



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

Sunday 8th May 2022
Fourth Sunday of Easter

This morning's reading from Acts asks us, I think, to consider our calling to do what Jesus did. Peter arrives in Joppa, and there he finds a scene of grief and distress as a woman has died. But rather than join with the mourners, Peter prays that she might 'rise up'. And Tabitha does!

The parallels between this healing and both Jesus' raising of Jairus' daughter, and his own resurrection are striking. The messengers sent; the sending away of mourners; the words spoken, 'Tabitha, get up,' echoing 'little girl, arise'; the taking by the hand; all these closely follow the pattern of Jesus' miracle as he raises a young girl from death. Equally the language used, *anastethi* 'arise', and as Peter 'showed her to be alive' are the very words used of Jesus' resurrection.

What we're supposed to hear is that Peter, though he is not Jesus, continues his work in his power. So, first Peter does what Jesus did, performing the same miracles, even to the point of raising the dead. And that same calling continues. We too, as the church, are called to do what Jesus did. We are called to offer healing in his name, and to proclaim new life out of death. We are called, as Peter will later say of Jesus, to 'go about doing good.' We are called to continue the witness to God's grace and life and love that was Jesus' ministry on earth. We are called to do what Jesus did.

And we can do that, precisely because of Jesus' resurrection. Peter speaks the language of resurrection, and with it comes new life. Not because he is Jesus, but because he continues Jesus' work in Jesus' power. And that power is the power of resurrection.

And, again, we do the same. The church can only do what Jesus did because of his resurrection. We can only continue his ministry of grace, because the power of his risen life continues among us. We can only live as witnesses to new life because that new life resides within us. We are called to do what Jesus did, because Christ is risen, and the power of his resurrection has taken root in our hearts and lives.

First Reading: Acts 9.36-43

In Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.' So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

Gospel Reading: John 10.22-30

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

TODAY

9.30am: Family Communion - Fourth Sunday of Easter with Rev'd Gerard Rundell Presiding and Preaching from: Acts 9.36-43 and John 10.22-30

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Fri 5.00pm: **Food for Thought via Zoom (see codes below)**

Sun 15th 9.30am, Church: **Fifth Sunday of Easter** Rev'd Ray Devenney Presides and Preaches from: Acts 11.1-18 and John 13.31-35 (Gerard not in church)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sat 21st May, 10am-12pm: **Big Breakfast for Christian Aid**

Sat 28th May, all day: **Team day out to Alnmouth (details TBC)**

Sun 29th May, 4:00pm: **Healing Service in church**

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

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link is <https://bit.ly/4thEaster22>

VIGIL FOR UKRAINE - There will be a vigil in front of Trinity Church, tomorrow (Monday) morning, 8am – 9am. This will coincide with the Russian military parade in Moscow.

WINE AT COMMUNION – from today, Sunday 8th May, wine will be offered at communion. This is optional for those who feel comfortable accepting wine from the chalice, but could we please ask that, in line with medical advice, you do not dip the wafer into the chalice.

BIG BREKKIE – to bring an end to Christian Aid week, we will once again be holding our Big Brekkie on Saturday 21st May, 10am – 12pm. It's always a lovely, social morning with a tasty breakfast, with all proceeds going to Christian Aid.

VIOLET MEAD – we would like to wish Violet a very happy 98th birthday. We hope you have a wonderful day, Violet.

JUBILEE CELEBRATION – along with other local business and organisations we are planning a jubilee celebration on Sunday 5th June between 12-3pm. If you have any ideas or would be able to help on the day, please contact either Gerard or Janice.

KEYS TO CHURCH – for insurance purposes we need to know everyone who has a set of keys to church, and which doors they are for (entry, internal doors etc). Could you please let Catherine or one of the other church wardens know if you hold a set. If you are a key holder, but no longer need them, please return them to church.

MEDICATION BLISTER PACKS – when you have an empty blister pack, please put it in the box at the back of church. We can send blister packs to be recycled.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - The Bible study group will resume on Zoom at 7.30pm on Monday with a short series between now and Pentecost looking at Easter in the Prophets. The first session on Monday 9 May will look at the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 53. 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=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT0>

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 churches in our Deanery: Jesmond Parishes. In our church for our Local Ministry Group and Pastoral Care Group, Eco church Group and Social Committee

For the community – especially Brunton Park Medical Centre, local shops and businesses

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 Harry Wilkinson, John Thompson, John Dawson, Jack Tweedy, Kathryn Yeaman




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