



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

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2022 Harvest Festival

'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.' Those words, perhaps capture what Harvest Festival is all about. This is a day of rejoicing in the goodness of God and all his gifts to us. So today's message is a simple one. Rejoice always. Live gratefully. Choose thanksgiving.

But even if the message is simple, the practice isn't. So I want to ask what a life lived like that might look like. As we survey our lives, how will we choose to respond? Will we see what we have through a lens of lack? Will we constantly ask why we don't have this, or why that didn't work out for us? Will we see difficulties and challenges instead of the opportunity? Will we compare ourselves to those with a bit more than us and wonder why we aren't more like them? Will we look for people to blame when things aren't quite as we'd like? The lens of lack is an easy one to look through. But what if we could choose a different lens?

What if instead we could choose to rejoice, could choose gratitude and thanksgiving? What if we saw everything we do have instead of what we don't? What if we discovered in setbacks a chance to learn and grow? What if we compared ourselves downward, and asked what we can do to help those with less, instead of what we can do to be like those with more? What if we were able to discover joy in the simplest and humblest of moments? Harvest is a time to re-focus, not on what we don't have but on what we do, and to give thanks to God. To choose an attitude of gratitude, to choose thanksgiving, to choose joy.

But more than that Paul is asking us to root our thanksgiving in something deeper. Because his command to 'Rejoice in the Lord always' is precisely that, rejoicing in God. However grateful we may feel for what we have, our rejoicing can only ever be sustainable in God's grace. Good things come and go, but God's love is constant. The blessings of the Harvest will be consumed and fade, but God's grace is unending. We can only truly choose gratitude if our thanksgiving is rooted in the eternal outpouring of God's loving goodness. It's that goodness that's at the heart of Christian joy. Not simply a counting of our blessings, but a knowledge that no matter what we face - through trials and suffering as well as comfort and peace - God is forever good. We can only rejoice always because God's joy, his gift of abundant life in Christ, will never end. In him we can choose gratitude. In him we can rejoice. In him, the thanksgiving of the Harvest, can sustain our whole lives.

## **Philippians 4.4-9**

Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice. Let your gentleness be known to everyone. The Lord is near. Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. Finally, beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things. Keep on doing the things that you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, and the God of peace will be with you.

## **John 6.25-35**

When they found him on the other side of the lake, they said to him, 'Rabbi, when did you come here?' Jesus answered them, 'Very truly, I tell you, you are looking for me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate your fill of the loaves. Do not work for the food that perishes, but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you. For it is on him that God the Father has set his seal.' Then they said to him, 'What must we do to perform the works of God?' Jesus answered them, 'This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent.' So they said to him, 'What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing? Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, "He gave them bread from heaven to eat."' Then Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, it was not Moses who gave you the bread from heaven, but it is my Father who gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.' They said to him, 'Sir, give us this bread always.' Jesus said to them, 'I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

## **TODAY**

**8.00am: Said Holy Communion**

**9:30am: Harvest Festival Family Service:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches.

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Mon** 7:30pm, via Zoom: **Bible Study Group (see codes below)**

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

12:00pm, Northern Rugby Club: **Lunch Group**

**Thurs** 2.00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**

8:00pm, Northern Football Club: **Men's Group**

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

6:30pm, Church: **Beetle Drive with Fish & Chips Supper**

**Sat** 10am- 2pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**  
**Sun 9th** 9:30am **Trinity Seventeen**. Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

### **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 13<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm: Community Room, **Film Club showing Dream Horse**  
Sat 15<sup>th</sup> 10am-12pm: Children Society Coffee Morning and opening of the collection boxes  
Thurs 27<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm: Community Room, **Chat and Craft**  
Sun 30<sup>th</sup> 4:00pm: **Church, All Soul's Service**

### **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/HarvestOct22>

**FUNDRAISING FOR PAKISTAN** – all proceeds from yesterday's Saturday café and this morning's collection will be donated to Pakistan Flood Appeal along with anything that is given through Goodbox this weekend. Donations can also be given via our bank account (see below)- using the word Pakistan as the reference.

**HARVEST FESTIVAL** – food donations of in-date, non-perishable food will be given to the People's Kitchen and Kenton Foodbank following today's service.

**ORDINAND** – starting on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October we will have an ordinand joining us at St Aidan's. Claire Lewis is studying at Cramner Hall, Durham and will be with us for 2 terms. Please introduce yourself to Claire when you meet her to make her feel welcome.

**PRISONS WEEK** – begins on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October, a week that asks Christians to pray for those in prison and those who work to offer them hope. Karen will talk more on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup>.

**BEETLE DRIVE** – the excitement around this social event is heating up! This Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 6:30pm. It will be followed by a Fish & Chips Supper (optional). Add your name to the list at the back of church if you'd like to come along, and join in the fun.

**CHILDREN SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING** - will be held on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> Oct, 10am-12pm, where the opening of the collection boxes will take place. If possible please bring any boxes along prior to the 15<sup>th</sup> so that we have them ready to be opened.

**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).

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

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDsm1KOUQtQT09> 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** – Our Bishop Mark, Archdeacon Rachel Wood, Pauline Pearson, Acting Area Dean. Those who assist in our worship: lesson readers, intercessors, servers, Eucharistic assistants and sacristans

**For the community** – Catherine McKinnell, our MP, Newcastle City Councillors, North Gosforth Parish Council

**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 in particular need** - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Bill Hickey

**For those who have died and those who grieve:** Claire Westwater, and on their anniversaries: David Lee, Phyllis Rockcliffe, Thelma Ashby, Dinah Purvis, Jean Muse, Rita Walker, Norman Wilson, Sheila Jones, Pat McIntyre

### **CONTACTS:**

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