

St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Enabling People to find a living faith in a loving God

SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1895

Winter 2019



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

- 1 First Sunday of Advent** - 11am Parish Communion
7pm - Advent Carols with Route Choir
- 8 Second Sunday of Advent** - 11am Morning Prayer
- 15 Third Sunday of Advent** - 11am Parish Nativity
- 22 Fourth Sunday of Advent** - 11am Christingle
6.30pm Carols by Candlelight
- 25 Christmas Day** - 11am
Family Celebration with Communion
- 29 First Sunday of Christmas** - 11am
Morning Prayer

January

- 5 Epiphany** - 11am Parish Communion
- 12 First Sunday after Epiphany** - 11am
MU Enrolment Service
- 19 Second Sunday after Epiphany** - 11am
Informal Service
- 26 Third Sunday after Epiphany** - 11am Morning Prayer

February

- 2 Fourth before Lent** - 11am Parish Communion
- 9 Third before Lent** - 11am Morning Prayer
6.30pm Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving
- 16 Second before Lent** - 11am Informal Service
- 23 Sunday before Lent** - 11am Morning Prayer
- 26 Ash Wednesday** - 7.30pm Penitential Service

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
A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION – PLAN TO READ THE BIBLE EVERY DAY

We all need food to survive, and to help us grow spiritually, we need to feed on God's Word. The Bible Society produces a free guide to help encourage daily Bible reading – and a copy comes with this magazine. At the start of 2020 make this your New Year Resolution.

Time to choose!



Dear Friends,

Another year draws to a close and, as we prepare for Christmas, we find ourselves facing an election – a time when we have to decide which party and which politician is worthy of our vote. Who can we trust to carry out the promises in their election manifesto? Our streets are littered with posters showing images of those who seek public office.

Our letterboxes receive a constant flow of leaflets proclaiming the virtues of a particular individual and the party to which they belong. I looked up the definition of election and here it is:-

*An **election** is a formal group decision-making process by which a population chooses an individual to hold public office. ... To elect means “to choose or make a decision”.*

As we have watched and listened to endless debates and arguments about the future of our country, it is too easy to complain and even despair at the state of parliament and the lack of local government. But now we have an opportunity to make our voice heard and take part in the democratic process which is a vital aspect of our citizenship. My prayer is that we would reject the spirit of apathy which is so prevalent in our community and hold on to the belief that we can make a difference. As Christians we believe in the power of prayer, so let us pray confidentially that God will oversee this process.

Lord, we give you thanks for the privileges and responsibilities of living in a democratic society. As we prayerfully consider how we should use our vote, help us to remember that every vote counts. Help us not to give in to apathy, but to resolve to play our part in the decision making process. Give us wisdom to choose wisely those politicians who will act with integrity for the good of the nation as we pray for all seeking election, that they will honour the promises they make. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

As you think of casting your vote in the general election, may I remind you of the invitation of Jesus to choose to follow him.

*“Look! I have been standing at the door, and I am constantly knocking. If anyone hears me calling him and opens the door, I will come in and fellowship with him and he with me.
Rev.3:20*

We have a God who keeps his promises!

This year as you celebrate the birth of our Saviour, may you experience his loving presence in your heart and in your home.

Warm Greetings in Christ,

Revd Bobbie.



www.facebook.com/staidansandyrow



GIRLS' BRIGADE UPDATE



ST. AIDAN'S GIRLS' BRIGADE

**When: Every Friday @
6:45pm**

**Where: St. Aidan's
Church Hall**

Tierney Gardens, Belfast

**All girls age 3 and up
welcome!**

**For further details please
contact Fiona on 07776 234830**

Dance - Games

Special events & trips

Arts & Crafts - Bible Stories

Baking

ENVELOPES FOR 2019

This is the time of year when Free Will Offering envelopes are distributed for your contribution to the work and ministry of St Aidan's. We have noticed that some envelopes are not returned and we are anxious to discover the reason. It may be that you are unable to attend church and need to have your envelopes collected. If so, please contact our Treasurer, Dorothy Coates tel: 07860 189851 who will arrange collection. It may be that due to a change of circumstances, you are unable to maintain regular contributions, or you may wish to make a change to your method of giving. Again if this is the case, please contact Dorothy. Each batch of envelopes cost money so it is good stewardship to purchase only those required. Our thanks to those who faithfully make a regular contribution and if it is some time since you have reviewed the amount, now might be a good time to do so.

