundays Morning Prayer  
3rd Sunday Informal Family Service  
**Monday 23 March 7.30pm**  
**120th Anniversary Service**  
Sunday 29th March 11.00a.m.  
Special Service for Palm Sunday  
7.00pm - Service of Healing and Wholeness.

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## 2-5 APRIL HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICE ARRANGEMENTS

MAUNDY THURSDAY: 7.30pm HOLY COMMUNION  
ST SIMON'S  
GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION: 7.30pm ST AIDAN'S  
EASTER EVE VIGIL: 7.30pm  
DONEGALL ROAD METHODIST  
EASTER SUNDAY CELEBRATION: 11AM ST AIDAN'S

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## DAILY PRAYER POINTS - PUSH (Pray Until Something Happens!)

A suggested pattern for prayer during the week. Please use the magazine and 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, Ellie 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 Friends,

Welcome to this special souvenir edition of the parish magazine to celebrate St Aidan's 120th Anniversary. As you turn the pages, you will be taken back to those early years when St Aidan's was a hub of activity with large Sunday congregations, huge Sunday Schools and numerous week-night activities all fuelled by a passionate desire to share the Good News of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Fast forward to today and although numbers are much reduced, there is still that hub of activity fuelled by the same passionate desire.



We have much to learn from the past which we celebrate - but the content of this magazine also gives a picture of the present and our vision for the future. Life within the parish boundary may be different in many respects but the challenges of daily life are not so very different. People still struggle to find meaning and hope as they cope with unemployment, illness, grief or broken relationships.

The Church's role is unchanging - to bear witness to the hope which we find in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, to be his hands and feet reaching out in love to those in need.

St Aidan's holds a special place in the lives of people in the local community. I hear many memories of childhood experiences in Sunday School and other organisations. A new generation is now making its own memories - the church hall is a hive of activity on Friday evenings for GB and once a month for Messy Church, Mothers' Union, Bowls and the Bible Study group all provide opportunities to share and grow together. The Mission Team meets regularly to pray and explore ways of engaging with the community. The Thrift Shop has been providing a service to the community for many years and recently we have partnered with South Belfast Community Food Bank.

Our church building has recently been updated to provide a disabled toilet, tea point and most exciting of all, a beautiful new room. Originally home for organ pipes, this space has now been brought into the light of day and will be an excellent resource for various activities, principally on Sunday mornings for the young people in Children's Church. Most importantly these changes in no way detract from St Aidan's beautiful, spacious interior.

We are so grateful for the legacy of the past, but as we look to the future, we keep before us the text on our new banner.

*Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will direct your path.*

Warm greetings in Christ,  
Revd. Bobbie.

*Proverbs 3:5,6*



## **ST. AIDAN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL 1893 TO PRESENT DAY 2015**

St Aidan's Sunday School began its life in Hilland Street (Hunter Street) and Eureka Street and moved to the Church Hall when it was completed in October 1898.

### **SNIPPETS FROM THE PAST**

(extract from *St Aidan's Parish magazine 1886*)

In February 1896 it was recorded that 60 children were attending one of the Sunday Schools in Eureka Street. In July 1896, 900

children, parents and teachers went to Warrenpoint by train.

They were led by a band and walked to the train through the streets of Belfast.

They carried flags and banners. What a sight that must have been!

In September 1896 £20 was required from parishioners to support the work of the Sunday School for the next year and it was stated that there were close to 100 teachers and 1000 children.

### **PERSONAL MEMORIES.**

Gladys McWilliams was a Sunday School teacher we met in the Church Hall, Jim Pritchard was the Superintendent and teachers took their own group. There was a large youth club with a waiting list to get in. Sunday School excursions went to Groomspoint and Portrush. On the bus journey Mr. Bobby Walsh sang Bluebells are Bluebells and We're Here Because We're Here, Because We're Here, ( a memory not ever to be forgotten ) I taught Thomas Black in Sunday School. His mum Valerie Black, taught my children, Thomas and Jill Black formed the Oasis Youth Club, which included my children and others. Roberta Vance and Barbara Leith, as she then was, led the Sunday School.

### **PRESENT DAY**

Of course things have changed over the years and speaking personally, numbers have dropped substantially from those heady days, when there was not enough room to accommodate all the children and teachers.

Due to a succession of faithful leaders, teachers, supportive parents, grandparents and of course children, St Aidan's Sunday School, now referred to as Children's Church, is still alive and doing well.

We may not have quantity but we most certainly have quality and we have hope.

There are quite a few babies in church and we are hopeful that in the fullness of time they will be joining us.

We don't have a leader as such any more, Gladys, Barbara and I have an on going democracy, which works for us.

### **THANKS**

To all the parents and grandparents, who have supported us and continue to do so.

For the support of The Thrift Shop. For the support and prayers of the entire church family.

We enjoy teaching the children we have and look forward to the future..

