



St Aidan's Church

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

www.staidan.org.uk

Monthly Newsletter September 2020



Photo courtesy of Phill Connell of H Bell & Sons

Weekly Service

Sunday 10am
Holy Communion

Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals
by arrangement with the Vicar

Readings for this month

6th September	Trinity 13	Romans 13. 8-end	Matthew 18. 15-20
13th September	Trinity 14	Romans 14. 1-12	Matthew 18. 21-35
20th September	Trinity 15	Philippians 1. 21-end	Matthew 20. 1-16
27th September	Trinity 16	Philippians 2. 1-13	Matthew 21. 23-32

To find the Collect for each week click [here](#)

Hymns		Anthems
6th Sept	40 As we are gathered 4 A new commandment	
13th Sept	501 There's a wideness in God's mercy	View me Lord <i>Lloyd</i>
20th Sept	53 Be still for the presence of the Lord	Lead me Lord <i>Wesley</i>
27 th Sept	335 Meekness and majesty	Wait for the Lord <i>Taizé</i>

From Revd Michael

Greetings everyone and welcome to our new monthly notices: a new larger and better magazine style newsletter. We are hoping this is a better way of communication and keeping in touch as we continue living in these restrictive times but continue as a church to worship our living God and work in mission to our community of Sudden and Captain Fold. We do hope you enjoy what we have put together and thank you to all who have contributed.

Worship at St Aidan's



The Fellowship of
Contemplative Prayer

Contemplative prayer - what is it??

What happens at our usual fellowship meeting on Saturday mornings?

The contemplative prayer life has to do with the desire to seek stillness amid the rush of life; to find silence amid noise; to listen amid the clamour to speak; to deepen the internal amid the purely external; to search for God amid busyness. Contemplative prayer is the expression of that desire. The contemplative prayer session that we hold once a month in church follows the guidelines and practices of the fellowship of contemplative prayer.

As part of a prayer meeting we use a contemplative exercise, which may last for up to an hour in total. We use our minds, our hearts and our wills as we listen to God's word in the silences, following a set sentence from scripture as our focus for each session. During the last part we use the saying in intercession for others.

The exercise is led by a single person, called the Witness. My task is to manage the timing of the exercise and to provide a short reflection on the scripture passage (sayings) which helps the group to focus on the saying being used. I am witnessing to the word of God and am part of the group which is praying - it is the Word which is at the centre of the exercise, not the Witness.

Having tried to understand the saying first with our minds, then with our hearts, during the periods of silence that follow we try just to listen - to give our full attention to the words and let God speak to us in that silence, being mindful of our thoughts and what God may be speaking to us - even if for a moment we may think about what we are having for lunch - we then move back and focus on the "saying" again. Finally we use the words in intercession: we offer all that we have thought and prayed about to God allowing them to be spoken through us to others.

This is a short introduction to what happens on a Saturday morning once a month but sadly at the moment these meetings are suspended due to Covid. I offer you the saying for this month as a way of praying at home:

"Do not fear all that this people fear" Isaiah 8.12.

Light a candle and write this saying on a card to look at and focus on and if you get distracted read the card again. Spend 15 mins as a starter in silence, then finish with a prayer of thanksgiving for all you have thought and offer this to God.

Revd Michael



St Aidan's Church Harvest Festival 4th October 2020

Gifts of store cupboard items can be brought to church and left by the Baptismal Font.

These will then be distributed later in the week.

Donations in cash can be made to Rochdale Foodbank – see the item under Church Notices.

Please contact the Vicar if you can help with distribution to local charities.

Virtual Worship Resources

Find live streamed church services [here](#) and audio prayer resources [here](#).

Find national prayers and services from the Church of England on the [CofE website](#), [Facebook page](#) or [YouTube](#).



Manchester Diocese Ordination of Deacons and Priests

Please pray for all those to be ordained this year. Ordination services originally planned for the summer had to be postponed because of the coronavirus lockdown. The new ordination services will be spread across three venues in September and October: Manchester Cathedral, Bolton Parish Church and Oldham Parish Church. Further details at: <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/news/2020/08/17/ordination-deacons-and-priests/>



Heritage Open Days 11-20 September 2020

Unfortunately, we are unable to participate in the Heritage Open Days this year. However, the event is still taking place in 2020 to celebrate England's history and culture with some local venues including St Edmund's Falinge and All Saints & Martyrs, Langley. Search at <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/> to find events, including some virtual tours.

Thanks to Helene's green fingers and photographic skills for this contribution:



Junior Church

We really hope to be able to restart our meetings soon subject to advice from the Diocese and the necessary health and safety measures. Meanwhile, we hope that families will be able to join us for Holy Communion – the service is shorter and all health and safety measures are in place for opening the church on Sunday mornings.

For the time being we will continue with a monthly item in the newsletter with ideas for families to share at home. We will send out an activity sheet weekly and we would really like to receive photos of children's creative work by email or Facebook in place of our usual "show the Vicar".