Please could all envelopes for 2019 be returned preferably by 22nd December 2019 and definitely by 29th December 2019. Thank You Dorothy Coates

CHURCH FINANCE

The 10p coin and £1 coin were having a conversation one day.
The 10p coin said to the £1 coin, "I'm a better Christian than you are."
"How do you work that out" said the £1 coin.
The 10p coin replied, "I go to church more often than you do."

SHOVELLING IT IN

The story is told of a farmer who was known for his generous giving, and whose friends could not understand how he could give so much and yet remain so prosperous. One day a friend said: "We can't understand it. You give far more than any of the rest of us and yet you always seem to have more to give."
"That's easy to explain," the farmer said; "I keep shovelling into God's bin and God keeps shovelling back into mine, and God has the bigger shovel."





ST. AIDAN'S MOTHERS' UNION

Advent

An Advent prayer from the MU Diary:

Lead us, Lord through the journey that is Advent. Foster in us a sense of expectancy. Help us to use the time well, in preparation for the celebration of your coming to live among us Amen.

Christmas

Looking forward to Christmas we have the MU Nine Lessons and Carol Service in St. Aidan's Parish Church on Thursday 5th December at 7.30pm.

Our members are having their Christmas Outing Dinner at 'Action Bro's Olio' on Saturday 14th December at 4.00 o'clock, followed by a visit to this year's Pantomime, 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Grand Opera House.

May I take this opportunity to thank all our members for their attendance each month at Branch level and Area level during the year.

May this Christmas be a time of worship and blessing for us all.

The Theme: for 2020 is 'Building Hope and Confidence'

Our MU Service at the beginning of the year will be Sunday 12th January 2020 in the Church at 11am.

The February meeting will be on Monday 10th February in St. Polycarp's at 7:30pm. This is an Area event and a chance to hear Noreen Hurst - An evening focusing on Noreen's visit to MU in Zambia and an up-date on Worldwide.

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

Many Thanks Barbara Bowden



CHILDREN'S CHURCH NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER 2019

Children's Church started again after the Summer and it was good to welcome back our faithful group

of children. We are following the All Aboard Series and have completed the stories of Jesus in The Temple and The Baptism of Jesus. Christmas is always an exciting time in St. Aidan's. We will be having our Nativity service on Sunday 15th December, which, again, will hopefully, be a different slant on the usual story but will still bring the true meaning of Christmas. Thanks again to everyone who prays for us and supports us.

Dorothy, Gladys, Lynn & Barbara

THE MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

The Macmillan Coffee Morning raised £670.00, which is nearly £200 more than last year. Well done to everyone who helped in any way.



Dates for the diary

Our next meeting will be our Christmas dinner and celebration on Friday 6th December.

Alison

SOUTH BELFAST FOOD BANK

Thanks to all who contributed to The Harvest Collection for the Foodbank. It was delivered to Friendship House and will be used in our community.

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. If you have any ideas please pass them on to anyone in the team.

CONGRATULATIONS TO BLYTHEFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL.

'We were delighted to receive the award for Highly Commended Best Primary School in Northern Ireland. It was lovely to receive this recognition for a staff team that show passion and empathy for the pupils every single day. The staff work tirelessly with true dedication. We are over the moon to achieve this award for BlytheField. A huge thank you to our community for your continued support and of course to our pupils who are always at the centre of everything we do!'



FUTURE EVENTS

Events are planned for the 125th anniversary of the church from 20th -23rd March 2020. Exciting things are planned so keep the dates free. Don't forget to pass on any ideas you have for community outreach or fund raising to a member of the Relevant to All Ages Team.

