



Team Parish of Christ the King

St Aidan's Brunton Park

Sunday 8th September 2024

Trinity 15

There's a common link between today's two Bible readings – faith. The gospel from Mark 7 in which, after a strange and disturbing exchange with a Gentile woman, Jesus heals her daughter, is headed in the NRSV 'The Syrophenician Woman's Faith', although it's only in Matthew's version of the story that Jesus says 'Woman, great is your faith!' The letter of James makes the point that we show our faith in what we do, particularly in our attitudes and response to those in need – indeed, James goes so far as to say 'faith by itself, if it has no works, is dead.'

On first hearing, and perhaps on second hearing as well, there's something of a mismatch between James' insistence that Christians should not make any distinction between people, whether on the basis of wealth or appearance or anything else, and Jesus' initial harsh response to the Syrophenician woman, refusing to help because of her race. Her 'faith' which he commends is arguably more a challenge to his attitude as a man of his time rooted in Jewish tradition, and in response he changes his mind and does as she had asked.

Earlier in Mark 7 Jesus had similarly challenged the Pharisees about their attitudes and their reliance on tradition. Taken together, these readings present a challenge to us and our faith: what issues and situations might be challenging our attitudes and actions today?

James 2:1-10, 14-17

My brothers and sisters, do you with your acts of favouritism really believe in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ? For if a person with gold rings and in fine clothes comes into your assembly, and if a poor person in dirty clothes also comes in, and if you take notice of the one wearing the fine clothes and say, 'Have a seat here, please,' while to the one who is poor you say, 'Stand there,' or, 'Sit at my feet,' have you not made distinctions among yourselves, and become judges with evil thoughts? Listen, my beloved brothers and sisters. Has not God chosen the poor in the world to be rich in faith and to be heirs of the kingdom that he has promised to those who love him? But you have dishonoured the poor. Is it not the rich who oppress you? Is it not they who drag you into court? Is it not they who blaspheme the excellent name that was invoked over you?

You do well if you really fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' But if you show partiality, you commit sin and are convicted by the law as transgressors. For whoever keeps the whole law but fails in one point has become accountable for all of it.

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.

Mark 7:24-end

Jesus set out and went away to the region of Tyre. He entered a house and did not want anyone to know he was there. Yet he could not escape notice, but a woman whose little daughter had an unclean spirit immediately heard about him, and she came and bowed down at his feet. Now the woman was a Gentile, of Syrophenician origin. She begged him to cast the demon out of her daughter. He said to her, 'Let the children be fed first, for it is not fair to take the children's food and throw it to the dogs.' But she answered him, 'Yes Sir, even the dogs under the table eat the children's crumbs.' Then he said to her, 'For saying that, you may go – the demon has left your daughter.' So she went home, found the child lying on the bed, and the demon gone.

Then he returned from the region of Tyre, and went by way of Sidon towards the Sea of Galilee, in the region of the Decapolis. They brought to him a deaf man who had an impediment in his speech; and they begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him aside in private, away from the crowd, and put his fingers into his ears, and he spat and touched his tongue. Then looking up to heaven, he sighed and said to him, 'Ephphatha,' that is, 'Be opened.' And immediately his ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly. Then Jesus ordered them to tell no one; but the more he ordered them, the more zealously they proclaimed it. They were astounded beyond measure, saying, 'He has done everything well; he even makes the deaf to hear and the mute to speak.'

TODAY

9.30am: **Trinity 15** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and Mr Ken Newitt will preach.

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Mon-Fri** 8.50am, Church: **Morning Prayer**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room : **Film Club - Shall we Dance**
Sat 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Café**
Sun 9.30am: **Trinity 16** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches with readings from Proverbs 1.20-33, James 3.1-12 and Mark 8.27-38.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Sat 14th Sept 10.30am: **St Aidan's Play Zone**, Church
Thurs 12th Sept 2.00pm: **Friends Having Fun**, Community Room
Sat 21st Sept 2.00pm: **Church Open Day**, Church
Wed 2nd Oct 12.00pm: **Lunch Club**, Northern Rugby Club
Sun 6th Oct 9.30am: **Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service**
Wed 10th Oct 7.45pm: **Alpha**, Community Room
Wed 16th Oct 7.30am: **DCC**, Church

NOTICES

SUNDAY SERVICE – today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2024Trinity15>

DIGGING PARTY TODAY ! - on the land behind church we are installing a French drain to help tackle flooding issues, so after today's service we will be finishing digging the trench for the drain. If you could give 5-10 minutes of time to take a turn at digging, please stay behind after the service.

FILM CLUB – since the weather has turned chilly we have decided to brighten up this Thursday afternoon by showing 'Shall we Dance' with Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez and Susan Sarandon

ST AIDAN'S COMMUNITY CENTRE AUTUMN FAYRE – is being held on Saturday 21st Sept between 2-4pm with all the usual stalls and fun events. Please support the fayre if you are able to.

ALPHA – will start on Thurs 10th Oct at 7.45pm in the community room and will run for 6 sessions. We share a hot meal while exploring faith. Please take an envelope from the back of church with information about Alpha, a letter of invitation and details about our social and family events to pass on to anyone who might be interested. Have a look at the contents yourself to see what it's about – you may decide Alpha is for you too.

CHURCH OPEN DAY- on Saturday 21st Sept between 2-4pm will coincide with the Community Centre Autumn Fair. Visitors will have the opportunity to find out what we get up to at St Aidan's, the groups we run, have a look around and do a few fun things while they're here. If you're free, why not come along and chat to our visitors.

ST AIDAN'S PLAY ZONE! – launches in church on Saturday. Tell all your friends about our new baby and toddler play space between 10.30am-12pm.

CHURCH CLEANER – if you know a cleaner who has availability to take over the church cleaning duties, please contact a church warden to discuss.

LUNCH CLUB – next meet at the Northern Rugby Club on Wed 2nd Oct 12.30pm. Please speak to Pat Page or Pauline Watson to book your place.

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 – items placed in the food box 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 – St Columba's and our Bible Study and prayer groups

For the community – St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community Centre, and their Management Committees

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

For those in need - Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Bill Yeaman, Sue Bates, Lindsay Miller, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton.

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Jean Rutherford Parkin, Claire Horton Westwater, Edna Craig, Godfrey Wright, Alfred Kaltauf, Lorna Sleight, James Struthers Clark, Margaret Hyde, Andrew Sinclair Anderson, Mary Snaith, Barbara Kindred, Gordon Wright, Eric Davidson

CONTACTS: Office: 0191 236 7952

Administrator/Newsletter : Janice Charlton infostaidans@gmail.com

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

Team Curate: Revd Dr Hannah Malcolm 07938 433910 revhmalcolm@gmail.com

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