

St Aidan's Parish Magazine

Enabling People to find a living faith in a loving God

SERVING CHRIST IN THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1895

Spring 2020



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



SUNDAY SERVICE TIMES March - May

Beginning at 11am unless otherwise stated

March

- 1 Lent 1:** Parish Communion
- 8 Lent 2:** Morning Prayer
- 15 Lent 3:** Morning Prayer
- 22 Lent 4:** 125th Anniversary Celebration
- 23 Monday 7.30pm:** Forward in Faith
- 29 Lent 5:** Baptism

April

- 5 Palm Sunday Informal Service**
- 9 Maundy Thursday 7.30pm Holy Communion in St Simon's**
- 10 Good Friday Meditation 7.30pm St Aidan's**
- 12 Easter Communion Celebration St Aidan's**
- 19 Easter 2:** Baptism
- 26 Easter 3:** No morning service.
11.30am Confirmation Service in Lisburn Cathedral
6.30pm Holy Communion in St Aidan's

May

- 3 Easter 4:** 3pm Revd. Bobbie's Farewell Service
 - 10 Easter 5:** Parish Communion
 - 17 Easter 6:** Informal Service
 - 24 Easter 7:** Baptism Service
 - 31 Pentecost:** Morning Prayer
- MID-WEEK SERVICE:** First and Third Thursdays at 3pm
LENT BIBLE STUDY: Wednesdays 7.30 - 9pm



PARISH PRAYER

Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you that in your redeeming love you have drawn us together as members of your Church.

We pray that you would deepen our love for you, strengthen our fellowship with each other and help us to worship you in spirit and in truth.

We pray that during this time of change, we will keep our eyes fixed on you and trust you for the future.

Help us to be faithful in our prayers for the continuing ministry in this community and guide us in all things to know and do your will, for the honour and glory of your name. **Amen**

Dear Church Family,

As the darkness of winter gives way to Spring we welcome a season of new life, new beginnings. That is certainly the case for all of us in St Aidan's. We celebrate the one hundred and twenty fifth Anniversary of the Church later this month, moving **Forward in Faith** to a new season of ministry and mission. Plans are being developed for the re-ordering of the church to provide both a worship space and modern facilities in line with our mission statement: **"Enabling people to find a living faith in a Loving God, by serving Christ in the Community"**.



Easter this year marks seven years of my ministry in St Aidan's.

When I came to the parish, it was with the firm conviction of God's timing and his calling. Now in response to his continuing call, the time has come to focus on a ministry which has also been part of my life for some time. As many of you know, I am the Mission Director of a small charity, Bird of Paradise Ministries in Rwanda, committed to providing a home for the elderly homeless there. I don't like the word retiring, but I am conscious of getting tired and I want to sharpen my focus at this stage of my life. In order to do this, I will be leaving the parish at the end of April. It will not be easy for me to leave, but I am certain that this is the right decision and am confident that God will lead the parish into the future he has planned.

Throughout my ministry, I have seen the care and support shown by parishioners both within the church family and to the wider community. I have appreciated the support and acceptance shown to me and continue to ask for your prayers as I follow God's call on my life.

In preparation for the new beginnings God is leading us into; we will be joining together in a study of chapters 2-4 of Ephesians under the heading 'Transformed Living'.

For fifty days, during the season of Lent, right through to Easter we will explore together how to live in the light of what Christ has done for us and in us. In the words of the Apostle Paul:

I beg you to live and act in a way worthy of those who have been chosen for such wonderful blessings as these. Be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Try always to be led along together by the Holy Spirit and so be at peace with one another.

We are all parts of one body, we have the same Spirit, and we have all been called to the same glorious future. For us there is only one Lord, one faith, one baptism, and we all have the same God and Father who is over us all and in us all, and living through every part of us.

Eph.4:1-6

Warm Greetings in Christ,

Revd Bobbie.



GIRLS' BRIGADE UPDATE



Following on from our last update, November at Girls' Brigade was a busy month preparing the girls for taking part in our Annual Enrolment Service. The girls practiced really hard perfecting their song for the day. This is a very special day in our yearly programme and it was great to see so many parents and friends support the company. The girls singing was great and those who read or were involved in prayers were great at carrying out their tasks. It was lovely to have Victor Stephens with us to minister to the girls and congregation.

The company would like to congratulate Kathryn Bailie, who came through our company from a young age and then served as an officer until the end of last session on her marriage to Philip on 22nd November. The company wish them every blessing on their future together. It was lovely for the officers to be part of your day.

During November the Officers spent time preparing Christmas Crafts for the Christmas Sale. It was decided that we would donate our funds to the Alzheimer's Society as this was very close to the hearts of the Officers. We raised a fantastic amount of £255 and presentation to the Charity will be arranged in a few weeks time.





December seen much excitement in GB with a trip to see Santa at Crawfordsburn. It was a fun night and girls enjoyed games, a trail being told the Christmas story and the real meaning of Christmas, craft making and of course the highlight of the evening, a visit to Santa. We all enjoyed sausages and a drink at the end of the evening before heading back home. We had a few tired girls on the bus on the way back.

