



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

Sunday 12th March 2023
Third Sunday of Lent

This Sunday's Gospel sees Jesus meeting a Samaritan woman by a well. And as he does, I think we see Jesus breaking boundaries, to allow her to meet the Messiah.

This is Jesus breaking boundaries, not only speaking to a woman, but a Samaritan woman. She, herself, shows the shock of it, saying: 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' And yet, he seems entirely disinterested in those boundaries. He simply wants to meet her. Even as her complex history emerges – with five husbands, and another to whom she's not married – Jesus is only interested in keeping up the conversation until he can offer the gift that he has come to give.

And finally we discover what it is. There are hints as he works his way there: he is one who can offer 'a spring of water gushing up to eternal life'; he is a prophet who knows the true worship of God, in Spirit and in truth; but at the last, together they get to the crux of it. This is the clearest declaration of Jesus identity so far in John's gospel, as a Samaritan woman discovers who it is she's with, and meets the Messiah.

So Jesus breaks boundaries, as this woman meets the Messiah, and perhaps there are two things we need to take from this. First, that no matter who we are: whether we've felt ourselves excluded or marginalised; if our history has got some skeletons in it; if we haven't always felt church to be a welcoming place; if we think we just might not be the kind of person Jesus would want to be around; no matter who we are, Jesus wants to meet with us. There is no barrier he won't break to come and give us the gift of the water of life.

And secondly, if this is who Jesus is, how can we be a church that models the same? What barriers are we called to break to allow others to meet with Jesus? How, as a church, can we reflect his willingness to disregard the labels, and meet simply with a person who is seeking for the Messiah, and who finds him in Christ?

Romans 5.1-11

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been

poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person – though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

John 4.5-26

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink.' (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink," you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

TODAY

9:30am: **Lent 3:** Rev'd Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Romans 5.1-11 and John 4.5-26

4.00pm: **Healing Service**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
7:30pm: **The Chosen Series, at St Cuthbert's church**

Fri 1:30pm: **Funeral Service of George Owen**

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

Sun 19th 9:30am **Mothering Sunday Family Service:** Rev'd Rundell presides as Ordinand Claire Lewis preaches with readings TBC

DATES FOR LENT LUNCHESES – 12pm start

Wed 15th March: **St Columba's, Wideopen**

Wed 22nd March: **Sacred Heart RC**

Wed 29th March: **St Cuthbert's, Brunswick**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 24th March 2:00pm: **Funeral Service of Jean Forrester**

Sat 25th March 10:00am: **DCC/Church away day at Shepherds Dene**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live broadcast link <https://bit.ly/2023Lent3>

PRIORITIES AND PLANS FOR ST AIDANS – over the weeks of Lent there is a chance for everyone who is a part of St Aidan's to offer thoughts, ideas, prayers, and feedback on our church life. Please fill in the leaflet with this newsletter and put it in the box at the back of church. Your responses will help inform our discussions and reflection on our Church Away Day on 25th March and beyond. Can those wishing to attend the Church Away Day at Shepherds Dene between 10am -3pm please add your name to the list at the back of church before next weekend. The cost is £28pp which includes a light lunch.

DONATIONS FOR FLOWERS – there are envelopes on the table in the entrance if you would like to donate towards flowers in church. Donations can also be made via online banking (see below) using the reference 'flowers'.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - continues via Zoom it's study of St Luke's gospel during Lent with a JOURNEY TO THE CROSS IN LUKE - Jesus' parables on the way to Jerusalem. Monday's 7.30pm. All welcome. Zoom link below, or contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for more details.

THE 3 CS HOUSE GROUP - We would love you to join our house group. The 3 Cs stand for 'Christ, coffee and cake'. We meet fortnightly in one another's homes where we share fellowship, have light refreshments and spend time following bible-based course books (hence the house group name.) Our aim is to support to one another in our Christian journey and, through discussion and reflection, seek to strengthen our faith and discipleship, all in a relaxed informal setting. If anyone is interested in joining our fellowship, please contact Susan Armstrong, Tel. 07963504743

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

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 – 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 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 – George Owen, Jean Forrester, and on their anniversaries: Margaret Page, Brenda Edwards, Brian Earnshaw

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