



St Aidan's Church

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



www.staidan.org.uk



Newsletter

December 2020



<p>Weekly Service Sunday 10am Holy Communion</p>	<p>Weddings, Baptisms and Funerals <i>by arrangement with the Vicar</i></p>	
<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between; align-items: center;">  <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>Readings & Music for this month</p> </div>  </div>		
<p>6th December 2nd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Isaiah 40.1-11 2 Peter 3.8-15a Mark 1.1-8</p>	<p>On Jordan's bank O Come, O Come Emmanuel People Look East</p>
<p>13th December 3rd Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Isaiah 61.1-4, 8-end 1 Thessalonians 5.16-24 John 1.6-8, 19-28</p>	<p>Joy to the World! Jesus, Good Above All Other On Christmas Night All Christians Sing</p>
<p>20th December 4th Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>2 Samuel 7.1-11, 16 Romans 16.25-end Luke 1.26-28</p>	<p>See Amid the Winter's Snow Infant Holy, Infant Lowly The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy</p>
<p>24th December Christmas Eve</p>	<p>Isaiah 52. 7-10 Psalm 98 Hebrews 1.1-4(5-12) John 1. 1-14</p>	<p>O Come All Ye Faithful Silent Night In the Bleak Midwinter Hark the Herald Angels Sing</p>
<p>27th December 1st Sunday of Christmas</p>	<p>Isaiah 61.10 – 62.3 Galatians 4.4-7 Luke 2.15-21</p>	<p>See Him Lying on a Bed of Straw Angels from the Realms of Glory Good Christians All, Rejoice</p>

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



Christmas Services at St Aidan's 2020

Sunday 20th December 3pm Service of 9 Lessons and Carols

Soloists and small groups of choristers will sing well-known carols. Unfortunately there can still be no congregational participation. We are taking bookings in advance to maximise seating and keep within the Covid-19 guidance. Seating will be allocated on a first come basis so please book early and please arrive by 2.45pm to allow time to be shown to your allocated seats. Only household bubbles can be seated together. To book: email or phone Malcolm Bywater malcolm.bywater@sky.com 07980 606175

Please supply this information: **Lead party name** **Number of seats** **Number in each household "bubble"**
for example: Malcolm Bywater 6 2 bubbles of 3

Thursday 24th December 11.30pm Christmas Eve

NO SERVICE on Christmas morning Friday 25th December

From Reverend Michael

Dear All

I write this letter while we are still in our second lockdown, hoping that when you read this we will be back in church again and worshipping, still under restrictions, but celebrating Advent and Christmas 2020.

The message of Advent is about Hope and has always been about Hope regardless of the pandemic. Think back five years to 2015: we had never heard of Covid-19, or keeping 2 metres away from anyone or ever having to worry about not visiting friends and family on any single day let alone at Christmas or restrictions on shopping. We have never known a time when church has been closed before, but each and every year since Jesus' birth, people have looked to Hope. Each and every day we look for the Hope of Jesus on our journey of faith, holding on to the message that we will live in the Hope of Christ and his love every day.

In Dec 2020, that Hope seems to have a different reality: a reality that our Hope in Christ - today as you read this - is a Hope not just for the future but for the present. We live in Hope that this virus will disappear as soon as possible. We live in a moment when we hope that by December 2021 we will be back to some normality. So in this Hope we look to the birth of Christ: the Hope that has sustained the world from the beginning of time and a hope that we repeat every year at Christmas, and a Hope that we experience each and every day: this Hope that with Christ with us, we will live another day, with the love of Christ in us. For Jesus is the Hope of glory.

May you have a Christ-filled Advent and Christmas.

Fellowship of Contemplative Prayer

Saying for December:

“Do not be afraid the Holy One to be born will be called the Son of God “ Luke 1.30,35.

In order to discover this presence of Jesus in reality today, we must leave our fear behind us and find our way through the mess of this time and walk through the dark spaces presented to us to arrive at the stable. May we just focus on the humility and simplify of the stable and enfold that love and grace within us.

Simply. Emmanuel, yes God is with us in his perfect love.

Revd Michael

P for Pause - be still

R for Rejoice – be grateful

A for Ask – be honest with God and ask for what you want and need

Y for Yield – say Yes, Lord

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](#).



The Church of England's national campaign for Advent & Christmas 2020

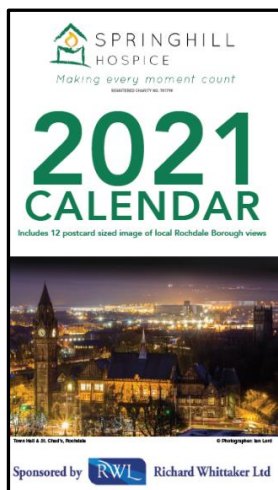
The national campaign **Comfort and Joy: Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas** from Christmas Day to January 2nd will mirror the structure of a traditional carol service, exploring both biblical texts and the words of much-loved Christmas carols.

More information at <https://www.churchofengland.org/resources/preparing-advent-christmas-2020-comfort-and-joy>

Look out for the Comfort and Joy booklets and prayer cards in church or delivered to your door.

The Church of England is partnering with a range of national charities and individuals for the online services throughout Advent and Christmas. These will be available to watch on [the website](#), [Facebook page](#) and [YouTube channel](#).