To close for Christmas we held a pyjama and movie night with some nice treats. The Officers enjoyed some pizza together and had time to chat and catch up, which was lovely as we generally don't get a lot of spare time together.

It was good to see all girls return in January and our numbers to stay steady. The officers endeavour each week to provide a varied and interesting programme covering all aspects of GB life i.e. spiritual, physical, educational and service.

Junior girls are working towards the scripture exam and the whole company will be starting to prepare for our Family and Friends evening at the end of April.

The company would appreciate your continued prayer and support.

Thank you.
The Officers



ST. AIDAN'S MOTHERS' UNION 2020

The Women's World Day of Prayer Service

Friday the 6th March in St. Simon's Parish Church at 7.30pm

This service has been written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe who have chosen for their theme:

'RISE! TAKE YOUR MAT AND WALK'.

Please do join us as we participate in this annual service.

Mothering Sunday 22nd March is the day in which many celebrate the love of our Mothers.

MU is no different in that they too reach out with your help to 'Make a Difference' by supporting communities around the world.

If you wish to 'Make a Mothers' Day Donation', please see order booklets or speak to myself, I will have all the details required.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 19th March at 8pm in the church hall.

The MU Festival Service will take place in St. Anne's Cathedral at 3.30pm on Sunday 15th March 2020. This annual service is supported by members from across the diocese.

The April meeting will take place in church on 9th April at 7.30pm for the Maundy Thursday Service.

The MU South Belfast Area Social will be a trip to:-
The Secret Garden on the 16th May at 11.30am for tea and scones, the cost will be £16.00 per member.

Many Thanks Barbara Bowden



CHILDREN'S CHURCH

The Christmas performance this year was in a different format with the children singing and putting on a short humorous play about

a very spoilt boy, who found himself boxed. Thanks to all, who took part.

Our children's Church has a very faithful group of children and very supportive parents/grandparents etc. As usual we value your prayers and support

Dorothy, Gladys, Lynn & Barbara

SOUTH BELFAST FOOD BANK

South Belfast Food Bank has informed us that in 2019 we donated 177.8 kgs of food, which provided 423 meals so WELL DONE to all, who made a contribution and of course we also gave monetary support, which is most welcome and necessary.

Easter is our next collection. Let us make a start trying to beat the 2019 total.

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.

The Christmas Light Switch On was great. Thankfully the lights worked and "The Route Singers" were, as usual, amazing. We had a brilliant evening of music in the church. A great night.

We plan to do something to celebrate our 125th anniversary. Watch this space.

CRAFT GROUP

Jaki Polly and the members of the craft group continue to meet and enjoy developing their creative skills. Thanks also for the display at the back of the church.

In March we are looking forward to celebrating our 125th Anniversary by drawing the community into the church.



On Friday 20th March we are delighted to have the staff and children from Blythefield Primary School in the church throughout the day, doing various craft activities and learning a little about the history of St Aidan's.

Later at 4pm, we have Messy Church where we will be involved in creating some artistic pieces to contribute to the celebration.

Our celebrations will then culminate with a service of praise and thanksgiving on Monday 23rd March.

Blythefield School, along with families and friends, will come back to the Church at 1.15 pm to join us for a service, we will also be joined by Jill Hamilton and Karen Webb and their very friendly puppets!

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

She is clothed with strength and dignity
She can laugh at the days to come
She speaks with wisdom and
faithful instruction is on her tongue.
Prov. 31: 25 &26





Notice Board

Lent Bible Study
Wednesdays
7.30pm - 9.00pm

Girls Brigade
Friday Nights
6.45pm

**Thursday @
3 Service**

Bowls
Monday Nights
at 7.30pm

NEW COBRA TIMETABLE

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

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A Word From Canon Ken



Dear Friends

When Dorothy and I moved in to our retirement accommodation four years ago we had a large garden (disproportionate to the size of our bungalow!) and I was happy as I like pottering in the garden - and we have two dogs!

However our joy was short lived because we soon realised that the whole site was wet clay and our garden seemed the worst. So we spent a lot of money having it drained, etc., but the improvement was only marginal. Consequently over these few years there have been numerous bulbs that massively underperformed or didn't appear at all, shrubs that died, bushes that promised prolific foliage and blooms but didn't grow in clay! The place was a disaster.

However in that fateful first Spring there was one exception – a solitary daffodil (which I hadn't planted) suddenly appeared at the base of a fence – and actually bloomed. So in the middle of all this mess there was one bloom! I remember saying to Dorothy that perhaps it was a symbol of God's promise of better days and new growth.

In the years since then I have undertaken a few projects in different parts of the garden and have had measured success. However every Spring this one solitary daffodil has returned and bloomed despite the fact that this particular patch is a swamp, has been neglected, gets little or no sun, has had a pile of stones dumped on it – but guess what – it's there again this week! A symbol of hope, renewal, restoration, new life from deadness – a thing of beauty.



Obviously I don't know where YOU feel yourself to be in your life just now, but maybe some of you are running low in hope, depressed, lonely or fearful and finding it difficult to take your eyes off your gloomy circumstances, so I want to share my daffodil with you.