*Barbara, Gladys and Dorothy.*

## WHAT IS MESSY CHURCH?

This is a time for families to get together in a very informal, relaxed atmosphere. We have been meeting monthly on a Friday afternoon since December 2013



Our afternoon *starts at 4pm* with a time to

**CHILL** - we relax over some refreshments

*At 4.20 we*

**CREATE** - this is when we have fun with craft activities

*At 4.45 we*

**CELEBRATE** - with a story and songs

*Finally at 5.00 we*

**CHEW** - enjoying a great meal together

Since we started we have covered topics such as

“God’s love for us”, on Valentine’s Day, the stories of Jonah, David and Goliath, The Wise Man and The Foolish Man. We have also celebrated Easter and Christmas together - December 2014 was a great gathering when we enjoyed our first birthday with a delicious Christmas dinner.

The team that organise Messy Church is a wonderful combination of parishioners from St Aidan’s, staff from Friendship House, the family worker from Sandy Row Methodist Church and the parent’s support worker from Blythefield Primary School.

Our aim is to make people aware of God’s love for them through simple acts of kindness and by being welcoming and gracious hosts to all who choose to be with us. “God has no favourites. It makes no difference who you are or where you’re from... The door is open” *Acts 10*

We delight in the privilege of being part of this!

*Alison Shaw (Family Worker)*

## ST. AIDAN'S PARISH GIRLS' BRIGADE COMPANY

The 56th NI Company, (formerly known as the 29th) St Aidan's Parish, has been part of the life of the parish since its formation in 1949. The Girls Brigade was formed by the serving Rector's wife Mrs. A. Noble and Mrs. I. McIlroy, who in later years became our company President.



Over the course of its 65 years the company has provided a positive Christian mission to numerous girls in the area, and from further afield, who have gone through its ranks. As a company, the message of Christ has been at the core of our programme and we have sought to challenge, inspire and develop girls of all ages through a wide and varied range of activities, camps and outings as well as participation in many competitions and events. This includes the Ulster '71 Festival, Belfast Lord Mayor's Shows and the GBNI 2000 Millennium Show at the Waterfront Hall to name but a few.

Over the years the company has enjoyed success in choir and choral speaking competitions at District and National level, but it is probably of PE that many members, particularly those who were in the company in its "PE heyday", will have fond memories. The company was fortunate to have had an excellent pianist in Mrs. Edna White, who with her musical skills combined with

the excellent training of the girls, led to the many successes in competitions. Especially memorable was our 21st anniversary year when the company won a total of 9 Northern Ireland and All Ireland PE Championships.

We have been fortunate to have had the benefit of enthusiastic and committed leadership from past captains, our founding Captain Mrs A Noble, followed by Miss Ruby Mackey, Mrs Sally Carson, and Mrs Margaret Close. Also our past Presidents, Mrs. Helena Wallace, Mrs. Isobel McIlroy, Mrs. Lottie Shields and presently Mrs. Margaret Close.

We have also had many officers and leaders who have contributed their time and talents over the years, including those who continue to do so today. Of course, the Company has, like the church itself, faced its share of challenges through the often turbulent days of "The Troubles" and the re-development of Sandy Row, Donegall Pass and the lower Donegall Road, which saw our numbers drastically reduced.

It was largely due to the dedication of our former Captain, now Company President, Mrs Margaret Close and the officers and leaders during this period of challenge and change, that St Aidan's 56th N.I. is still going strong as a witness for Christ among girls in this area.

As we celebrate the past and the role that St Aidan's GB has played in this parish, we thank God for his blessings and we look to Him to help us continue to be a positive influence for girls in our local community.

The company meets on Friday nights from September to April and all girls from age 3 up are welcome. Our annual display is on Friday 17th April.









## ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH CHOIR.

St. Aidan's Church was always richly blessed with a large choir. The membership consisted of male and female and at one time they sang in four part harmony, soprano, alto, tenor and bass. The choir pews were always full to capacity and the choir had a very high standard of music. On many occasions their music was complimented by numerous visitors to the church services. It became a "Robed Choir" in May 1964. Choir practices took place in the church every Wednesday night.

Although a mixed choir there was always great fellowship at these practices which were "opened and closed" with prayer.



Down through the years our Church has been blessed with many talented Organists, to name but a few: Mr. Alex Hall, Mr. Mervyn Dunn, Mr. Michael Franklin (who came to us from Londonderry Cathedral and served in the Parish for 19 years). Mr. Adrian Posten (who came to us from St. Patrick's Ballymena), Mr. Howard McKeown, Miss Amy Boyce and presently Mrs. Ellie Leckey.

Many people have passed through the "Choir Pews" over the years but it has always been the aim of all the Organists / Choir Masters / Choir Mistresses to uphold the high standard of music attained by St. Aidan's Church Choir through the years.





**St Aidan's**  
Celebrating **120** years  
serving Christ in the community

*1895 - 2015*

Trust in the LORD with all  
your heart and lean not  
on your own understanding;  
in all your ways acknowledge him,  
and he will direct your path.

Proverbs 3:5,6



## ST. AIDAN'S, ITS ORIGINS AND PROGRESS

*(Extract from booklet of St Aidan's Parish)*

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. AIDAN'S lies in a district which a century ago was nothing but gardens, orchards and green fields. Pertaining to the Marquis of Donegall the whole area on that side of the present great and growing Metropolis of Ulster was leased to a sturdy and progressive tenantry, most of whom were identified with large and prosperous industrial or commercial enterprises in the town. These included the Thompsons of Fountainville, the Leggs of Malone, and the Templetons of Orange Grove, who were related to one another, also to the Stewarts of Ballydrain, and the Grimshaws of Ballygolan; one of whom, Conway a go-ahead merchant, with John and William Murphy, connections of his own, erected the Linfield Mill.

