



**Team Parish of Christ the King**

**St Aidan's Brunton Park**

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2025**

**Epiphany**

*I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year*

*'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'*

Give me a light. As we begin another journey around the sun, it's difficult not to look at the world around us and feel as though we could all do with a bit more light for the road ahead. Even if our lives feel stable and predictable, we have no way of knowing what surprises this year might hold, welcome or unwelcome. On the feast of Epiphany, the church celebrates some very late arrivals to our nativity scene. On their journey, the wise men seem to get exactly what lots of us long for – a light in the sky to guide them into the unknown. Perhaps you wish you could have what they had: a moment of revelation, a sign to follow, a clear path forward. But if we pay attention to their story, we see that it isn't so straightforward for them either. Like us, they get lost on the way. And at the end of their journey, it isn't the star which offers their true light after all. It is Jesus, the promised king, God come to be with us. And God promises to be with us this year too, no matter what the future holds.

### **Isaiah 60.1-6**

1 Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
and the glory of the LORD has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth,  
and thick darkness the peoples;  
but the LORD will arise upon you,  
and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light,  
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around;  
they all gather together, they come to you;  
your sons shall come from far away,  
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.

5Then you shall see and be radiant;  
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,  
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,  
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

6A multitude of camels shall cover you,  
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;  
all those from Sheba shall come.

They shall bring gold and frankincense,  
and shall proclaim the praise of the LORD.

### **Matthew 2.1-12**

In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:

"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.'" Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

### **TODAY**

9.30am: **Epiphany** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides and preaches  
(Rev'd Rundell on annual leave)

## **THE WEEK AHEAD**

<b>Tues-Fri</b>	8.55am, Church: <b>Morning Prayer</b>
<b>Wed</b>	10.00am, Church: <b>BCP Midweek Eucharist</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	2.00pm, Community Room: <b>Film Club – The Miracle Club</b>
<b>Sat</b>	10.00am, Community Room: <b>Saturday Cafe</b> 10.30am, Church: <b>Kids Zone</b>
<b>Sun</b>	9.30am: <b>Baptism of Christ</b> Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Isaiah 43.1-7, Acts 8.14-17 and Luke 3.15-17,21,22

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

Thurs 16 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm: <b>Friends Having Fun</b> , Community Room
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	2.00pm: <b>Chat and Craft</b> , Community Room
Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	TBC: <b>Burn's Night Dinner</b> , Church

**NOTICES** - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Epiphany>

**FAMILY SERVICE** – please note, there will be no family service during January.

**BURN'S NIGHT DINNER** – we are very excited to announce that we will be holding a Burn's Night dinner with entertainment. More details will follow next week but this will be a ticketed event, so if you'd like to join us for some music, poetry and of course haggis, neeps and tatties, please put the date in your diary.

**PLANNED GIVING SCHEME** - Once again St Aidan's has been blessed with regular financial support throughout the year. Regular giving (Parish Giving Scheme 'PGS' and Standing Orders) has raised just under **£44,000** in 2024, which is fantastic, and an increase of over £5,600 on last year. St Aidan's is only able to serve our local community thanks to regular giving and other donations we receive throughout the year. So a huge thank you - we are truly grateful. [Learn how donations have been used](#)

A special thank you also, to everyone who has switched their giving from Standing Order to PGS. This really benefits us as any Gift Aid is automatically claimed on our behalf, saving valuable admin time. With PGS you can also opt to inflate the value of your regular gift on an annual basis should you wish. This helps us to protect against rising costs each year.

[Set up a gift through PGS](#)

**FILM CLUB: THE MIRACLE CLUB** – showing on Thursday at 2pm. Set in 1967 this heartwarming film follows the story of three generations of close friends who dream is to visit Lourdes. A story of the power of love and friendship where old wounds are reopened and pasts confronted in the search of a miracle. Starring Maggie Smith and Kathy Bates.

### **Living on God's Good Earth: January**

*New year, new you*

The new year is often a time when we feel pressure to make a new start, or try new things, but it can be hard to know where to begin. If you've never done a personal carbon footprint audit, this can be a great way to think about different areas of your life and see where simple changes can make a difference. The results can help you pick one area to focus on over the coming year. There are lots of carbon footprint audits available online, but a nice simple option is

<https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>. If you want one with more detail, go for <https://www.climatestewards.org/offset>.

### **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. Saturday Café, Men's group, Thursday groups.

**For the community** – Brunton Park Medical Centre and local businesses.

St Aidan's Community Centre & Great Park Community Centre, groups meeting in our church and community room

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

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

**For those who have died** – Anne Thompson and on their anniversaries: Doris Wilmot, Moira Osborne, Jean Carson, Pam Cooper, Sadie James, Peter Leask, Howard Stansby, Robert Tullin, Eva Burgon

**CONTACTS:** Office: 0191 236 7952

Administrator/Newsletter : Janice Charlton [infostaidans@gmail.com](mailto:infostaidans@gmail.com)

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 [rev.g.rundell@gmail.com](mailto:rev.g.rundell@gmail.com)

Team Curate: Revd Dr Hannah Malcolm 07938 433910 [revhmalcolm@gmail.com](mailto:revhmalcolm@gmail.com)

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