

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

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2021  
Baptism of Christ

Today our focus is on the Baptism of Jesus. That means we have moved on in chronological terms by some thirty odd years since last Sunday. Mark recounts the story of John's appearance in the wilderness proclaiming a baptism of repentance and announcing the coming of someone much greater than himself. Jesus, now an adult, comes to him to be baptised, and John, with some reluctance as Matthew tells us, agrees. As Jesus emerges from the water, his destiny as Messiah is confirmed by the descent of the Holy Spirit in the likeness of a dove, and the voice from heaven acknowledging him as God's Son. This marks the end of the "hidden" period of his life, and the beginning of his public ministry. From the Jordan he is led by the Spirit into the wilderness where his new vocation is immediately tested.

The Old Testament reading from Genesis takes us back in time to the beginning of all things: the story of creation. We can see here some relationship to the Gospel passage:- the Spirit of God moves over the waters just as it had descended upon Jesus; and "light" is spread over the world, just as the baptism marked the beginning of the spread of the light of Christ throughout the world.

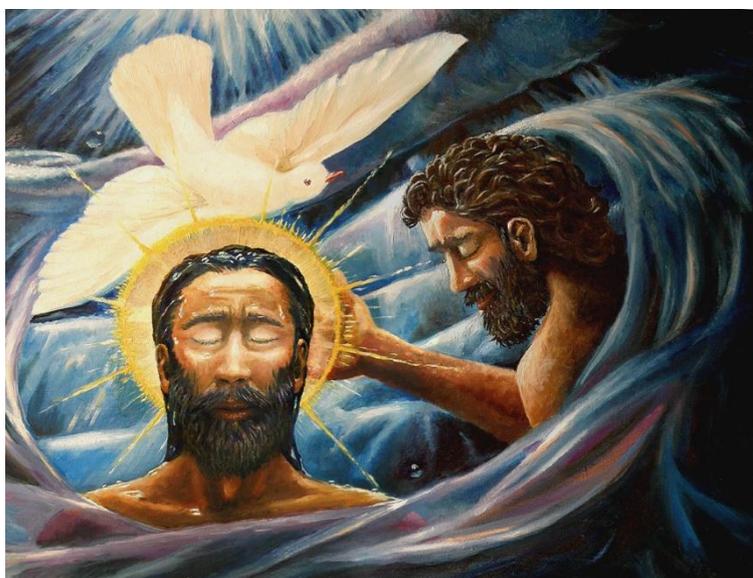
The epistle reading, however, shows us that John's baptism is not sufficient of itself: there needs to be the input of the Holy Spirit, as Paul explains to the disciples of John whom he met in Ephesus.

All this might properly encourage us to reflect upon our own baptism. What difference does that make to our everyday "ordinary" lives. Does it affect the way we live; the way we think about ourselves; or the way we interact with our neighbours? We may then be led to re-affirm those vows that were made for us in our baptism, and resolve afresh to live as one who indeed is "***a member of Christ, the child of God, and an inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven***".

**Readings: Genesis 1.1-5 Acts 19.1-7**  
**Gospel: Mark 1.4-11**

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, 'The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.'

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'



### **Prayer**

O Christ, you humbled yourself and received baptism at the hands of your friend and cousin, John, showing us the way of humility;  
help us to follow you, and never to be encumbered with pride.

O Christ, by your baptism, you took our humanity into the cleansing waters;  
give us new birth, and lead us into life as sons and daughters of God.

O Christ, by your baptism the material world became charged with your holiness;  
make us instruments of your transformation in this our world.

O Christ, by your baptism you revealed the Trinity, your Father calling you his beloved Son, and the Spirit descending upon you like a dove;  
Renew our worship, rededicate us in the spirit of our baptism and mould us in our true nature, in the image of God.

For your love's sake.

**Amen**

## **NOTICES**

**CHURCH SERVICES AT ST AIDAN'S** - With the current rapid increase in the spread of Covid, we have had lengthy discussion about whether or not to continue to have the church open for people to attend our Sunday morning Holy Communion services.

It has been decided that as the numbers attending church over the last few weeks has been well below the capacity to maintain due social distancing and other safety requirement within the building, these services will continue. As long as we have volunteers available to manage the system and cameras, the services will continue to be live-streamed on YouTube for people to watch at home.

We appreciate that, given the growing spread of the virus, more people will not wish to attend services in church. For any who do wish to attend, please ensure that you:

1. Sanitise your hands on entering the building, using the sanitisers provided at the door,
2. Wear your mask to cover your mouth and nose while in the building,
3. Maintain the required social distancing,
4. Do not stop to chat with anyone outside your household, even if you see people you know. This is especially important with the new virus strain which seems to spread much more quickly.

The above precautions apply whenever you enter the church.

**The church will remain open on Wednesday and Saturday mornings from 10.00am – 12.00pm for private prayer.**

**SUNDAY SERVICE LINK** – church is open for our socially distanced 9:30am Sunday services. To watch our upcoming live streamed services please follow the link below <http://bit.ly/BaptismofChrist>

**COFFEE AND CHAT** – a thank you to Kathy, who is hosting the coffee and chat session during January. We still meet via Zoom at 11:15am on Sunday mornings, please come and join us – especially since the re-tightening of restrictions as it gives us a lovely opportunity to talk to each other, albeit virtually. The Zoom code is - Meeting ID: 738 2185 8794 Passcode: StAJan or use this link <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/73821858794?pwd=UVIVZ2FGM1JJeTdsd1JGYk9GMnpyQT09>

**FOOD FOR THOUGHT** – returns this afternoon, Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> January at 5pm via Zoom using the code below. Food for thought is a short service with discussion, if you need some time to reflect and think about your faith in relation to your life this is a space to do that. All are welcome. If you would like to join us to see what it is like we would love to see you there.

<https://zoom.us/j/499784569?pwd=MWR5SC9JR0J6dVVkNFVGVGVZyNFivZz09>

## ***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 St Nicholas' Cathedral.

Within our church we pray for churchwardens and all involved in looking after our building. Within the wider community we pray for groups who use our Community Room and the Community Centre.

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 – Eva Burgon, Jean Bates, John Reed, Lena Fenning, Crosby Humphrey, Mary Atwell, John Jeffery, Florence Kirkby, Margaret Staniland, Rosemary Edwards, Audrey Jordison

## **CONTACTS**

Church Office: 0191 236 7952

Acting Team Rector: Revd Dr Pauline Pearson Mobile: 07753744349

[vicarofstcolumbawideopen@gmail.com](mailto:vicarofstcolumbawideopen@gmail.com)

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977 320895 [brpullan@gmail.com](mailto:brpullan@gmail.com)

Assistant Curate (Great Park): Revd Ruth Hewett 217 0367 [ruthewett@icloud.com](mailto:ruthewett@icloud.com)

Administrator/Newsletter: Janice Charlton 0191 236 7952 [infostaidans@gmail.com](mailto:infostaidans@gmail.com)



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

