



**Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Brunton Park
Sunday 16th February 2025
Third Sunday before Lent**

Today's gospel from Luke challenges our assumptions about what truly matters. Jesus turns the world's values on their head. His teaching prompts a crucial question: What does it mean to be truly blessed? As commentator Michael Wilcock puts it, God's people will 'prize what the world calls pitiable, and suspect what the world thinks desirable.'

Jesus blesses those in need, not those who seem to have it all. This isn't simply a message of comfort; it's a strong challenge to our complacency. Jesus doesn't condemn wealth or happiness, but he does warn us in the woes - "woahhh!!" - that we mustn't misplace our priorities. We're often tempted to live for this world, but the blessing is found in seeking the things of Jesus in his upside-down kingdom.

We live in anticipation of the coming kingdom. Jesus himself became poor, wept, was insulted and rejected and went to the cross for us, offering us eternal life. In Jesus' resurrection, death is defeated and reversed, assuring us that our hope is found in Christ alone. As Paul declares, 'Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.' Let us be confident in declaring 'How great is our God!'

1 Corinthians 15.12-20

If Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation has been in vain and your faith has been in vain. We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that he raised Christ – whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

Luke 6.17-26

He came down with them and stood on a level place, with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the

coast of Tyre and Sidon. They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases; and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. And all in the crowd were trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

Then he looked up at his disciples and said:

'Blessed are you who are poor,
for yours is the kingdom of God.

'Blessed are you who are hungry now,
for you will be filled.

'Blessed are you who weep now,
for you will laugh.

'Blessed are you when people hate you, and when they exclude you, revile you, and defame you on account of the Son of Man. Rejoice on that day and leap for joy, for surely your reward is great in heaven; for that is what their ancestors did to the prophets.

'But woe to you who are rich,
for you have received your consolation.

'Woe to you who are full now,
for you will be hungry.

'Woe to you who are laughing now,
for you will mourn and weep.

'Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is what their ancestors did to the false prophets.

TODAY 9.30am: **3 Before Lent** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and Rev'd Lee Kirkby preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues-Fri 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**

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

Thurs 2.00pm, Community Room: **Friends Having Fun**

Sat 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**

10.30am, Church: **Kids Zone (not 4th Saturday of the month)**

Sun 9.30am: **2 Before Lent** Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner presides and preaches with readings from Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-25; Revelation 4 and Luke 8.22-25 (Rev'd Gerard at St Columba's)

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 19th Feb 11am: **Funeral for Rev'd Graham Keyes**, St Hilda's Jesmond

Thurs 20th Feb 2.00pm: **Friends Having Fun**, Community Room

Thurs 20th Feb 7.45pm: **Alpha**, Community Room

Thurs 27th Feb 2.00pm: **Chat and Craft**, Community Room
Tues 4th Mar 3.30pm: **Family Pancake Party**, Church
Wed 5th Mar 10.00am: **Ash Wednesday Service**, Church
7.30pm: **Ash Wednesday Service**, Church

LENT LUNCHES

Wed 12th March 12.00pm: **St Aidan's, Brunton Park**
Wed 19th March 12.00pm: **Sacred Heart, North Gosforth**
Wed 26th March 12.00pm: **St Columba's, Wideopen**
Wed 2nd April 12.00pm: **St John's URC, Wideopen**
Wed 9th April 12.00pm: **St Cuthbert's, Brunswick**

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan3BeforeLent>

BIBLE STUDY - there will be no Bible study for the next two weeks.

REV'D GRAHAM KEYES FUNERAL – We've sadly had news that Rev'd Graham Keyes, vicar at St Aidan's, 1994-1999, died on 27th January. His funeral will be at St Hilda's, Jesmond on Wednesday 19th Feb, 11am. Please do pray for Cynthia and the rest of the family.

MAY ECO FEST - CAN YOU GROW SOME SEEDLINGS? - we're very excited to announce that St Aidan's will host our first ever Eco fest on 3rd May, with local businesses and community groups showcasing ways to live sustainably and look after our environment! We hope to include a fundraising 'Grow Your Own' stall, where people can buy fruit and vegetable seedlings and small plants. Could you grow some seedlings for us to sell? Speak to Rev Hannah or sign up on the sheet at the back of church.

ASH WEDNESDAY – we will be holding two services on Ash Wednesday. Both our 10am service and an evening service at 7.30pm will include the Imposition of Ashes. Please come and join us as we mark the beginning of Lent.

LENT COURSE – this year our Lent course will be held on Monday evening's via Zoom. We have special guest speakers to talk us through difficult, thought provoking passages in the Bible. This will be a very interesting series, to be enjoyed from the comfort of your own home. Leaflet enclosed.

FAMILY PANCAKE PARTY – we will be holding a family event on Tuesday 4th March between 3.30pm and 5pm. Along with games, crafts and story, we'll be adding to the fun with pancake games and of course hot pancakes. Spread the word that this is going to be a great family event, not to be missed.

LENT LUNCHESES – we will again be joining with our ecumenical brothers and sisters in worship over Lent. Each week we will listen to, and reflect on, a talk with a shared theme which is then followed by soup and chat, at the same time raising funds for Christian Aid. Do join us for this year's Lent Lunches, every Wednesday at 12pm, venue details above.

FRIENDS HAVING FUN – we had a lovely catch up last month, with lots of laughs and good chat. You are very welcome to come along and join us, as we play simple games and listen to great music from the 50's – 70's all over a great cuppa and cake. Come along and enjoy some time with your friends.

Living on God's Good Earth
February 2025: Feed the Birds

Sharing our gardens with birds, hedgehogs, and other animals is a joy. But winter and early spring is a tough time. Like us, other animals need to use lots of energy (or sleep) to survive in the cold, but unlike us, they don't have supermarkets or heaters to rely on. You can help birds and other wildlife get through these tricky months by leaving areas of leaves or branches undisturbed, planting shrubs and trees with wintering berries and fruit, putting out fresh water on frozen days, and putting up bird feeders. If you use permanent feeders, remember to wash them every week or so to prevent disease from spreading.

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 in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton.

For those who have died – Graham Keyes and on their anniversaries: Kathleen Holder , George Lonie, Mary Temple, Dorothy Smurthwaite, Philip Brantingham, Rex Chinnery, Maureen Carr, Cran Cowans , Doris Graham, Barbara McGovern, Tommy Parkin, Joan Brown, Susan Rennie, John Pargeter, Stuart Simon, Jean Forrester

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