



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

Sunday 3rd December 2023 First Sunday of Advent

This Sunday marks the beginning of the Christian year and the start of Advent. The church begins its journey through the rhythm of the liturgical year by marking a season of attentive waiting. Advent asks us to prepare for both the coming of Christ at Christmas, and the coming of Christ at the end of time, drawing all things to himself as Lord and King.

Often these weeks leading to Christmas are filled with busyness. We prepare our homes for the celebrations of Christmas day. We spend time putting up decorations, planning meals, buying gifts, but Advent reminds us to prepare not only our homes, but also our hearts. So, over this season how will you prepare how will you prepare your heart? How will you make space within all the busyness and bustle of Christmas to make your heart ready to welcome the King of Kings and Lord of Lords?

This Advent we prepare, we attentively wait, to once again receive the Christ who comes to us in the vulnerability of a child in a manger, and will one day come again to restore all creation in his loving image.

Isaiah 64.1-4

O that you would tear open the heavens and come down,
so that the mountains would quake at your presence –
as when fire kindles brushwood
and the fire causes water to boil –
to make your name known to your adversaries,
so that the nations might tremble at your presence!
When you did awesome deeds that we did not expect,
you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence.
From ages past no one has heard,
no ear has perceived,
no eye has seen any God besides you,
who works for those who wait for him.

Mark 13.24-37

Jesus said to his disciples:

'In those days, after that suffering,
the sun will be darkened,
and the moon will not give its light,
and the stars will be falling from heaven,
and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

Then they will see "the Son of Man coming in clouds" with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

'From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

'But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake – for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.'

TODAY

9.30am: **Advent Family Service** Rev'd Gerard Rundell lead our service

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed	10.00am, Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist 7.00pm: St Columba's Church, Advent Quiet Evening
Thurs	2.00pm: Community Room, Christmas Prayer and Praise 7.00pm: Northern Rugby Club, Mens Group Christmas Dinner
Fri	6.30pm: Christmas Lights Turn on and official opening of the Windsor Wing, Manor House
Sat	10am, Community Room: Saturday Café
Sun	9.30am: Second Sunday of Advent , St Aidan's 3:30pm Christingle Family Fun at Great Park Community Centre

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 11 th	7.30pm, Carols on the Green/Salvation Army, Melbury
Wed 13 th	12.30pm: Rugby Club, Lunch Group
Thurs 14 th	2:00pm: Community Room, Film Club – ‘Alleluia’
Sat 16 th	7:30pm: Church, Christmas Festival Carol Service
Sun 24 th	4:00pm: Church, Nativity 11:30pm: Church, Midnight Mass

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – the link for today's service is <https://bit.ly/StAidanAdvent1>

CHRISTMAS CARDS – we still have plenty cards left to deliver. We would really appreciate any help that can be offered especially around Melton and Melbury or any part of Great Park. Church is open daily, you can take some cards and mark on the sheet where you have delivered to.

BIBLE STUDY - is now on holiday until after Christmas.

A QUIET EVENING – is being held on Wednesday 6th December between 7-8.30pm at St Columba's, Wideopen. It would be lovely if you are able to join us in peaceful, prayerful preparation for the Christmas celebration.

COLLECTION – today's collection at the family service will be added to last weekend fund raising for children in Sophiia's community in Ukraine.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT – are continuing to run their online group on the 1st and 3rd Friday's of the month.

CHRISTMAS FAYRE – thank you to everyone who supported our fayre. The final total including donations was £1160. We are very grateful for your generosity.

GOSFORTH AND DISTRICT CHOIR CONCERT – at St Aidan's on Saturday 2nd December at 7pm. Tickets at the door £6 (£5 concessions). Complimentary mulled wine and mince pie.

CHRISTMAS PRAYER AND PRAISE – This Thursday, at 2pm in Church, Prayer and Praise will have it's usual Christmas service with carols, a reflection, mince pies, and maybe even a few Christmas jokes! Come and join us if you can.

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 – Gerard Rundell. Team Rector. Community Centre and shops

For the community – Local schools, including Broadway East, Brunton and Gosforth Park First Schools

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

On their baptisms and confirmations: Jamie, Luca, Sam, Skye

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

For those who have died – Ian Churnside, and on their anniversaries: Mabel Wyatt, Jean Thorpe, Ronnie Gristwood, Patricia Shields

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