



**Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Brunton Park**

**Sunday 23rd March 2025
Lent 3**

This Sunday's Gospel reading, perhaps unexpectedly given the fairly dark subject matter, reminds of the fragile beauty of God's gift of life. Jesus points to two recent tragedies in Jerusalem. We don't know the details of what happened, but they have clearly prompted people to ask why such a thing might have happened. Have these people sinned that they deserved their fate? Jesus responds with a no. These are simply tragedies. The blame is neither on the victims, or on God. He gives no theodicy to explain why such things happen, instead he simply implores his listeners to grab hold of life: 'unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

It is a hard call to hear, but Jesus is reminding us that life is fragile and uncertain. We have no right to it, and we have no way of knowing when it will end. All we can do is grab hold of it with both hands. To repent is to do exactly that: to turn, with all our hearts, and minds, and souls, towards God and the full and eternal life that God alone can give us.

Isaiah 55.1-9

The LORD says this:

Everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labour for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Luke 13.1-9

There were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. He asked them, 'Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them - do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.'

Then he told this parable: 'A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, "See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?" He replied, "Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

TODAY 9.30am: **Lent 3** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Zoom: **Lent Bible Study**
Tues-Fri 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
12.00pm: St Columba's Wideopen: **Lent Lunch**
Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Chat and Craft**

Sat 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**
10.30am, Church: **Kids Zone (not 4th Saturday of the month)**

Sun 9.30am: **Mothering Sunday Family Service** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm leads as Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 2nd Apr 12.00pm: **Lunch Group**, Rugby Club
Fri 4th April 6.00pm: **Beetle Drive**, Church
Sat 3rd May 10.00am **Eco Fest**, Church and Garden
Sat 17th May 10.00am **Big Brekkie**, Community Room

LENT LUNCHES

Wed 2nd April 12.00pm: **St John's URC, Wideopen**
Wed 9th April 12.00pm: **St Cuthbert's, Brunswick**

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Lent3>

LENT LUNCHES – continue on Wednesday at St Columba's. Join us if you can.

BEETLE DRIVE – will be held on Friday 4th April at 6pm. The cost is £10 per person with an additional donation if you would like wine with your meal, which will be pizza, salad and coleslaw. We will also hold a raffle so please bring along some spare change. The sign up sheet is at the back of church.

LENT COURSE –this week in our Lent Series 'What's this doing in the Bible?', dealing with some of the passages in the Bible many of us find difficult, we will be joined by the Dr Natalie Watson, Editor and Theologian, who will lead us on looking at passages from 1 Corinthians and 1 Timothy and discuss Women in the Life of the Church. Everyone is welcome. The Zoom Meeting ID is: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan or contact Ken via email: (kmnewitt@outlook.com)

CHAT AND CRAFT – come along for a chat over a cuppa, and bring some craft if you have any. Everyone welcome.

Living on God's Good Earth

March 2025: Sow Wild

Our flowers are gone from church for Lent, but outside the world is coming into bloom. And March is the perfect time to sow a wildflower patch! All you need is a bright, sunny spot and a little packet of wildflower seeds. If you'd like a packet of seeds to take home, there are some available in the entrance to church. There are some simple instructions available here here: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/lawns/how-to-sow-a-wildflower-patch>. Happy sowing!

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Lena, Janice, all involved in family outreach events and work with children and young people. Bible Study, prayer groups, Eco church group.

For the community – Our sponsored child Ivonia. For her and her country Mozambique, facing serious threat from climate change. For the work of World Vision and the conservation and education work of Wild Impact in Mozambique.

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

For those being baptised - Charlie

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Mavis Bennett, Peter Kenney

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Arnold Roylance, Joyce Corcadden, Eileen Liebetanz, John Tait, Judith Howard, Ronnie Gordon, Clive Bruce Smith, George Robinson, Edward Chaneller, Alfred Minford, John MacLeod

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