Orange Grove, the residence of the Templetons, was occupied in Revolution days by a family named Eccles, the head of which, a forbear of their own, entertained the Prince of Orange on his march to the Boyne, hence probably the name - Orange Grove. John Templeton, a scion of the same house, who passed away in 1825, at the age of four-score years, was a naturalist of world-wide fame.

At the beginning of the past century one of these Thompsons advertised a farm containing 10 acres, and embracing, according to a reliable authority, the properties now known as The Crescent, Fountainville and neighbouring district, which would include Sandy Row, and therefore the site of the present Church. It is in truth at present - about 1877, says Benn, "nearly, if not altogether, the most valuable ground in Belfast as a private quarter." Yet this farm was let in 1802 for £30 a year. Fruit Hill, Malone, also announced for sale at the same time containing 12 acres for £8 15s. a year. The yearly value of both places now would be beyond our power of estimating.

Prior to 1877 a large field spread in an unbroken expanse from the back of the Linen Hall to the edge of the Blackstaff, called M'Clean's field or fields. The part of it adjoining the Malone Road, and in a line with the five very large houses in Donegall Square North, was enclosed by a low brick wall; a turnstile in this wall served as an entrance to the ground which was crossed by a footway to the Malone Road. Thus we have presented to us a fairly clear view of the landscape on the east side of Sandy Row in the early part of the century that's gone. Open fields stretched almost without interruption to the brink of the Blackstaff. This stream in times of drought babbled beautiful and limpid, and in seasons of rain hurried along swollen and turgid, to flood, with waters carried from the mountain sides, low lying districts.

Evidence of the once rural character of St. Aidan's Parish was easily discernable when the Church Extension came and decided to commence their operations. All through the long years the site of the new Church unmistakably retained the appearance, if not entirely the outstanding features, of an orchard, and this enclosure must have been at one time as we have already indicated, on the Fountainville or Malone property. A considerable amount of building had been done in Sandy Row, but traces still lingered, here and there, pointing to a verdant past.

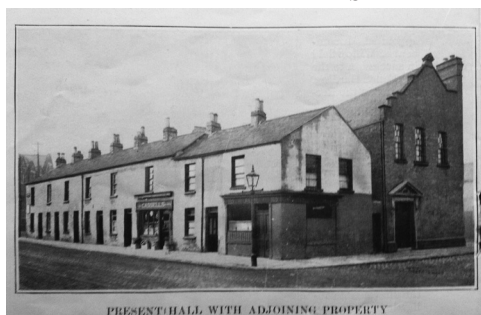
St. Aidan's Parish, curved out of St. Andrew's, came to be formed in an unexpected way. Inspired by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese, Bishop Welland, a movement was set on foot to bring the ministries of the Christian religion to the non church-going masses. One of the first places to receive attention was Sandy Row district. Among the distinguished laymen who acted on the Committee were - Messrs. J.T. Ward, W.R. Patterson, R.L. Hamilton, Thomas Browne, John Corbett, W.T. Coates. It was felt St. Andrew's was unequal to the task of meeting the spiritual needs of all belonging to the Church of Ireland who had congregated into the new streets which had sprung into existence in that area.

St. Thomas' congregation, rich, and missionary in spirit, saw an opportunity to advance the Redeemer's Kingdom, and so Mr. J.T. Ward, one of its members, and others, began most willingly to work.

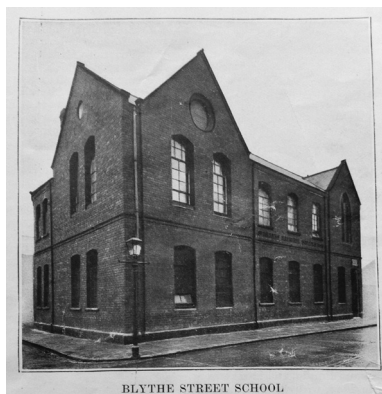
A simple Bible Class in a cottage home, 20 Utility Street, carried on by Mr. Ward through a long period of years, was the commencement of this effort. Afterwards this worthy citizen and earnest Christian gentleman, along with Mr. R Crawford of Malone Avenue, conducted an intensive Campaign in the Linfield Grounds. The Meetings, simple mission services, were held in a tent owned by Mr. Crawford. Mr. William Coates, a director of the Linfield Spinning & Weaving Co., gave them every possible encouragement in their labours, and eventually granted the use of Linfield Mill School, where the Meetings were continued. By this time the Rev. John Northridge, B.A., Curate of St. Thomas', had definitely become identified with the new movement, and had been conducting Open-Air Meetings in Sandy Row with marked success. Mr. Northridge, a man endowed with unusual gifts of leadership, combined with simple, earnest devotion



The Linfield Mill School



PRESENT HALL WITH ADJOINING PROPERTY



BLYTE STREET SCHOOL

to Jesus Christ, at once became the Inspiration and centre of the new enterprise. Under his guidance the work soon began to assume a permanent character. The first Services for Divine Worship were held in Linfield Mill School on Sunday, June 4th, 1893: 170 persons were present at the morning service, and 230 at the evening service. Thus commenced a work which has brought the blessing of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to a needy district and to hundreds of lives. The work proceeded with such abounding success that the Diocesan Council, by resolution on July 5th, 1893, decided upon the formation of a new Parish. This action was confirmed by the Representative Church Body a fortnight later, on July 19th, 1893, and the task of providing Church accommodation for the new congregation had to be faced.

