



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

Sunday 15th October 2023
Trinity 19

This Sunday we're celebrating our Generosity Sunday. It's a chance in the church year to celebrate generosity in all its forms. You'll have received an outline of the financial generosity this church gratefully receives, as well as some of the challenges we face. But money isn't the only way we show our generosity! It's important that we talk about money, as it's a big part of our lives, and of our life together as a church, but this year I want to focus more on how we choose to give our time and our talents in response to our faith in Christ.

Our reading from James' letter puts it in very stark terms: 'So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.' This passage reminds us that even if we can never earn our way into God's good books, and can never work our way to the free gift of salvation, still, if we profess faith and have nothing to show for it, our faith is no longer living. If our faith finds no practical expression in our day to day lives, it has withered and died.

So this Sunday perhaps asks us to do a bit of a health check. To take the pulse of our faith and see if it's still got some life in it! And to do that, we might ask ourselves a simple but challenging question: 'how does my faith change my life?'. How does it change the way I use my time and talents? What does it inspire in me so that what I have to offer is generously given to others? How does it change my choices and my commitments for the sake of Christ? The shape of our answer will be different for everyone. Perhaps it means your time is given in the local community. Perhaps it means active compassion for people in need, for the poor, the marginalised, the lonely, the bereaved. Perhaps your talents are offered to read the budget spreadsheet for a charity, or fix a neighbour's broken tap. Or perhaps you offer your time and talents to this church community. Perhaps you help with the technology at the back of church, or serve at the front, or sort out the tea and coffee. Perhaps you give your time to help reach beyond our doors to the people around us, showing the good news of Christ in word and deed. Or perhaps what you can offer at the moment is prayer, and so you pray with all your heart!

I'm immensely grateful for all the ways I see the faith of this church expressed generously to those around us. This morning reminds us, if ours is a living faith, it needs to be expressed in what we do and how we live. Perhaps this is a chance to ask what that looks like for you.

James 2.14-26

What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, 'Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill', and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.

But someone will say, 'You have faith and I have works.' Show me your faith without works, and I by my works will show you my faith. You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe and shudder. Do you want to be shown, you senseless person, that faith without works is barren? Was not our ancestor Abraham justified by works when he offered his son Isaac on the altar? You see that faith was active along with his works, and faith was brought to completion by the works. Thus the scripture was fulfilled that says, 'Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness', and he was called the friend of God. You see that a person is justified by works and not by faith alone. Likewise, was not Rahab the prostitute also justified by works when she welcomed the messengers and sent them out by another road? For just as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is also dead.

Matthew 28.16-20

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. When they saw him, they worshipped him; but some doubted. And Jesus came and said to them, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.'

TODAY

9:30am: **Trinity 19:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Sat 10am, Community Room – **Saturday Café**

Sun 22nd 9:30am, **Trinity 20** Rev'd Ben Pullan leads our service. Readings are Deuteronomy 34.1-12 & Matthew 22.15-22

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 27th 3.00-5.30: **Halloween Family Fun**, Church
6.30-8.30: **Beetle Drive**, Church
Sun 5th Nov 6:00pm: **All Souls Service**, Church

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <https://bit.ly/19Trinity>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – there will be no Bible Study group this week.

MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING – thank you to everyone who supported Susan and Ann at the Macmillan Coffee morning. They raised a fantastic £440.95 for this wonderful charity.

LIBYA AND MOROCCO – we offer grateful thanks to all who contributed to the donations made for the appeal for the Libya and Morocco disasters. We have been able to send £360 to the British Red Cross.

ALL SOULS SERVICE – will be held on Sunday 5th November at 6.00pm to commemorate those dearly departed. To have the name of a loved one read out during the service, please add their name to the list at the back of church. Names from previous years will not automatically be read out. If you are unable to add the name yourself, please contact the Administrator or a church warden who will add the name on your behalf.

HEALING SERVICE - our healing service today at 4pm is a quiet reflective service where you have the opportunity to receive prayer and anointing with oil either for yourself or someone you know who is in need. Do join us for this special service.

MEN'S GROUP CHRISTMAS DINNER – will be held at Northern Football Club on Thursday 7th December at 7:30pm. Tickets available from Vic Spong

UKRAINIAN REFUGEE – we are aware of a Ukrainian refugee who is seeking refuge, and we wondered if anyone here at St Aidan's would be able to offer shelter within their home. If you feel this is something you could help with, please let Gerard know and he will be able to pass your details on.

HALLOWEEN FAMILY FUN – we're pulling out the stops for our family fun afternoon on Friday 27th October at 3pm as we remember the light of Christ on All Hallows Eve. Please come along in fancy dress if you can! All ages are welcome as we'll enjoy various crafts, games, story and food.

BEETLE DRIVE – if you'd like to come along to this fantastic social event on Friday 27th October at 6:30pm, please sign up using the sheet at the back of church. If you'd like supper please tick what you'd like so we can pre-order. It's a very easy game to learn so don't worry if you've never been before. It's great for all ages but younger children will need an adult to help them.

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.

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: Gosforth Parishes. DCC members and officers

For the community - Snakes & Ladders Playgroup, Brunton Babies, Nursery & Toddler Groups

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict. For our own national and political life

For those being baptised: Scarlett and Amelia

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

For those who have died –and on their anniversaries: Betty Stothard, Stanley Scott, Maria Wright, Michael Nash, Gordon Bennett, Frank Everitt, Richard Page, Andrew Quinn



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