



St Aidan's Church

in the Parish of St Aidan Sudden Rochdale
and All Souls Heywood

29th March 2020 Fifth Sunday of Lent *Passiontide begins*

Readings: Ezekiel 37.1-14 Psalm 130 Romans 8, 6-11 John 11. 1-45



Collect

Gracious Father,
you gave up your Son
out of love for the world:
Lead us to ponder the mysteries of His passion
that we may know eternal peace
through the shedding of our Saviours' blood,
Jesus Christ our Lord.

In light of the Government guidance around non-essential contact, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York have issued advice that all churches are to close with immediate effect to help halt the spread of Coronavirus

Manchester Diocese has a webpage containing the latest information, support, resources and guidance for churches concerning the Coronavirus at www.manchester.anglican.org/coronavirus

Thoughts on Sunday's reading from Revd Michael

Today we have the long reading from John 11.1-45 which is about Jesus raising his friend Lazarus . It's a story we all know well: Jesus has lost his friend- Jesus feels the pain of a close friend-relative who has died .

We have the shortest verse in the bible . Verse 35. "Jesus wept". What I see in this whole passage is a reminder of Christ's humanity and his divinity all in one.

Jesus wept for his friend.

Jesus couldn't get to his friend's death-bed in time .

Jesus is accused of not performing a miracle and making it all ok.

Jesus wept like we do when we are in despair. When we mourn, Jesus, our God understands.

Jesus , our God, understands and experiences death: of his friends, of his relatives, even of his earthly father Joseph. God understand us. God understands us in this desperation of our current situation.

Secondly, Jesus understands when we can't solve things, when we can't be where we want to be.

We want to be with our relatives and friends; we want to be out and about as normal - but we can't.

Like Jesus wanted to be with Lazarus but he couldn't.

Finally. Jesus is accused of not performing a miracle and saving Lazarus straight away.

God says he is with his people: I love them. Through due process, humanity's process, we will get through and the hope of the end will prevail.

I pray that today as we struggle with all that we are being put through, that Jesus will lead and guide us through the days and weeks to come. Jesus wept for his friend and he prays and weeps with us too in all our struggles and hopes. Amen

I am saying prayers for the Parish and our Congregation at 9am daily and at 10am on Sundays and I hope that you may be able to join me at this time in your own homes.

Revd Michael, Your Vicar and friend.

Keep us, good Lord,
under the shadow of your mercy.
Sustain and support the anxious,
be with those who care for the sick,
and lift up all who are brought low;
that we may find comfort
knowing that nothing can separate us from your love
in Christ Jesus our Lord.
Amen.

Giving to St Aidan's Church: It is really important that we all continue to support our church financially. The running costs for our church will not drop significantly whilst we are closed and some of our fundraising events, including the Spring Fair, have had to be cancelled. Therefore, if you give using the weekly envelope scheme we will be grateful for your continued financial support if it is possible for you to do so. There are options to do bank transfers, set up a standing order or drop your envelopes off. Please contact the Vicar or Treasurer if you would like to take up these options.

Thank you for your continued support from the PCC.

105th Anniversary of the Consecration of St. Aidan's Church



“You have had a hard struggle for your church, but you have persevered, and now all the difficulties and troubles are almost at an end and you have a beautiful church.”

said Dr. Knox, the Bishop of Manchester, at the consecration of St. Aidan's Church on **Wednesday 24th March, 1915.**

When St Aidan's was consecrated, its parishioners and their first Vicar, the Rev. Hartley Harrison, must have been very proud of their achievements. The Church had been designed by Temple Moore, a distinguished church architect and built by T S Ullathorne & Sons of Selby. The original design for the Church had been modified and there were insufficient funds to complete the Tower. This all took place in the middle of the Great War when many of the young men of the Parish were fighting for their country or had already been listed as casualties.

We offer thanks for the life and work of St. Aidan's Church for over 105 years. We have inherited not only a beautiful building but also the pride and determination of that original congregation. We are proud of St Aidan's Church not just as a building but also as an important part of the local community.

Bishop Knox concluded his sermon

“I pray that God will give you grace to use aright the gift which He has put into your possession.”

The original congregation struggled at a difficult time to erect a church for the people of Sudden. May we gratefully accept our responsibility for continuing the work which they began.



Church Refurbishment: a message from the Churchwardens

Work on the church stopped on Tuesday as all the contractors involved with the planned refurbishment and the work on the organ have closed for 3 weeks. The suppliers to the companies involved have all closed. However, the Chancel scaffolding is now complete and work will re-commence as soon as possible. Work is proceeding on the shelving in the Choir Vestry when possible. Thanks to Harry for his continuing work on the church lights.

Malcolm & Alan.

Annual Church Meetings have been postponed by the Diocese and church officers will stay in post until elections can be organised and appointments can be made.

Christine Richardson, PCC Secretary



Please contact us if you would like to mark an anniversary in the newsletter.
newsletter@staidan.org.uk

Church Flowers for Easter: donations already received will be used for flowers when church is re-opened. **Elizabeth Milne**

Rochdale Foodbank News <https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/>

Rochdale Foodbank, like everyone else, is affected by the current Coronavirus situation. We introduced stringent hygiene procedures early but with new instructions on social isolation we have had to take more drastic action, especially as all of our volunteers are past retirement age. We will continue to distribute food but with minimal contact thus restricting the social interaction, care, signposting and prayer that we have been providing. Rochdale council staff are helping us in dealing with our clients. We can accept donations, but these must be taken to the staff entrance of the council offices at No 1 Riverside and not directly to the Foodbank. Alternatively, please keep any donations at home as we will need to urgently restock when circumstances permit. You can also donate money if you wish via our website. Thank you all for your support in the past and my best wishes for the coming weeks which will be difficult for us all. *Sheila*

**Christian Aid Week
10 – 16 May 2020**



News from Christian Aid:

House-to-house collections and delivery-only collections and shared events like Big Brekkie will not go ahead. We are looking at alternative ways to virtually meet, share and pray with supporters over the coming months in the likely absence of physical church services. We are working on alternative plans that will allow people to take part in Christian Aid Week in different, creative ways – by post, by text and online that strengthen our communities during this challenging time. Donations can be made online at any time at <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/>



For Parents/Carers and young (and older) members of the congregation

We hope that home learning from school is going well. To help families who are missing coming to Junior Church there are some useful free resources provided by Roots on the Web.

For Families www.rootsontheweb.com/familiesathome29mar



For Adults www.rootsontheweb.com/adultsathome29mar

Newsletter: please send items to newsletter@staidan.org.uk and contact us with any more email addresses to add to the mailing list.

Can we help?

We have tried to contact members of the congregation who may need a friendly telephone call. Please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or a PCC Member if we can help in any way. Please keep in touch with other church members, friends, family and neighbours in any way you can. Please print this newsletter and pass a copy on if you are able to do this.

Contact Us

	Vicar Revd Michael Read Tel: 01706 360693 vicar@staidan.org.uk	Churchwardens Malcolm Bywater Tel: 01706 623546 malcolm@staidan.org.uk Alan Clarke Tel: 01706 373809 alan@staidan.org.uk	Safeguarding Officer Joanne Colclough safeguarding@staidan.org.uk
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Our Mission is to be a strong church family, promoting and maintaining the Good News about Jesus to the Parish and the wider community.



St Aidan's
Church
Rochdale



THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Manchester

CHURCH
FOR A
DIFFERENT
WORLD

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