The site for the intended Church was secured in Blythe Street. A beginning was made with the erection of the present Parochial Schools on the opposite side of that thoroughfare. These, hurriedly completed, were opened on April 16th, 1894. It is interesting to note that of the teachers who took up duty at the opening of this school, one has just recently retired, Miss L. Greene, from the position of Principal of Junior School which she had occupied with distinction and acceptance during all these years.

Miss Butler who also took up duty at the same time is still actively busy in the work of the school. The congregation used the new schools on Sundays for the purpose of public worship, and here the services became more inspiring and better attended than ever.

The congregation used the new schools on Sundays for the purpose of public worship and here the services became more inspiring and better attended than ever. The first annual meeting of the congregation was held in the schools on Friday evening, September 21st 1894.

Rev. J. Northridge presiding, accompanied on the platform by neighbouring clergymen and friends. On December 24th, 1894, Mr. Northridge was instituted by the Lord Bishop of the Diocese as first Incumbent of St. Aidan's Parish, a well deserved promotion.

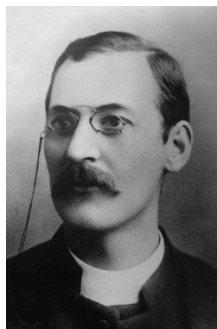
The erection of the New Church in Blythe Street was at this date well advanced.



The foundation stone was laid on Saturday, October 27th 1894, by the most Rev. Dr. Gregg, Lord Primate of All Ireland. The new church, built of brick in early English style, was planned to seat 750 - 800 worshippers, but the intention was to increase this accommodation.

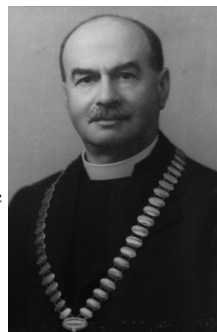
The estimated cost was £3000 and the greater portion of this sum had still to be raised. On Saturday, March 23rd, 1895, the New Church was dedicated.

## FORMER RECTORS WHO HAVE SERVED THE PARISH



Rev. John Northridge

Rev John Northridge (Rector 1895-1902)  
Without Rev Northridge, St Aidan's may not exist. A native of Dublin, Rev Northridge was curate in St Thomas' before beginning to form St Aidan's Parish in 1893. With the consecration of the Parish Church in 1895, he became the 1st Rector of the Parish before returning to Dublin. Rev Northridge died in 1910, visiting a parishioner who was ill, kneeling at their bedside.



Rev. S. J. Greer

Rev John H Douglas (Curate 189?-1902, Rector 1902-1905)

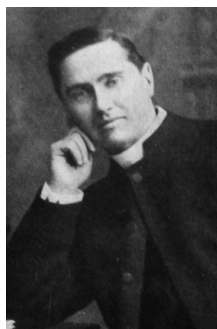
Rev Douglas was one of the early curates at St Aidan's while the Rev Northridge was Rector. At the age of 32, he became Rector of the Parish which was still less than 10 years old. Sadly, he died in 1905 at the age of 35. A brass plaque to his memory is present on the Nave Wall.



Rev. J. H. Douglas

Rev. Louis W Crooks (Rector 1911-1918)

Rev Crooks was Rector of St Aidan's during the call for Home Rule and the 1st World War, when many of the men of the parish joined the 36th Ulster Division. After his time in St Aidan's, he became Rector of Knock and was Chaplain to the Northern Ireland Parliament from 1930-1932. One of 2 brothers to enter the Ministry, his Nephew Samuel Crooks, would later become Dean of St Anne's Cathedral and the 1st Black Santa.



Rev. L. W. Crooks

Rev Samuel J. Greer (1922-1948)

Rev Greer is the longest serving clergyman to date in the parish of St Aidan's and possibly Sandy Row. During his time in the parish, Sandy Row will have suffered from the effects of the great Depression as well as the 2nd World War. A stain glass window to his memory is present within the Nave.

Rev Joseph M. Payne (Curate 1940-1943)

Rev Payne was curate during the later period of the Rev Greer. After serving in St Aidan's, like so many clergy during the 2nd World War years, he became a Chaplain to the Armed Forces before becoming a Chaplain to HM Queen Elizabeth from 1970-1972

1895-1902 Rev. John Northridge • 1902-1905 Rev. J. H. Douglas • 1905-1911 Rev. W. H. A. Lee  
1911-1918 Rev. L. W. Crooks • 1918-1922 Rev. J. C. Rutherford • 1922-1948 Rev. S. J. Greer  
1949-1961 Rev. Canon A. Noble • 1961-1969 Rev. F. C. Jameson • 1970-1979 Rev. Canon T. F. Callan  
1979-1986 Rev. G. N. Sproule • 1986-1989 Rev. R. J. Adams • 1990-1996 Rev. Canon W. R. Kelly  
1997-1999 Rev. R. Darmody • 2000-2005 Rev. P. Dundas • 2007-2013 Rev. T. P. Kerr



