



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

Sunday 1st October 2023
Harvest

Harvest Festival is a time to give thanks. We give thanks for the gifts of creation as it bears fruit and is gathered in to provide for our daily needs. Our reading from Deuteronomy reminds us how important a practice giving thanks can be. The Israelites are warned of the dangers of taking God's gifts for granted as they settle in the promised land. They may think to themselves: 'My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.' And surely in a contemporary world, where we can live comfortably detached from the gifts of creation we run exactly this risk. We take God's gifts *for granted*, when we should take them *as granted* and the results are tragic. It leads to the plundering of creation's resources and the destruction of its gifts. It leads to the constant search for greater wealth, and the pursuit of the next gain. It leads to an unending dissatisfaction with what we have, as we search for something more.

In the face of this, thanksgiving is a radical and powerful antidote. To give thanks assigns value to what we have. Instead of taking God's gifts *for granted*, we take them *as granted*. As gifts they are to be treasured, valued, protected and celebrated. This world could become a source of wonder and joy, instead of a source of materials to extract. Our lives could be filled with things we enjoy, instead of things we want. Gratitude has amazing power to change the way we see our lives and our world. Perhaps this Harvest we might see a world that is not taken *for granted*, but that is taken *as granted*, and perhaps we might turn to God, and give him thanks.

A message from the St Aidan's Eco-Group:

This Harvest, as we celebrate the gifts of God's creation, we want to highlight a message from the Church of England's lead Bishop on the Environment in response to recent changes in Climate policy. He says:

'The Prime Minister said we can meet our climate targets without taking the carbon reduction actions the Government had previously announced. We can't. Decarbonisation must permeate every aspect of our lives. Failing to acknowledge the urgency undermines progress, impacting business, investment, green job creation, and global influence. We are already seeing the devastating effects of climate change, which is hitting the poorest people of the world hardest. We must act now to ensure a just transition, it is our moral duty to care for God's creation. Christians are called to be a people of hope; to live in harmony with our world; to treasure God's creation and to love our global neighbours.'

Deuteronomy 8.7-18

For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land – a land with streams and pools of water, with springs flowing in the valleys and hills; a land with wheat and barley, vines and fig-trees, pomegranates, olive oil and honey; a land where bread will not be scarce and you will lack nothing; a land where the rocks are iron and you can dig copper out of the hills.

When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the LORD your God for the good land he has given you. Be careful that you do not forget the LORD your God, failing to observe his commands, his laws and his decrees that I am giving you this day. Otherwise, when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down, and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied, then your heart will become proud and you will forget the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. He led you through the vast and dreadful desert, that thirsty and waterless land, with its venomous snakes and scorpions. He brought you water out of hard rock. He gave you manna to eat in the desert, something your fathers had never known, to humble and to test you so that in the end it might go well with you. You may say to yourself, “My power and the strength of my hands have produced this wealth for me.” But remember the LORD your God, for it is he who gives you the ability to produce wealth, and so confirms his covenant, which he swore to your forefathers, as it is today.

Luke 17. 11-19

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten lepers approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, ‘Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!’ When he saw them, he said to them, ‘Go and show yourselves to the priests.’ And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus’ feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, ‘Were not ten made clean? But the other nine, where are they? Was none of them found to return and give praise to God except this foreigner?’ Then he said to him, ‘Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well.’

TODAY

9:30am: **Harvest Festival Family Service** with Rev'd Gerard Rundell

1:00pm **Harvest Fellowship Lunch**, St Aidan's Community Centre:

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
12:00pm: Northern Rugby Club: **Lunch Group**
7.30pm, Community Room: **Alpha**
- Thurs** 2:00pm, Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**
8:00pm, Northern Football Club: **Men's Group**
- Sat** 10am-12pm, Community Room – **Saturday Café**
- Sun 8th** 9:30am, **Trinity 18** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads our service with readings from Exodus 20.1-4,7-9,12-20, Philippians 3.4b-14, Matthew 21.33-46

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Thurs 12th 2:00pm: **Film Club - Still Mine**, Community Room
- Sat 14th 10:00am: **Children's Society Coffee Morning**, Community Room
- Sun 15th 4:00pm: **Healing Service**, Church
- Fri 27th 3.30-5.30: **Halloween Family Fun**, Church
6.30-8.30: **Beetle Drive**, Church

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/StAidansHarvest23>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – re-starts tomorrow via Zoom (links below) where we look at Luke 21.5-38. For further information, contact Ken Newitt, kmnewitt@outlook.com.

ALPHA – is underway on Wednesday evenings from 7:30pm. There's still time to join us, to share food and discussion in a relaxed and friendly group, while exploring faith and your beliefs.

HARVEST FELLOWSHIP LUNCH – for anyone with tickets, lunch is today at 1pm in St Aidan's Community Centre.

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY COFFEE MORNING - and opening of the collection boxes will be held on Saturday 14th October 10am to 12pm. Please return your boxes to church or a church warden.

HALLOWEEN AND BEETLE DRIVE – On Friday 27th October we've got a busy day! For the younger ones we're planning some Halloween Family Fun at 3.30-5.30pm as we remember the light of Christ on All Hallows Eve (come in fancy dress if you can!). Then later in the evening, from 6.30pm will be our next Beetle Drive with a Fish and Chip dinner. All ages are welcome at both, but younger children will need an adult to help them at the Beetle Drive!

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

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 – Our Bishops Mark and Helen Ann, Archdeacon Rachel Wood, Pauline Pearson, Acting Area Dean. Those who assist in our worship: lesson readers, intercessors, servers, Eucharistic assistants and sacristans

For the community - Catherine McKinnell, our MP, Newcastle City Councillors, North Gosforth Parish Council

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, Jack Murgatroyd

For those who have died –and on their anniversaries: David Lee, Phyllis Rockcliffe, Thelma Ashby, Dinah Purvis, Jean Muse, Rita Walker, Norman Wilson, Sheila Jones

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