



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

### **Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023 Second Sunday Before Lent**

This morning's passage from 1 Corinthians has Paul reminding the troublesome church in Corinth of the way he came to them when they first heard the Gospel. They have descended into squabbling, as they argue about which teacher they follow - some say Peter, some Paul, some Apollos (1 Cor. 1.12) - but Paul reminds them that the gospel he preached was simply 'Christ Jesus, and him crucified.' This gospel was received not because of his powers of persuasion, nor his ready rhetoric, not because of his spectacular speech, nor his outstanding oratory; he probably didn't use any fancy alliteration at all. It was received because of the power of God, through the Spirit of God.

And perhaps as we hear this Gospel today we need to recognise the same. It is a Gospel that may not seem to make sense: a crucified God; a saviour without the power to save himself; a redemption through the weakness and foolishness of the cross. The life it calls us to may not seem to make sense: one that seeks joy and meaning in service of the least and the lost; one that follows its saviour on the path to the cross, ready to fling aside earthly gain for the sake of the call of Christ. And yet this Gospel still speaks, with the power of God, through the Spirit of God.

The Spirit, that searches the heart of God, still speaks to our spirit, as we discover in this Gospel true life, and profound hope. The Spirit still speaks, as we catch a hint within the depths of our hearts of that secret truth: 'what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, not the human heart conceived what God has prepared for those who love him.' The Spirit still opens our lives to receive the gift of Christ and to know, not through any power of persuasion, but simply through the power of God, the life-changing truth of the Gospel. That Christ, and him crucified, has redeemed the world. That in him there is hope against the darkness, and victory over the power of sin. That in him, lifted up upon the cross, God has acted to draw all things to himself in an overwhelming gift of love. That in him there is full and abundant life, even as we follow the way of the cross.

It's not a Gospel that makes sense without the power of God, and the Spirit of God. But with them, it changes everything. Perhaps today we might hear again the power of this Gospel, and allow the Spirit to stir our hearts afresh. And perhaps we might have confidence that it continues to speak to the world, just as it did 2,000 years ago.

## **1 Corinthians 2.1-12**

When I came to you, brothers and sisters, I did not come proclaiming the mystery of God to you in lofty words or wisdom. For I decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I came to you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling. My speech and my proclamation were not with plausible words of wisdom, but with a demonstration of the Spirit and of power, so that your faith might rest not on human wisdom but on the power of God.

Yet among the mature we do speak wisdom, though it is not a wisdom of this age or of the rulers of this age, who are doomed to perish. But we speak God's wisdom, secret and hidden, which God decreed before the ages for our glory. None of the rulers of this age understood this; for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. But, as it is written,

'What no eye has seen, nor ear heard,  
nor the human heart conceived,

what God has prepared for those who love him' –

these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. For what human being knows what is truly human except the human spirit that is within? So also no one comprehends what is truly God's except the Spirit of God. Now we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God, so that we may understand the gifts bestowed on us by God.

## **Matthew 5.13-20**

Jesus went up the mountain and was joined by his disciples. Then he began to teach them: 'You are the salt of the earth; but if salt has lost its taste, how can its saltiness be restored? It is no longer good for anything, but is thrown out and trampled under foot.

You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one after lighting a lamp puts it under the bushel basket, but on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.

Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.'

## **TODAY**

**9:30am: 2 Before Lent:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from 1 Corinthians 2.1-12 and Matthew 5.13-20

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

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

**Sun 19<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am **Sunday Before Lent:** Rev'd Ray Devenney presides and preaches with readings from Exodus 24.12-18, 2 Peter 1.16-21 and Matthew 17.1-9 (Rev'd Rundell at St Columba's)

3:30pm **Messy Church at Great Park Community Centre**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Wed 22<sup>nd</sup> 7:30pm: **Ash Wednesday Service**

Thurs 23<sup>rd</sup> 2:00pm: **Chat and Craft**

Wed 1<sup>st</sup> 7:30pm: **The Chosen, at St Cuthbert's church**

Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> March 6:30pm: **Beetle Drive**

Sun 5<sup>th</sup> March 4.00pm: **Team Evensong at St Cuthbert's**

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/2beforeLent12Feb>

**APPEAL FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA** – if you are able to, we are collecting donations for aid following the earthquake in Turkey and Syria. You can donate with cash or card at the back of church, through our bank account (see below) using the word Turkey as the reference or by using the QR code from the cards on the back of seats.

**SHOW THE LOVE** – have you remembered to craft a green heart and attach it to last week's postcard? Add a personal message, put it in an envelope and post to: Catherine McKinnell MP, House of Commons, London SW1A 0A.

**BEETLE DRIVE** - this fun, social event is back on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 6:30pm. It will be followed by a Fish & Chips Supper (optional). Please add your name to the list at the back of church if you'd like to come along, and give your food choice.

**ST COLUMBA'S FUN EVENTS** – with 80's Film Fun: 'Annie' on 24<sup>th</sup> February at 2pm. Under 5's free, family ticket £2, Adult £1 which includes drinks and popcorn. Tickets available now. Also on 24<sup>th</sup> March at 7pm is a quiz night with pies and peas - tickets available soon.

**EOTHEN CARE HOMES** – this Christian charity are looking for trustees to join their board and make a difference in the care sector. They have care homes in Whitely Bay, Wallsend and Gosforth. If you would like more information, or to consider employment with Eothen Care Homes, please see the leaflet on the table at the back of church.

**LENT COURSE** – this year's Lent course will be held at St Cuthbert's church starting on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 7:30pm where we will watch The Chosen series.

**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** – Diocesan and Deanery Synods. Our Thursday groups and Men's group

**For the community** – Manor House, Bowmont House and Melton House

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

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

**For those who have died** – Daphne Stroud, Margery Scott and on their anniversaries: Jennifer Wright, Geoffrey Henderson, Keith Bainbridge, Jessie McGray, Joan Pendlebury, Kathleen Holder, George Lonie, Mary Temple, Dorothy Smurthwaite, Philip Brantingham, Rex Chinnery

### **CONTACTS:**

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