## GALLERY FOR THE CHURCH.

*(Extract from St Aidan's Parish magazine 1895)*

The Church is built to hold about 750 people and as we have about 700 present in the School-house on Sunday evenings (counting the children), it is felt that more room would be urgently needed from the very first. Accordingly, the Vestry has undertaken the erection of an end gallery which will provide about 100 additional sittings. This Gallery and the porch, in which will be the staircase leading to it, will cost £200. The porch will be suitable for the base of a bell tower, should we ever in the future be able to afford the luxury of erecting it, and providing a bell for the church. Of the £200 needed, £100 has been promised by one gentleman, as announced in the list of subscriptions last month and we hope that the other £100 will be contributed at the opening services.

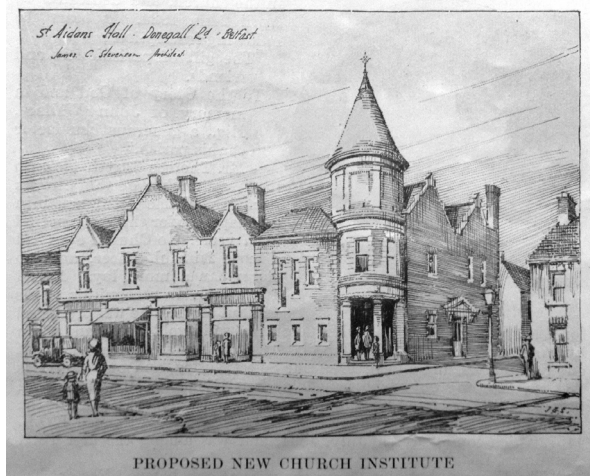
## DEDICATION OF THE CHURCH. 23RD MARCH, 1895.

The great event of the past month has been the Dedication and Opening of our new Church on Saturday, the 23rd March. The happy time when we would have a church of our own has been eagerly looked forward to by St. Aidan's people, and now, thank God, we have reached that joyful event. We know that this happy feeling of satisfaction was fully shared by our Bishop, who has always taken the deepest interest in the parish and that it is a great pleasure to him to see one of the four churches which he has planned to build in the city successfully completed.

The sermons at the Dedication Service and at the Opening Service on Sunday morning, were preached by Lord Plunket, Archbishop of Dublin, who came specially to Belfast for the purpose, and to his kindness we are greatly indebted. Notwithstanding the inclement weather on Saturday the Church was well filled with parishioners and friends, and most of all the Belfast clergy showed their sympathy by being present. At the Sunday afternoon special service the preacher was our true friend the Very Rev. the Dean of Connor and there was a fair congregation.

On Sunday evening the Very Rev. Dr. Archdall, Dean of Cork, preached to a splendid congregation of upwards of one thousand people and he certainly made good use of the opportunity of presenting the claims of Christ upon the hearts and lives of all present. His words made a deep impression upon many and we thank God for such a sermon on our opening day. We may say that the Church was greatly admired by all and the Archbishop and others considered it a wonderfully cheap building for £3,000. We have to thank kind friends for several valuable gifts presented to the Church; Mr. William Baird, Fortwilliam Park, for a carved oak pulpit; Mr. T. J. Raubb, for a carved oak prayer desk; Mr. J.T. Ward, Cherry-hill, for bible, prayer book, and service books and also for communion linen; St. Aidan's Young Women's Bible Class, for book-markers and brass inkstand for the vestry; Rector and Select Vestry of St. Thomas', for lectern and choir seats and communion rails; Rector and Select Vestry of St. James', for font.

The opening of the new Church marks a very important stage in our history as a Parish. We have every right to say with grateful hearts, "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us"; but we look for greater things in the days to come. The Church has been the subject of many prayers; may it prove a place of wondrous blessing.



## HISTORY OF ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH HALL.

St. Aidan's Church Hall started life as a Parish Mission Hall on the site of several houses at the corner of Eureka Street and Tierney Street in 1898. Mission Services, Sunday School and Bible Classes were provided for the benefit of the Community as they had been from the birth of the Parish in 1893.

The original Sunday School was in 20 Utility Street with Sunday Services being held in Old Linfield Mill School until the Church was ready (March 1895). Tent Missions were a regular feature of life from the earliest days of the Parish under the leadership of the Rev. J. Northridge, Rector.

Growing numbers necessitated the purchase of six houses and two shops adjoining the Mission Hall (Tierney Street) on the Donegall Road side. The building work was almost complete by March 1941 on what was to become known as St. Aidan's Institute.

The upper hall became known as the Greer Hall in appreciation of the leadership of the Rev. S. J. Greer, Rector, who with his colleagues continued to minister faithfully in the extension of Christ's Kingdom among all members of the community.

St. Aidan's Church Hall underwent a major refurbishment fifty years later and the Rev. Greer's daughter, Dr. Angela E. Greer was present to officially open the renovated St. Aidan's Church Hall on September 25th 1992.

