



St Aidan's Church

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

www.staidan.org.uk

Sunday 24th May 2020 Easter 7 Sunday after Ascension

Readings: [Acts 1.6-14](#); [John 17.1-11](#)

Collect

O God the King of glory,
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen

Hymns

Hail the day that sees him rise

Alleluia sing to Jesus

I, the Lord of sea and sky

From the Vicarage: a reflection on the Gospel reading.

In this week of Ascension to Pentecost, I want to commend to you the work of Thy Kingdom come, the Archbishop's and now ecumenical project to pray through this week and to offer to God 5 people for whom you wish to pray that they come to know Jesus and build a life with him. The Manchester Methodist circuit have produced some wonderful material which I commend to you to follow on Facebook @Manchester Methodist or the [website](#)

The readings this week and the thoughts about Jesus leaving earth and returning to heaven got me thinking about goodbyes. The way people say goodbye is very personal. Some people are very expressive: tears, hugs and big stories about how they will miss you. Others are just deadpan: shake your hand and say goodbye or even don't shake your hand at all. And when we think of that today, In the light of social distancing, we find it even harder to comprehend. It feels so unemotional, so distant: it makes me feel as if people don't think I care, having to wave from over the road etc.

In this passage Jesus is trying to explain to his disciples that he will be leaving them; that he will be put to death and die. He tries to explain to them all he has done, to explain to them the idea of the 'community of love' and that we are all bound in this. This is our mission too: that Christians are the people of God. He tells the disciples that things will not be easy without him but that when he leaves and returns to heaven, we will be empowered by the Holy Spirit: the Spirit that guides protects and gives us life.

Jesus then tells his disciples and us as his followers, that he is the Son of God, and that they, and we, will find ourselves the keepers and tellers of the message.

As we reflect and see the work going on in our church building with restoration and painting for the future, it is a reminder of all those who went before us but chiefly the task of continuing that legacy, the legacy of telling the good news of Jesus. Being the storytellers, being the messengers of a community of love, telling the people in our community about what it means to be a member of the community of love, living and breathing the good news of Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus as he leaves them asks the Father for protection of his disciples and his followers. They haven't always been shining examples of steadfast faith. how will they cope without him?

Things move on, the disciples said their goodbyes and continued the best they could and we too continue to carry on the best way we can. That prayer of protection still stands, time has moved on but that prayer has echoed through the centuries, during harder times than ours, through the trials of the Book of Acts, the Dark Ages, the Reformation and to this day.

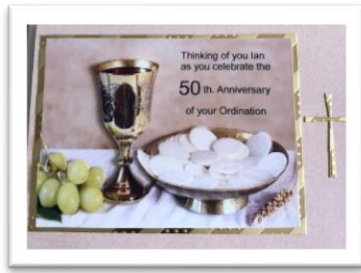
Humankind and God are bound together, with the coming of Jesus, when they were once set apart.

Things are possible that were never possible before, even in our own lifetime. We are so grateful to God to have the Internet and social media in this current situation. And, yes, things will change that we never could have thought would change. But it is how we, with God's protection ringing in our ears, use what has been given to us by Jesus.

So we are the guardians of the message: how will you choose to be part of it, how will it happen? Amen

Your Friend and Vicar Revd Michael

Congratulations to Revd Ian Butterworth on the 50th Anniversary of his Ordination from all his friends at St Aidan's



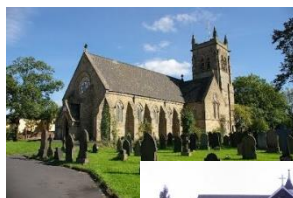
Many of you will know Ian and Joy Butterworth who come to St Aidan's regularly. Ian is a retired priest who was the vicar of St Martin's Castleton, and we are delighted to be able to congratulate him this weekend on reaching the milestone of 50 years as a priest. Ian is originally from Oldham and on May 24th 1970 he and nine other young men were ordained priest at Middleton Parish Church by the then Bishop of Middleton, Right Rev Ted Wickham. He had been working as a junior curate at All Saints and Martyrs Langley in Middleton since his ordination as deacon the previous September but after this service he was able to celebrate communion and do weddings and christenings as a fully fledged priest.