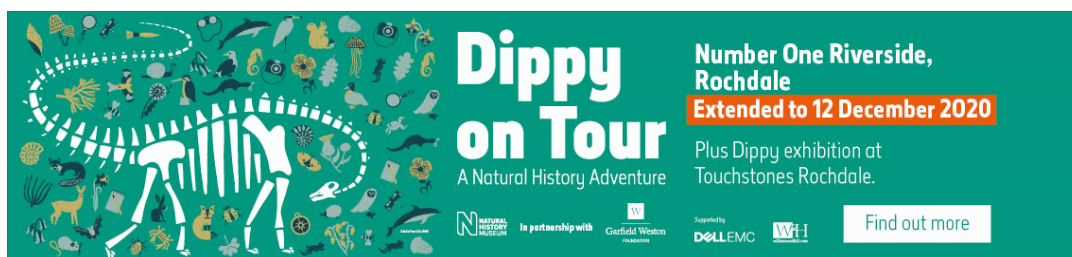
The Children's Groups usually meet in the Hall during the Sunday Morning Service (after the second hymn): Kindergarten (ages 3-6) and Adventurers (ages 7-14). *For further information about our work with Children & Young People, please speak to the Vicar or email children@staidan.org.uk*

Resources for adults and children based on the lectionary and themed resources for families can be found [here](#)



A prayer written by a school pupil (from the Diocesan Children's Officer's Back to School resources):

*God of love and wisdom,
Help me to be curious about the world around me;
Help me to be prepared for the challenges I face each day.
Help me to be open to difficult tasks.
Help me to be determined to complete my work.
Help me to be responsible in all I do.
Help me to be accepting of people's differences.
Help me to be kind in my thoughts and words.
Help me to be aware of my talents.
Help me to be myself – to be the best that I can be.
Amen.*



And because "God made the dinosaurs too" – see the song [here](#) or [here](#)

Dippy the Dinosaur is making a comeback in Rochdale. The huge diplodocus skeleton display will reopen to the public at Number One Riverside on Monday, September 7 after being closed due to the coronavirus pandemic. The enormous beast used to stand guard in the atrium of London's Natural History Museum before heading out on a national tour in 2018. Prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, Dippy's stay in Rochdale was originally due to end on June 28 but the display and accompanying exhibition in Touchstones has been extended until December 12. Well worth a visit - extra social distancing measures will be in place to keep visitors safe. Click on the image above to find out more.

Church Notices

In Memoriam



Church Flowers: Please speak to Elizabeth Milne if you wish to donate or arrange flowers on a specific date. Donations to the Flower Fund are always welcome. Please contact Elizabeth on 01706 633179 or email newsletter@staidan.org.uk

Alternatively, a candle can be placed within a foliage arrangement free of charge.

Intercessions please speak to a Churchwarden or Sidesperson when you arrive on a Sunday morning if you would like a name to be added to the prayers.

Dedications to a Loved One: Dedications can be placed in hymn books; the St Aidan Church Memorial Book or the Parish Book of Remembrance. Please contact Elaine Fowler if you would like to find out more.

Church Music



Thank you to Elizabeth Milne for playing the organ on Sunday mornings since the church reopened and to the Vicar for providing hymn titles for us during lockdown.

Whilst we still cannot have congregational singing in church, it is now considered safe to have some singing with a maximum of four voices. Therefore, for the next few weeks three or four choristers will sing from the Choir Stalls during Communion. There will be a different group each week, all safely social distanced.



Giving to St Aidan's Church

Your ongoing financial support is crucial to the upkeep of St Aidan's Church. Giving by the envelope scheme and standing order are vital ways of supporting our church. If you wish to join the scheme, to submit or amend a Gift Aid Declaration or change your method of giving, please see Debra Buckley (Treasurer) or Joanne Elcock (Gift Aid Secretary).

You can help to raise funds for church at no extra cost to yourself when you shop online. Sign up for free at <http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk> and select your cause as 'St Aidan, Sudden, Rochdale'.

If you would like to make a direct online donation to church you can do this from the [church website](#) or [A Church Near You](#)



You can donate online to support Rochdale Foodbank [here](#) and donations of food are accepted at most supermarkets. <https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/>

From the Churchwardens: help is needed with tidying the church grounds - please contact Malcolm Bywater if you are able to help.

Other Church News

The **Church Annual Meetings** will be held after the morning Service on Sunday 18th October.

Congratulations to Revd Michael who was elected to represent the Diocese as Proctor in Convocation in General Synod in an election held on 23 July 2020.

Church Diary		
September 2020		
October 2020		
Sun	4th	Harvest Festival 10am
Sun	18th	St Luke's Day Annual Church Meetings will be held after the morning service

St Aidan's Church Banquets 2020: This year's banquets have been postponed until further notice

Men's Group/Ladies' Guild meetings: cancelled until further notice.

Contact Us

Please contact the Vicar, Churchwardens or a PCC Member if we can help you in any way.

Vicar Revd Michael Read Tel: 01706 360693 vicar@staidan.org.uk	Assistant Priest Revd Ian Taylor Tel: 01706 355738 reviantaylor@gmail.com	Churchwarden Malcolm Bywater Tel: 01706 623546 malcolm@staidan.org.uk	Churchwarden Alan Clarke Tel: 01706 373809 alan@staidan.org.uk
	PCC Secretary Christine Richardson Tel: 01706 416997 christine@staidan.org.uk	Treasurer Debra Buckley Tel: 01706 647703 debra@staidan.org.uk	Safeguarding Officer Joanne Colclough or Ann Montgomery safeguarding@staidan.org.uk

Newsletter: please send items to newsletter@staidan.org.uk and contact us if you would like to be added to the church mailing list.

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

Our Mission is to be a strong church family, promoting and maintaining the Good News about Jesus to the Parish and the wider community.



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www.staidan.org.uk



St Aidan's
Church
Rochdale



easyfundraising
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