## TOTAL ABSTINANCE LOL 1457



## ST. AIDAN'S CHURCH LAD'S BRIGADE.

St. Aidan's Church Lad's Brigade has been an important part in the history of St. Aidan's Church. Formed in February 1905, its first officers were Captain Magowan and Staff Sergeant, W. Chiplin who later became Captain. It has always maintained a record of good and useful service. During the Captaincy of David Martin the Pipe Band was organized under Band-Master Watson which secured for the Company, popularity far beyond the Parish. On two occasions they were specially invited to attend the English Church Congress at Norwich and Oxford. The band was also honoured with a request to be present at the opening of Liverpool Cathedral.

Our C.L.B. was one of the foremost Companies in the first Down, Connor and Dromore Battalion's. They would have won the Ritchie Shield on a number of occasions for Drill and P.E. The Company were very competitive and so too were their great rivals, St. Michael's C.L.B. on the Shankill Road.



*C.L.B. Members and Thomas Moore of the 36th Ulster Division*

and paraded as one big Battalion in front of King George V. in 1935 in celebration of the Monarch's Silver Jubilee.

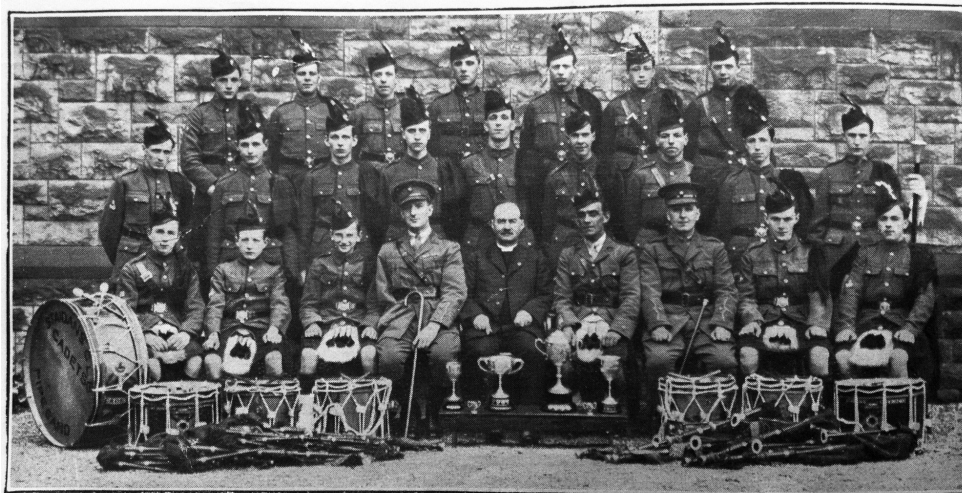
From St. Aidan's C.L.B. Pipe Band came the formation of The Robert Armstrong Memorial Pipe Band which grew into one of the outstanding Bands in Ireland winning 200 trophies throughout Ireland, Scotland and the World Championships.

The company drum displayed in the church is a Cadet drum. It belonged to the Company Pipe Band who wore khaki uniforms as they were affiliated to the Kings Royal Rifle Corp. from 1917 until 1930. It is estimated that a quarter of a million former members of the C.L.B. volunteered for service during the Great War. Virtually every Brigade member of the appropriate age joined the colours immediately. Many younger lads lied about their age and found themselves facing danger at the front and losing their lives in the conflict. It was estimated that almost 1,000 men went forth from the Parish in the service of King and Country: 79 of whom made the supreme sacrifice. To the memory

They were always trying to out-do one another and whenever a Company won, the winners would have paraded back to their own Districts proudly displaying their trophy.

In 1912 St. Aidan's was awarded the All Ireland Camp Cup for the best Company at Camp. They were also one of the many C.L.B.'s who formed a Pipe Band as did their rivals St. Michael's. There was an occasion when St. Aidan's C.L.B. Pipe Band joined together on mass with all the other C.L.B. Pipe Bands

of these men, a large marble tablet has been placed in the Church by the Parishioners, on which their names are recorded. In our own parish a young Staff Sergeant in our C.L.B. named Thomas Moore of the 36th Ulster Division Ammunition Column, Royal



ST. AIDAN'S C.L.B. PIPE BAND

Field Artillery, was killed in France on the 8th September, 1918. A beautiful stained glass window was placed in the Chancel of the Church by Miss N. Moore in memory of him.

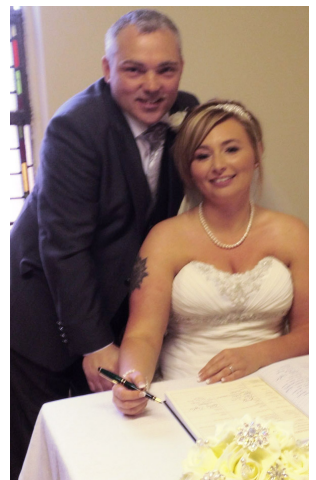
Through the years the C.L.B. has been fulfilling its objective to extend the



Kingdom of Christ among boys, through fun, faith and fellowship offered to all boys of all faiths and none. The Brigade created a caring and safe environment for the boys in which they could grow in confidence and develop skills and abilities. It encouraged the lads to explore their spirituality, develop their moral values and respect for the environment.

The Company closed in 2006 due to insufficient leaders. Discussions are taking place about the possibility of restarting a Company in the area.





