



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

Sunday 22nd November 2020 Christ the King

This weekend we celebrate our Patronal Festival as a Team Parish of Christ the King. We welcome Ven Mark Wroe as our preacher and wish him well as he prepares to become the next Bishop of Berwick.

It was at this same service two years ago that I was licensed as the Interim Team Rector and now this weekend I pass on those responsibilities to Revd Dr Pauline Pearson who will become the acting Team Rector whilst the recruitment process continues. How time flies. I am sorry that the original plan when I was appointed has not been fulfilled but the pandemic has contributed in some way to this outcome. My last service in the Parish will be on Christmas Eve and we are very grateful to our retired clergy and readers who will be helping to sustain the weekly worship in the coming months.

I came into this interim role with a strong conviction that the pattern of parish ministry upon which the church is based is to be fostered and encouraged at all cost. It was William Temple the one-time Archbishop of Canterbury who observed that the Church of England is one of the few organisations that exists for the benefits of its **non-members**. It is clear that it exists to serve every household in our Parish whether old or brand new and those who live and work under every roof in the communities where we are set. My conviction of the importance of this fundamental has, if anything, grown even stronger in these past 2 years. I encourage you to continue to explore how as a Team we are stronger together and how much we can learn from and support each other. I have also been struck in my time here that we have a great deal to contribute to the building up of healthy community living which is so important in a world that seems fragmented and where people can feel isolated and without a sense of belonging. But communities don't happen by accident – they grow as a result of dedicated service and a willingness to find the commonality and see the creative potential in differences. It seems that we as the church in this Parish are asked to model this way of relating to each other and to act as bridgebuilders, often taking the initiative, with all those people of good will, whoever they may be, who share a vision for a flourishing life together.

Another of my favourite quotations, this time from Emil Brunner, is that “the church exists by mission just as a fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission, there is no church.”

The opportunities for us to join in with God's mission in this Parish are endless and we are called to be a church that looks outwards. This pandemic has forced

us to take steps to innovate ways to communicate with others and that has been a 'God given' challenge which I hope will shape us forever.

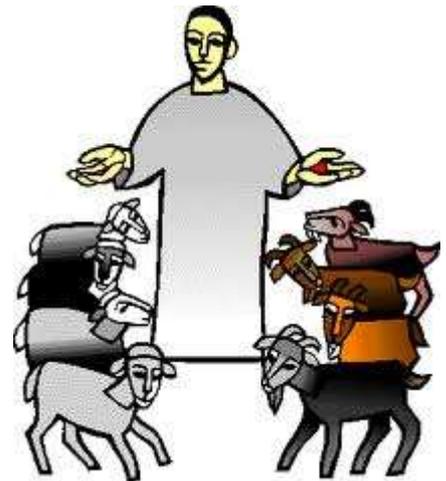
I know many are worried about our future and whether we will still be here in another generation or two. It seems to me the more we worry about getting people to 'come to church' and to join in and help to 'keep the show on the road', the more we take our eye off the ball - and that, surely, is our hope in the coming of the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. Is that not our focus for this Christ the King Sunday as we celebrate the life giving challenge and rule of Christ in our lives together and what it means for us to be the church in this place in this day.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your kindness and patience towards Philippa and myself in our time with you and we wish you well as we all continue to listen to and respond to God and all he has in store for each of us.

Readings: Ezekiel 34.11-16,20-24 Ephesians 1.15-23

Matthew 25.31-46 The Parable of the Sheep and the Goats

Jesus said to his disciples: 'When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, "Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Then he will say to those at his left hand, "You that are accursed, depart from me into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry and you gave me no food, I was thirsty and you gave me nothing to drink, I was a stranger and you did not welcome me, naked and you did not give me clothing, sick and in prison and you did not visit me." Then they also will answer, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not take care of you?" Then he will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.'



Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You that we are all One in Christ.

As we celebrate our past and rejoice in our present, we also look forward with eager eyes to the future. We pray that You would continue to make Your love known among us.

Help us to look beyond our walls to those who do not know You. Make this church a blessing to those around us, and embolden us to move forward with strength toward what lies ahead.

In Jesus' name we pray,

Amen.

NOTICES

TEAM PARISH PATRONAL FESTIVAL – below is the link for today's live streamed patronal festival. This special service includes involvement from all the churches across the parish. We are pleased to welcome Ven Mark Wroe, designate Bishop of Berwick as preacher to share in our celebration.

<https://bit.ly/ChristtheKing22Nov>

BISHOP CHRISTINE - is very grateful to Revd Peter Sinclair for his valuable interim ministry as Team Rector at Christ the King over the last two years from Christ the King Sunday 2018. As Peter retires from this role at the end of the year, Bishop Christine is delighted that Revd Dr Pauline Pearson has agreed to be acting Team Rector for the next few months whilst recruitment for a new Team Rector continues. Pauline will remain as Team Vicar of St Columba's, and the vacancy at St Aidan's will be supported by the wider ministry team. Please pray for Peter and his wife Philippa, and also for Pauline, Mark and Ruth and the whole ministry team during this time of transition. This transition will be marked with thanksgiving and prayer on Christ the King Sunday.

