



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

Sunday 22nd January 2023
Third Sunday after Epiphany

Last week Gerard spoke to us about evangelism. He showed us that although it can be scary, at its heart is an invitation: Jesus invites us to 'come and see' and we can all invite others with gentleness and humility to 'come and see' what the Gospel has to offer.

This week's reading is from Matthew 4:12-23. In it, Jesus is wandering the shoreline of the Jordan when he comes across James and John on their fishing boat and invites them to stop what they're doing and follow him. He will teach them how to fish for people instead.

No job interview, no CVs, no checking their credentials or asking for references. They aren't even in Temple. He hasn't seen them preach or heard them teach. They're just working on the nets in their father's boat.

This is how Jesus recruits his disciples. He doesn't gather up people who society would consider 'right for the job', and yet look what they achieved! A small band of unqualified misfits spreads a story so compelling that two thousand years later there are more than two billion Christians in the world.

Of course they didn't do it alone. God was leading the way. It's easy to look back and see the Spirit at work in the early church, but I'm sure it didn't feel like that at the time. I bet that small group of manual labourers, fishermen and tax collectors felt just as lost, confused and out of their depth as we do when God challenges us to be 'fishers of people'.

I think it helps to remember that God is still steering the ship, and the Spirit is still at work in the world, and the story we have to tell is as compelling now as it was then.

It's a great story of love and redemption, of salvation and hope.

Who doesn't need more of that in their life?

Isaiah 9.1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
those who lived in a land of deep darkness –
on them light has shined.

You have multiplied the nation,
you have increased its joy;
they rejoice before you
as with joy at the harvest,
as people exult when dividing plunder.

For the yoke of their burden,
and the bar across their shoulders,
the rod of their oppressor,
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

Matthew 4.12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles –
the people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake – for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

TODAY

9:30am: Epiphany 3: Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides as Ordinand Clair Lewis preaches from Isaiah 9.1-4 and Matthew 4.12-23

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Chat and Craft**

Sat 10am-12pm, Community Room: **Saturday Café**

Sun 29th 9:30am **Candlemas:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell and Mr Bernie Troughton lead our service with readings from 1 Kings 17.8-16, 1 Corinthians 1.18-31 and John 2.1-11

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 2nd Feb 2:00pm: **Prayer and Praise**

8:00pm: **Men's Group:** Talk by David Down 'Good Lord, Mayor'

Wed 8th 12:30pm: **Lunch Group**

Thurs 9th 2:00pm: **Film Club**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/3Epiphany23>

LUNCH GROUP - will meet on February 8th at the Rugby Club. Lunch will be served at 12:30 pm. Please contact Pauline or Pat if you would like to join us.

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

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 open during the day, every day. Please come in at any time for some quiet time or prayer.

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

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 – Churches in our Deanery: Fawdon, Kenton and Kingston Park Parishes

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

For the world – for Ukraine, Pakistan and all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those in need - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg

For those who have died – Margaret Pitkethly, Charles Hobson, Margaret Harris, Peter Anderson,



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