



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

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August 2023  
Trinity 12**

Changing circumstances, changes in our society, in our world and in ourselves, is something we all have to face from time to time and learn to live with, though the transition is seldom easy, and sometimes painful. Such was the situation of the Hebrew community in Egypt, highlighted in the reading from Exodus. Numbers were increasing, a new king who knew nothing of Joseph had come to power, and fear and resentment in the country was rising. It all comes to a head with a terrible edict from the king, that new-born Hebrew boys should be killed. Around this time a little baby boy is born.

The rest of the story is well known: the child's life is preserved, he is taken into the royal household, and in due time becomes the great leader of the Israelites who takes them across the Red Sea towards the promised land. It's a story that can resonate with us today at many basic human levels, but it is also a wonderfully inspiring illustration of God's purposes being achieved even in the most unlikely circumstances, and of ordinary people working together to bring that about, without ever being aware of the great plan they were unwittingly part of.

Many years later another baby boy will be born in similar uninviting circumstances and will have to escape a king's wrath. By God's providence his life also will be preserved, and he too will be part of God's great plan; - in fact the ultimate fulfilment of that plan.

The gospel reading from Matthew recounts the story of Peter's recognition of Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. But Peter also will face changing circumstances which he cannot envisage at this moment, and he will come to experience the privilege of serving his Master "in trouble and in joy".

In this passage also we hear the first mention of the "church", that body of his disciples, which includes you and me, who have been entrusted by our Lord carry on his work on earth until he returns. Being the Church of God in the world is surely a daunting challenge for the disciples and for us, but Jesus gives us reassurance: not even the gates of Hades will be able to stand against it.

That is how it will always be: God's purposes and promises will be fulfilled. Conditions and circumstances around us will ever be changing, that's life; all that is asked of us is that we be faithful, God himself will see to the rest. As the hymn puts it:

"Crowns and thrones may perish, kingdoms rise and wane, but the church of Jesus constant will remain: gates of hell can never against that church prevail; we have Christ's own promise, and that cannot fail".

## **Exodus 1.8 - 2.10**

Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Look, the Israelite people are more numerous and more powerful than we. Come, let us deal shrewdly with them, or they will increase and, in the event of war, join our enemies and fight against us and escape from the land.' Therefore they set taskmasters over them to oppress them with forced labour. They built supply cities, Pithom and Rameses, for Pharaoh. But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread, so that the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites. The Egyptians became ruthless in imposing tasks on the Israelites, and made their lives bitter with hard service in mortar and brick and in every kind of field labour. They were ruthless in all the tasks that they imposed on them.

The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, one of whom was named Shiphrah and the other Puah, 'When you act as midwives to the Hebrew women, and see them on the birthstool, if it is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, she shall live.' But the midwives feared God; they did not do as the king of Egypt commanded them, but they let the boys live. So the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and said to them, 'Why have you done this, and allowed the boys to live?' The midwives said to Pharaoh, 'Because the Hebrew women are not like the Egyptian women; for they are vigorous and give birth before the midwife comes to them.' So God dealt well with the midwives; and the people multiplied and became very strong. And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families. Then Pharaoh commanded all his people, 'Every boy that is born to the Hebrews you shall throw into the Nile, but you shall let every girl live.'

Now a man from the house of Levi went and married a Levite woman. The woman conceived and bore a son; and when she saw that he was a fine baby, she hid him for three months. When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him.

The daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river, while her attendants walked beside the river. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her maid to bring it. When she opened it, she saw the child. He was crying, and she took pity on him. 'This must be one of the Hebrews' children,' she said. Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, 'Shall I go and get you a nurse from the Hebrew women to nurse the child for you?' Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Yes.' So the girl went and called the child's mother. Pharaoh's daughter said to her, 'Take this child and nurse it for me, and I will give you your wages.' So the woman took the child and nursed it. When the child grew up, she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and she took him as her son. She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.'

## **Matthew 16.13-20**

When Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that the Son of Man is?' And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter answered, 'You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him, 'Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.' Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

## **TODAY**

9:30am: **Trinity 12:** Rev'd Ray Devenney leads and preaches

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**  
**Thurs** 10.30am, Newcastle Cathedral : **Men's Group Summer Outing**  
**Sat** 10am-12pm, Community Room – **Saturday Café**  
**Sun 3<sup>rd</sup>** 9:30am, **St Aidan's Family Service with Bishop Mark**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 7<sup>th</sup> 2:00pm: **Prayer and Praise**, Community Room  
8:00pm: **Men's Group – 'Tales of the Tyne'**, Community Room

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/12Trinity23>

**ADMINISTRATOR ANNUAL LEAVE** – our administrator will be on annual leave until Monday 4th September. Any general enquiries will be answered on her return. Please direct urgent requests to Rev'd Gerard Rundell and newsletter notices to Catherine.

**YOUTH GROUP** - our Youth Group re-starts on Friday 8th September at 5:30pm. If you know of any 11-18 year olds who might like to join us, please let them know (a parent must bring them on their first day). We have a lot of fun, play games, chat, have a short talk and prayer, then enjoy a meal (generally pizza). We sometimes do really cool stuff (green screen movies, Nerf gun wars, candle-making and even a rap-concert to name a few) then we have an end of term outing, the venue decided by the Youth Group.

**CHANGES TO NEWSLETTER** - in September we are making changes to our newsletter. It will become a shorter A5 version. The email version of the newsletter is also being re-designed, and will be in a much easier to read format (and with no need to open an attachment). If you would like to receive a longer email version and aren't yet on our mailing list, please email our administrator to be added: [infostaidans@gmail.com](mailto:infostaidans@gmail.com)

**60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF OUR CHURCH BUILDING** - on Sun 3rd Sept we will be celebrating St Aidan's Day which this year coincides with the 60th anniversary of our church building. There will be a 9.30am Family Service with Bishop Mark, followed by a variety of games both in and around the church and then a light buffet lunch in the Community Room with drinks and a special 60th anniversary cake. All are warmly invited to worship with us, to meet informally with Bishop Mark and to join in the celebrations on this special day.

**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

**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** – Christ the King Team Parish, PCC members and officers. Moira and Kathryn, and all who enhance our services by their playing or singing

**For the community** – West End Refugee Service

**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, Sofiiia Karnaukh

**For those being baptised** - Mabel

**For those who have died** –and on their anniversaries: Dave Robson, James Hepplewhite, Ted Pentland, Ronnie Dixon, Bertha Thresh, Robert Peacock, Isabella Neal, Doreen Hampson, Dennis Holder

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