



**Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's, Brunton Park
Sunday 23rd October 2022
Bible Sunday**

The collect for today, the last Sunday of the Trinity season, is:

Blessed Lord, who caused all holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

This last Sunday of the Trinity season has come to be called Bible Sunday – a yearly day of thanksgiving to God for the gift of the Holy Scriptures, which have taught, inspired and guided the people of God, the Church, down through the ages. The Bible is a remarkable, totally unique set of scriptures outlining God's action in the world, and his purpose with all creation. It comes to us in the form of 66 books regarded as inspired by God and as authoritative for faith and life. Parts of our OT scriptures go back 3000 + years, and all the NT documents were written during the 1st century C E and so are nearly 2000 years old.

For the writers of the N T, their sacred scriptures would have been the Old Testament. In our first reading today, it was those scriptures that Jesus himself would have known and drew upon in his teachings. Following his baptism, Jesus very quickly began to develop a popular teaching reputation around Galilee and shortly came to his hometown of Nazareth. On the Sabbath in the local synagogue where it was customary for someone to be invited to give a scripture reading and then preach about it, Jesus chose a well-known passage from the prophet Isaiah, (Chapter 61 in our bibles): "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

This was written hundreds of years earlier to encourage the people living in very hard and very uncertain times. Things were not going well and there was much anxiety about the future. "Rest assured," said Isaiah, "God has not abandoned us; by his grace we are in for a bright future".

Then Jesus makes an incredible claim: "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing". It is not a future hope, Today, he asserted, these promises of God, expressed in this ancient passage have been fulfilled. That's not what they were expecting. It didn't make sense. They were still a struggling people living under strong control of the occupying much resented Roman forces and life was very hard. And also he seemed by implication to be claiming that it was he himself that was bringing this about! What nonsense – away with him!

We know only too well that in so many ways both in our own country and across the world we live in times of great stress and struggle – war, injustice, climate change, economic instability, times where millions are living in extreme hardship,

poverty, hunger, oppression, where, to use the imagery of this scripture passage, good news for the poor, release to the captives, sight to the blind and freeing of the oppressed seems an absolute pipedream.

But we do see Christ's mission being fulfilled. We can see it in so many, many situations - wherever find love, wherever compassion, healing, relief from hardship being exercised, justice being sought, mercy and reconciliation being exercised, wherever people are working for the wholeness of creation and fullness of life. Importantly for us, by the grace of God and the working of the Holy Spirit, Christ's mission is our mission today, now, wherever we find ourselves. Each of us and collectively as church, are called to witness to the Kingdom of Heaven on earth as it is manifest today. Of course there is still much to be done; that is why Christ taught us to pray 'Your kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven'. By our baptism, we are all 'holy partners in a heavenly calling', (Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 3, verse 1 (NRVS Bible translation) working together with our Lord to bring this good news to the poor, to proclaim release to the captives, recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free and to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour'.

Romans 15. 1-6

We who are strong ought to put up with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves. Each of us must please our neighbour for the good purpose of building up the neighbour. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, 'The insults of those who insult you have fallen on me.' For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 4. 16-24

When Jesus came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, he went to the synagogue on the sabbath day, as was his custom. He stood up to read, and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written:

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

And he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. The eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. Then he began to say to them, 'Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.' All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They said, 'Is not this Joseph's son?' He said to them, 'Doubtless you will quote to me this proverb, "Doctor, cure yourself!" And you will say, "Do here also in your home town the things that we have heard you did at Capernaum."' And he said, 'Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet's home town.'

TODAY

9:30am: Bible Sunday: Rev'd Ben Pullan will preside and preach for us today while Gerard is at St Columba's.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Chat and Craft**
Fri 3:30pm, GP Community Centre: **Messy Church - Halloween**
Sat 10am- 2pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**
Sun 30th 9:30am **All Saint's Day:** Mr Bernie Troughton leads the service and preaches alongside Rev'd Gerard Rundell who will preside. Readings are Daniel 7.1-3,15-18 , Ephesians 1.11-23 , Luke 6.20-31
Sun 30th 6:00pm, Church: **All Souls Service**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 3rd Nov 8:00pm: **Men's Group** - Watching History Happen: South Africa in the 1990's. Talk by Rory Farrell
Sat 19th Nov **St Aidan's Christmas Market** (time to be confirmed)
Sun 20th Nov 10:00am: **Feast of Christ the King: Team Service at St Aidan's**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/BibleSunday2022>

RUTH'S CONTACT DETAILS - following last Sunday's farewell to Ruth, she has asked that we forward on her address so that you can keep in contact with her. Her new address is: 3 Herne Road, Oundle, Peterborough, PE8 4BS

ADVENT QUIET DAY – during advent we are hoping to hold a quiet day, on probably 17th December, venue TBC. We hope to have Rev'd Lesley Chapman, the Bishop's Advisor in Spirituality leading our reflections and there would be space for prayer, and to join for food and discussion together. Could you please write your name on the list at the back of church to register your interest, so we can see how many people would potentially like to attend.

MESSY CHURCH – don't end the half term break with bored children – bring them to our Halloween themed Messy Church on Friday 28th October at 3:30pm at Great Park Community Centre. Crafts, story and food = happy children.

USED TOYS NEEDED – we have quite a few young children coming along to our Sunday service and we'd love to have more toys to keep them entertained in the community room. If you have any clean toys in good condition please consider donating them to us. Nothing with batteries please. We're thinking along the lines of cars, trains, floor jigsaws, wooden toys etc.

CLOCK'S GO BACK – enjoy an extra hour in bed next Sunday morning by remembering that the clocks go back next Saturday, 29th October.

WARM WELCOME – from the start of Advent, St Aidan's will join in the national campaign for churches to offer a warm welcome – somewhere for people to come that's warm, for a hot drink and a chat. We will offer a warm welcome at Saturday café, and our Thursday afternoon clubs.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION – we're really keeping the children entertained this half term by opening our annual competition for all children in our parish. Design our 2022 Christmas Card. The card will be shared around the local community giving details of all the Christmas events to look forward to. The deadline is 6th November.

KNITTED ANGELS – we'd love any knitters to help us out and make as many knitted or hand crafted angels as possible before the start of December for a community project. Patterns can be emailed on request, and some printed versions are on the table at the back of church.

ALL SOULS SERVICE – will be held on Sunday 30th October at 6.00pm to commemorate those dearly departed. To have the name of a loved one read out during the service, please add their name to the list at the back of church. Names from previous years will not automatically be read out. If you are unable to add the name yourself, please contact the Administrator or a church warden who will add the name on your behalf.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – will be having a two-week break and will resume on Monday 7 November.

CHOIR NEEDED – St Columba's are celebrating their 40th anniversary in a service on the evening of Sunday 20th November. It would be lovely to have a choir so if you are interested please contact Chris Clinch by email cclinch164@btinternet.com

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Churches in our Deanery: Fawdon, Kenton and Kingston Park Parishes. Food for Thought and those leading it

For the community – Great Park Consortium and ongoing development of the Great Park Town Centre

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

For those who have died and those who grieve. On their anniversaries: Thomas Atkinson

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