In those days a newly ordained priest would spend two more years in his training parish with an experienced priest then move on to a second curacy where he would take more responsibility. In Ian's case this was a long distance move when in 1972 he joined the staff of St Andrew's Cathedral in Aberdeen as the senior curate with special pastoral responsibility for the choir and organist. This move was not as drastic as it might sound since Ian is a graduate of Aberdeen University, having taken a Honours Degree in Modern Languages there, so this was a sort of homecoming.

After three years there Ian came back to the North West to become vicar of St Matthew's church in Bolton and then in 1985 he moved to another parish in Bolton, St Thomas and St John, Lostock, a post he combined with working for the diocese in lay training. A change of direction after seven years there took him to Droylsden to become a teacher of French and German but his heart was always in parish ministry so in 1999 he was appointed to St Martin's where he led the project to repair and restore the church. In 2010 he retired and he and Joy moved to Bruce Street and joined St Aidan's.

Clergy never really retire though so Ian is often called on to take services in churches where there is a vacancy or to cover holidays. Once a priest, always a priest, he says, because ordination is for life and you never retire from supporting people on their Christian journey.

Editor's note: We should have been celebrating Ian's anniversary at a special service in St Aidan's on Sunday afternoon with Bishop Mark and Bishop Jack Nicholls, former Bishop of Sheffield, who was the senior curate when Ian was at Langley but lock down means this will have to be postponed until we can have services in church again. It will be all the better for the waiting.



*Dear Ian
Congratulations on your anniversary.
I'm sure you have many happy
memories of ministry and parishes.
From Revd's Michael and Sharon,
Ian and Lucy.*

*Still spoken about with great affection
by parishioners in Langley.
Congratulations to a very good friend
and a wise priest.
From Revd Canon Philip H. Miller*



Revd Michael and Revd Ian are saying prayers for the Parish and our Congregation at 9am daily and hope that you may be able to join them at this time in your own homes.

Worship Resources

Live streamed church services can be found at https://www.achurchnearyou.com/live-stream/?tags=Live_stream

Audio prayer resources can be found at <https://soundcloud.com/the-church-of-england/>

Follow the Church of England on Facebook or You Tube for national prayers and services.



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement that invites Christians around the world to pray between Ascension Day (21 May) and Pentecost (31 May) for more people to come to know Jesus.

[Click to download the full Prayer Journal here](#)

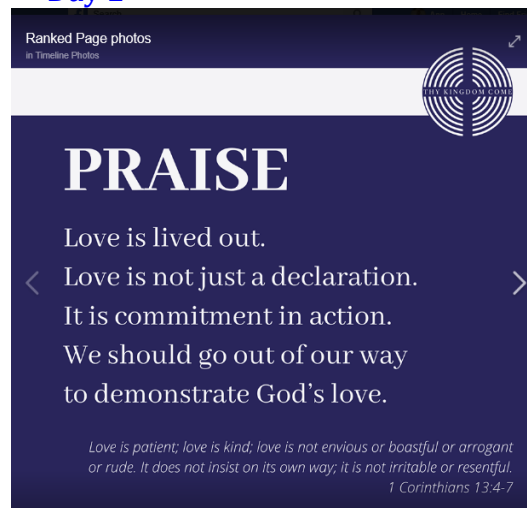
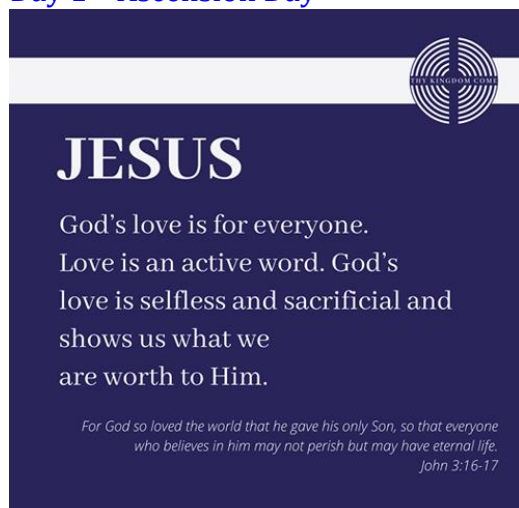
[Click for Church of England resources for Thy Kingdom Come](#)

Loving God, thank you that you gave your Son, Jesus, for me and for all people. Help me accept the love that you showed me in sending your Son. I pray for my five friends. Please open their hearts to your love.

