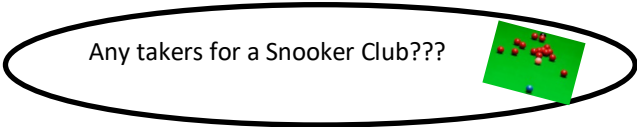


Just a reminder that our regular groups are back week beginning 8th April in St Mary Magdalene.
New members are always welcome.

| GROUP | DAY | TIME |
|-------------------|---------------|-------------|
| Baby Cafe | Wed morning | 10.00-11.00 |
| Parent & Toddlers | Wed morning | 11.30-12.30 |
| Women's Group | Thurs morning | 10.00-12.00 |



A Zumba class runs in St Mary Magdalene hall on a Wednesday evening from 6.00-7.00 pm.
Contact Shaila on 07979951399 for further details if you are interested in coming along.

Thanksgiving for the gift of a child

A Service of Thanksgiving for the birth of Pearly Graham, daughter of Charlie was held in St Mary Magdalene on Sunday 10th March. Little Pearly slept all through the proceedings, only to waken with a big smile and gurgle. Rev Ross presented Pearly with a book of Bible stories.

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 |
|--------------------|---------------|----------------|----------|
| Ann Elizabeth Gore | 20th Mar | 28th Mar | St Aidan |

Blackstaff Mission Area



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

Venerable Barry Forde on:
barryforde74@gmail.com
02890 828872 (or) 07824643113

Rev Ross Mungavin on:
ross.mungavin@gmail.com
07718131747

EASTER MISSION

'I thank my God every time I remember you. In all my prayers for all of you, I always pray with joy because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now, being confident of this, that he who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.' Philippians 1:3-6.

In his introduction to the letter to the Philippians, the Apostle Paul tells them how grateful to God he is for their *partnership* in the Gospel. As Christians we are blessed to be one small part of the larger body of Christ, and it's right and good that we partner with other Christians in the cause of sharing the Gospel of Jesus. During Holy Week we were delighted to partner with the Hub Belfast to run a series of events designed to help us engage with our neighbours in the Blackstaff Mission Area. They gathered a team of fifteen students, who gave up part of their Easter holiday to come and work with our churches on a variety of things. The students began the week with practical service and preparation - they cleaned up our church buildings, and weeded the back car park in St. Mary Magdalene. Then we ran children's activities in St. Aidan's and St. Simon's, and a family fun day in St. Mary Magdalene - and these are already showing signs of fruit, with four new children coming to church on Easter Sunday. We also hosted events for adults to connect with our churches and begin a relationship. On the Wednesday evening we heard the story of how God transformed the life of David Hamilton - a former terrorist - through the Gospel; on Friday we held the Big Quiz (and I still think my team was hard done by in the picture round!); and on Saturday morning we were delighted to bring back the Big Breakfast in St. Mary Magdalene. At each of these events we met people who hadn't been to our church before, or who had drifted away and were happy to be back. We're very grateful to all the students and staff from the Hub for helping to make the week happen - it was a busy week, but a good week for the Gospel.

It was also Holy Week, and so while we were pouring efforts into spreading the Gospel we also had a chance to pause and reflect on the significance of that week



APRIL SERVICES



| | | | |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 7th April | United – St Mary Magdalene 10.00 am—Service of the Word | | |
| Lead / Preach | Rev Ross Mungavin | | |
| Reader/s | Libby Garstang | | |
| Prayers | Rev Ross Mungavin | | |
| Readings | Jeremiah 23:25-29 John 5:60-71 | | |
| | | | |
| 14th April | 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 | John Collins | Billy Hughes | Kate Irving |
| Prayers | Rev Ross Mungavin | Ven Barry Forde | Rev Ross Mungavin |
| Readings | Leviticus 23:39-43 John 7:1-13 | Leviticus 23:39-43 John 7:1-13 | Jeremiah 23:25-29 2 Timothy 3:16-42 |
| | | | |
| 21st 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 | To be confirmed |
| Reader/s | Bobby Griffin | Rev Ross Mungavin | Jane Stewart |
| Prayers | Alan Serplus | Billy Hughes | To be confirmed |
| Readings | Micah 5:1-6 John 7:14-36 | Micah 5:1-6 John 7:14-36 | Leviticus 23:39-43 John 7:1-13 |
| | | | |
| 28th April | 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 | Billy Hughes | Bill Jeffrey |
| Prayers | John Collins | Ven Barry Forde | Rev Ross Mungavin |
| Readings | Exodus 17:1-7 John 7:37-52 | Exodus 17:1-7 John 7:37-52 | Micah 5:1-6 John 7:14-36 |

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

for us as Christians. On Maundy Thursday we had a hugely enjoyable bring and share meal (where my paella was the first empty dish!) followed by a short service of communion in the chapel of the Holy Spirit. On Good Friday we spent an hour at the cross, reflecting from the book of Lamentations on what it must have been like for Jesus to experience God's wrath for us. And then Easter Sunday came, and we joined together as three churches to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus - a joy-filled service that was bursting with life, energy, and creme-eggs!

Please do join me in praying for the work that must now begin in follow up to the week. I said to the students at the beginning that they wouldn't be the saviours of our churches, but they might be a catalyst to help us to connect with people in our communities. Now that those connections have been made it's over to us to follow them up. Do give thanks to God for all that he did in Holy Week, and if you meet any students from the Hub pass on your thanks to them too!

Rev Ross

The April United Service will be held on Sunday 7th April at 10.00 am in St Simon's Church

Prayer Central

The next Prayer Central will be held on
Wednesday 10th April at 7.30 pm in St Aidan's

Please do your best to attend

ANNUAL GENERAL VESTRY MEETINGS

It's that time of year again when Annual General Vestry Meetings need to be held. These meetings are of importance in the church calendar, as you will hear about the work going on in your church and the Blackstaff Mission Area. You will also be able to vote for your Select Vestry. If you are interested in becoming a Select Vestry member, you may have the opportunity to do so. **BUT**, please be assured that you will not be asked to take on any job that you don't want to. However, just by showing an interest and coming along, will be great encouragement to everyone.

Please mark your date in your calendar and do your very best to attend

| Church | Date | Time |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|
| St Simon's | Monday 8th April | 7.00 pm |
| St Aidan's | Monday 8th April | 8.00 pm |
| St Mary Magdalene | Sunday 14th April | 1.00 pm |