



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

Sunday 23rd April 2023
Third Sunday of Easter

As we continue to celebrate this Easter season, this week brings a narrative that begins on the road to Emmaus, and ends with the road back *from* Emmaus, with the two journeys transformed by what happens *at* Emmaus.

The road *to* Emmaus sees these two disciples walking with heavy hearts. They are talking with each other of the tragedy of Jesus' death and these mysterious, but unbelievable stories of his empty tomb. There is a sluggishness, a weight to their steps. They walk with shoulders bowed as they carry their burden on the long walk to their home. And perhaps that's not unlike the way we make our way to church at times. We come bearing the concerns of our lives: our burdens, our griefs, our struggles, our worries. We come carrying the needs of a broken world, and our petitions for those we love. Our walk to worship carries with it the weights of the week, that we have collected and held. Sometimes heavy to bear, sometimes lighter, but always with us as we walk up that path to the threshold of church.

But the road *from* Emmaus, as these two disciples make their rush back to Jerusalem is entirely different. It is filled with hope. There's a flurry of limbs, a burning excitement as they cover the same ground, but in the other direction. Because everything is changed *at* Emmaus. Everything is changed as the man they met, whose words burned in their hearts, took bread, blessed and broke it and gave it to them.

And perhaps the same is true of us. In this moment of worship, we meet with the risen Christ. In word, as the Scriptures speak to us, and we open our hearts to allow it to burn within us. And in sacrament, as we break bread and share wine. Everything is changed, in this encounter. The world is still the world, but where we carried its burdens in, we carry out the hope of Christ, and the life of grace. We walk out with eyes open to the Jesus we had failed to recognise before. We walk out with the knowledge that we have encountered redemption, been nourished by love, and heard the word that can burn in our hearts. Of course church may not always feel like that. Sometimes we just come, and it's just church. But this Emmaus encounter is happening week by week. As the word of God burns in our hearts, and we break bread, and share wine, we come here to meet the risen Christ, and that changes everything!

Acts 2.14a,36-41

On the day of Pentecost, Peter, standing with the eleven, raised his voice and addressed the crowd, 'Let the entire house of Israel know with certainty that God has made him both Lord and Messiah, this Jesus whom you crucified.'

Now when they heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and to the other apostles, 'Brothers, what should we do?' Peter said to them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ so that your sins may be forgiven; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you, for your children, and for all who are far away, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to him.' And he testified with many other arguments and exhorted them, saying, 'Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.' So those who welcomed his message were baptized, and that day about three thousand persons were added to their number.

Luke 24.13-35

On that same day, two of the disciples were going to a village called Emmaus, about seven miles from Jerusalem, and talking with each other about all these things that had happened. While they were talking and discussing, Jesus himself came near and went with them, but their eyes were kept from recognizing him. And he said to them, 'What are you discussing with each other while you walk along?' They stood still, looking sad. Then one of them, whose name was Cleopas, answered him, 'Are you the only stranger in Jerusalem who does not know the things that have taken place there in these days?' Jesus asked them, 'What things?' They replied, 'The things about Jesus of Nazareth, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word before God and all the people, and how our chief priests and leaders handed him over to be condemned to death and crucified him.

But we had hoped that he was the one to redeem Israel. Yes, and besides all this, it is now the third day since these things took place. Moreover, some women of our group astounded us. They were at the tomb early this morning, and when they did not find his body there, they came back and told us that they had indeed seen a vision of angels who said that he was alive. Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just as the women had said; but they did not see Jesus.' Then he said to them, 'Oh, how foolish you are, and how slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have declared! Was it not necessary that the Messiah should suffer these things and then enter into his glory?' Then beginning with Moses and all the prophets, he interpreted to them the things about himself in all the scriptures. As they came near the village to which they were going, he walked ahead as if he were going on. But they urged him strongly, saying, 'Stay with us, because it is almost evening and the day is now nearly over.' So he went in to stay with them. When he was at the table with them, he took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened, and they recognized Jesus; and he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, 'Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road,

while he was opening the scriptures to us?' That same hour they got up and returned to Jerusalem; and they found the eleven and their companions gathered together. They were saying, 'The Lord has risen indeed, and he has appeared to Simon!' Then they told what had happened on the road, and how he had been made known to them in the breaking of the bread.

TODAY

Easter 3: 9:30am: Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches from Acts 2.14a,36-41 and John 10.1-10

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 30th 9:30am **Easter 4:** Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner presides as Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches with readings from Acts 2.42-47 and John 10.1-10

11:00am **AGM & DCC Elections**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 3rd May 7.30pm

APCM St Cuthbert's, Brunswick

Wed 4th May 2:00pm

Prayer and Praise, Church

8.00pm

Men's Group, Northern Football Club

Sun 7th May 12:00pm

Coronation Community Event, St Aidan's Green

4:00pm

Team Coronation Evensong, St Aidan's

Sat 13th May 9:00am

Litter Pick, Great Park Community Centre

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/3Easter23>

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK – 14th – 20th May will help bring Dignity Equality Justice and Love for those in greatest need. Please make a note of the dates and consider being a collector – it is a very rewarding event in which we can really help those in need. (Last year we raised over £3,000 with our House-to-House collection and Big breakfast.)

CORONATION COMMUNITY EVENT – on Sun 7th May, 12-3pm. Bring your own picnic and enjoy a lovely community event. If you can help in any way either in setting up, or during the event please speak to Gerard.

LITTER PICK - on Sat 13th May (9am-11am). Mark, Project Director at Great Park Community Centre has organised a litter pick of GP. Refreshments will be provided at the end. All litter pickers are provided. If you are interested, please contact Mark.

FLOWER DONATIONS - thank you to everyone who gave a donation towards the Easter flowers. Also thank all those who were involved in preparing the church inside and outside for the Easter Day celebrations.

AGM & APCM PAPERWORK – copies of paperwork for both meetings are at the back of church for anyone who would like a copy. Everyone is welcome to both meetings.

DCC ELECTIONS –we will need to appoint at least 3 new DCC members at the AGM. If you would like to be part of shaping the life and work of St Aidan's Church, let Gerard know that you'd like to stand.

ELECTORAL ROLL REVISION – if you are not on the Electoral Roll and would like to be, please speak to Gerard or one of the Wardens.

ZOOM CODES – all our Zoom sessions will use only the following details:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7573778713?pwd=NGVjcTRLQjBEaStqYjFDSm1KOURtQT09M>
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.

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. Food for Thought and those leading it

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

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 preparing for marriage – Cameron & Abigail, Jamie & Emily

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Nevison Lorraine, Brian Donkin, Edna Pargeter, Doris Wilson, Andrew Ewing, Joan Kendrick, Peggy Harrison

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