This photo is from our first year when it had to combat a snowstorm.

It's not the best daffodil you'll ever see but to me it represents a miracle – a new beginning!

So remember God's activity in our lives is not restricted to circumstances or surroundings. I pray there'll be many miracles in YOUR lives.

Blessings

Ken

ANNUAL MEETING



**The General Easter Vestry Meeting will be held on Thursday 26 March at 7.30pm
Everyone is invited.**

125 ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



FORWARD IN FAITH

is the theme for the celebration of St Aidan's 125th anniversary.

There will be a celebration service at 11am on 22 March, a community service with pupils from Blythfield Primary School over lunch time on Monday 23 March, finishing with an evening service also on Monday 23 March at 7.30pm

FAREWELL TO REVD. BOBBIE

The Revd Bobbie Moore has been the Minister in Charge of our beloved Parish of St. Aidan for the past seven years. At our recent Select Vestry Meeting, Revd Bobbie officially informed the Vestry members that she would be leaving us at the end of April, 2020 to take a new path in her ministry in which the Lord has called her. At present Revd Bobbie is Mission Director for BPMR in Rwanda, a mission charity for elderly care and outreach work in their community. Her previous position before she came to us was connected with outreach in Rwanda and it is there she is being called to continue her ministry.

In the past seven years the Revd Bobbie has brought our church family together, united in God's love in their work for the church. She has been instrumental in bringing our worship and praise into the 21st century and promoting our church as a great "Beacon of Light" in the Sandy Row Community. We will be very sorry to lose her but we wish her every blessing as she takes on her new role in God's ministry.

The Select Vestry

WITHOUT JESUS

Two donkeys were walking in Jerusalem, when one donkey said to the other, "just yesterday I was carrying Jesus and people were singing and shouting and throwing down their clothes for me to walk on, and today they don't even recognise me".

The other donkey replied, "that's how it is my friend... Without Jesus you are nothing".



TWO EASTER MEDITATIONS

Simon of Cyrene

“Then they lead him away to be crucified. A passer-by named Simon, who was from Cyrene, was coming in from the countryside just then and the soldiers forced him to carry Jesus’ cross.” **Mark 15 v. 20-21**

“Share each others burdens and in this way obey the law of Christ.”

Galatians 6 v 2

He passed by on the road;
They pressed him into service,
The first one to come along, a stranger.

Lord, you accepted his help.
You did not want the help of a friend, the
solace of a gesture of love, the generous
impulse of one who cared.
You chose the enforced help of an indifferent
and timid fellow.
Lord, All Powerful, you sought the help of a
powerless man.
By your own choosing you are in need of us.

Lord, I need others.
The way of humankind is too hard to be
trodden alone.
But I avoid the hands outstretched to help
me,
I want to act alone,
I want to succeed alone.
And yet beside me walks a friend, a spouse,
a sister, a brother, a neighbour, a fellow
worker.
You have placed them near me Lord, and too
often I ignore them.
And yet it is together that we shall save the
world.
Lord, even if they are requisitioned, grant
that I may see, that I may accept,
all the Simons on my road.

Jesus’ Clothes are Divided

“Then the soldiers nailed Him to the cross. They divided His clothes and threw dice to decide who would get each piece.”

Mark 15 v.24

You had nothing left but your own cloak;
You were fond of it, your Mother had woven
it for you.

But this, too, had to go.

One thing only is necessary, Lord, your
Cross.

Nothing comes now between you and the
Cross,

And together you will save the world.

And so, Lord, I must give up all these
trappings which hinder me and hide me
from your sight.

This ‘possessing’ which stifles the ‘being’
in me and separates me from others.

Thus, Lord, little by little, everything which
is not an expression of your will
must die.

If you want all, Lord, take all.

Strip me, yourself, of my last garment.

For as the seed must die to turn into the
golden grain,

So we must let go of all, to deserve life.

Adapted from Prayers for Life, Michael
Quoist



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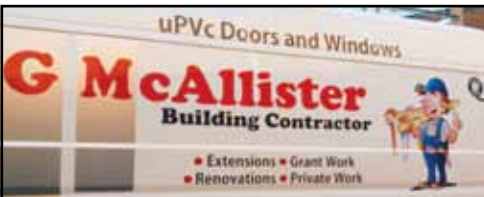


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PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

9 February Koden Stitt

FUNERALS

14 November - Wm Kirkwood

late of 3a Schomberg Drive

22 November - Jim Ball

late of 106 Dunluce Avenue

11 December - Brian Willis

late of 14 Matilda Gardens

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 Summer Magazine reach Liz Adair / Margaret Close by the 1st May. *Thank you*

Flower Rota

March

1st Williams Family

8th Mrs W.Campbell

15th Mackey Family

22nd Mrs D.Hamill

April

5th Mrs M Hoy

12th Mrs S Sloan

19th The Hilditch Family

26th Mr. G. Hill & Family

May

3rd Mrs E Williamson

10th Mrs B.Bowden and

Mrs G.Hollywood

17th Mr & Mrs. B Richardson

24th Crawford Family

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