



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

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2023**  
**Trinity 8**

What is the Kingdom of Heaven like? That's the question this morning's little collection of parables prompts me to ask. And it's a question, that at the end of them, I still don't quite know how to answer. The Kingdom of heaven is like a seed, like yeast, like hidden treasure, like a pearl, like a net, like old and new together. It's a wonderful mix of things, but what seems to hold this collection together, is that whatever it's like, there is joy in discovering it. So perhaps the Kingdom of heaven is like a joyful discovery.

Like a seed that grows beyond what could be imagined, we joyfully discover God at work in the smallest and most unlikely of places and yet bringing unimagined growth and life.

Like yeast in the dough, we joyfully discover that those little hints of the Kingdom that we see in our lives can work their way into our world and bring real change and hope to whole communities.

Like treasure hidden in a field, we joyfully discover that something ordinary and unimpressive-looking, a day-to-day life, is actually holding a secret gift of sacred grace that when we dig a little deeper turns out to be the greatest treasure we'll ever find.

Like a pearl of great price, we joyfully discover in a moment of faith, or an experience of God, or a glimpse of God's Kingdom that this one thing is worth everything else we own, and we give all we can to grab hold of it and never let it go.

Like a net that catches all kinds, we joyfully discover that even when the good is mixed in the with bad, when suffering intermingles with joy, when life seems complicated, that God is drawing all of it inexorably towards himself, and that he will sort the mess out even if we can't.

Like a treasure that holds both old and new, we joyfully discover that we're given those old gifts of love and grace in ever new ways. Morning by morning, new mercies we see.

So, at the end of it all, I still don't quite know what the Kingdom of Heaven is like, but I'm pretty sure that whatever it is like, there's joy in the discovery.

## **Genesis 29.15-28**

Laban said to Jacob, 'Because you are my kinsman, should you therefore serve me for nothing? Tell me, what shall your wages be?' Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the elder was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. Leah's eyes were lovely, and Rachel was graceful and beautiful. Jacob loved Rachel; so he said, 'I will serve you seven years for your younger daughter Rachel.' Laban said, 'It is better that I give her to you than that I should give her to any other man; stay with me.' So Jacob served seven years for Rachel, and they seemed to him but a few days because of the love he had for her. Then Jacob said to Laban, 'Give me my wife that I may go in to her, for my time is completed.'

So Laban gathered together all the people of the place, and made a feast. But in the evening he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob; and he went in to her. (Laban gave his maid Zilpah to his daughter Leah to be her maid.) When morning came, it was Leah! And Jacob said to Laban, 'What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?' Laban said, 'This is not done in our country giving the younger before the firstborn. Complete the week of this one, and we will give you the other also in return for serving me another seven years.' Jacob did so, and completed her week; then Laban gave him his daughter Rachel as a wife.

## **Matthew 13.31-33,44-52**

Jesus put before the crowd another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.' He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Have you understood all this?' They answered, 'Yes.' And he said to them, 'Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.'

## **TODAY**

9:30am: **Trinity 8:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads and preaches

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

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

12:00pm **Lunch Group:** Rugby Club

**Thurs** 2:00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**

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

**Sun 6<sup>th</sup>** 9:30am: Transfiguration Family Service - Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads and preaches with readings from Genesis 32.22-31, Romans 9.1-5 and Matthew 14.13-21

4:00pm **Team Evensong:** St Columba's

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Aug 2:00pm **Film Club:** The Railway Children Return

Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> Aug 10:00am **Men's Group Summer Outing:** Newcastle Cathedral

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/7Trinity23>

**HOWARD CLEEVE** – we're very sad to announce that Howard Cleeve sadly died on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July. His funeral will be on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> August at 12:00pm in church, followed by refreshments in the community room. All are welcome. Please pray for Catherine and his family as they grieve.

**TEAM EVENSONG** – our next Team Evensong is Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> August, 4pm at St Columba's. Do join us for Evening Prayer to celebrate the feast of the Transfiguration along with some lovely music from Chris Clinch and our team choir.

**SATURDAY CAFE & SUNDAY MORNING REFRESHMENTS** - there are new rotas covering August to November for any volunteers who feel they are able to assist, to add their names.

**FILM CLUB** – on Thurs 10<sup>th</sup> Aug is showing The Railway Children Return starring Jenny Agutter and Sheridan Smith at 2:00pm in the Community Room.

**SAFEGUARDING** – further to our talk last Sunday from Dr Sarah Troughton, we would like to remind you that Catherine Stewart is our Lead Safeguarding Officer. There is also information about our Safeguarding Policy on the noticeboards in both entrances.

**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

**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** – 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, Sofiia Karnaukh

**For those who have died** – Howard Cleeve and on their anniversaries: Mary Brookbanks, Peter Mearns, Jennifer Long, Elizabeth Bibby, Frank Tinlin

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