



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

**Sunday 19th February 2023
Sunday Next Before Lent**

Transfiguration Sunday: Dust and Glory

“Dust and Glory” is the Church of England's Lent campaign for 2023. It offers daily reflections for Lent on faith, failure and forgiveness, and invites us to find God in the mess (or “dust”) of everyday life, and explores the difference God's redeeming work in Jesus makes to the struggles and shortcomings of human life.

Today is the Sunday before Lent. It used to bear the rather archaic name Quinquagesima but is now more commonly referred to as “Transfiguration Sunday” because of the appointed gospel reading, which tells how our Lord was transfigured on the mountain-top in the presence of three of his disciples. The event is also recorded in Mark and Luke. For a brief moment Peter, James and John get a glimpse of the glory of God and get a sense of the true identity of Jesus.

This must have made a tremendous impression on them, and indeed Peter refers to it in his 2nd Epistle. We would say it must surely have been a life-changing experience; those disciples will never be the same; from now on they will never look back, never deviate from the path, never disappoint, never fail.

Unfortunately, it doesn't work like that for them or for us. As we walk the way of Christ, there will certainly be moments of glory, times when we become especially aware of the sustaining presence of the Lord with us along the path. Equally though, a lot of the time we will find ourselves travelling not on the mountain-top, but on dark uncertain paths, as we come face to face with the dust of our own shortcomings and failings; as well as the dust of human suffering, sin, and wickedness; which all combine to obscure the glory of the Lord.

The disciples would soon discover this for themselves as they journeyed towards that fateful Good Friday and beyond. We too may come to the same realisation as we travel in these next 40 days through Lent.

Moses also has a similar experience. In the first of our readings, he is called to ascend the mountain to meet with God, but there is no panoramic view awaiting him: instead, he finds himself ascending into cloud and fire, and he was there six days before he heard God's voice.

The journey of faith will always be a journey of both Dust and Glory.

Exodus 24.12-18

The LORD said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.' Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the LORD settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the LORD was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

Matthew 17.1-9

Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

TODAY

9:30am: **Sunday Before Lent:** Rev'd Ray Devenney presides and preaches with readings from Exodus 24.12-18, and Matthew 17.1-9 (Rev'd Rundell at St Columba's)

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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **Ash Wednesday Service**

7:30pm: **Ash Wednesday Service including prayers for Ukraine**

Thurs 2:00pm: **Chat and Craft**

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

Sun 26th 9:30am **Lent 1:** Rev'd Pauline Pearson presides and Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner preaches with readings from Genesis 2.15-17; 3.1-7, Romans 5.12-19 & Matthew 4.1-11 (Rev'd Rundell on annual leave)

DATES FOR LENT LUNCHESES – 12pm start

Wed 1st March: **St John's URC**
Wed 8th March: **St Aidan's, Brunton Park**
Wed 15th March: **St Columba's, Wideopen**
Wed 22nd March: **Sacred Heart RC**
Wed 29th March: **St Cuthbert's, Brunswick**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 1st 7:30pm: **The Chosen, at St Cuthbert's church**
Fri 3rd March 6:30pm: **Beetle Drive**
Sun 5th March 4.00pm: **Team Evensong at St Cuthbert's**
Sat 25th March 10:00am: **DCC/Church away day at Shepherds Dene**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/Sundaybefore-Lent19Feb>

BOOK TABLE – The table at the back of church is changing purpose, and from the start of Lent will become a Christian lending library. You'll be welcome to take a book home to read, but please remember to return it once finished for someone else to enjoy! If you have any Christian books that you have found particularly inspiring and would like to share with others, please let Gerard know, and we'll hope to put it in the rotation!

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE – on Thursday 23rd February it is a year since the start of the conflict in Ukraine. Please remember Ukraine in your prayers. Prayers will also be said for Ukraine in our evening Ash Wednesday service.

LENT LUNCHESES – will be held on Wednesday's throughout Lent with the theme of Parables of Jesus. Please arrive at 12pm for a short service, followed by a soup lunch and collection for Christian Aid (dates and venues above).

DCC/CHURCH AWAY DAY – On Saturday 25th March 10am-3pm at Shepherds Dene, there will be an away day to pray and plan together as a church as we think about our priorities for the future. The DCC is particularly involved, but all who would like to be part of that process are very welcome to join. The cost is £28 per person which includes a light lunch. There will be time for prayer, and to enjoy Shepherd's Dene, as well as time for discussion. If you can't make it on the day, don't worry, there will be opportunities to offer your thoughts in the weeks to come. More details on that to follow!

APPEAL FOR TURKEY AND SYRIA – thank you to everyone who donated to the Turkey/Syria earthquake appeal last week. We raised £675. Donations can still be made via our bank account (see below) using the word Turkey as reference or by using the QR code from the cards on the back of seats.

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

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

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 office staff and diocesan advisers. Readers Ken Newitt and Chris Sayers and Authorised Minister Bernie Troughton

For the community – businesses on the Great Park

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 – Kenneth Thompson, Daphne Stroud and on their anniversaries: Cran Cowans, Doris Graham, Barbara McGovern, Tommy Parkin, Joan Brown, Susan Rennie, John Pargeter, Stuart Simon, Lesley Holmes, Anne Wood, Margaret Shaw, Gordon Wilson, Joyce Barker

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