



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

**Sunday 25th September 2022
Stewardship Sunday**

From time to time, the church has to talk about money. This Sunday we're going to be doing that, but as we do, we do it in the context of trust in God's generosity. In our gospel reading Jesus teaches his disciples not to worry about the needs of life. God has shown his generous provision to the birds of the air, and the lilies of the field. How much more will he show it to us. If we have eyes to see it, the simple beauty of God's Kingdom overflows with God's generosity.

Sadly though, it's easy to lose sight of that simple, beautiful provision. We're in the middle of a cost of living crisis with huge inflation, with staggering energy bills, with the continuing effects of Covid and all it did to our communities and economy. And our church isn't immune to those same pressures. As you'll see in the insert that comes with this week's newsletter, we too, are in a financially precarious situation. In many ways there couldn't be a worse time to talk about money. And yet perhaps this is exactly the right time to affirm our trust in this bountiful and generous God. Our trust in a God who provides for the birds of the air, who clothes the lilies of the field. Our trust in a God who, as we 'strive first for the Kingdom of God', as we focus on it's simple beauty above all else, offers his generous gifts.

My hope for us, here at St Aidan's, is that we are able not only to sustain ourselves, but to develop and grow as we 'strive first for the Kingdom of God'. Whether that's through the employment of a new Children and Families Worker – which will be generously funded through a legacy gift – or through continuing to develop our outreach in schools, to refugees, in developing our 'Social Prescription' offer in collaboration with local NHS services, or whatever God leads us to. Ultimately, this Sunday is a request that we who join together to seek the Kingdom of God in this place, might give what we can to financially support that work. Who knows where God will lead us in the years to come, but to develop our ministry the requires both trust in a generous God, and the generous gift of resources.

So, from time to time, the church needs to talk about money. This is a week to do it. If these hard times mean you have no more financial resources to give, or indeed, if you need to give less financially, there is no guilt. Please pray instead, or offer your time, those gifts are just as valuable. But from time to time, the church does have to talk about money, so if you're able to support our community in response to God's generous bounty, please do.

1 Timothy 6.11-19

But as for you, man of God, shun all this; pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance, gentleness. Fight the good fight of the faith; take hold of the eternal life, to which you were called and for which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. In the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession, I charge you to keep the commandment without spot or blame until the manifestation of our Lord Jesus Christ, which he will bring about at the right time – he who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords. It is he alone who has immortality and dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see; to him be honour and eternal dominion. Amen.

As for those who in the present age are rich, command them not to be haughty, or to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but rather on God who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, generous, and ready to share, thus storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of the life that really is life.

Matthew 6.25-33

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you - you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, "What will we eat?" or "What will we drink?" or "What will we wear?" For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.'

TODAY

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

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| Mon | 7:30pm, via Zoom: Bible Study Group (see codes below) |
| Wed | 10.00am, Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist |
| Thurs | 7.00pm, Church: Talk from Christian Climate Action: ' Our Responsibilities At This Time |
| Fri | 5.00pm, via Zoom: Food for Thought (see codes below) |
| Sat 1st | 10am- 2pm, Community Room: Saturday Café Fundraiser for Pakistan |
| Sun 2nd | 8:00am, Church: Said Holy Communion 9:30am, Church: Family Harvest Festival |

DATES FOR THE DIARY

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|------------------------|--|
| Thurs 2 nd | 2:00pm: Community Room, Prayer and Praise |
| Thurs 6 th | 8:00pm: Northern Football Club, Men's Group |
| Fri 7 th | 6:30pm: Beetle Drive with Fish & Chips Supper |
| Thurs 13 th | 2:00pm: Community Room, Film Club showing Dream Horse |
| Sat 15 th | 10am-12pm: Children Society Coffee Morning and opening of the collection boxes |
| Thurs 27 th | 2:00pm: Community Room, Chat and Craft |
| Sun 30 th | 4:00pm: Church, All Soul's Service |

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/Generosity22>

TALK BY CHRISTIAN CLIMATE ACTION: Our Responsibilities at this Time: Just Stop Oil will take place on Thursday at 7pm. Find out how allowing the extraction of new oil and gas resources in the UK will affect our future, and how by acting now can create millions of skilled jobs and protect the rights of workers. Come and hear more from our Christian Climate Action guest speaker

FUNDRAISING FOR PAKISTAN – on Saturday 1st October all proceeds from the Saturday café will be donated to Pakistan Flood Relief. Please do come along and join us to raise much needed funds. Our Harvest Sunday morning collection will also be donated to Pakistan, and donations can also be given via our bank account (see below)- using the word Pakistan as the reference.

HARVEST FESTIVAL – will be held on Sunday 2nd October. We will be collecting in-date, non-perishable food for the People's Kitchen and Kenton Foodbank. Due to previous generous donations please note that pasta, tea and full size boxes of cereal are not needed. Tinned meats, vegetables, soup, fruit, puddings, sauces, stock cubes, gravy, biscuits and sweets would be very much appreciated.

VOLUNTEER DRIVERS – if you are able to collect harvest donations from school or deliver them to either the People's Kitchen or Kenton Food Bank please email the Administrator or speak to Catherine.

GENEROSITY WEEK - during the 8 days of Generosity Week, there's will to be a different theme each day. Each will be accompanied by a short film clip, a reflection and a couple of challenges for people to have a go at. To join in please use this link: [sign up](#)

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

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.

CHILDREN SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING - will be held on Sat 15th Oct, 10am-12pm, where the opening of the collection boxes will take place. More details to follow.

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.

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

THANK YOU – Susan would like to thank everyone who has supported her fund raising for Motor Neurone Disease. She has raised £510 plus £65 in Gift Aid so far. Any further donations, however small, would be most welcome.

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

[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFD\\$sm1KOURtQT0](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFD$sm1KOURtQT0)

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

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 – Sacred Heart RC and St John's URC. Retired clergy: Ben Pullan, Christine Crompton, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner

For the community – 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, 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: Sheila Fawcett, Stanley King, Sheila Stephenson, Rene Reeves

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