

Companions of St Aidan

Companions of St Aidan find their passion in God's mission. However they connect to the Christian story – intrigued, exploring, inspired or a life long follower, Companions embrace God's vision for the flourishing for all life. They have been inspired by the teachings of Jesus as He revealed the radical nature of the Kingdom of Heaven and its challenge to our everyday living. They feel energised and empowered by the Holy Spirit to make a difference in the places and communities where they are placed or believe they are called.

On learning about the life of St Aidan, Companions have found in the accounts of his life, a creative model to follow in their own relationship to God and to others. They especially value his sense of walking alongside others and encouraging those he met on his journeys to grow in faith. These values by which St Aidan lived are summarised in a Rule of Life that Companions seek to follow.

Sometimes those who are passionate about mission can find themselves ploughing a lonely furrow and so Companions cherish the practical support and encouragement that they give and receive from each other. They see themselves belonging to a dispersed but intimate community that is always open to new learning and which welcomes others to become Companions themselves. They value a sense of partnership and collaboration as the best way to work to make a difference that brings fresh hope.

St Aidan

An Inspiration for today

St Aidan was the first Bishop of Lindisfarne and the pioneer of Christian mission in this our beloved region. Aidan came here at the bidding of King Oswald, he walked the land and talked with all he met about Christ. He loved all the people, be they rich or poor, powerful or powerless.

To him all were significant and he would share Christ with whoever he met and whenever he met them.

He was both challenging and encouraging and always 'walked alongside' those whom he sought to inspire. Today, perhaps more than ever, in our turbulent and anxious world, we need to find a missionary zeal, a new energy to share the Good News of the kingdom of God here in our diocese, our neighbourhoods and communities. We need to support each other in our pilgrimage, a community of missionaries connecting the faith that we have found with the world in which we live, finding God together at work amidst us in the daily lives of all we meet.



The **Companions of St Aidan** are a supportive and dispersed community walking the Christian way. Like St Aidan, Companions work with the grain of the communities in which they live and work in order to enable God's Kingdom of dignity, justice and hope.

Becoming a Companion of St Aidan?

Companionship is open to all. However, Companions will have given serious thought and prayer to help to determine whether this is a community to which they wish to belong. There is no formal selection process, but before signing up as a Companion, those who are interested will be asked to:

- Participate in a brief introductory conversation either individually or in a locally based group
- Consider and subscribe to the Rule of Life and the values that it embodies
- Accept the Safeguarding guidelines that relate to Companions
- Accept the need for regular prayer as part of the Community -walking with St Aidan
- Make a commitment to participate as part of one or more of the mission networks and offer encouragement and support to other Companions, sharing ideas and resources
- Be willing to attend at least one of the annual Community Gathering days with other Companions

As you sign up as a Companion you will be asked to:

- Publish your personal profile on the secure 'Companions Only' section of the website so other Companions can meet you and get to know of your interests
- Join or initiate and participate in the mission networks of common interest and share ideas and experiences

What do Companions do?

Mission Networks

Companions initiate and/or join networks with other Companions that are addressing areas of mission in which they feel called as an enabler to work alongside others. For example the focus of mission could include:

- Debt and poverty
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Care of the elderly
- Nurturing children
- Working with young people
- Supporting those with addictions
- Working with asylum seekers and refugees
- Faith and our daily work
- Parish mission and development
- Rural affairs and environment

Companions are also encouraged to support the work and initiatives of other Companions in a variety of settings many of which cross traditional boundaries by:

- Praying for them
- Joining in and lending a shoulder to specific projects that other Companions may be trying to get going or sustain
- Sharing learning from their own experience

It is recognised that there are already examples of life affirming work taking place in these areas of mission. Companions are a means by which this goodness may spread and discover new opportunities to work alongside others who are also committed to bringing hope to their communities.

Contact us

For further information please get in touch

contact details

geoff@walkwithaidan.org.uk

Tel 0191 273 8245

or visit our website,
sign up for our regular

E-Newsletter

and like our Facebook page
to keep up to date with latest developments

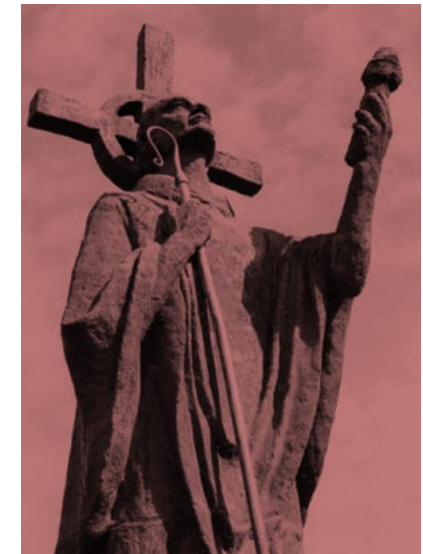
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Companions of St Aidan

Walking the Way of St Aidan

An invitation to join a new
movement in the Diocese of
Newcastle



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