



Team Parish of Christ the King

St Aidan's Brunton Park

Sunday 15th December 2024

Advent 3

The Third Sunday of Advent is known as 'Gaudete' Sunday, which means 'Rejoice'. The pink candle is lit on our Advent wreath not in memory of Mary, a common misconception, but she's next week, but instead for the call to 'rejoice'. The name comes from the traditional introit to the Third Sunday of Advent, taken from Paul's letter to the Philippians: 'Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice.'

So in these weeks leading up to Christmas, a great festival of rejoicing, what do you have to rejoice in? For some the answer to that question may spring immediately to mind, for others Christmas is a much more complicated time, and carries as much sorrow as joy. Paul's words are not only for times when rejoicing comes easily, they are written from hardship and persecution, and yet turn to God in praise. So, whether your rejoicing feels easy or hard, what do you want to offer thanks for? What gift of God's provision, or presence, or peace do you want to rejoice in, as we prepare to welcome the Christ-child this Christmas?

Zephaniah 3.14-20

Sing aloud, O daughter Zion;
shout, O Israel!

Rejoice and exult with all your heart,
O daughter Jerusalem!

The LORD has taken away the judgements against you,
he has turned away your enemies.

The king of Israel, the LORD, is in your midst;
you shall fear disaster no more.

On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem:
Do not fear, O Zion;

do not let your hands grow weak.

The LORD, your God, is in your midst,
a warrior who gives victory;

he will rejoice over you with gladness,
he will renew you in his love;

he will exult over you with loud singing
as on a day of festival.

I will remove disaster from you,
so that you will not bear reproach for it.
I will deal with all your oppressors
at that time.
And I will save the lame
and gather the outcast,
and I will change their shame into praise
and renown in all the earth.
At that time I will bring you home,
at the time when I gather you;
for I will make you renowned and praised
among all the peoples of the earth,
when I restore your fortunes
before your eyes, says the LORD

Luke 3.7-18

John said to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruits worthy of repentance. Do not begin to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.'

And the crowds asked him, 'What then should we do?' In reply he said to them, 'Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none; and whoever has food must do likewise.' Even tax-collectors came to be baptized, and they asked him, 'Teacher, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Collect no more than the amount prescribed for you.' Soldiers also asked him, 'And we, what should we do?' He said to them, 'Do not extort money from anyone by threats or false accusation, and be satisfied with your wages.' As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

So, with many other exhortations, he proclaimed the good news to the people.

TODAY

- 9.30am: **Advent 3** Rev'd Gerard Rundell preaches and presides with readings
- 4.00pm: **Christingle**

THE WEEK AHEAD

- Tues-Fri** 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**
- Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
- Thurs** 2.00pm, Community Room: **Film Club – Friends Having Fun**
- Sat** 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**
10.30am, Church: **Kids Zone**
7.00pm, Church: **Festival of Carols**
- Sun** 9.30am: **Advent 3** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and Mr Ken Newitt preaches with readings from Micah 5.2-5a; Hebrews 10.5-10 and Luke 1.39-45[46-55]

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- Tues 24th Dec: 4.30pm: **Nativity**, Church
11.30pm: **Midnight Mass**, Church
- Wed 25th Dec: 9.30am: **Christmas Eucharist**, Church

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan3rdAdvent2024>

FRIENDS HAVING FUN – join us for our Christmas get together which will include festive tunes, Christmas bingo and some cake and a cuppa.

CHRISTINGLE – at 4pm, we are raising funds for the Children's Society through our Christingle service. As always this is a service ideal for all ages, where we have fun while making our very own Christingle. Bring along your family and friends.

BOOK TABLE – A reminder that the book table is always stocked with a rotation of books chosen to offer a chance to deepen and explore questions of faith through reading. Do check in from time to time if you haven't already to see if there's something that sparks your interest. Julie Smith and Mairi Macleod are always happy to be asked for recommendations, and hope that you'll make use of the table!

KATHERINE RUNDELL – thank you to everyone who came along to Katherine's talk which raised £147 for the Forest Peoples Programme.

CHRISTMAS FAIR – thank you to everyone who supported our fair which raised £1333 towards church funds.

Living on God's good earth

December 2024: Christmas is for Sharing

It's the most expensive time of the year! As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, the pressure to spend a lot - and waste a lot - can be very high. This month, look for ways to live and give more simply. You could give one Christmas card to the whole church on our community card board, or try 'Secret Santa' style giving with family or friends, donating any money you save. When present shopping, buying experiences and consumables are a great way to cut down on waste!

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's.

St Columba's church and their future incumbent. DCC members and officers, Janice our church administrator

For the community – Snakes & Ladders Playgroup, Brunton Babies and Brunton Toddlers, Uniformed Groups

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

For those being baptised – Harry and Teddy

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Alan Vout.

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Jordan Loftus, Barry Warmsley, Wilfred Guss, Douglas Gamblin, Lillian Trotter, Ethel Mackay, Kenneth Hylton, Margaret McMillan, Joyce Audrey Boston

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)