



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

Sunday 11th December 2022 Third Sunday of Advent

What did you expect? You might ask that of yourself or someone else when an experience you have been looking forward to turns out to be.. a bit ordinary.. unexciting. Maybe you paid for tickets to see a new exhibition – but were underwhelmed by it. Maybe you'd been looking forward to a concert at the Sage by someone famous – but when you went you couldn't quite see why they'd had so many rave reviews. Perhaps you'd treated the family to a meal at a rather nice restaurant – and the food just didn't seem worth the money. You feel totally let down.

John the Baptist must have felt let down. He is in prison. This high profile preacher, who had seen crowds flocking to listen to him, who had dared to shout at the authorities and told everyone to repent because God's kingdom was coming near. He promoted Jesus as bringing a baptism of the Holy Spirit and of fire: destroying those who lived lives opposed to what God was doing. But in prison, he has little to do except think – and doubt everything he hoped for. So he seeks answers. And Jesus points to what he is doing. Doing God's work, transforming lives. But it doesn't fit with John's preconceptions. He is asking "If the Messiah has come, where is his kingdom? Why don't things look a lot better than they do?" There are after all, so many things wrong in the world. Jesus goes on to point out that many people in this world want to tell God to play by their rules, to dance to their tunes, to show power according to their definitions of what power is. But you can't win with people like that. John lived an austere life, and the world called him disturbed. Jesus lived an exuberant life, and the world called him a pleasure seeker. You can't let such people dictate what your life or your faith should look like. So with John the Baptist, we are called to faith in the good news which God brought to the lost, the lonely and the distressed. Only the Holy Spirit can show us this truth. And if we can see it at all, this is cause for praise and thanksgiving!

God we hear you
In the dark desolate place
In the quiet intimate place
On the high hill and deep in the heart
Crying out, comforting, calling, challenging.
We hear you. Amen

Isaiah 35.1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11.2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to Jesus, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the

blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written, "See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.'

TODAY

9:30am: Third Sunday of Advent: Rev'd Pauline Pearson presides and preaches from Isaiah 35.1-10 & Matthew 11.2-11 (Revd Rundell/St Col)
11:30am: Baptism of Charles Morris
4:00pm: Christingle

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm: **Carols on the Green (bus stop at Greenfield Rd)**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Wed 7:00pm: **Men's Group Christmas Dinner**
Thurs 2:00pm: **Film Club - Lost Christmas - an urban fairytale**
Thurs 2:00pm: **Carols at Bowmont House**
Fri 3:30pm: **Messy Church – Great Park Community Centre**
Sat 10:00am: **Quiet Day at Newcastle Cathedral**
Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**
Sun 18th 9:30am **Advent 4:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell and Mr Bernie Troughton lead our service with readings from Isaiah 7.10-16, Romans 1.1-7, Matthew 1.18-25
6:00pm: **Lessons and Carols**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tues 20th 5:30pm: **Musical Buds Concert**
Fri 23rd 4pm-6pm: **Mulled Wine and Mince Pies at the Vicarage**
Sat 24th 4:00pm: **Nativity**
Sat 24th 11:30pm: **Midnight Mass**
Sun 25th 9:30am: **Christmas Day Service**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/11DecAdvent3>

GOSFORTH AND DISTRICT CHOIR – are having their Christmas Concert on Thursday 15th December at 7:30pm in St Aidan's, please come along if you can.

QUIET DAY – at Newcastle Cathedral on Sat 17th Dec meeting at 10am in the café and lasting until 3pm. If you're unable to stay the whole day please come along for however long you can. Chris Sayers has kindly offered to give us a tour of the Cathedral. Those wishing to, can meet for lunch in the café (not provided)

KNITTED/CRAFT ANGELS - Thank you to everyone who has knitted or crafted angels for St Aidan's. Some are already in Great Park for their Angel Trail. But we still have around 140 left! It's a great effort and means we can give a Christmas surprise to our community! The plan is to use some angels to decorate the church with an angel display. The rest will be a surprise gift for the lucky finder to take home, with a card from St Aidan's and a Christmas blessing! Thank you for all your hard work and look out for angels on the weekend on 17th-18th!

CHRISTMAS GATHERING AT THE VICARAGE – Gerard and Karen would like to invite you to mulled wine and mince pies at the vicarage (60 Barmoor Drive, NE3 5RG) on Fri 23rd Dec 4pm-6pm. Just bring yourselves, all are very welcome for a bit of festive fun!

MESSY CHURCH – our final Messy Church of the year will be held on Friday 16th December at 3:30p at Great Park Community Centre with a theme of Christmas – the Angel announcing to Mary.

GIFTS FOR UKRAINE – this is the last week to donate towards gifts for the children of Ukraine. The poster at the back of church shows what your donations will buy.

MUSICAL BUDS CONCERT – at St Aidan's on Tues 20th Dec at 5:30pm. Please come to support the young Suzuki Recorder & Piano students, the more friendly faces in the audience the better! The concert ends c.6:15, followed by bring & share refreshments. Entry is free, though donations are welcome to enable local disadvantaged children to learn an instrument too: <https://www.musicalbuds.com/donate.html>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – will resume its study of Luke's gospel in the New Year.

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Pauline Pearson and St Columba's. Our Bible Study and prayer groups

For the community – St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community Centre, and their Management Committees

For the world – for Ukraine, Pakistan and all countries facing hardship and conflict.

For baptisms - Charles Morris

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler.

On their anniversaries –Doreen Alsop, Eric Frost, Emma Flynn, Francis Leslie, Lawrence Smith, Cynthia Richardson, Ida Holst, Mervyn Spearing, June Ward, Mattie Hodgeson, Jordan Loftus, Wilfred Guss, Douglas Gamblin, Lillian Trotter

CONTACTS: Office/Admin/Newsletter : 0191 236 7952 infostaidans@gmail.com

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 brpullan@gmail.com

 [St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk](https://www.staidanschurchbruntonpark.co.uk)