



**Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's, Brunton Park
Sunday 23rd June 2024
Trinity 4**

The story of David continues through our Old Testament readings this week as he famously faces Goliath. A young David faces insurmountable odds. Unable to even put on the armour he's given, he goes to face this mighty warrior with just a slingshot and five smooth stones. And perhaps we might notice two moments in this story. Firstly, David is willing to face the challenge. Our first instinct in the face of insurmountable odds is to retreat. David's faith that God desired this victory led him to face it head on. Secondly, he faced it not with strength but with vulnerability. He rejected the armour he was given – it wouldn't fit him anyway! – and went to face Goliath undefended.

How can we do the same? How can we face the challenges God calls us to head on, not running from those things that daunt us? And how can we allow our vulnerability, our weakness, be God's vehicle to bring down a giant? Jesus does the same for us, facing all the powers of sin and death from a cross. This is the power of God, and it is at work in us too.

1 Samuel 17.32-49

David said to Saul, 'Let no one's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine.' Saul said to David, 'You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are just a boy, and he has been a warrior from his youth.' But David said to Saul, 'Your servant used to keep sheep for his father; and whenever a lion or a bear came, and took a lamb from the flock, I went after it and struck it down, rescuing the lamb from its mouth; and if it turned against me, I would catch it by the jaw, strike it down, and kill it. Your servant has killed both lions and bears; and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be like one of them, since he has defied the armies of the living God.' David said, 'The LORD, who saved me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, will save me from the hand of this Philistine.' So Saul said to David, 'Go, and may the LORD be with you!'

Saul clothed David with his armour; he put a bronze helmet on his head and clothed him with a coat of mail. David strapped Saul's sword over the armour, and he tried in vain to walk, for he was not used to them. Then David said to Saul, 'I cannot walk with these; for I am not used to them.' So David removed them. Then he took his staff in his hand, and chose five smooth stones from the wadi, and put them in his shepherd's bag, in the pouch; his sling was in his hand, and he drew near to the Philistine.

The Philistine came on and drew near to David, with his shield-bearer in front of him. When the Philistine looked and saw David, he disdained him, for he was only a youth, ruddy and handsome in appearance. The Philistine said to David, 'Am I a dog, that you come to me with sticks?' And the Philistine cursed David by his gods. The Philistine said to David, 'Come to me, and I will give your flesh to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the field.' But David said to the Philistine, 'You come to me with sword and spear and javelin; but I come to you in the name of the LORD of hosts, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defied. This very day the LORD will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head; and I will give the dead bodies of the Philistine army this very day to the birds of the air and to the wild animals of the earth, so that all the earth may know that there is a God in Israel, and that all this assembly may know that the LORD does not save by sword and spear; for the battle is the Lord's and he will give you into our hand.' When the Philistine drew nearer to meet David, David ran quickly toward the battle line to meet the Philistine. David put his hand in his bag, took out a stone, slung it, and struck the Philistine on his forehead; the stone sank into his forehead, and he fell face down on the ground.

Mark 4.35-41

When evening had come, Jesus said to his disciples, 'Let us go across to the other side.' And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, 'Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?' He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, 'Peace! Be still!' Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, 'Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?' And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?'

TODAY

9.30am: **Trinity 4** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm leads as Gerard Rundell preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon-Fri 8.50am, Church: **Morning Prayer**

Mon 7.30pm, via Zoom: **Bible Study**

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Chat and Craft**

Sat 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

11.00am, Newcastle Cathedral: **Hannah's Ordination**

Sun 9.30am: **Trinity 5** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and preaches in this joint service with St Columba's, with readings from 2 Samuel 1.1,17-27, 2 Corinthians 8.7-15 and Mark 5.21-43

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 27th Jun 2.00pm: **Chat and Craft**, Community Room

Fri 12th Jul Evening: **Art Exhibition**, Church

Sat 13th Jul Morning: **Art Exhibition**, Church

Sat 20th Jul TBC: **Kids Summer Celebration**, St Aidan's

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's service link is <https://bit.ly/Trinity4StAidan2024>

SUMMER FAIR – thank you to everyone who came along to our summer fair and to all our volunteers. We raised £1040 and very grateful.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED – would you like to help during our services? We are asking for volunteers to help serve from the chalice during communion. We are also looking for helpers to assist the leader in our Sunday morning Kids Group. This would be perhaps once every 6 weeks. Please speak to Gerard if you feel you could help with either of these roles.

HANNAH'S ORDINATION – is on Saturday (29th June) at 11am at Newcastle Cathedral. Everyone is welcome to attend. If you are planning to come by car and can offer a lift, please write your name on the list at the back of church. Please pray for Hannah, Caleb and Evelyn as Hannah prepares for her ordination.

HANNAH'S FIRST COMMUNION – following her ordination, Hannah will preside over her first communion service next Sunday 30th June here at St Aidan's as we are joined by the congregation of St Columba's church.

COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM – will be held on Wednesday 26th June at 7.00pm. Please come along to support our local centre if you can.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – has resumed on Monday's via Zoom with a study of the Acts of the Apostles.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDsm1KOURtQT09>

Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

FOOD BANK – items placed in the food box will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

PLANNED GIVING - If you would like to set up a regular financial gift to support St Aidan's please click on the following link <https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/brunton-park-st-aidan-newcastle-upon-tyne>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church - Sacred Heart RC and St John's URC. Retired clergy: Ben Pullan, Christine Crompton, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner

For the community – Christian Aid, the Children's Society, and other charities supported by the church and the Saturday café

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those preparing for marriage – Andrew and Ruth, Jonathan and Valentina, Sophie and Ben

For those in need - Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Bill Yeaman, Sue Bates, Lyndsay Miller

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Val Hay, Doris Smith, Connie Inglis, John Dodd, Rita Brydon, Clem Cleminson

CONTACTS: Office: 0191 236 7952

Administrator/Newsletter : Janice Charlton infostaidans@gmail.com

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Team Curate: Revd Dr Hannah Malcolm 07938 433910 revhmalcolm@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 brpullan@gmail.com

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