



Team Parish of Christ the King

St Aidan's Brunton Park

Sunday 1st December 2024

Advent 1

Perhaps the 1st December fills you with happy anticipation - parties, Christmas lights, cosy evenings with loved ones. Or perhaps it fills you with anxiety - to-do lists, loneliness, extra expenses. Whichever camp you're in – excited, or anxious, or somewhere in-between – the season of Advent is here to offer us a different perspective. Over these few weeks we join a story which is much bigger than us. And on this first Sunday of Advent in particular, we're invited to lift our heads above the noise and glitter and adverts, and look to the future with hope. You'd think that if we were counting down to Christmas, our readings from the Bible each week would follow the events leading up to the birth of Jesus. But our advent readings mess with that chronology. They run backwards, beginning at the end.

In this week's gospel reading we hear Jesus speaking to his disciples near the end of his time on earth, and the topic of conversation is the end of the world. He is speaking to reassure them: many chaotic and traumatic things are going to happen. But don't give in to fear, and don't let the everyday worries of life drag you down. Instead, keep watch for me. I'll be back soon, and then everything will be put right.

Why are we preparing to celebrate a birth that happened 2000 years ago by thinking about the apocalypse? Because the story of Christmas isn't just about a nice thing from the past. It's also a story that promises hope for the future. We are invited to walk into the future backwards: God has come to be with his people before, and he will come to be with his people again.

Jeremiah 33.14-16

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfil the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: 'The LORD is our righteousness.'

Luke 21.25-36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in a cloud" with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.'

Then he told them a parable: 'Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.'

Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.'

TODAY

9.30am: **Family Service for Advent** Rev'd Gerard Rundell and Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm lead our family service

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues-Fri 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**

Tues 6-9pm, Church: **Silverline Christmas Evening**

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

12.00pm: **Men's Group Christmas Dinner (booking essential)**

Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**

7.00pm, Church: **Gosforth & District Christmas Concert**

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

10.30am, Church: **Kids Zone**

7.00pm, Church: **Coquet Concert Band**

Sun 9.30am: **Advent 2** Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches as Mr Bernie Troughton leads our service with readings from Baruch 5.1-9 or Malachi 3.1-4; Philippians 1.3-11 and Luke 3.1-6

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 9th Dec 7.30pm: **Carols with the Salvation Army**, Melbury Estate
Thurs 12th Dec 2.00pm: **Film Club – Wonka**, Community Room
Sun 15th Dec 4.00pm: **Christingle**, Church
Sat 21st Dec: 7.00pm: **Festival of Carols**, Church
Tues 24th Dec: 4.30pm: **Nativity**, Church
11.30pm: **Midnight Mass**, Church
Wed 25th Dec: 9.30am: **Christmas Eucharist**, Church

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan1stAdvent2024>

BIBLE STUDY - will now be taking a break until the new year.

SHOEBOXES – thank you to everyone who took part in the Shoebox Appeal, a total of 33 boxes were received.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY – our boxes this year raised £505 and the coffee morning £200. Thank you to everyone who raised funds.

HELPERS WANTED – do you have a short amount of time (30 minutes / 1 hour) to help share the Christmas message? We will be having a 'pop up' event outside of Morrisons Great Park on Saturday 14th December but really need helpers. Speak to Lena for more information.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY – can you help with delivery this year's Christmas cards? If so please take a bundle from the back of church and mark which streets you are covering. Thank you so much for your help.

FILM CLUB – has chosen the wonderful musical fantasy comedy 'Wonka' as their Christmas movie, depicting Willy Wonka's early days as a chocolatier.

COQUET CONCERT BAND – are entertaining us with an evening of music from films and TV along with Christmas favourites. Entry price and refreshments are donations and all money raised will go towards church funds. Please support this concert if you can on Saturday 7th Dec at 7pm.

PRAYER AND PRAISE – join us in the community room for a short afternoon service followed by refreshments. Everyone is very welcome.

CHRISTMAS CARD BOARD – no need to write lots of cards to church friends this year, just one will do for the board. Donations in lieu of buying cards will go to our Christmas charities, Children North East and Christian Aid.

Living on God's good earth

December 2024: Christmas is for Sharing

It's the most expensive time of the year! As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, the pressure to spend a lot - and waste a lot - can be very high. This month, look for ways to live and give more simply. You could give one Christmas card to the whole church on our community card board, or try 'Secret Santa' style giving with family or friends, donating any money you save. When present shopping, buying experiences and consumables are a great way to cut down on waste!

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Archdeacon Rachel Wood and Area Dean Paul Baker.

Churchwardens: Catherine, Susan, and Dorothy

For the community – People's Kitchen foodbank and Children NE charity.

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

For those being baptised – Harry and Teddy

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Alan Vout.

For those who have died – Bill Yeaman and on their anniversaries: Eric Ball, Lillian Futers, Thomas Gill, Mabel Wyatt, Jean Thorpe, Ronnie Gristwood

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