



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

Sunday 12th December 2021 Third Sunday of Advent

As we continue the journey towards Christmas, this third Sunday of Advent remembers John the Baptist. John is an enigmatic character in the gospels. He's a prophet like the prophets of old, who preached a message of justice and repentance. A prophet who clearly drew attention and gathered followers around him. And yet a prophet whose task was to point away from himself to the one who was to come.

John, who so inspired people that they were questioning whether he might be the Messiah, ultimately had the task of pointing to someone else. As he says: '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.'

As we hear John's message, we're called to welcome the one he pointed to. And to ask how our lives might point away from ourselves, to instead show people the true Messiah, Jesus Christ.



*John the Baptist
pointing to Jesus
from the Isenheim altarpiece*

First Reading: Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;

shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,

O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:

Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,

a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,

he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing

as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,

so that you will not bear reproach for it.

I will deal with all your oppressors

at that time.

And I will save the lame

and gather the outcast,

and I will change their shame into praise

and renown in all the earth.

At that time I will bring you home,

at the time when I gather you;

for I will make you renowned and praised

among all the peoples of the earth,

when I restore your fortunes

before your eyes, says the LORD.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.'

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.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon** 1.00pm, Church: **Memorial Service for Anne Havis**
- Mon** 7.30pm: bus stop on Melbury Estate: **Carols on the Green**
- Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
- Wed** 7.30pm: St Columba's: **Advent series: Psalms in a Pandemic**
- Thurs** 2.30pm: Church: **Advent series: Psalms in a Pandemic**
- Fri** 5pm, Zoom: **Food for Thought**
- Fri** 5.30pm: **Carols in Wideopen**
- Sat** 10am-12pm, Church Community Room: **Saturday Café**
- Sun 19th** 9.30am, **Parish Eucharist : Advent 4**
Rev'd Pauline Pearson Presiding and Preaching
Readings: Micah 5.2-5a ; Luke 1.39-45[46-55]
2-5pm, 60 Barmoor Drive, **Vicarage Open House**
6pm: Church, **Lessons and Carols**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Monday 20th 6pm: **Angelic Carols around the Tree with the Ravenswood Singers at Great Park Community Centre**
- Thursday 23rd, 3.30pm: **Church in Park Nativity:Great Park Community Centre**
- Friday 24th, 4pm: **Crib Service at St Aidan's**
- Friday 24th, 11.30pm: **Midnight Mass at St Aidan's**
- Saturday 25th, 9.30: **Christmas Day Family Eucharist at St Aidan's**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – our 9:30am Parish Eucharist service which will be broadcast live to those wishing to watch from home using link <https://bit.ly/2021Advent3>

ANNE HAVIS – tomorrow a memorial service will be held for Anne in church at 1pm.

CHRISTMAS CARD DELIVERY – there are still some Christmas cards to be delivered. If you can help, please speak to Catherine Stewart.

CHRISTMAS CARD FOR ST AIDAN'S – instead of writing individual cards this year – please add one card to the notice board, and if you can, put a donation in the box. The money will be sent to the West End Food Bank in time for Christmas.

ROSEMARY'S CURACY – has been arranged at Holy Saviours, Tynemouth with Steve Dixon the vicar as her training incumbent.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE – thank you to everyone who donated, gave their time, came along and supported our fayre. We raised just over £1040. Well done and thank you.

VICARAGE CHRISTMAS OPEN HOUSE - Gerard and Karen (and Theo and Phoebe) will be hosting a Christmas Open House on Sunday 19th December, from 2pm-5pm. Do pop in for a mince pie and mulled wine during that time, they'd love to see anyone who would like to come!

ZOOM CODES – we have set up a new account for church which means that from now on all of our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOUktQT09> Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

BOOKING ZOOM MEETINGS: if you would like to use the St Aidan's Zoom account for a church meeting, please contact Janice

SHEILA LONIE – would like to thank everyone for their good wishes and cards. It has meant a lot to her.

CHURCH OPENING – church is now open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – a little reminder that we still collect for the foodbank. There is a box at the back of church for donations.

CHURCH CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – when attending a service, please wear a face mask (in Plan B this is now a legal requirement), sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

DONATIONS - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link:
<https://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

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 Pauline Pearson and St Columba's.

Within our church we pray for our Bible Study and prayer groups. Within the wider community we pray for St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community Centre, and their Management Committees.

We remember in our prayers Gladys Johnston, Sheila Lonie, Margaret McMillan and all others who are unwell at home or in hospital.

We pray for those who have died in recent days remembering especially Anne Havis.

We remember with thanksgiving and joy our loved ones who are now with Our Father in the heavenly kingdom – Lawrence Smith, Cynthia Richardson, Ida Holst, Mervyn Spearing, June Ward, Mattie Hodgeson, Jordan Loftus, Wilfred Guss, Douglas Gamblin, Lillian Trotter, Ethel Mackay

CONTACTS

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