



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

Sunday 27th November 2022 First Sunday of Advent

Today, Advent Sunday, marks the beginning of the church year –in our three-year lectionary Year A, in which the featured gospel is St Matthew.

Advent over the centuries has had a number of different focuses. It was perhaps originally a time of preparation for baptism, at the Feast of the Epiphany, just as Lent was for baptism at Easter. The season of Advent still shares with Lent the liturgical colour purple, traditionally a sign of penitence, though much less to the fore in Advent. Later it became not just a time of preparation for the coming of Christ at Christmas but a time of earnest prayer for the second coming of Christ at the end of the world. In that context it also became a time for reflection on our own mortality through examination of The Four Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell. These were often the focus of sermons on the four Sundays of Advent.

More recently, other themes have come to the fore, particularly associated with the tradition of lighting candles on an Advent wreath on the four Sundays of Advent, a tradition like the Christmas tree imported from Germany :

The patriarchs, the prophets, John the Baptist and Mary; or
Hope, peace, joy and love.

This latter theme is particularly reflected in the Year A Old Testament readings from the book of the prophet Isaiah during Advent. Today's reading, one of joyful hope for the future in the midst of the destruction of war as well as a turning away from the word of God, leading to oppression and injustice, sets the scene for Advent as a time for hopes and dreams, for imagining and working towards a future that takes us beyond the world as we know it to the world as it could be – and should be – a place of healing, justice, joy and peace.

Happy new (church) year!

Isaiah 2.1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.

In days to come

the mountain of the LORD's house

shall be established as the highest of the mountains,

and shall be raised above the hills;

all the nations shall stream to it.

Many peoples shall come and say,

'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the LORD,

to the house of the God of Jacob;

that he may teach us his ways

and that we may walk in his paths.'

For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,

and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.

He shall judge between the nations,

and shall arbitrate for many peoples;

they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,

and their spears into pruning-hooks;

nation shall not lift up sword against nation,

neither shall they learn war any more.

O house of Jacob,

come, let us walk

in the light of the LORD!

Matthew 24.36-44

Jesus spoke to his disciples: 'About that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left. Keep awake, therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

TODAY

9:30am: First Sunday of Advent: Rev'd Cannon Jean Skinner presides as Mr Ken Newitt preaches from Isaiah 2.1-5, and Matthew 24.36-44 (Rev'd Rundell at St Matthews and St Cuthberts)

12:30pm Baptism of Sadie Ann Reeves

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon	7:30pm, Zoom: Bible Study Group (see codes below)
Wed	10.00am, Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist 12.15pm: Funeral Service of Nancy Middleton
Thurs	2:00pm, Church: Christmas Prayer and Praise 8:00pm, Community Room: Men's Group, Games Night
Sat	10am-12pm, Community Room: Saturday Café 7:00pm: Coquet Concert Band
Sun 4th	8:00, Church: Said Holy Communion 9:30am Advent 2, Family Service: Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches from Isaiah 11.1-10, Romans 15.4-13, Matthew 3.1-12

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Sun 11 th Dec	4:00pm: Christingle
Mon 12 th	7.30pm: Carols on the Green (bus stop at Greenfield Rd)
Tues 13 th	2:00pm: Carols at Bowmont House
Wed 14 th	7:00pm: Men's Group Christmas Dinner
Thurs 15 th	2:00pm: Film Club - Lost Christmas - an urban fairytale
Sun 18 th	6:00pm: Lessons and Carols
Sun 24 th	4:00pm: Nativity
Sun 24 th	11:30pm: Midnight Mass
Sun 25 th	9:30am: Christmas Day Service

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/27NovAdvent1>

REAL ADVENT CALENDARS – we have a supply of fair trade chocolate advent calendars with a free nativity storybook. Each day has a chocolate, a line from the Christmas story and a picture. £5 per each with sales supporting charitable causes.

GIFTS FOR UKRAINE – are you able to donate money for gifts for the children of Ukraine? Sofiia is collecting money, which her mum who has returned to Ukraine will use to buy gifts. Please see the poster at the back of church to see what your donations will buy.

CAROLS AT BOWMONT HOUSE – you are invited to join residents as they have their carol service on Tuesday 13th December at 2pm.

CHRISTMAS FILM CLUB – will be on 15th December (please note change of date) at 2pm showing 'Lost Christmas' an urban fairytale with Eddie Izzard and there may even be some festive treats.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE - thank you to everyone who assisted and supported the Christmas Fair last Saturday, we made an amazing £1161.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH GROUP – on 7th December at the Rugby Club will meet at 12pm for a 12:30pm meal. Names to Pauline or Pat please.

CHRISTMAS CARDS –thank you to Archie Jones, aged 11, for our beautiful 2022 card design, which are now ready for delivery. If you are able to help please take a pack off the table at the back of church and mark on the sheet which ones you have taken. We really appreciate any help that you can offer.

WINDBAND CONCERT – the Coquet Concert Band will be at St Aidan's on Saturday 3rd Dec at 7pm. Entrance is by donations on the door, and wine and nibbles will be served during the interval, again for donations. All proceeds will go towards church funds, so please do come for a musical evening and support the church!

BIBLE STUDY GROUP –continues its study of St Luke's gospel on Zoom at 7.30pm on Mon 28th Nov, looking during Advent at Luke chapters 1 and 2 (the birth and nativity narratives). Zoom link below. All are welcome to join us. Contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for further information.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER & PRAISE – is on Thursday 1st Dec at 2pm, and will be followed by tea, mince pies, and good company. Everybody is very welcome.

EASY FUNDRAISING – you can raise money for St Aidan's by registering with Easyfundraising, raising FREE donations for us when you shop online. Easyfundraising partners with over 7,000 brands, including John Lewis, H&M and Argos, and many service providers like Amazon, who will donate a small percentage of what you spend to your chosen cause. Just go to the easyfundraising website (or click on this link <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/staidanschurchbruntonpark/>), sign up, and find the retailer you want to shop with. Easyfundraising will redirect you to the retailer, you then shop as usual and the retailer will donate to us when you make a purchase – at no cost to you!

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

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Christ the King Team Parish, PCC members and officers. Moira and Kathryn, and all who enhance our services by their playing or singing. **For the**

community – West End Refugee Service. **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 the baptism of** – Sadie Ann Reeves

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Michael and Bob Harkness

For those who have died and grieve – Lillian Harkness, Nancy Middleton and on their anniversaries Brian Adair, Douglas Hunter, Margaret Wilkinson, Bill Burn, Eric Ball, Lillian Futers, Thomas Gill, Mabel Wyatt

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