



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

Sunday 18th September 2022
Eco Sunday

Once again we are in what churches around the world, including the Church of England, are marking as the Season of Creation, a time when we are called to celebrate, to pray for and to care for creation. It runs from the beginning of September to 4th October, the feast of St Francis of Assisi.

This year the theme for the Season chosen by the World Council of Churches is Listen to the Voice of Creation. During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have become familiar with the concept of being muted in conversations. Many voices are muted in public discourse around climate change and the ethics of Earth-keeping: voices of those who suffer the impacts of climate change; voices of people who hold generational wisdom about how to live gratefully within the limits of the land; voices of a diminishing diversity of non-human species. These are the voice of the Earth. The 2022 Season of Creation theme raises awareness of our need to listen to the voice of Creation.

Our readings today speak of slavery and stewardship. They are difficult readings. Paul's letter to Philemon is sometimes criticised because he doesn't openly call for the freeing of the slave Onesimus or condemn outright the institution of slavery. Jesus' parable of the unjust steward is by common consent the most difficult of all Jesus' parables to make sense of. But they provide two models of how we human beings have related to God's wider creation – as exploiters like slave-owners and as stewards responsible (not very successfully of late) for its well-being. Increasingly, however, we are being led to a third model – partnership with Creation. St Francis, who in his Canticle of the Creatures speaks of brother sun and sister moon, brothers wind and air and sister water, brother fire and our sister Mother earth., placing them on an equal footing with ourselves, would doubtless approve.

Philemon 1-21

Paul, a prisoner of Christ Jesus, and Timothy our brother,

To Philemon our dear friend and co-worker, to Apphia our sister, to Archippus our fellow-soldier, and to the church in your house:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I remember you in my prayers, I always thank my God because I hear of your love for all the saints and your faith towards the Lord Jesus. I pray that the sharing of your faith may become effective when you perceive all the good that

we may do for Christ. I have indeed received much joy and encouragement from your love, because the hearts of the saints have been refreshed through you, my brother.

For this reason, though I am bold enough in Christ to command you to do your duty, yet I would rather appeal to you on the basis of love – and I, Paul, do this as an old man, and now also as a prisoner of Christ Jesus. I am appealing to you for my child, Onesimus, whose father I have become during my imprisonment. Formerly he was useless to you, but now he is indeed useful both to you and to me. I am sending him, that is, my own heart, back to you. I wanted to keep him with me, so that he might be of service to me in your place during my imprisonment for the gospel; but I preferred to do nothing without your consent, in order that your good deed might be voluntary and not something forced. Perhaps this is the reason he was separated from you for a while, so that you might have him back for ever, no longer as a slave but more than a slave, a beloved brother – especially to me but how much more to you, both in the flesh and in the Lord.

So if you consider me your partner, welcome him as you would welcome me. If he has wronged you in any way, or owes you anything, charge that to my account. I, Paul, am writing this with my own hand: I will repay it. I say nothing about your owing me even your own self. Yes, brother, let me have this benefit from you in the Lord! Refresh my heart in Christ. Confident of your obedience, I am writing to you, knowing that you will do even more than I say.

Luke 16.1-13

Then Jesus said to the disciples, 'There was a rich man who had a steward, and charges were brought to him that this man was squandering his property. So he summoned him and said to him, "What is this that I hear about you? Give me an account of your stewardship, because you cannot be my steward any longer." Then the steward said to himself, "What will I do, now that my master is taking the position away from me? I am not strong enough to dig, and I am ashamed to beg. I have decided what to do so that, when I am dismissed as steward, people may welcome me into their homes." So, summoning his master's debtors one by one, he asked the first, "How much do you owe my master?" He answered, "A hundred jugs of olive oil." He said to him, "Take your bill, sit down quickly, and make it fifty." Then he asked another, "And how much do you owe?" He replied, "A hundred containers of wheat." He said to him, "Take your bill and make it eighty." And his master commended the dishonest steward because he had acted shrewdly; for the children of this age are more shrewd in dealing with their own generation than are the children of light. And I tell you, make friends for yourselves by means of dishonest wealth so that when it is gone, they may welcome you into the eternal homes.

'Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and whoever is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth, who will entrust to you the true riches? And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another, who will give you what is your own? No servant can serve two masters; for a servant will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot be a slave to God and Mammon.'

TODAY

9.30am: Eco Sunday: Mr Bernie Troughton leads alongside the Eco Group, Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and Mr Ken Newitt preaches

4:00pm: Healing Service

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 11:00am, Church: **Live Streamed Funeral of Queen Elizabeth II**
7:30pm, via Zoom: **Bible Study Group (see codes below)**

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

Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Chat and Craft**
7.30pm: St Columba's: **Environmental Loss and Damage national vigil**

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

Sat 10.00am - 12.00pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**
2-4pm, St Aidan's Community Centre: **Community Fun Day**

Sun 25th 9.30am, Church: **Stewardship Sunday:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides while Mr Ken Newitt and Mrs Joanne Christie talk about Generosity Week.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 28th Sept 7.00pm: Talk with guest speaker from Christian Climate Action: **'Our Responsibilities At This Time.'**

Sun 2nd Oct 9:30am: **Harvest Festival**

Fri 7th 6:30pm: **Beetle Drive with Fish & Chips Supper**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/SeptEco22>

FUNERAL OF QUEEN ELIZABETH II – on Monday our church bell will ring for one hour prior to the start of the funeral. The morning's proceedings, and funeral service will be screened live in church if you would like to gather with others to pray along with the nation. Volunteers to help ring the bell would also be appreciated.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – will resume on Zoom (see details below) at 7.30pm on Monday 26 Sept, continuing to look at the gospel of Luke. The next few sessions will cover Jesus' ministry in Galilee, starting at Luke 4.31. Everyone welcome, whether for one session or all. Contact Ken Newitt for more details (kmnewitt@outlook.com).

BEETLE DRIVE – this fun, social event returns on Friday 7th October at 6:30pm. It will be followed by a Fish & Chips Supper (optional). Please add your name to the list at the back of church if you'd like to come along, and give your food choice.

LUNCH GROUP – next meets on Wednesday 5th October, 12pm for a 12:30pm lunch at Northern Rugby Club. Please contact Pat or Pauline if you would like to join us.

BAPTISM – today, at 12.30pm, we celebrate the baptism of Elsie.

HEALING SERVICE – this evening (Sun 18th Sept at 4pm) we have our healing service. 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.

FUN DAY STALLS – we have two stalls at the community fun day being held in the community centre on Saturday 24th September. If you have any books/puzzles please leave them at the back of church. We really need donation of cakes, please bring them along on the day – or leave them in church on Friday. They will be very gratefully received. If anyone is able to offer their time to help on the day, please let Gerard know.

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

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

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's. Sunday School, the Family Service and all involved in our work with children and young people

For the community – West End and Kenton Food Banks

For the Royal Family – Queen Elizabeth II and her dedicated service to her country. King Charles III and his family as they grieve their loss

For the world – particularly for Ukraine, her people, and refugees. For Pakistan suffering devastating effects of flooding. For our own national and political life.

For those being baptised and their family - Elsie

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Pamela Spearing, Bill Hickey

For those who have died and those who grieve: Claire Westwater, and on their anniversaries: Susan Hollingshead, Jenny Johnson, Ellen Hall, Joan Renwick, John Havis, Joseph Smith, Ann Clinton, Elsie Royce

CONTACTS:

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