



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

**Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2022**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

Our Old Testament reading for today tells of a moment of huge importance to the people of Israel. The great father of the nations, Abraham (in our passage still Abram, before he is given his new name), receives the promise and the covenant of God. It's a rich and complex story, but it hinges on two moments: Abram believing the promise, and God creating the covenant.

Abram and Sarai have no children of their own, and Abram longs for an heir. God promises that, despite appearances, he will have many offspring, as many as the stars in heaven. And Abram 'believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.' (v.6) The promises of God may at times feel impossible. The promise of peace, or of joy, of a new calling, or of purpose, may sometimes seem beyond God's capacity to deliver. And yet Abram knows the God who makes this promise, and trusts in his word. Can we do the same? Can we hold on to the promises of God, even if we fear they've passed us by, or have been taken away?

And that bring us to the second part of this narrative, as God creates his covenant with Abram: a covenant of land and people, and an unconditional covenant of blessing. This is the second covenant God has made, the first was with Noah and all of creation, the second now with Abram, and again God will covenant with his people through Moses and David. Finally, God will show the greatest covenant of all in Jesus, a new covenant in his blood. God sends his only son to die for us, and through him to offer unconditional grace and blessing to all the world. We can trust in the promises of God, because God is a God of covenantal love. A love that is pledged and sealed in Christ and that will never be removed. May our faith too, find its foundation in this God of covenant.





### **First Reading : Genesis 15.1-12,17-18**

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

### **Gospel Reading: Luke 13.31-35**

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

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| <b>Mon</b>   | 7.30pm, Zoom: <b>Bible Study Group</b>  |
| <b>Wed</b>   | 7.30pm, St Cuthbert's : <b>'An Adventure with God' with Brother Michael Jacob</b> |
| <b>Thurs</b> | <b>Lent Lunch, Cancelled</b>  |
| <b>Fri</b>   | 6pm, Church: <b>Food for Thought</b>  |

**Sun 20th** 9.30am, Church: **Parish Eucharist Second Sunday of Lent**  
Leading Rev'd Gerard Rundell and Preaching Rev'd Pauline Pearson  
Readings from Isaiah 55.1-9 , 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 , Luke 13.1-9

**Sun** 4pm, Church: **Taize service**

**Sun** 7:30pm, Church: **Fundraiser Concert (details below)**

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Tues 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar 12:15pm: **Funeral of Jeffery Ball**  
Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 2:15pm: **Funeral of Barbara Surtees**  
Wed 23<sup>rd</sup> Mar 7:30pm: **Lent Course with Right Rev'd Mark Bryant at St Cuthbert's**  
Thurs 24<sup>th</sup> Mar 12pm: **Lent Lunch, St Aidan's - Simon of Cyrene**  
**Wed (NB) 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 12pm: Lent Lunch, St John's URC - Mary Magdalene**  
Wed 30<sup>th</sup> Mar 7:30pm: **Lent Course with Rev'd Dr Jennifer Moberly at St Cuthbert's**  
Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> April 12pm: **Lent Lunch, St Cuthbert's Brunswick - The Two Thieves**  
Wed 6<sup>th</sup> April 7:30pm: **Lent Course with Rev'd Ben Doolan, Master of St Thomas'**

### **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/2ndLent22>

**FUNDRAISING FOR UKRAINE** – our collection today will be donated to Ukraine. Donations can also be given via our bank account (see below)- using the word Ukraine as the reference.

**FUND RAISING CONCERT** - Newcastle University Wind Band Society present *A Musical Feast - with music from Stage, TV, Screen and Concert Hall* on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 7:30pm. This is a fundraiser event for Ukraine, Pay on arrival - £5 adults, £3 students. Drinks and nibbles will be available.

**EASTER ACTIVITIES AT SCHOOLS** – We're planning to offer a day of craft, activities and telling the Easter story at both Brunton First and Broadway East schools. It'll be during the week of 4<sup>th</sup> April. Anyone who would be interested in helping plan and deliver the day please let Gerard or Ruth Hewett know.

**ROSEMARY ORDINATION** – Rosemary's is to be ordained on the morning of 2nd July. More details to follow.

**SONGS OF PRAISE** - are recording at St Andrew's Church, Corbridge on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> March, 6:30-9:30pm and would like keen, enthusiastic singers to join them. To apply for free tickets, please send your name, address, contact phone number and number of tickets requested to [SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv](mailto:SOPcongregations@avantimedia.tv). Please include 'Songs of Praise Corbridge' in your subject header. Alternatively, you can call 07734 030 888 to book your tickets. They'd like every seat filled, so please only apply if you know you are able to go.

**ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION** – Over the next two weeks notice is given for the revision of the Electoral Roll prior to the AGM. This is not a new Roll, so if you gave your details in 2019 there's no need to give them again. If you're not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, please speak to Howard Cleeve or one of the Wardens.



**THANK YOU** - Ruth Hewett would like to thank everyone for their prayers, cards and kind wishes on the death of her mother Celia and their continued support for John in his illness.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP LENT SERIES** – following last week's very enjoyable start to the Lent Study Group presented by the Rev Miranda Threlfall-Holmes, based on her book exploring different ways of reading the Bible, we will be continuing on Zoom with our video series *How to Eat Bread*. We have four more sessions looking at how the Bible itself uses biblical texts. Monday's at 7:30pm. All welcome, whether or not you have been part of the group before. Zoom Meeting code: 884 3537 3515 Passcode: 831837 or link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88435373515?wd=ODA3Q1dQbIRqZnNiaUNHK1UvTkZ1dz09>

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQTO>

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** – face masks are optional, please sanitise your hands on entering church, and maintain at least a one metre distance.

**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.

**DONATIONS** - to make a donation to St Aidan's, please use the following link

<https://givelittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

### ***For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer***

**For the church** – Particularly for Pauline Pearson and St Columba's, our Bible Study and prayer groups.

**For the community** – for St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community Centre, and their Management Committees

**For the world** – Particularly during the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, for her people, refugees and the Ukrainian community in the UK, and our own national and political life.

**For those in particular need** - Gladys Johnston and Adrienne Tulip.

**For those who have died and those who grieve** – Jeffrey Ball, Barbara Surtees, Jane Halton (Nash). On their anniversaries: Margaret Page, Brenda Edwards, Brian Earnshaw

**CONTACTS** Church Office: 0191 236 7952

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