



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

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2022**  
**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

As we continue our post-Easter journey through Luke's story of the mission and ministry of the early church in the book of Acts, today we reach the watershed moment in that story, the conversion of Cornelius, when the shape of the early Christian community and its mission is broadened to include the Gentiles. Or rather, in the final abbreviated retelling of the story in this morning's reading, Peter's reporting of that decisive event to the church in Jerusalem and their less than enthusiastic reaction.

Luke has been preparing his readers for this moment for some time, but it still seems to take Peter a bit by surprise. But if it came as something of a surprise to Peter, it was a total shock to the early church in Jerusalem. Their concern, however, was not so much that Peter preached to these Gentiles nor even that he baptised them, but that he sat down and ate with them, crossing boundaries and overturning centuries of separation and exclusion and accepting them into fellowship with the new community of Jesus.

Mission, in words usually attributed to the former Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams, is 'finding out what God is doing and joining in'. Peter discovered to his surprise that God was already at work among the Gentiles. The challenge for the church today is to discover where God is already at work and to be willing to cross boundaries and break new ground in order to join in.

One of the ways in which we find God already at work is surely through Christian Aid. Today is the start of Christian Aid week, with the theme this year turning hunger into hope. Our support for and involvement in Christian Aid is every bit as much part of joining in the mission of God as anything we do locally. It's one way of showing that God's love can transcend all differences and that all are within the embrace of his love.

### **First Reading: Acts 11.1-18**

The apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a

trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane." This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?' When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

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

During the supper, when Judas had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

### **TODAY**

**9.30am: Fifth Sunday of Easter** with Rev'd Ray Devenney presiding and Mr Ken Newitt Preaching from: Acts 11.1-18 and John 13.31-35

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

**Fri** 6.00pm: **Food for Thought in church**

**Sat** 10am-12pm: **Big Breakfast for Christian Aid**

**Sun 22nd** 9.30am, Church: **Sixth Sunday of Easter** Rev'd Gerard Rundell Presides and Johny Hilaire from Christian Aid Preaches from: Psalm 67 and John 14 :23-29

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> May, 7:30pm: **Ascension Day Eucharist**

Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May, all day: **Team day out to Alnmouth (details below)**

Sun 29<sup>th</sup> May, 4:00pm: **Healing Service in church**

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> June, 12-3pm: **Jubilee Celebrations on St Aidan's Church Green**

Tues 14<sup>th</sup> Jun, 7pm: **Newcastle University Windband Concert in church**

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/5thEaster22>

**BIG BREKKIE** – to end Christian Aid week, we will be holding our Big Brekkie on Sat 21<sup>st</sup> May, 10am -12pm. It's always a lovely, social morning with a tasty breakfast, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.

**CHRISTIAN AID GUEST SPEAKER** – on Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> May we are pleased to confirm that Johny Hilaire from Christian Aid will preach for us.

**ALNMOUTH TRIP** – our trip is being planned for Sat 28<sup>th</sup> May, approx. 10am-4.30pm. This will provide a quiet space to explore spirituality and prayer, along with a chance to enjoy each other's company. Bring your own lunch or eat at one of the pubs/cafes. If families would like to join us, there will be some activities for children and young people in the afternoon so that parents can have a few hours child-free! If you can make your own way that would be great, but a mini-bus has also been booked. If you'd like a place on the mini-bus please let us know so that we can plan numbers.

**LUNCH GROUP** - will meet on 1<sup>st</sup> June at the Rugby Club. Names to Pat or Pauline if you would like to come. New members will be welcome.

**ASCENSION DAY** – our eucharist service will be on Thurs 26<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30pm

**CHRISTIAN AID DONATIONS** - can be made at the Big Brekkie on Saturday 21 May and at the Parish Eucharist on Sunday 22 May, or online, using <https://giving.give-star.com/online/christian-aid/st-aidan-s-christian-aid-week-2022>, including gift aid where appropriate. You can also donate through our normal contactless card reader, but we will not be able to add gift aid to this. If you would prefer to make a donation direct to St Aidan's bank account, please use the reference Christian Aid Week, and we will also donate this (with gift aid where appropriate) to Christian Aid.

**NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY WINDBAND CONCERT** – we are happy to announce that there will be another concert held in church on Tues 14<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm

**MEDICATION BLISTER PACKS** –please put your empty blister packs in the box at the back of church. We can send them to be recycled.

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** - The Bible study group continues on Zoom at 7.30 pm on Mondays with a short series looking at Easter in the Prophets. The next session on Monday 16 May will look at the Valley of Dry Bones in Ezekiel 37. All welcome, contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for further details.

Zoom joining link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81184458149?pwd=NldtdklWb3pQVVdFNuHxbVlhcEhxUT09>, Meeting ID: 811 8445 8149, Passcode StABSG.

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFD\\$mlKOURtQT0](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFD$mlKOURtQT0)

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.

**USED STAMPS** – if you have any used stamps, please save them and put them in the box at the back of church to raise fund for St Oswald's Hospice.

**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://givealittle.co/campaigns/8a599239-a9bd-4136-8b4b-1dcabb0a2c65>

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

**For the church** – Particularly for Diocesan and Deanery Synods. In our church for our Thursday groups and Men's group

**For the community** – Manor House, Bowmont House and Melton House

**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, Sheila Lonie

**For those who have died and those who grieve** Joan Sargent, Margaret Turnbull, Mary Irving, Frank Dockar, Lindon Churnside, Edith Watson

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

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