ST. AIDAN'S BOWLING CLUB

Do you want to try something different we the members of the Bowling Club meet in the church hall, on Monday evenings at 7.30pm. We enjoy the fellowship and the fun of a game of Bowls, ending with a welcome cup of tea. We will finish for the year on Monday 9th December and will resume on the 13th January 2020.



'THE CHRISTMAS SEASON WILL SOON BE UPON US AND I'D LIKE TO THANK ALL THE MEMBERS FOR THEIR COMMITMENT TO THE BOWLING CLUB AND WISH THEM A HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND A VERY HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR. GOD BLESS'. *Gladys*

Notice Board

New Parish Fellowship
2nd & 4th Wednesday
Every Month
7.45pm - 9.00pm

M.U Nine Lessons and Carols
Thursday 5th December
at 7.30pm at Church

Thursday @ 3 Service

Girls Brigade
Friday Nights 6.45pm

Bowls
Monday Nights
at 7.30pm

**Route Choir &
Christmas Lights Switch On**
Sunday 1st Dec. 6.30pm

NEW COBRA TIMETABLE

ST AIDANS CHURCH HALL
MONDAY @ 6.45PM
SATURDAY @ 9.45AM

CREGAGH METHODIST
CHURCH HALL
WEDNESDAY @ 7.15 PM

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CHRISTMAS SERVICES AND EVENTS

Sunday 1 December Advent

11.00am - Parish Communion

6.30pm - Christmas Lights switch-on at Church

7.00pm - Christmas Music and Readings with the Route Choir



Sunday 15 December

11am - Parish Nativity

Sunday 22 December

11am - Christingle

6.30pm - Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day

11am - Christmas Family Celebration with Communion

Sunday 9 February

6.30pm - A prayerful space where we can remember and give thanks for loved ones who have died, both recently and long ago.



Parish Fellowship

Continues weekly during Lent

7.45 - 9pm - Every Wednesday

MY CHRISTMAS MESSAGE TO YOU

There is a list of folks I know all written in a book
And every year at Christmas Time, I go and take a look
And that is when I realise, that these names are a part,
Not of the book they are written in, but of my very heart.

For each name stands for someone, who has touched my life sometime,
And in that meeting they've become, "the Rhythm of the Rhyme"
I really feel I am composed of each remembered name,
And while you may not be aware, of feeling quite the same
My life is so much better, than it was before you came.

For once you've known someone, the years cannot erase,
The memory of a pleasant word, or of a friendly face,
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine,
Of names upon a mailing list, forgotten in between.
For when I send a Christmas card, that is addressed to you,
It is because you're on that list, of folks I'm indebted to.

And whether I have known you for many years or few,
In some way you have had a part in shaping things I do.
So every year when Christmas comes I just realise anew,
The biggest gift that God can give, is knowing folks like you.



The following appeared on the front page
of St. Aidan's Magazine in March, 1981.
The words are worth thinking about!!!

IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

How good it is that God above has never
gone on strike
Because He was not treated fair in things
He didn't like;
If only once He had sat down and said
"That's it! I'm through;
I've had enough of those on earth, so this
is what I'll do -
I'll give my orders to the sun - cut off the
heat supply:
And to the moon, "Give no more light and
run the oceans dry"
Then just to make things really tough and
put the pressure on
"Turn off the vital oxygen till every breath
is gone."
You know, He would be justified, if fairness
was the game,
For no-one has been more abused or met
with such disdain
Than God, and yet He carries on, supplying
you and me
With all the favours of His grace and
everything for free!
Men say they want a better deal and so 'on
strike' they go;
But what a deal we've given God, to Whom
all things we owe
We don't care who we hurt, or harm, to
gain the things We like
But---what a mess we'd all be in

IF GOD SHOULD GO ON STRIKE

This poem was written by a terminally ill
young girl in a New York Hospital.
Make sure to read the closing statement
after the poem.

