



Team Parish of Christ the King St Aidan's, Brunton Park Sunday 11th June 2023 St Barnabas

“A good man, full of the Holy Spirit and Faith”

On this Sunday, June 11th, we are asked to remember St Barnabas. He is usually regarded as a minor character in the New Testament, but do you realize what he accomplished? Although he never wrote a word of Scripture (so far as we know), you could argue he was responsible for over half the New Testament. Think of it this way. The two people he influenced the most were Saul of Tarsus (later to be called Paul) and John Mark.

Paul wrote 13 books of the New Testament and John Mark went on to write the gospel which bears his name. That's 14 out of 27 books. Not a bad record for a man most people would consider a “minor” Bible character. We know a surprising amount about him: he came from Cyprus but seems to have been living in Jerusalem. He was of the priestly tribe of Levi and was a cousin of John Mark. We encounter him early in Acts when his generosity is highlighted as he sells a plot of land he owned and gives the proceeds to the apostles to help those of the church in need. Later we see him involved in other “aid missions” along with Paul.

His generosity was not limited to material possessions but extended to generosity in his judgements of others. So when Paul's dramatic conversion on the Damascus Road was being looked on with suspicion by the apostles in Jerusalem, Barnabas trusted him and brought him in to the fellowship: incidentally this also shows that Barnabas' personal reputation was high enough to carry such weight with the others. Also, when John Mark fell out of favour with Paul after “deserting” in the middle of a mission, Barnabas defended him, even though it caused a sharp disagreement between himself and Paul and offered him a second chance.

He was originally called Joses, or Joseph, but was later given the name Barnabas by the apostles. The name means “son of encouragement” and we can presume he was so called for very good reason. It seems he never wanted to be a “front man” but delighted in supporting and encouraging others and rejoicing in their success under God. That was his great gift which he brought to his ministry.

This gift of encouragement is surely one of the gifts most needed in our churches and indeed in our world today. If only every parish and every society could be replete with people like Barnabas who could encourage the unloved and unlovely, give hope to those who have no hope, and share the burdens of those who are staggering under their weight.

We could use a whole lot more like Barnabas, because we all need a whole lot of encouragement.

Acts 11:19-30

Those who were scattered because of the persecution that took place over Stephen travelled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, and they spoke the word to no one except Jews. But among them were some men of Cyprus and Cyrene who, on coming to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists also, proclaiming the Lord Jesus. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number became believers and turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he rejoiced, and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast devotion; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were brought to the Lord. Then Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul, and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for an entire year they met with the church and taught a great many people, and it was in Antioch that the disciples were first called 'Christians'.

At that time prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. One of them named Agabus stood up and predicted by the Spirit that there would be a severe famine over all the world; and this took place during the reign of Claudius. The disciples determined that according to their ability, each would send relief to the believers living in Judea; this they did, sending it to the elders by Barnabas and Saul.

John 15: 12-17

Jesus said to his disciples: 'This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I do not call you servants any longer, because the servant does not know what the master is doing; but I have called you friends, because I have made known to you everything that I have heard from my Father. You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.'

TODAY

9:30am: **Trinity 1** Rev'd Ray Devenney leads and preaches at today's service (Gerard at St Matthews and St Cuthbert's)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Zoom **Bible Study Group**

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

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

Sun 18th 9:30am: **Trinity2** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads and preaches with readings from Genesis 18.1-15 [21.1-7], Romans 5.1-8 & Matthew 9.35 - 10.8 [9-23]
3:30pm: **Messy Church:** Great Park Community Centre

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 22 nd	2:00pm	Chat and Craft: Community Room
Sat 1 st Jul	2-4pm	Summer Fayre
Sun 2 nd Jul	3:00pm	Hannah Malcolm's Ordination Cathedral
	6:30pm	Welcome and Evelyn's Baptism: St Aidan's

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/1Trinity23>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP - We are continuing our Zoom study of St Luke's gospel at 7.30 pm on Monday 12th June, looking at Luke 18.15-43. All welcome. Zoom link below, or contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com) for more details.

SUMMER FAYRE – we are beginning to plan our summer fayre which will be held on Sat 1st July. If you have any new ideas for stalls, or can volunteer to help on the day, please speak to Pat, Catherine, Winnie or Susan.

WELCOMING HANNAH MALCOLM – On Sunday 2nd July, 3pm at Newcastle Cathedral, our new Curate, Hannah Malcolm, will be ordained. Anyone who would like to go and support her is very welcome, but places will be limited so get there in good time! On Sunday 2nd at 6.30pm at St Aidan's, her new baby Evelyn will be baptised, and there'll be a welcome buffet afterwards to welcome the whole family to the Parish. Hannah will then be on maternity leave until late November. She won't be officially starting until then, but she may be here on Sunday's from time to time just to be part of the congregation and get to know everyone! Please do pray for Hannah, Caleb and Evelyn as they settle in to this new phase of their lives.

COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM - Please come to the Annual General Meeting of St Aidan's Community Centre on Wednesday 14th June at 7.30pm. The Centre is a non-profit making charity organisation, run solely by volunteers and is a much used and valuable resource for the benefit of the wider community. We are always glad of voluntary support either as a trustee and member of the management committee or lending a hand in the day to day running of the centre. If you are interested please see, Chris Watson, Pat Spong, Barrie Todd or Ben Pullan for further information.

GOSFORTH SINGERS –are holding their Spring Concert on Saturday 17th June at 2.30pm in Trinity Church admission £6. An hour of songs from stage and screen. (Some of our congregation are members of the choir)

GOSFORTH AND DISTRICT CHOIR – are holding a 'Music for a summers evening' concert on Thursday 22nd June at 7.30pm. Tickets £6, concessions £5, on the door. There will also be refreshments and a raffle.

MESSY CHURCH – spread the word that we'll be celebrating Father's Day with crafts, a story and food at 3:30pm on Sunday 18th June in Great Park Community Centre.

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 – 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, Alan Phillips

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Alan Brown, Stanley Craig, Violet Clancy, Bob Green, Lillian Irwin

CONTACTS: Office: 0191 236 7952

Administrator/Newsletter : Janice Charlton infostaidans@gmail.com

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 brpullan@gmail.com

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