



Team Parish of Christ the King

St Aidan's Brunton Park

Sunday 12th January 2025

Baptism of Christ

This Sunday we remember the Baptism of Christ, the moment that is the springboard to Jesus' public ministry after 30 years of living a quiet life with his parents in Nazareth. It's also a chance for Christians to remember their own baptism, whenever and wherever that was, and to remember what it means for us.

Baptism is the moment in which we inherit the fulness of our identity as children of God. Just as God speaks to Jesus and says: 'You are my Son; the Beloved, with you I am well pleased' so we hear those words spoken also to us. Through Christ, in the moment of our baptism, God says to each of us: 'You are my child, my beloved, I am pleased with you.' Those are words that we carry through the rest of our lives. We take them through every trial and challenge. They hold us through every moment of joy and celebration. With these words, of course, comes the weight of a calling to live as God desires his children to live. But it also comes with the promise of the unconditional love of our heavenly Father, who will never stop loving us. So on this feast of the Baptism of Christ, hear these words once again spoken by God to you: 'You are my child, my beloved, I am pleased with you.'

Isaiah 43.1-7

1 Thus says the LORD,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
2 When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
3 For I am the LORD your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
4 Because you are precious in my sight,

and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
5 Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
6 I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth –
7 everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Luke 3.15-17,21,22

(In the wilderness John proclaimed a baptism of repentance.) As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

TODAY

9.30am: **Baptism of Christ** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

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

Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Friends Having Fun**

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

10.30am, Church: **Kids Zone**

Sun 9.30am: **Epiphany 2** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides as Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches with readings from Isaiah 62.1-5, 1 Corinthians 12.1-11 and John 2.1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 23rd 2.00pm: **Chat and Craft**, Community Room
Tues 21st 11.00am: **Funeral of Alan Vout**, Church
Sat 25th 6.30pm: **Burn's Night Dinner**, Church
Wed 5th Feb 12.00pm: **Lunch Group**, Rugby Club

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025BaptismofChrist>

THE BIBLE STUDY - group resumes at 7.30 pm on Monday 13th January.

Continuing our study of the Acts of the Apostles, we shall be looking at Paul's second missionary journey, starting at Acts 15.36. All welcome to join us on Zoom Meeting ID: 757 377 8713, Passcode: StAidan)

(<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDsm1KOURtQT09>. Contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for further details.

BURN'S NIGHT DINNER – we are very excited to announce that we will be holding a Burn's Night dinner on Saturday 25th, at 6.30pm for a 7pm meal. There'll be Haggis, Neeps and Tatties (plus veggie and gluten free options, and sausages as an alternative), poetry, live fiddle, and a quiz on all things Scottish. Tickets are £10 each, so please talk to Susan, Mary, or Margaret Urquhart to book yours.

USED STAMPS – a reminder to bring along your used stamps which we collect to raise funds for St Oswald's Hospice. There's a box on the book table.

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME - Once again St Aidan's has been blessed with regular financial support throughout the year. Regular giving (Parish Giving Scheme 'PGS' and Standing Orders) has raised just under **£44,000** in 2024, which is fantastic, and an increase of over £5,600 on last year. St Aidan's is only able to serve our local community thanks to regular giving and other donations we receive throughout the year. So a huge thank you - we are truly grateful. [Learn how donations have been used](#). A special thank you also, to everyone who has switched their giving from Standing Order to PGS. This really benefits us as any Gift Aid is automatically claimed on our behalf, saving valuable admin time. With PGS you can also opt to inflate the value of your regular gift on an annual basis should you wish. This helps us to protect against rising costs each year. [Set up a gift through PGS](#)

LUNCH GROUP - will meet on Wednesday 5th February at 12pm at the Rugby Club. Please contact Pat or Pauline if you would like to join us.

THANK YOU – your recent donations have helped so many charities:- £95 RBL Poppy appeal, £172 Salvation Army Carols on the Green, £118.60 Children's Society Christingle, £425 to each of the Saturday Cafe Charities - World Vision, Parkinson's UK, My Aware, RP Fighting Blindness, £615 to each of the Christmas Collections Charities - Children North East and Christian Aid.

FRIENDS HAVING FUN – is back on Thursday. An ideal opportunity to meet and make friends over games, music and a really good cuppa.

Living on God's Good Earth: January

New year, new you

The new year is often a time when we feel pressure to make a new start, or try new things, but it can be hard to know where to begin. If you've never done a personal carbon footprint audit, this can be a great way to think about different areas of your life and see where simple changes can make a difference. The results can help you pick one area to focus on over the coming year. There are lots of carbon footprint audits available online, but a nice simple option is

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>. If you want one with more detail, go for <https://www.climatestewards.org/offset>.

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – For all ministers serving across our deanery, those on deanery synod. St Aidan's kids' group, baby and toddler group, and youth group

For the community – Manor House, Bowmont House and Melton House meeting in our church and community room

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

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

For those who have died – Anne Thompson and Alan Vout, and on their anniversaries: Jean Bates, John Reed, Lena Fenning, Crosby Humphrey, Mary Atwell, John Jeffery, Florence Kirkby, Margaret Staniland, Rosemary Edwards, Audrey Jordison, Alma Thompson, Joan Routledge, Winifred Heal, Jeff Robinson, Eric Quenet, Joy Crute

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