

DIARY DATES FOR MARCH	
Wednesday 6th March	Prayer Central
Sunday 10th March	Mothering Sunday
Monday 11th March	Select Vestry—11.00 St Mary Magdalene
Monday 11th March	Select Vestry—19.30 St Aidan's
Tuesday 12th March	Select Vestry—19.30 St Simon's
Sunday 17th March	St Patrick's Day
Sunday 20th March-Friday 29th March	Holy Week
Thursday 28th March	Maundy Thursday*
Friday 29th March	Good Friday
Sunday 31st March	Clocks go forward!
Sunday 31st March	Easter Sunday



* Further details re Maundy Thursday and other Holy Week activities will be announced

We extend our deepest sympathies to all who have been bereaved together with the assurance of our thoughts and prayers.

Nunc Dimittis

Name	Date of Death	Date of Burial	Church
Margaret Walker	30th Jan	6th Feb	St Simon
Maureen McBride	30th Jan	7th Feb	St Aidan
Samuel (Sammy) Martin	13th Feb	21st Feb	St Mary Magdalene
Alexander (Alex) Kerr	20th Feb	27th Feb	St Aidan

Blackstaff Mission Area



St Aidan, St Mary Magdalene, St Simon with St Philip

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WHAT'S IN A NAME?

When I was a boy, I used to love the Ronseal adverts. Do you remember those? The man would paint the fence with Ronseal and say that iconic line, 'It does exactly what it says on the tin!' For the last year or so we've had a very Ronseal name for our Mission Area. The Inner South Belfast Mission Area describes exactly what we are: a mission area serving Inner South Belfast. The only problem is that it's a bit of a mouthful to say (try saying it quickly five times!), and it doesn't make a great acronym. So, we agreed, as Select Vestries, that a new name was needed and I set to work trying to think of a better name to call ourselves. I'm delighted to say that as Select Vestries we've all approved a change to the name: **the Blackstaff Mission Area**.

I had three main criteria to fulfil: I wanted something common to all three parishes, something historic/geographic, and something Biblical. The Blackstaff River runs underneath all three parishes, which fulfils the first two criteria, but what about the third? The image of a river is important right throughout the Bible. In the garden of Eden, the great rivers run out of the garden and water the earth. When Jerusalem is constructed, there is a river which runs throughout it to provide sustenance when the people are besieged. When Jesus is crucified, water flows from his side. And in the New Creation the River of the Water of Life flows down the great city of God giving refreshment and healing to the people of God.

This seemed to us to be a good name to describe our Mission Area, because we're nourished by the water of life from Jesus, and are trying to share that water with everyone who will drink it. Think of the waters bubbling up from the spring under Jerusalem giving life to the city - that's the kind of image we want to have of our three churches. Let me assure everyone that the names St. Aidan, St. Simon, and St. Mary Magdalene are being retained - Blackstaff is simply the new umbrella term for our Mission Area. Please do join me in giving thanks to God for this next step in the life of our churches, and in continuing to pray that God would use us to grow his kingdom in the Blackstaff Mission Area.

Rev Ross Mungavin

March 2024



MARCH SERVICES



3rd March	United – St Simon’s 10.00 am—Service of the Word		
Lead / Preach	Ven Barry Forde/Rev Ross Mungavin		
Reader/s	Billy Hughes		
Prayers	Rev Ross Mungavin		
Readings	Haggai 2:1-9 Matthew 16:13-20		
10th March	St Aidan 10.00	St Simon 11.30	St Mary Magdalene 11.30
Service	Service of the Word	Service of the Word	Morning Prayer
Lead / Preach	Ven Barry Forde/ Rev Ross Mungavin	Ven Barry Forde	Rev Ross Mungavin
Reader/s	Margaret Close	Ven Barry Forde	Jane Stewart
Prayers	John Collins	Billy Hughes	Rev Ross Mungavin
Readings	Genesis 12:1-3 Matthew 1:1-17	Genesis 12:1-3 Matthew 1:1-17	Hosea 11:1-4 John 19: 25-27
17th March	St Aidan 10.00	St Simon 11.30	St Mary Magdalene 11.30
Service	Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Holy Communion
Lead / Preach	Ven Barry Forde/ Rev Ross Mungavin	Rev Ross Mungavin	Ven Barry Forde
Reader/s	Anne Hunter	Billy Hughes	Kate Irving
Prayers	John Collins	Rev Ross Mungavin	Ven Barry Forde
Readings	Isaiah 53:1-12 Matthew 16:21-27	Isaiah 53:1-12 Matthew 16:21-27	Genesis 12:1-3 Matthew 1:1-17
24th March	St Aidan 10.00	St Simon 11.30	St Mary Magdalene 11.30
Service	Service of the Word	Service of the Word	Morning Prayer
Lead / Preach	Ven Barry Forde/ Rev Ross Mungavin	Ven Barry Forde	Rev Ross Mungavin
Reader/s	Robert Redpath	Ven Barry Forde	Bill Jeffrey
Prayers	Alan Serplus	Billy Hughes	Rev Ross Mungavin
Readings	Daniel 7:9-10 Matthew 28:1-15	Daniel 7:9-10 Matthew 28:1-15	Isaiah 53:1-12 Matthew 16:21-27
31st March	Easter Sunday—United – St Aidan’s 10.00 am		
Lead / Preach	Ven Barry Forde/Rev Ross Mungavin		
Reader/s	John Collins		
Prayers	Rev Ross Mungavin		
Readings	John 20:11-18	John 20:19-23	John 20:24-29

Readers should inform Rev Ross Mungavin if they are unavailable to read on the selected date

GOOD FRIDAY

29th March	Good Friday Hour at the Cross—St Simon 12.00 noon	
Lead / Preach	Ven Barry Forde/Rev Ross Mungavin	
Reader/s & Readings	Emma Mungavin Libby Garstang Liz Adair	Lamentations 3:1-9 Lamentations 3:10-20 Lamentations 3:21-26
Prayers	Billy Hughes	

The April United Service will be held on Sunday 7th April at 10.00 am in St Mary Magdalene



Prayer Central

The next Prayer Central will be held on
Wednesday 6th March
at 7.30 pm in St Mary Magdalene Church

Please do your best to attend

Just a thought!



An umbrella cannot stop the rain but it allows us to stand in the rain.

Faith in God may not remove our trials but it gives us strength to overcome them.

Calling all Snooker players

Do you know that there is a dedicated Snooker Room with two full size tables in St Mary Magdalene Church hall? If anyone is interested in forming a Snooker Club, please let Ross know and we can look to get this up and running. Who'll be the first to reach a 147?

Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to Mr Bill Jeffrey who can be seen here celebrating his 90th, yes 90th birthday, in February.
All best wishes to you Bill!

