



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

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Trinity 16

'Its not fair!' We very often compare our lives to those of others around us. Its not fair that they have a bigger car – a better job, a bigger house.. more money.. more time. Really what we are saying is that we would like to have what they have. But would we? For one thing we aren't living their lives: we don't know the extra study or the sheer hard work behind those possessions. We don't know the hidden gaps and sorrows in other peoples' lives. But also, just as we often don't pay any attention to the things we have – partner or family, comfortable home, engaging work or engrossing hobbies, we also forget quite often to say thank you to God who gave us all of our gifts and talents – which are many, and to be generous with all that we have.

All of the workers that the vineyard owner hires started their day the same, waiting for someone to take them on. Those thought to be the best workers would be snatched up first, at the beginning of the day; the owner promises them the daily wage. He goes back to the queue four more times. The last time he goes, it is just the ones no one has thought capable enough to be put to work. Along with all the others, they get taken on, with the owner's promise that they will be treated fairly. But when they reach the end of the day the workers find everyone is being treated as equals even though they haven't been equal in work. And of course, being human, they protest: 'It isn't fair!' The vineyard owner responds: 'Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?'

All of us – along with all creation - belong to God, and God is keen to see us joining in His kingdom—no matter when we accept the invitation. And Gods Kingdom is one of generosity, love and peace. In God's kingdom, and by his grace, we are all equal, and everyone gets what they need. We are called to join in and be generous.

*Lord of creation,  
whose glory is around and within us:  
open our eyes to your wonders,  
that we may serve you with reverence  
and know your peace at our lives' end,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

## **Philippians 1.21-30**

For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labour for me; and I do not know which I prefer. I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

Only, live your life in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ, so that, whether I come and see you or am absent and hear about you, I will know that you are standing firm in one spirit, striving side by side with one mind for the faith of the gospel, and are in no way intimidated by your opponents. For them this is evidence of their destruction, but of your salvation. And this is God's doing. For he has graciously granted you the privilege not only of believing in Christ, but of suffering for him as well – since you are having the same struggle that you saw I had and now hear that I still have.

## **Matthew 20.1-16**

Jesus said to his disciples: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire labourers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the labourers for the usual daily wage, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the market-place; and he said to them, "You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right." So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around; and he said to them, "Why are you standing here idle all day?" They said to him, "Because no one has hired us." He said to them, "You also go into the vineyard." When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, "Call the labourers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first." When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received the usual daily wage. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received the usual daily wage. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, "These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat." But he replied to one of them, "Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for the usual daily wage? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?" So the last will be first, and the first will be last.'

## **TODAY**

9:30am: **Trinity 16** Rev'd Pauline Pearson leads our service  
(Gerard at St Columba's)

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**  
7.30pm, Community Room: **Alpha**

**Thurs** 2:00pm, Community Room: **Chat and Craft**

**Fri** 9-12.30: Great Park Community Centre, **Macmillan Coffee Morning**

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

**Sun 1<sup>st</sup>** 9:30am, **Harvest Festival Family Service.** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads our service with readings from Exodus 17.1-7, Philippians 2.1-13 and Matthew 21.23-32  
1:00pm, St Aidan's Community Centre: **Harvest Fellowship Lunch**

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Wed 4<sup>th</sup> 12:00pm: **Lunch Group**, Northern Rugby Club

## **NOTICES**

**SUNDAY SERVICE** – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/16Trinity23>

**MOROCCO AND LIBYA** – we will again this week, be collecting for much needed funds following the devastating earthquake in Morocco and flooding in Libya. If you are able to do so, please donate either in church, or via our donations link below (please add reference 'appeal').

**BIBLE STUDY GROUP** - there will be no Bible study until Monday 2 October when we look at Luke 21.5-38. For further information, contact Ken Newitt, [kmnewitt@outlook.com](mailto:kmnewitt@outlook.com).

**HARVEST COLLECTIONS** – we will soon be celebrating our Harvest festival. We will be collecting for Kenton Foodbank and the People's Kitchen again this year. If you are able to donate any items they will be greatly received, and there is a list at the back of church of items that are most needed.

**ALPHA** – starts on Wed (27<sup>th</sup> Sept). We will meet at 7.30pm in the community room where we will share food and discussion in a relaxed and friendly group. It's a great chance to explore faith and ask questions. Whether you're new to church, or have been coming to church for years it's a great chance to explore what you believe. We'll be meeting for 6 weeks and it's a particularly great opportunity to bring along someone you know who might be interested in what Christianity is all about. Please talk to Gerard if you're interested in joining us.

**HARVEST FELLOWSHIP LUNCH** – today is the last day to purchase tickets for our 3-course Harvest lunch next Sunday (1<sup>st</sup> Oct) at 1pm in St Aidan's Community Centre. Tickets are £10 for adults and £5 for children. Please see Catherine if you would like to attend.

**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** – Sacred Heart RC and St John's URC. Retired clergy: Ben Pullan, Christine Crompton, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner.

**For the community** - Retired clergy: Ben Pullan, Christine Crompton, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner

**For the world** – Christian Aid, the Children's Society, and other charities supported by the church and the Saturday café

**For those in need** - Gladys Johnston, Esther Wooler, Alan Gregg, Martin Seaton, Jack Murgatroyd

**For those who have died** –and on their anniversaries: Ann Clinton, Elsie Royce, Sheila Fawcett, Stanley King, Sheila Stephenson, Rene Reeves

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

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