



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

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023  
Fourth Sunday of Easter**

This Sunday is St Aidan's AGM, and offers a chance to reflect on the life of our church, and our hopes and prayers for our future. Over Lent we offered a chance for members of the church to give their thoughts and feedback. The DCC, with others who wanted to join the process, met to go through that feedback and discuss our responses, and you can see the results on the board at the back of church.

The word that particularly emerged for me through those discussions is growth. What does it look like to grow as a church? What are the challenges and joys that it brings? How do we seek to be a growing church? And as I asked those questions I was struck by the image of a seed.

Growth is what living things do, and churches seek to grow as they bear witness to the living God, and the life of Christ at work within us. That growth may be in depth of faith and prayer, in witness and action in our communities, or in numbers who gather in worship.

As Jesus' parable teaches us, to grow, a seed must find good soil. It can't grow without rich ground. We are a church with much rich soil to draw from. Welcome and fellowship were among the most used words in our responses. We want to continue to be a friendly, supportive and welcoming community. We are also rooted in and nourished by worship the Anglican tradition. We draw sustenance from its heritage and its liturgy, and we will always draw from that.

But to grow a seed also has to change. A seed of wheat must sprout from the soil, a stem must reach higher and spread out, that in turn must form an ear, which must bring forth grain. To be a church that grows will mean change. It will mean embracing the adventure of following where God leads as we seek to welcome new people with different needs and ways of approaching God.

Growth is both a challenge and a joy, but ultimately I believe that the life of God is at work within us as a church, and it's only by that life that we see growth – whether in depth of prayer, in service and outreach to our community, or in numbers who gather to worship. I hope we can embrace the challenge and joy of that together in the years to come, and I very much pray that we will continue to grow in every way!

## **1 Corinthians 3.5-9**

What then is Apollos? What is Paul? Servants through whom you came to believe, as the Lord assigned to each. I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth. So neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but only God who gives the growth. The one who plants and the one who waters have a common purpose, and each will receive wages according to the labour of each. For we are God's servants, working together; you are God's field, God's building.

## **Matthew 13.1-9**

That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the lake. Such great crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat there, while the whole crowd stood on the beach. And he told them many things in parables, saying: 'Listen! A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seeds fell on the path, and the birds came and ate them up. Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and they sprang up quickly, since they had no depth of soil. But when the sun rose, they were scorched; and since they had no root, they withered away. Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. Other seeds fell on good soil and brought forth grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. Let anyone with ears listen!'

## **TODAY**

**Easter 4:** 9:30am: 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**

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**  
7.30pm, St Cuthbert's, Brunswick: **APCM**

**Thurs** 2:00pm, Church: **Prayer and Praise**  
8.00pm, Northern Football Club: **Men's Group,**

**Sat** **No Saturday Café - cancelled**

**Sun 7<sup>th</sup>** 8:00am: **Said Holy Communion**  
9:30am: **Family Service** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Acts 7.55-60, 1 Peter 2.2-10 and John 14.1-14  
12:00pm, St Aidan's Green: **Coronation Community Event**  
4:00pm, St Aidan's: **Team Coronation Evensong**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 11 <sup>th</sup> May	2:00pm	<b>Film Club</b> , Community Room - "Up"
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> May	9:00am	<b>Litter Pick</b> , Great Park Community Centre
Thurs 18 <sup>th</sup> May	7:30pm	<b>Ascension Service</b> , Church
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> May	6:00pm	<b>Peatle Drive</b> , Church
Sat 20 <sup>th</sup> May	10:00am	<b>Big Brekkie</b> , Community Room

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/4Easter23>

**SATURDAY CAFÉ 6<sup>TH</sup> MAY** – please note that there will be no café on this date due to King Charles III coronation.

**CORONATION COMMUNITY EVENT** – on Sun 7<sup>th</sup> 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.

**FILM CLUB** – this month's film is 'Up' – a Pixar Animation about a retired balloon salesman who goes on an exciting adventure. Great fun to watch, certificate U, run time 1 hour 35 minutes.

**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK** – 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> 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.)

**PEATLE DRIVE** – our first Peatle Drive will be held on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> May at 6pm to raise funds for Christian Aid. Following the same rules as beetle drive, but making a pea plant, and followed by pizza with some percussion for entertainment too. The cost is £5 per person to cover the cost of the evening with an additional donation towards Christian Aid. Please add your name to the list at the back of church if you are able to come.

**BIG BREKKIE** – is back on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 10am, with delicious pancakes being kindly donated by Monsieur Crepe. Funds raised go to Christian Aid.

**KITCHEN TEA ROTA** – is available at the back of church for both Saturday café and Sunday tea duties following our 9:30am service. Please add your name if you are able to help out. Training can be given to new volunteers.

**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.

**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.

**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.

**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: Centre of Newcastle Parishes and City Centre Chaplaincy. Sidespeople, our Saturday Café, and all involved in our ministry of welcome.

**For the community** – Uniformed groups.

**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: Harry McDonnell, Doris Wilson, Kenneth Gray, Geoffrey Long, Edward Keating, Vivien Almond

**CONTACTS:** Office: 0191 236 7952

Administrator/Newsletter : Janice Charlton [infostaidans@gmail.com](mailto:infostaidans@gmail.com)

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 [rev.g.rundell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.g.rundell@gmail.com)

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 [brpullan@gmail.com](mailto:brpullan@gmail.com)

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