



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

Sunday 17th December 2023 Third Sunday of Advent

The Third Sunday of Advent traditionally remembers John the Baptist and his place in the story of salvation as the 'voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"'. John's vocation was to point away from himself and towards the one who was to come. He is not light, but he came to testify to the light.

In many ways, our vocation as Christians is to do exactly the same: to point away from ourselves and towards Jesus. Our vocation is to testify, with our lives, as well as our words, to the light of the world who is born at Christmas. In what way do you see your life pointing to Christ, and testifying to the light we see in him?

Isaiah 61.1-4,8-11

The servant of the Lord said:

The spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me,
because the LORD has anointed me;
he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed,
to bind up the broken-hearted,
to proclaim liberty to the captives,
and release to the prisoners;
to proclaim the year of the LORD's favour,
and the day of vengeance of our God;
to comfort all who mourn;
to provide for those who mourn in Zion –
to give them a garland instead of ashes,
the oil of gladness instead of mourning,
the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.
They will be called oaks of righteousness,
the planting of the LORD, to display his glory.
They shall build up the ancient ruins,
they shall raise up the former devastations;
they shall repair the ruined cities,
the devastations of many generations.
For I the LORD love justice,
I hate robbery and wrongdoing;
I will faithfully give them their recompense,
and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.

Their descendants shall be known among the nations,
and their offspring among the peoples;
all who see them shall acknowledge
that they are a people whom the LORD has blessed.
I will greatly rejoice in the LORD,
my whole being shall exult in my God;
for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation,
he has covered me with the robe of righteousness,
as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland,
and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.
For as the earth brings forth its shoots,
and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up,
so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise
to spring up before all the nations.

John 1.6-8,19-28

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. This is the testimony given by John when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, 'Who are you?' He confessed and did not deny it, but confessed, 'I am not the Messiah.' And they asked him, 'What then? Are you Elijah?' He said, 'I am not.' 'Are you the prophet?' He answered, 'No.' Then they said to him, 'Who are you? Let us have an answer for those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?' He said, 'I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, "Make straight the way of the Lord"', as the prophet Isaiah said. Now they had been sent from the Pharisees. They asked him, 'Why then are you baptizing if you are neither the Messiah, nor Elijah, nor the prophet?' John answered them, 'I baptize with water. Among you stands one whom you do not know, the one who is coming after me; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandal.' This took place in Bethany across the Jordan where John was baptizing.

TODAY

9.30am: **Advent 3** Rev'd Hannah Malcolm leads, Rev'd Gerard presides and preaches.

THE WEEK AHEAD

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

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

Sun 9.30am: **Fourth Sunday of Advent.** Rev'd Gerard presides and Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner preaches.
4:00pm: Church, **Nativity**
11:30pm: Church, **Midnight Mass**

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 20th Dec 7:00pm **Quiet Reflective Evening** (see details below)

Thurs 21st Dec 6.30pm: **Carol Singing in Wideopen**

Mon 25th Dec 9:30am **Christmas Day Eucharist Service**

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – the link for today's service is <https://bit.ly/StAidanAdvent3>

UKRAINE FUNDRAISING – thank you to everyone who has donated towards the coats and boots needed for children in Sofiia's community in Ukraine. We raised £716 not including Gift Aid.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES – it is now only a week until we celebrate Christmas. Next Sunday is Christmas Eve where at 4:00pm we have our ever popular Nativity service. Children are encouraged to join in and come along dressed in their Nativity costume (we have a few if you don't have one). Later at 11:30pm we hold our Midnight Mass as we celebrate the birth of Christ, and the following morning we have our Christmas Eucharist service at 9:30am.

CHURCH FLOWERS - if anyone would like to give a donation towards church flowers there are envelopes at the back of church, alternatively speak to a church warden.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN – with the Salvation Army raised £212. Thank you for your support.

QUIET REFLECTIVE EVENING - on Wed 20th Dec at 7pm: Advent Stations of the Nativity, ahead of (or in the midst of!) the busyness of Christmas. Join Flo Nilsson and others for a beautiful reflection of prayers meditation and music that really sets the scene for Christmas. Meeting ID: 863 9853 4143
Passcode: 448216Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86398534143?pwd=d3NQYVF3UESzcldoOUkrL0tJbDNOdz09>

CAROL SINGING IN WIDEPEN – on Thurs 21st Dec at 6.30pm at the Coach and Horses pub. Singing will be near a horsebox stable, in aid of Riding for the Disabled. Do dress warmly!

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 – Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's, our Kids' and Youth Groups, the Family Service and all involved in our work with children and young people

For the community – Kenton Food Bank

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, Bruce Smith

For those who have died – Wilfred Guss, Douglas Gamblin, Lillian Trotter, Ethel Mackay, Kenneth Hylton, Margaret McMillan, Joyce Audrey Boston, Jean Stephenson, Rhys Jones

CONTACTS: Office: 0191 236 7952

Administrator/Newsletter : Janice Charlton infostaidans@gmail.com

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Honorary Assistant Priest: Revd Ben Pullan 07977320895 brpullan@gmail.com

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