SLOW DANCE

Have you ever watched kids
On a merry-go-round
Or listened to the rain
Slapping on the ground?
Ever followed a butterfly's erratic flight
Or gazed at the sun into the fading night
You better slow down
Don't dance so fast
Time is short
The music won't last.

Do you run through each day on the fly?
When you ask, "How are you"?
Do you hear the reply?
When the day is done
Do you lie in your bed?
With the next hundred chores
Running through your head
You better slow down
Don't dance so fast
Time is short
The music won't last.

Ever told your child,
We'll do it tomorrow?
And in your haste,
Not see his sorrow,
Ever lost touch,
Let a good friendship die?
Cause you never had time
To call and say, "Hi"
You better slow down,
Don't dance so fast,
Time is short
The music won't last.

*When you run so fast to get somewhere
You miss half the fun of getting there.
When you worry and hurry through your day,
It is like an unopened gift... thrown away.
Life is not a race, Do take it slower
Hear the music
Before the song is over.*

A Word From Canon Ken



Dear Friends

I was in a home in the parish a few days ago and a lady said to me, “I hate this time of year!” She immediately went on to qualify what she had just said; and in the context of the conversation we’d just been having I understood completely what she meant.

The evenings are ‘dropping down’ – less hours of daylight; the weather is colder (and heating bills higher); there is always the threat of rain, snow or gales; the leaves have dropped off the trees and are rotting on the ground; even the best kept gardens are looking – well, jaded at best; and many older folk don’t even feel safe going out in the dark evenings.

The whole season has a ring of darkness and deadness about it.

But even in the midst of all of that, come mid December spirits will begin to rise – for most people – and we will prepare to celebrate the coming of God’s Son to earth. Light in the midst of darkness and hope in the midst of despair.

However, leaving aside the seasons, in our lives we can find ourselves going through dark periods as well; real valleys of despair - for a whole host of reasons. We can be plunged into this valley as the result of failing health, relationship issues, loneliness, depression, financial stress – the list is endless. Nowadays people often speak of such a period in their lives as being ‘in a dark place’. I know lots of people in such a place. I’ve been in a ‘dark place’ at some points in my own life and probably so have you – and we may be there again.

So my prayer for you at this season is simple and from my heart. If YOU are in a dark place this winter (and I’m not just talking about the shorter evenings) may you know the joy of Christ bursting into YOUR life and circumstances, not just as a baby in a manger but as the all powerful Son of God, Saviour of all who trust in him and an ‘ever present help to those in trouble’ (Psalm 46).

In short, may the darkness and deadness in YOUR life be scattered this Christmas and despair give way to new hope and joy and peace.

Blessings
Ken

CHRISTMAS THOUGHT

It's an oft-repeated refrain at this time of the year.

Full of the spirit of the season people ask,
"Why can't every day be like Christmas?"
WELL, it can! In the words of Dale Evans
Rodgers:

Christmas my child, is Love in Action,
Every time we love, every time we give, its
"Christmas!"

CHRISTMAS

CHRISTMAS is the candle-glow
That lights the darkest gloom,
Christmas is the fireside
That warms the coldest room,
Christmas is the silver star
That guides all those who roam,
Christmas is the shining path
That beckons us back home.
Christmas is the peal of bells,
That spills through frosty air,
Christmas is the greetings card
That shows old friends still care,
Christmas is the fragrant dish
Of Joy and Hope combined.
Christmas is the Gift of Love
That's meant for all mankind.
Margaret Inghall

KIDS CORNER

Fishy Theme Puzzle Ans. from Last Mag.

**1.Final 2.Finch 3.Finger 4.Finial 5.Finery
6.Finale 7.Finish 8.Finicky 9.Fink
10. Finnan**

THE NEW YEAR

The New Year can often bring a mixed bag of emotions and memories for many of us.

Some may have just experienced the best year ever and look forward to an even greater one looming ahead. Others may have just trudged through one deep struggle after another.

