



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

Sunday 5th November 2023

All Saints

This Sunday marks All Saints day. It's a day both to remember and give thanks for those figures of the faith who have inspired and encouraged us, and to consider our own calling to be saints. And as we do the Beatitudes, the Gospel passage set for All Saints day, offers us a beautiful picture of what sainthood might look like. Particularly I'm struck by the two halves of this revolutionary teaching at the heart of Jesus' sermon on the mount. Each Beatitude offers us a *Blessed are...* and a *for they...*

So first we have a *Blessed are...* But when we look at the people Jesus calls Blessed it's an unlikely sounding set of statements. None of these are likely to have an easy ride in life. The work of a peacemaker means sitting with conflict, the merciful must have been hurt, even the pure in heart will weep at the world's cruelty. And then there are those who mourn, the meek, the poor in spirit, the persecuted. They don't seem likely candidates at all for the title of Blessed. And yet Jesus tells us, Blessed are... each of these. In the concrete experience of their here and now with its difficulties and triumphs, with its joys and sorrows, Blessed are each of these. So perhaps we might hear the same of our lives in the ordinary day-to-day experience of our here and now. Blessed are we, in the ups and downs, in the mundane and the ordinary, in the joys and sorrows. This life, with its all its challenges, is where saints are made, and its this life that Jesus calls Blessed.

But then also we have a *for they...* And without the *for they...* the *Blessed are...* make no sense. If there is no other truth other than our visible reality, then none of these are Blessed, rather the exact opposite. There is nothing Blessed in mourning, if grief is all there is. There's nothing Blessed in meekness, if it only means being trodden on. But it's the *for they...* that gives each Beatitude it's hope. Because the *for they...* looks beyond the here and now, to promise of the kingdom of heaven. In the Beatitudes, Jesus asks us to trust that that kingdom is the truth and not the surface of whatever challenge is in front of us, and this is what the Saints surely see. That the deepest reality of our lives isn't just our down-to-earth experience, whether that brings us hardship and struggle, or peace and joy. The deepest reality is the Kingdom of heaven, breaking into our world and promising its fulness. So we hold on to both, a *Blessed are...* that speaks to our lives here and now, and a *for they...* that sees in this life the promise of the Kingdom of heaven.

1 John 3.1-3

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Matthew 5.1-12

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on a mountainside and sat down. His disciples came to him, and he began to teach them, saying:

“Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are those who mourn,
for they will be comforted.

Blessed are the meek,
for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.

Blessed are the merciful,
for they will be shown mercy.

Blessed are the pure in heart,
for they will see God.

Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called sons of God.

Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness,
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

TODAY

9:30am: **All Saints Family Service:** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads our service

6:00pm: **All Souls Service**

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

Thurs 2:00pm, Community Room: **Film Club – The Book Thief**

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

10:50am: Outside Church: **Armistice Day Act of Remembrance**

Sun 12th 9:30am, **Remembrance Sunday** Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads our service with readings from Wisdom of Solomon 6.12-16, 1 Thessalonians 4.13-18 and Matthew 25.1-13

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 13th 1:15pm: **Funeral for Pauline Kalaus**, Church
Sat 18th 10:00am: **Christmas Market**, Church
Thurs 23rd 2:00pm: **Chat and Craft**, Community Room
Sun 26th 10.00am: **Christ the King Team Celebration**, St Matthew's
4:00pm: **Team Confirmation Service**, St Aidan's

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's live link: <http://bit.ly/StAidansAllSaints2023>

ST AIDAN'S CHRISTMAS FAIR - will be held in Church on Saturday 18th November. Donations for the following stalls would be welcome: Toys, Sweet Stall, Tombola, Raffle, Cake stall. Help on Friday afternoon of 17th, to move chairs and get tables from the Community Centre and after the fair, from 12 noon on Saturday to put everything back, would be welcome. We also need volunteers to man the stalls on the day. Please let the Church Wardens or Ben Pullan know if you can help.

MIDDLE EAST APPEAL - we will be sending £530 to Christian Aid for their appeal following the collection last month. Many thanks to all who contributed.

ALL SOULS SERVICE – is today at 6pm. If you are unable to attend, you are able to watch the service on Youtube using this link <https://bit.ly/AllSouls2023>

MESSAGE FROM SOFIIA - Thank you so much for your sincere support and constant prayers about the unjust war in Ukraine. Thank you all for your help last year with organising a 'Christmas for Ukrainian children' event. I would like to share with you as my church family that I have been fully enrolled on the International Foundation Programme in Social Sciences and Humanities at Northumbria University. For me, it is a new experience to get to know the UK university system and to know how to become a successful student. It's been only 3 weeks of studies and I am trying to take every positive moment from it, which will help in my further education. I hope that this stage of my life will be filled with God's grace and guidance. I am grateful for your support and prayers in my journey of enrolment and becoming a student at Northumbria University. May the Lord bless you abundantly, fill you with His love and grace, and be with you always.

ROTA'S – are at the back of church for both Saturday café and Sunday service coffee. Please add your name to the rota if you are able to help.

PLANNED GIVING SCHEME - if you would like to set up a regular financial gift to support St Aidan's please find the link is below. Our church is funded entirely by donations so we are hugely grateful for all the support we receive.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP –there will be no Bible study group on Monday.

POPPIES – are available to buy from the back of church.

JACK MURGATROYD – Sadly, Jack who has been in our prayers for some time, passed away on the morning of Friday 3rd. Please pray for Diana and the family as they grieve. Funeral details will follow in due course.

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

FOOD BANK – any items placed in the box at the back of church will be donated to Kenton Foodbank.

PLANNED GIVING - If you would like to set up a regular financial gift to support St Aidan's please click on the following link

<https://www.parishgiving.org.uk/donors/find-your-parish/brunton-park-st-aidan-newcastle-upon-tyne>

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Churches in our Deanery: Jesmond Parishes. Local Ministry Group and Pastoral Care Group, Eco church Group and Social Committee

For the community – Brunton Park Medical Centre, local shops and businesses

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, Bruce Smith

For those who have died – Ann Craig, Pauline Kalaus, Jack Murgatroyd, and on their anniversaries: Ernest Hall, Kathleen Everitt, Margaret McKey

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