



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

Sunday 9th January 2022 Baptism of Christ

This Sunday remembers the Baptism of Christ. It's a time often taken to look back to the commitment we made, or that was made on our behalf, at our own baptisms and to experience again something of the richness of that moment. And this morning, while there is much that could be said about baptism, perhaps we can reflect on both the calling of baptism and the gift of baptism.

Because in baptism we, just as Christ was, are sent out to act as bearers of God's kingdom in the world. We're sent to proclaim its coming and to be signs of its activity in our lives. We're called to be part of the community of the church that is transformed by the kingdom's presence among us. It's a daunting task, to bear God's gift of salvation to the world, but it's the one we're given through the waters of baptism.

But even more fundamentally, in baptism we receive the profound gift of God's love. Through our baptism into Christ we hear the words God spoke to him, spoken equally to us. God says, through Christ, to each one of us: 'You are my Child, my Beloved, with you I am well pleased.' As we remember our own baptism, perhaps the most important message we can hear - the one that sustains our work in the world and allows us to proclaim the kingdom of God - is that through those waters, the love of a Father for his precious child, is poured out on each one of us, as God says to you and to me: 'You are my Child, my Beloved, with you I am well pleased.'



First Reading: Isaiah 43.1-7

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.
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.
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.
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.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
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 –
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Gospel: 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.'

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Zoom: **Bible Study Group**

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

1:45pm, Church: **Funeral of Margaret McMillan**

Fri 5pm, Zoom (church code below): **Food for Thought**

Sun 16th 9.30am, **Family Communion: Second Sunday of Epiphany**

Rev'd Gerard Rundell Readings : Isaiah 62.1-5; 1 Corinthians 12.1-11; John 2.1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 12th Jan, 1:45pm in church : **Funeral service for Margaret McMillan**

Tues 18th Jan, 12pm in church: **Funeral of Kenneth Hylton**

Wed 19th Jan, 3.00pm in church: **Thanksgiving service for John Ward**

Wed 19th Jan, 7.30pm on Zoom: **DCC**

Thur 20th Jan, 7.30pm: **Healing: Ministry and Medicine.** Input and discussion on prayer for healing from Dr Stan Chapman.

Sun 23rd Jan, 4pm: **Healing Service**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/BaptismofChrist22>

MARGARET McMILLAN – Margaret's funeral service will be held at St Aidan's on Wednesday 12th January at 1:45pm followed by Cremation at the West Road at 2:45pm. The church service will be broadcast live and can be viewed using this link <https://bit.ly/FuneralMargaretMcMillan>

JOHN WARD– following the sad news of John's death, our prayers to go his family and friends. There will be a private committal at West Road Crematorium followed by a thanksgiving service at St Aidan's on Wednesday 19th January at 3:00pm. By John's request, please wear bright colours.

KENNETH HYLTON – our prayers go to Kenneth's family and friends following his death. His funeral will be held in church on Tuesday 18th January at 12pm

JEAN CARSON – it is with sadness we announce that Jean has died. Our prayers go to her family and friends. Funeral details will follow.

HEALING SERVICE – our next healing service will be held on Sunday 23rd January at 4pm. This is a quiet reflective service with the opportunity to receive prayer and anointing with oil either for yourself or someone you know who is in need. Do join us for this special service.

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME ENVELOPE DONATIONS 2022 - to avoid Covid risks in church all the packs of envelopes for use during 2022 have been put directly into owners' letter boxes. If I have inadvertently missed someone off my list please contact me and I will remedy the situation. Howard Cleeve.

LUNCH GROUP – due to unforeseen circumstances, the lunch group not be meeting on the 12th January.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - the group resumes on Zoom tomorrow, Monday 10th January, starting a series looking at Genesis 1-11 the opening chapters of the Bible taking us from creation, through Adam and Eve and Noah and the Flood, to the Tower of Babel, chapters that are at the heart of our Christian understanding of the beginnings of our world. But do they have anything to say to us today in the scientific age of the 21st century? Contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for more details or join us at 7.30 pm using Meeting ID: 881 6875 9104, Passcode: StABSG or

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88168759104?pwd=SFFWOVUzT1p2RXZ2dnBPbXZGMGxWdz09>

CHRISTMAS DONATIONS - thank you to everyone who donated over Christmas in support of our two nominated charities, the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and Children NE. We sent each of them £250. In addition, we sent £100 to the West End Food Bank from money donated for the Christmas cards board, £300 to the Salvation Army following Carols on the Green and £100 to the Children's Society after the Christingle service.

SATURDAY CAFÉ - Thank you also to everyone for donations made during the Saturday café after it was able to reopen in the summer. We have been able to send £150 to each of the four designated charities - Myaware (Myasthenia Gravis Association), Parkinson's UK, Retina UK and the Swiss Kenya Development Association.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09>

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

CHURCH CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS – when attending a service, please wear a face mask, sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

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 using our Community Room and the Community Centre.

We remember in our prayers Gladys Johnston, Sheila Lonie, Sylvia Hickey and all others who are unwell at home or in hospital. We pray for those who have died in recent days remembering especially Margaret McMillan, Kenneth Hylton, John Ward and Jean Carson.

We remember with thanksgiving and joy our loved ones who are now with Our Father in the heavenly kingdom – Howard Stansby, Robert Tullin, Eva Burgon, Jean Bates, John Reed, Lena Fenning, Crosby Humphrey, Mary Atwell, John Jeffery, Florence Kirkby

CONTACTS

Church Office: 0191 236 7952

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 brpullan@gmail.com

Associate Priest (Great Park): Revd Ruth Hewett 217 0367 ruthhewett@icloud.com

Administrator/Newsletter: Janice Charlton 0191 236 7952 infostaidans@gmail.com