The fresh calendar year brings desperate hope for things to be better, with an ache for the still fresh wounds to slowly begin their process of healing.

Whether you've just walked through the greatest year of your life or are incredibly glad to see this one finally over, one truth still rings clear amidst it all. You are not alone, Not Ever.

Our God is a "With Us" God. On the heels of the celebration of the birth of our King, that reminder has the power to carry us right into a fresh, new start.

He is Immanuel, God, With Us. And though things and people around us shift and change, our God never changes.
Debbie McDaniel. Crosswalk.com

"Great is thy faithfulness,"
Oh God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee,
Thou changest not, thy compassions,
thy fail not
As thou hast been, Thou forever wilt be.



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PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

Willow Claire Meehan 9 June
Heidi Isobel Morrison 8 September
Harrison David Zachary Gibson 29 September

FUNERALS

David Oliver 11 September
Robert (Bobby) Black 16 September
Margaret Victoria Griffin 20 September

PASTORAL NOTES

Baptisms: Parents should contact Revd Bobbie who will be happy to discuss what is involved. Baptism is the beginning of a faith journey: parents and godparents are required to make promises before God, that they will nurture faith in their children.

Weddings: Couples should contact Revd Bobbie to discuss arrangements before any firm bookings are made.

Funerals: Please notify Revd Bobbie immediately upon serious illness or death.

Clergy should always be consulted before any funeral plans or times are arranged. The Church is available for any funeral service.

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

Report are all available on request.

Please inform Revd Bobbie or the 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:

T. 07733 712942.

Please ensure that all articles for Spring Magazine reach Liz Adair / Margaret Close by the 1st February. *Thank you*

Flower Rota

December

1st The McAllister Family &
Mrs. M. McBride
8th Mr. R. Griffin

15th Mr & Mrs. B. Richardson
22nd The Hill Family &
The Mothers Union

January

5th Mrs. M. Close
12th.....

19th The Mercer Family
26th The Crawford Family

February

2nd Mrs. M. McBride
9th The Hill Family
16th Mrs. N. Baillie
23rd Mr. & Mrs. B. Richardson

Church of Ireland Safeguarding Trust Parish of St. Aidan

The incumbent, select vestry and parish workers are committed to uphold good practice in the parish's ministry with children and young people.

Should you have a concern or suspicion regarding child welfare in the parish please contact a member of the parish panel.

Revd Bobbie Moore Tel: 02892 682789
Mr. John Collins Tel: 02890 628235
Mrs. Norah Baillie Tel: 02890 249431
Mrs Barbara Bowden Tel: 02890 312620

Or any of the following agencies

- The local Health Trust Child Protection/ Gateway Team
- PSNI • NSPCC

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: Mrs. Margaret Couchman

07752 528572

Honorary Treasurer: Mrs. Dorothy Coates

02890 692132

Rector's Church Warden: Mrs. Barbara Bowden

02890 312620

People's Church Warden: Mr. Robert Redpath

Rector's Glebe Warden: Mr. Alwyn Campbell

07815 758457

People's Glebe Warden: Mr. Eddie Murray

02890 586733

Members of Select Vestry for 2019 – 2020

Mr. J. Griffin, Mr. R. Griffin,

Mr. A. Serplus, Mrs. E. Adair,

Mr. J. Hunter, Mrs. M. Close,

Mrs. E. Collins, Mr. J. Collins,

Mrs. D. Coates, Mrs. A. Hunter,

Mrs. A Richardson, Mrs. M. Couchman

Parish Organisations & Contacts

Sunday Children's Church: Mrs. Dorothy Coates

02890 692132

Monday Bowls: Mrs. Gladys Holywood

Wednesday Bible Study Group: Revd Bobbie

07746583470

Thursday Mothers' Union: Mrs. Barbara Bowden

02890 312620

Select Vestry: Mrs. M. Couchman

07752 528572

Friday Girls Brigade: Mrs. Fiona Hendren

07776234830

Messy Church: Mrs. Alison Shaw 07547030451