



**Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Brunton Park
Sunday 15th September 2024
Trinity 16**

In this morning's Gospel reading Jesus gives his disciples, and us after them, the great calling of the Christian life. A calling that is counter-intuitive and counter-cultural. Jesus asks all who follow him to 'deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.' The path of the cross is one that leads to hardship, suffering, persecution, and even death. Is that really what Jesus calls us to? This is the same Jesus who said: 'I have come that they might have life and have it in abundance.' (John 10:10). It seems hard to square the circle of a loving Lord who asks his disciples to bear something as hard as the cross.

And yet the impossible, paradoxical truth of the Christian faith is that the way of the cross is the way of life, not of death. In his resurrection Jesus turns the world on its head so that the cross brings not death but life, not shame but glory, not judgement but salvation, not suffering but joy. The way of the cross, though it asks us to give up everything, even our very lives, is yet the path to abundant life. Perhaps the collect for the third Sunday in Lent says it best:

Almighty God,
whose most dear Son went not up to joy but first he suffered pain,
and entered not into glory before he was crucified:
mercifully grant that we, walking in the way of the cross,
may find it none other than the way of life and peace.

Proverbs 1.20-33

Wisdom cries out in the street;
in the squares she raises her voice.
At the busiest corner she cries out;
at the entrance of the city gates she speaks:
'How long, O simple ones, will you love being simple?
How long will scoffers delight in their scoffing
and fools hate knowledge?
Give heed to my reproof;
I will pour out my thoughts to you;
I will make my words known to you.
Because I have called and you refused,
have stretched out my hand and no one heeded,
and because you have ignored all my counsel
and would have none of my reproof,

I also will laugh at your calamity;
I will mock when panic strikes you,
when panic strikes you like a storm,
and your calamity comes like a whirlwind,
when distress and anguish come upon you.
Then they will call upon me, but I will not answer;
they will seek me diligently, but will not find me.
Because they hated knowledge
and did not choose the fear of the LORD,
would have none of my counsel,
and despised all my reproof,
therefore they shall eat the fruit of their way
and be sated with their own devices.
For waywardness kills the simple,
and the complacency of fools destroys them;
but those who listen to me will be secure
and will live at ease, without dread of disaster.'

Mark 8.27-38

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' Jesus asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

TODAY

9.30am: **Trinity 16** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preach.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon-Fri	8.50am, Church: Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am, Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist
Thurs	2.00pm, Community Room: Friends Having Fun
Sat	10.00am, Community Room: Saturday Café 10.30am, Church: Kids Zone Baby and Toddler Group 2.00pm, Church: Open Day
Sun	9.30am: Trinity 17 Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Proverbs 31.10-31, James 3.13 - 4.3,7-8a & Mark 9.30-37

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sun 29 th Sept	4.00pm: Team Evensong 'St Michael & All Angels' , St Columba's
Thurs 12 th Sept	2.00pm: Chat and Craft , Community Room
Wed 2 nd Oct	12.00pm: Lunch Club , Northern Rugby Club
Sun 6 th Oct	9.30am: Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service
Wed 10 th Oct	7.45pm: Alpha , Community Room
Wed 16 th Oct	7.30am: DCC , Church
Fri 25 th Oct	TBC: Family Fun Event , Church

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidans2024Trinity16>

GAZA APPEAL – next Sunday we will be appealing for donations for Christian Aid towards the Gaza Crisis. Along with their partners they have so far helped 800,000 people by working tirelessly, under intense and dangerous conditions, to deliver life-saving medical care, food and shelter. You can make a donation by either cash or card.

ALPHA – will start on Thurs 10th Oct at 7.45pm in the community room and will run for 6 sessions. We share a hot meal while exploring faith. Please take an envelope from the back of church with information about Alpha, a letter of invitation and details about our social and family events to pass on to anyone who might be interested. Have a look at the contents yourself to see what it's about – you may decide Alpha is for you too.

CHURCH OPEN DAY- on Saturday 21st Sept between 2-4pm will coincide with the Community Centre Autumn Fair. Visitors will have the opportunity to find out what we get up to at St Aidan's, the groups we run and have a look around. If you're free before or after visiting the fair, why not come along and chat to our visitors.

FRIENDS HAVING FUN – come along on Thursday for more fun and games. We've even now got a (very small) prize 'for a line' as well as a full house in bingo. We've got music, tea, coffee, cake and good chat as well.

CHURCH CLEANER – we are very happy to share the news that our new church cleaner is Emma who started working with us this week.

DIGGING AND PLANTING! - thank you to everyone who supported us in digging our new French drain behind the church! Our next step is to make a little wetland garden in front of it. Morrisons has very kindly donated some compost and we'd love help with adding it to the soil (Monday 23rd September, time TBC) and putting in some new water-loving plants (Sunday 29th September, 10.30am). Please send a message to Rev. Hannah if you'd like to come and join:
07938433910

NATIONAL PRAYER DAY FOR SCHOOLS, FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER – If your heart is open and concerned for children and environment in which they learn, then we encourage you to pray. Next Sunday we will provide a sheet of prayer ideas to take away and pray at home together with the information of schools in our area. Please consider finding time on the 27 September to pray for our local schools - it really does make a difference!

ST AIDAN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE AUTUMN FAYRE – is being held on Saturday 21st Sept between 2-4pm. A great time is guaranteed with a bouncy castle, face painting, donkey rides, raffle, tombola, petting zoo, kids crafts and lots more. Please support the fayre if you are able to.

LUNCH CLUB – next meet at the Northern Rugby Club on Wed 2nd Oct 12.30pm. Please speak to Pat Page or Pauline Watson to book your place.

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's. Kids Group, Youth Group, Family Service and all involved in our work with children and young people. **For the community** – Kenton Food Bank

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

For those in need - Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Bill Yeaman, Sue Bates, Lindsay Miller, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton.

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Peter Moll, William Atkinson, Ethel Harkness, James Goodlet, Ruth Hay, Susan Hollingshead, Jenny Johnson, Ellen Hall, Joan Renwick, John Havis, Joseph Smith

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

 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk)