



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

Sunday 4th September 2022
Patronal Festival

This morning we remember our patron saint, St Aidan. There's a great deal in St Aidan's life that we might be inspired by, but one particular aspect jumps out today. In Bede's *Ecclesiastical History of the English People* (not exactly a page-turner, but fascinating nonetheless!), we're given the excerpt printed opposite.

As we read that description of his life, and as the church seeks to speak to today's culture, perhaps we might be inspired by a saint with a transforming message embodied in a countercultural life. And first we see in St Aidan a countercultural life. Even in the early 600s his generosity was exceptional. Any possessions, or symbols of status, or wealth or power were joyfully given away. It seemed that Aidan was remarkably free, counterculturally free, from that eternal human urge to acquire more things. It was that countercultural freedom that seems to have characterised his ministry and its influence.

Perhaps today we might recognise the power of the same freedom. We live in a culture that has amplified that eternal human urge to perhaps its greatest heights. A culture that offers consumption as the great human good. That, whether implicitly or explicitly, whether through political messaging or the subtle subtext of advertising and entertainment, presents a vision of life that revolves around ever greater acquisition. And yet, there is an alternative. Aidan lived a life of countercultural freedom. A life that was free from the grip of that urge and that discovered far greater riches in his remarkable generosity. Might we find the same if we only had the courage to live as he did?

And second we find a transforming message embodied in this life. St Aidan lived this way not because he didn't like good things, but because he proclaimed the God who embodies generosity. He proclaimed a God who gave his own Son for our sake. He proclaimed a life of abundance and fullness in this God and the riches of grace that he offers. That transforming message allowed him to live as he did, and his life gave the message its power. Perhaps if the church were to live as a community that so deeply embodied the same transforming message it might be heard all the more by the world around us. Aidan's proclamation gained credence through his life. Might our church gain the same if we could live the Gospel we proclaim with such faithful, generous freedom?

Excerpt from Bede's Ecclesiastical History of the English People. Book III, chap. 5

Aidan taught the clergy many lessons about the conduct of their lives but above all he left them a most salutary example of abstinence and self-control; and the best recommendation of his teaching to all was that he taught them no other way of life than that which he himself practices among his fellows. For he neither sought after nor cared for worldly possessions but he rejoiced to hand over at once, to any poor man he met, the gifts which he had received from kings or rich men of the world. He used to travel everywhere, in town and country, not on horseback but on foot, unless compelled by urgent necessity to do otherwise, in order that, as he walked along, whenever he saw people whether rich or poor, he might at once approach them and, if they were unbelievers, invite them to accept the mystery of faith; or, if they were believers, that he might strengthen them in the faith, urging them by word and deed to practice almsgiving and good works.

John 13.16-20

¹⁶Very truly, I tell you, servants are not greater than their master, nor are messengers greater than the one who sent them. ¹⁷If you know these things, you are blessed if you do them. ¹⁸I am not speaking of all of you; I know whom I have chosen. But it is to fulfil the scripture, "The one who ate my bread has lifted his heel against me." ¹⁹I tell you this now, before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe that I am he. ²⁰Very truly, I tell you, whoever receives one whom I send receives me; and whoever receives me receives him who sent me.'

TODAY

8:00am: Said Holy Communion

9.30am: Family Patronal Festival: Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

4:00pm: Parish Evensong: St Cuthberts

The rehearsal time for singers for the Evensong is 2.15pm at St Cuthbert's.

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Film Club** showing "Belfast"

Sat 10.00am - 12.00pm, Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**

Sun 11th 9.30am, Church: **Trinity 13:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches from Jeremiah 4.11-12,22-28 , 1 Timothy 1.12-17, Luke 15.1-10

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sun 18th 4:00pm: **Healing Service**

Sat 24th 2-4pm: **Community Centre & St Aidan's Fun Day**

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

Fri 7th 6:30pm: **Beetle Drive with Fish & Chips Supper** please add your name to the list at the back of church, food optional.

ECO MONTH - SEPTEMBER

- Sat 10th** 3-4pm: Deanery Celtic Forest Church service, St Nicholas Gosforth
- Sat 17th** 10am-12pm: Volunteers to develop a patch of land (spot TBC) as a bio-diverse eco-friendly area
- Sun 18th** 9:30am: St Aidan's Eco Sunday
- Thurs 22nd** 7.30pm: Environmental Loss and Damage national vigil.
- Wed 28th** 7.30pm: Talk with guest speaker from Christian Climate Action: 'Our Responsibilities At This Time.'

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/AidanPatronal22>

TEAM CONFIRMATION – is on Sunday 20th November which marks the Feast of Christ the King. If anyone would be interested in Confirmation this year, please get in touch with Gerard.

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

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 – for now, any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank who are appealing 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 – Gerard Rundell. Team Rector. Ruth Hewett, Church in the Park and The Ark in the Park

For the community – local schools, including Havannah, Brunton and Gosforth Park First Schools

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

For those in particular need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler

For those who have died and those who grieve: John Hewett, and on their anniversaries: Jean Rutherford Parkin, Edna Craig, Godfrey Wright, Alfred Kalauf, Lorna Sleight, James Struthers Clark.

CONTACTS:

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