FAREWELL TO PETER – due to current restrictions we are not able to meet to say the appropriate farewell to Peter. We are hoping that restrictions will lighten and have set a provisional date of December 13th to celebrate Peter's time with us.

RICHARD PAGE - Pat, Ian, Alison and family would like to thank everyone for their kind words, cards, telephone calls and concern shown during this difficult time.

ADVENT – our Christmas cards will soon be printed with the full details of our advent services and events. If you are able to post a few through doors near to where you live, or during your walks please let us know. There is a sneak peek of the winning design, drawn by Florence, at the end of these notices.

CHILDREN'S ADVENT ACTIVITY – the youth team are putting together four Youtube videos which will be made available each Sunday during Advent. The videos will include a story, craft, prayer and song. The links to these video's will be shared each week – please pass them on to any children you know.

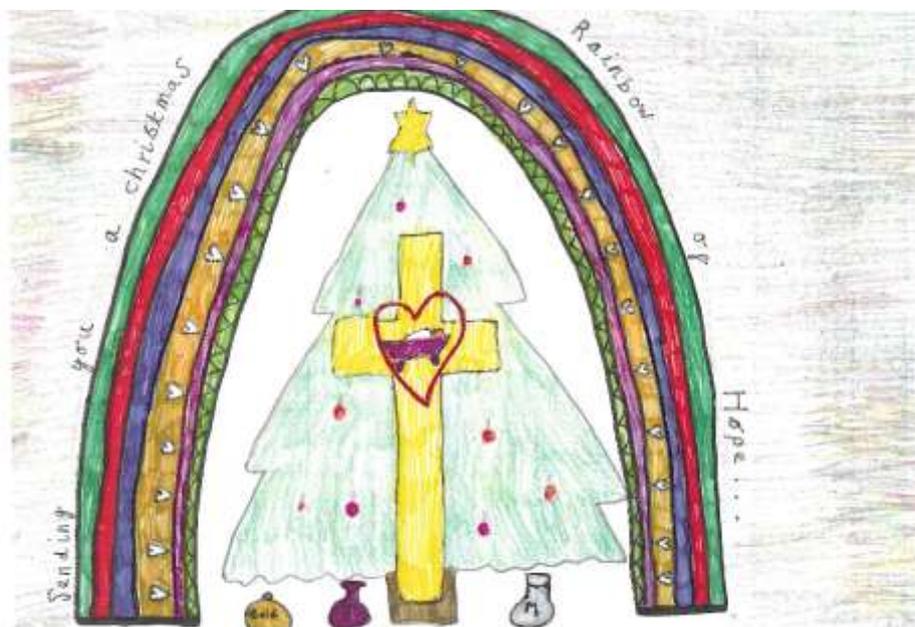
COFFEE AND CHAT – will meet via Zoom at 11:15am, please come along and join us. The Zoom code is 827 3638 8986, or you can click on this link [coffee and chat](#)

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – is every Sunday evening at 5pm via Zoom using code <https://zoom.us/j/499784569?pwd=MWR5SC9JR0J6dVVkNFVGVWZyNFVvZz09>

TREASURER'S NOTES - Audio Visual System. Thank you again to all who contributed towards the cost of the new AV system. I am pleased to report that we have been successful in obtaining two grants towards the cost – £1200 from the Allchurches Trust (part of Ecclesiastical Insurance) and £1000 from the Catherine Cookson Charitable Trust, for which we are extremely grateful. This means that with gift aid on congregational donations we have fully covered the cost.

Legacy. We have also been pleased to receive a legacy from the estate of Sheila Jones.

Please remember. If you are doing Christmas shopping online, you can raise **FREE** donations for St Aidan's when you shop with over 4,000 retailers, including John Lewis, M&S and Argos. All you have to do is go to the easyfundraising website (or click on the link below <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/staidanschurchbruntonpark/>), sign up, and find the retailer you want to shop with. Easyfundraising will redirect you to the retailer, you then shop as usual and the retailer will donate a percentage to us – at no cost to you! If you register with easyfundraising, they will automatically remind you about donations when you visit a participating retailer. It's a no-brainer!



For Our Prayers...

We give thanks for our church family here at St Aidan's and pray for our Team Parish - for God's upholding in all that lies ahead.

We pray for God's world – in times of upheaval and conflict we pray for peace-for resolutions to tensions between nations and peoples, for all caught up in tragedy, disaster and despair.

In our St Aidan's cycle of prayer we pray for Diocesan office staff and diocesan advisers.

Within our church we pray for our readers Ken Newitt and Chris Sayers. Within the wider community we pray for the Sage and other businesses on the Great Park.

We remember in our prayers Don Wright, Joyce Richardson and Ian Jamieson along with all others who are unwell at home or in hospital.

We pray for those who have died in recent days.

We remember with thanksgiving and joy our loved ones who are now with Our Father in the heavenly kingdom – Ralph Pyke, Brian Adair, Douglas Hunter, Margaret Wilkinson, Bill Burn

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