



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

**Sunday 26th June 2022
Second Sunday After Trinity**

This morning's reading from 2 Kings is where we get the phrase 'passing the mantle', and it's that idea that I'd like to explore, passing on the mantle of faith. The idea that the gifts and calling of faith are handed on.

Elisha, the long-time disciple of Elijah knows his master is about to leave him and asks for a 'double share' of his spirit. It's worth noting this isn't twice the amount, it's the portion of the first-born son from his father's inheritance. Elisha asks to be treated as kin, as the Elijah's own son. This is an inheritance passed to the next the generation. Perhaps this morning we might ask how we pass the mantle of faith to another generation. Where do a younger generation find figures of faith, to follow and learn from. Where are an older generation offering opportunities for the next generation to flourish as they're nurtured and disciplined to receive the same gifts and calling of God we recieved?

But it's also worth noting that Elijah recognises that what Elisha asks is not his to give. The calling and gifts of God are God's alone. So, we're told that if Elisha sees Elijah depart then he will, and if not, not. But Elisha of course does see this extraordinary moment of theophany, as God draws his faithful servant up to heaven in a whirlwind of fire and horses. The task of passing on the mantle is to allow others to meet and experience God for themselves. Not to force them into our mould, not to expect their faith or calling to look like ours, but to allow them to discover what God's calling looks like for them. We can only do so much, and the rest is out of our hands and up to God.

Ultimately God desires a voice in the world, and he continues to call people – prophets like Elijah and Elisha, people like you and me – to speak for him. The people change, the mantle passes down, but the gifts and the calling of faith remain in God's hands. He will find the voice to speak, and hands to pick up the mantle and carry on.

Reading: 2 Kings 2.1-2,6-14

When the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.' But Elisha said, 'As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the LORD, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

Gospel: Luke 9.51-62

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another Jesus said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

TODAY

9.30am: 2nd Sunday After Trinity Rev'd Gerard Rundell Presides and Preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Wed 7.00pm: **Community Centre AGM** all are invited to attend.
Sat 10am – 12pm: **Saturday Café**
Sat 3.00pm, Newcastle Cathedral: **Ordination of Rosemary New**
Sun 3rd 8:00am, Church: **Said Holy Communion**
9.30am, Church: **3rd Sunday After Trinity Family Communion** :
Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner presides as Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches
from 2 Kings 5.1-14 , Gal 6.[1-6]7-16 , Luke 10.1-11,16-20

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sun 26th Jun 2:30-5pm: **Open Garden** (see below)
Thurs 7th July 8.00pm, Community Room: **Men's Group**
Fri 8th July 7.00pm - 9.00pm, Community Room: **Art Exhibition**
Sat 9th July, 10.00am - 12.00pm, Community Room: **Art Exhibition**
Sun 10th July 2pm (or 3pm at St Matthews's) **Team Walk** from St Columba's to St Matthew's.

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/2Trinity22>

TEAM PARISH WALK - from St Columba's Wideopen to St Matthew's Dinnington on Sunday 10th July. The walk goes past the Big Waters Nature Reserve along easy paths, and is about 2.5miles long. We plan to leave St Columba's at 2pm, and arrive for refreshments at St Matthew's around 3-3.15pm. If you don't fancy the walk, but would like to join others from the Team for tea, do come straight to St Matthews. You can then either walk back to St Columba's or arrange lifts to drive home.

OPEN GARDEN - in conjunction with All Saints' Open Garden series we will be opening our garden today (Sunday) between 2.30 and 5pm. We would welcome anyone from St Aidan's who would like to drop in. Pat and Vic Spong 16 Milford Gardens.

ART EXHIBITION - the first joint art exhibition by St Aidan's Art Group and Café Sculpture Art Group since 2019 because of Covid Lockdown will be in church on Friday evening 8th July from 7.00pm - 9.00pm and Saturday morning, 9th July from 10.00am - 12.00pm. Entrance on Friday is £3, wine and nibbles provided and free on Saturday. Monies raised will go to Daft as a Brush.

MEN'S GROUP - The first meeting since lockdown of the monthly Men's Group will be at 8.00pm on Thursday 7th July in the Community Room. There will be a quiz and details and discussion about the Autumn programme up to Christmas. The meeting is open to all, whether church attendees or not.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - The Bible study group is resuming on Zoom with a series looking at the gospel according to St Luke. Our first session will be an introduction to Luke's gospel at 7.30 pm on Monday 27th June, further sessions looking at Luke 3 and 4 on Mondays 4th and 11th July. All welcome, whether or not you have been part of the group before. Contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for further details. Meeting ID: 892 9413 7288 Passcode: StABSG Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89294137288?pwd=Zlo5WS9odDdybkJGQm1wd2ptL293dz09>

NEWCASTLE UNIVERSITY WINDBAND – our recent wonderful evening of musical entertainment raised £300 for St Aidan's Church. Many thanks to Revd. Chris Clinch, the very talented students and those who gave their support.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFD\\$mlKOURtQT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFD$mlKOURtQT09) 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.
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 – our retired clergy: Ben Pullan, Christine Crompton, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner

For the community – Sacred Heart RC and St John's URC. Christian Aid, the Children's Society, and other charities supported by the church and the Saturday café

For the world – particularly for Ukraine, her people, refugees and the Ukrainian community in the UK, and our own national and political life.

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Dorothy Clasper.

For those on their anniversaries: John Dodd, Rita Brydon, Clem Cleminson, Betty Smith, Elizabeth Douglas

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