You can watch live at 9am on Sunday mornings or catch up later. See below for details of the national Christingle service for the Children's Society on 13th December.

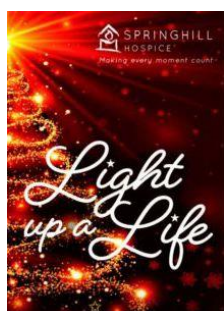


Springhill Hospice's 2021 Calendar is now on sale for £4, showcasing 13 amazing views of our Rochdale borough!

If you would like to purchase a Springhill 2021 Calendar, please contact Rebekah Cheshire on rebekah.cheshire@hotmail.com and Rebekah will be able to organise this for you.

Please have the correct cash in a sealed envelope for Springhill Hospice.

Many thanks for your support.

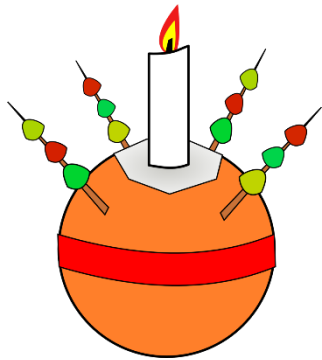


Springhill Hospice's annual Light Up A Life Service will be held virtually on Saturday 5th December and will remain available throughout December.

Leaflets are available in church and further information is available at <https://springhill.org.uk/lightupalife>

Junior Church at St Aidan's

Celebrating Christingle 2020



The Children's Groups will miss the opportunity this year to join together for a Christingle & Crib Service during Advent.

However, we can all share in the National Christingle Service on 13th December 2020 from our homes.

We will have "Christingle bags" for collection from church on 6th December and delivery to as many church families as possible. The bags will contain DIY Christingles (you will need to add an orange!) and some other gifts from St Aidan's. Why not make your Christingle and watch the service online next week?

Please give generously to The Children's Society if you can – details will be included in the bags or [click here to check the website](#)



Meet our new Junior Church member. This is Sofia with her activity sheet and lovely words about how she cares about her Grandma.

Unfortunately we are still unable to run sessions for our younger church members. We hope that you are managing to follow some of the Roots activities at home. Thanks to Tara for sending the weekly emails. This is also useful for any Grandparents who would like to send an activity sheet to grandchildren they are not able to see – you are all welcome to join this mailing list.

The Children's Groups (3-6 yrs and 7-14yrs) usually meet in the Hall during the Sunday Morning Service. **We are renewing the registers for the Children's Groups – please let us know if you have not received a registration form to complete for any church members under the age of 14.**

For further information about our work with Children & Young People, please speak to the Vicar or email safeguarding@staidan.org.uk

What does St Aidan's mean to you?



Coffee & chat
in the Hall after
the services

Welcome
at the church door
without masks,
sanitizer
and temperature
checks!

Helping out where we can
Catering. Church cleaning
and gardening as a team

(even)
PCC Meetings

We asked: What does St Aidan's mean to you?
What are you missing most about church?
What would you tell a new church member about
what church life is usually like?



JUNIOR CHURCH -
KINDERGARTEN
& ADVENTURERS
Fun Craft & Friends

Nativity Plays
- even when they
don't go quite to plan

Wednesday mornings
Service & Open Church

Parish Trips
Spring &
Autumn Fairs

Singing
together

Church Banquets
Laughter & Fine Dining
Fellowship & Fun

Thanks to Barbara for sending these photos of the St Aidan's Banquets - our main fundraising event and a lot of fun for performers, helpers and audience alike

Church Notices

Covid-19:

The latest advice from the Diocese on Coronavirus can be found at <https://www.manchester.anglican.org/coronavirus/>

In Memoriam



Christmas Flowers: the arrangement in front of the pulpit has been donated by Jane Pritchard in memory of her mother Joan Carter.

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

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's Church Memorial Book or the Parish Book of Remembrance. Please contact Elaine Fowler if you would like to find out more.



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](https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/) and donations of food are accepted at most local supermarkets. <https://rochdale.foodbank.org.uk/>

Church Diary

December 2020

Sun	13th	National Christingle Service (online)
Sun	20th	St Aidan's Carol Service 3pm
Thurs	24th	Christmas Eve Service 11.30pm No 10am service on 25 th December
Fri	25 th to 2 nd Jan	Comfort and Joy Reflections

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.bywater@sky.com	Churchwarden Alan Clarke Tel: 01706 373809 alanjuneclarke@gmail.com
	PCC Secretary Christine Richardson Tel: 01706 416997 christineroserichardson@gmail.com	Treasurer Debra Buckley Tel: 01706 647703 debralbuckley@btinternet.com	Safeguarding Officer Ann Montgomery (Acting) Tel; 01706 359869 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.



St Aidan's C of E Parish Church
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www.staidan.org.uk



St Aidan's
 Church
 Rochdale



CHURCH FOR A DIFFERENT WORLD



easyfundraising
 .org.uk

You have received this email because you are on the St Aidan's Church mailing list. If you would like to change your details or to be removed from this list, please let us know.

... and finally - proof that the fellowship of the St Aidan's congregation is undaunted in the present circumstances.