And teach me to love more truly. Amen

Day 1 – Ascension Day

Day 2



Digital Family Prayer

Adventure Map

[Click for more information](#)

New Hymn
click [here](#) or [here](#)

'Thy Kingdom Come - we praise your Holy Name, your sacrifice and rising sets us free...' With freshly re-written lyrics set to the music of 'Tell Out My Soul.'

Follow on Facebook @ThyKingdomComeUK
or on the website thykingdomecome.global

St Aidan's @ Home

Lucy & Ruby's art work



Elaine & Christine's Knitting



What
have you
been
doing?



A book recommendation

Man of Glass Instant Apostle, 2020

Written by a local author **Andrea Sarginson** this debut novel is set in East Yorkshire during the Black Death. It is a chilling reminder of what happened in the past when bacteria and viruses were less well understood and spread uncontrollably. This book was written before the current pandemic but there are haunting parallels as the fears and realities of the disease and the threats to livelihood are explored with historically accurate detail. There are also fascinating insights into the world of medieval stained-glass manufacture. A really good, page-turning read.

A copy of this book is available in the church library
(when we can access the Chapel again!)

happy
birthday

Happy Birthday Wishes

to Tracey

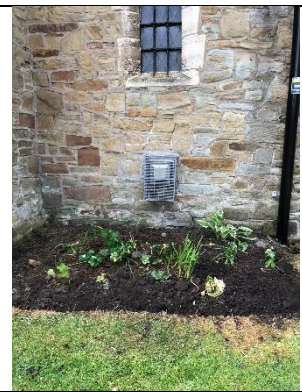
from all at St Aidan's!



Church Gardening

Thanks to Sheila & Christine

for their expert and socially-distanced gardening in the church grounds this week – these are the flower beds at either side of the East Window.



From the Churchwardens

Painters have had a good week, making good progress. The scaffolding is complete and the plasterers are due any day: the painters have identified spots high up to be plastered before they do a second coat. Harry has been working on the lighting. The new glass for windows has been cut and is ready to install next week **Malcolm & Alan**



Giving to St Aidan's Church

*"all things come from you, O Lord,
... and of your own do
we give you"*

From the PCC:

Your financial support is crucial to the upkeep of St Aidan's Church – now more than ever.

If you are able to do so, please carry on with your regular giving and contact the Vicar, Treasurer or any church officer if you would like to drop off your weekly envelopes or to set up a standing order.



Sheila Whitworth is still collecting donations for the Organ Fund. Please carry on filling up your jars ready to bring them to church when it is possible to do so. Funds raised so far for the organ have contributed to extensive refurbishment work including the installation of a new blower motor in the Chapel.

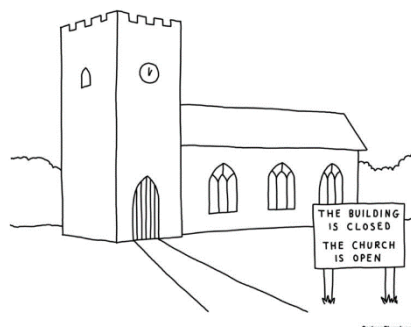


Please continue to support Rochdale Foodbank
<https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/>

All church buildings are closed for public worship, private prayer and all other meetings and activities except for vital community services until further notice from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

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

[New: Advice from Bishop David on a phased approach to revising access to church buildings](#)



Can we help?

Please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or a PCC Member if we can help you and keep in touch with other church members, friends, family and neighbours in any way you can. Letters or copies of this newsletter are being sent to as many members of the congregation as we have details for who we think do not have internet access. Please contact us if you know anyone who is not receiving any communication from church.

Past newsletters and notices are available on the [website](#) and at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/>

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

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 or Ann Montgomery safeguarding@staidan.org.uk
PCC Secretary Christine Richardson Tel: 01706 416997 christine@staidan.org.uk	Curate Revd Ian Taylor Tel. 01706 355738 reviantaylor@gmail.com	ALM Sheila Tolley sheilatolley32@gmail.com	Treasurer Debra Buckley Tel: 01706 647703 debra@staidan.org.uk

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 C of E Parish Church
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www.staidan.org.uk



St Aidan's
Church
Rochdale



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