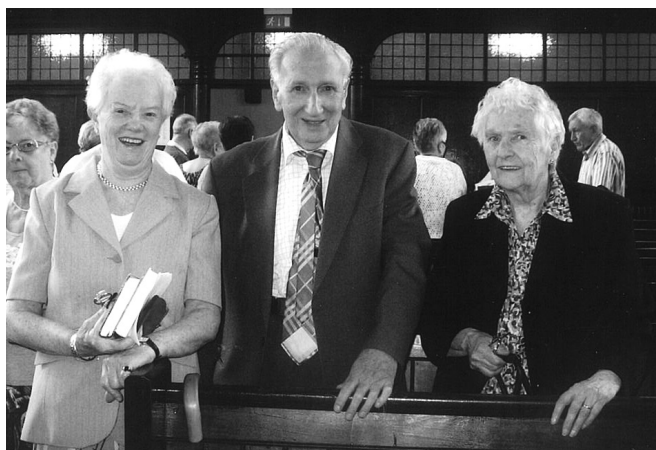
## THRIFT SHOP

In July 1983 the Rev. G. Sproule was given a Mini-bus by Mr. Edward Gill for the use of St. Aidan's Parish. After the bus was on the road, the Tax and Insurance was due and a garage was also required to house the bus.

Mrs. S. Sproule, Mrs. M. McBride, Mrs. M. McClung and Miss Irene Nixon opened the Thrift Shop as a means of raising money to keep the bus on the road. This proved to be a very good way of supporting the running costs of the vehicle. There were many happy events and "Outings" on the Mini-bus. The happy events were always involving the young people, the Girl's Brigade going to their various competitions, Swimming nights and days out to different places and the boy's in the Church Lad's Brigade going to their Race and Football events. The elderly parishioners also enjoyed wee excursions out with the Rector and his wife to the sea-side for a couple of hours away from the fire-side. Every Sunday there was a Church Run where the Minibus picked up people who had difficulty getting to Church. When the Mini-bus was hijacked and found burnt out, the Thrift Shop was able to replace it and went on to purchase a third bus. The Thrift Shop has also been a major grants giver to the Church and Church Hall Restoration Fund's.

Many thanks to all who have supported the Thrift Shop over the years, by donations of clothing, knic-knacs and purchases. Also those working tirelessly in the background, past years and present, who have given of their spare time to make this venture the great success it is. Our thanks to Maureen McBride, Joan Newton, Barbara Weir, Wilma Campbell, Isobel McCreery and Norah Baillie who are presently working in the shop.

For over thirty years The Thrift Shop has been providing a service to both our Church and our Community and God willing, will continue to do so in the future.



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## MISSION TEAM REPORT

*(Extract from October 1899 Church Magazine)*

“Considering that more than half the people of our Parish never go to a service or meeting of any description, there is surely urgent need for prayerful consultation as to what our Church can do more to redeem this deplorable condition of the people.”

Sounds familiar!!! Here we are today over 100 years from this article was written with the same intention to bring the people of the Parish into Church, and for them to have a personal relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. However let's move on into the future, The Mission team consist of 6 members and we have called our recent information report, “Stepping Stones on our Mission Journey,” so far we have organized Table Top Sales, Beetle Drives, Coffee Mornings, Tea Dances, Street Gift Give Aways, Carol Singing, all with the development of fun and friendship.

The Mission Team aims and objectives are to provide a connection to the community through the Church. We have undertaken many activities some have been very successful and others not so successful. We always strive to bring together as many people within the Church Family and the surrounding Sandy Row and Donegall Road Community, spreading the Christian message to young and old. At various times the team has attended information talks, this has added to our skill and has given us an opportunity to share ideas and meet new people.

Mission Team Meetings are always focused on prayer, Scripture, and a time of reflection, our work is always Christ Centred and we praise God for all the guidance he has given so far. So as we celebrate our 120th Anniversary and reminisce on the history of our beloved St Aidan's, let us look forward with anticipation and courage to our Mission within our Community surrounding the Parish: As we face the challenges together let us be guided by our Lord, through Prayer, Scripture which is a lamp onto our pathway and as we close let us remember his word as given in the book of Jeremiah Chapter 29:11

*For I know the plans I have for you  
“declares the Lord” plans to prosper  
you and not to harm you, plans to give  
hope and a future.*

*E.Collins*



## ST. AIDAN'S BOWLING CLUB

The actual date when the bowling club started eludes me but I recall when I first attended. It was in the late sixties and there was a lively membership of thirty two. We held the club in the main hall upstairs, the bowling mats, all four, were stored under the platform and whoever arrived first, namely Ben McCarthy and

a helper would set up the upper hall in the afternoon prior to the club opening at 7.30pm. This was on a Monday night.

*Bowls was serious business*, strict rules applied and hushed silence was the norm. As I mentioned four mats were set up each week to enable the players to play the required matches, a record was kept to see who the winner of the rinks would be. Tea time as you could imagine was the time for a catch up on the news of the parish or family life. At this break some not so serious happenings took place, on one occasion we had two strange visitors in Halloween dress who had lost their way and had stopped in to ask directions, should you wish to hear more of this interruption ask Brenda Wilson or Margaret Richardson to recall the night two visitors came to tea. Many of the past clergy joined with the fellowship at the bowls and some very good players they were too.

This proved an advantage when outside matches between various churches took place. Then there were the fun matches when guest teams would join with the members for some friendly games and the supper provided a time to reminisce of past glories. At tea time, yes, you may have already guessed, the reminiscing of past times and the memories of past members still bring a chuckle or two of delight. 'ah sure the craic is grand' and you would be most welcome to join with us, so why not make a date and see for yourselves what fun and fellowship is to be had down at the bowls. The Bowling Club remains true to its timetable, we still meet in the church hall on a Monday night at 7.30pm. Though the mats required has reduced to one but the clubs competitive spirit remains the same.

*Gladys Hollywood.*

## FUNERALS.

*(Extract from parish mag. 1895)*

Before arranging the hour for the funeral, where-ever possible, find out what time would be convenient for the minister; owing to a neglect of this, sometimes two funerals are fixed for the same day and hour and there is often needless inconvenience occasioned.

There is no need to provide a shoulder scarf for the minister; it is a very useless and unnecessary expense.

There is no need for having a supply of whiskey at the wake, drunkenness is bad and sinful at any time, it is specially degrading and disgraceful in the solemn presence of death. Don't let the whiskey bottle inside the door. Don't even keep it in the scullery for the undertaker's men; it is no kindness to them, but the reverse.

Avoid Sunday funerals as far as possible.  
The minister cannot undertake to go to the Cemetery in the midst of his Sunday engagements.

ST. AIDAN'S MOTHERS' UNION  
FOR THE CHURCH'S 120TH ANNIVERSARY

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

The first meeting of St. Aidan's Mothers Union was held on the 12th November 1956. Mrs Ann Noble, the wife of Canon Noble, who had been a member of Mothers Union in a previous parish, was keen to encourage the women of the parish of St. Aidan's to subscribe to the excellent principles of the organisation.

According to the records in our possession, eighteen members attended the first meeting in the Church Hall on the Donegall Road. Mrs R Brown was the secretary, Mrs A Noble was Enrolling Member. We have a detailed list of members names recorded in the MU Scrap Book which was an O'Neil Cup entry in 1999.

The Mothers Union Banner was presented to the branch by Mrs R Brown in memory of her mother Mrs Turner of 293 Donegall Road who had died on 7th July 1958. Mrs Turner was one of the first members to be enrolled in the branch. There are no records of the branch meetings from 1959 - 1970's, we believe this was due to the secretary's death and the re-development of the Sandy Row and the Mid Donegall Road area. In Mothers Union we enjoy Area Services and Area Social Events, where we can relax and enjoy the various programmes, these all being recorded in the minutes.

A lot of fun has been the order of the day down at St. Aidan's. Over the years we have had as part of our programme, choirs and musical entertainment at the Harvest Tea. This said, one of the events was, 'Sing along to the Sound of Music', at which we had props and dressing up. Mrs Hollywood was dressed as the Hills, (painted by her grandson Graham). Her daughter Barbara dressed as one of the Von Trapp children (in play clothes made out of curtain material). The Table Quiz was another evening in which we invited friends, also members of the church family to make up teams and come and join in the fun.

As the branch moves forward into its 59th year, it is the same aims and objectives of the Mothers Union that keeps its members focused on the work and witness of MU today. The MU theme for this year is 'United in Prayer' which highlights the importance and centrality of prayer. Families Worldwide is a M.U. resource which every member has, each day the wave of prayer goes out around the world. In James chp 5 verse 16, James the brother of Jesus' writes 'When a believing person prays, great things happen'.

In this the 120th Anniversary of the dedication of the Church of St. Aidan, may we all know the loving care of a heavenly father in each of our lives, today and always.

*Barbara Bowden*

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for their support on our 120th Anniversary”**

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## PARISH REGISTER

### BAPTISMS

Kayleb Wightman: 15 February 2015

### WEDDINGS

Kelly Taylor and Gary Taylor: 14 February 2015

### FUNERALS:

Stella Connery: 12 December 2014

Ellen Heckford (Taylor): 20 December 2014

Emma Fowler: 6 January 2015

Isobel McCartney: 11 February 2015

## 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 1st -

March 8th - Mrs. W Campbell

March 15th - Mackey and Leith Families

March 22nd - Mrs. D. Hamill

April 5th - Mrs. M. Hoy

April 12th -

April 19th - Hilditch Family

April 26th - Mrs. B. Weir

May 2nd - Mrs I Pritchard

May 10th - Mrs G Hollywood & Mrs B Bowden

May 17th - Mrs. L. Fullerton

May 24th - Mrs. E. Williamson

**Please inform Revd Bobbie or the Church Wardens of parishioners who are ill at home or in hospital.**

**Also let us know if you would like a name added to the weekly parish prayer list or contact the prayer line: 07733 712942**

Articles for the June - Aug Magazine need to be with Liz Adair / Margaret Close by 15/5/15



# Thrift Shop

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## 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**  
07749172423

**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 2014 – 2015

Ms. B. Weir, Mr. R. Griffin,  
Mrs. E. Adair, Mr. J. Hunter,  
Mrs. M. Close, Mrs. E. Collins,  
Mr. T. Ormerod, Mr. J. Collins,  
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**  
07749172423