



**Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Brunton Park
Sunday 23rd February 2025
Second Sunday before Lent**

The disciples are on Lake Galilee with Jesus, in what is actually quite a flimsy wooden boat. The lake is in a valley and storms can come down very quickly from the mountains to the east, which are now known as the Golan Heights. It is one of these storms that hits the little fishing boat, with waves as high as the mast. Water is swamping the deck and it's terrifying. Convinced they are going to die, they can't understand how Jesus can sleep through it. In this story from Luke's Gospel when Jesus calms the storm and the sea is stilled, it is a symbol for us that God can still the chaos and disorder in our lives. In some versions of the Bible, it says that "Jesus rebuked the storm..." which is an illustration of the divine power of God at work in the world.

Life is so unpredictable, we don't know what surprises lie in store for us from day to day, even from hour to hour... Good things in life take us by surprise and we celebrate those moments. But, sadly, negative and difficult times can creep up on us and impact us when we least expect it.

There are times in our lives when we feel at the mercy of the storm, when we feel as if our lives are as chaotic as the buffeting ocean. Perhaps a financial crisis, or an illness, a bereavement, a breakdown of relationship. And we pray and pray and pray but sometimes it as if Jesus is asleep; he doesn't hear, no matter how loud we shout... Doesn't it seem, sometimes in life, as if Jesus is asleep in the back of the boat? But as Christians we persevere in prayer even in tough times or when we see the suffering of others, it's right and appropriate to be persistent. Because, in our persistence, we believe that the Lord does hear us and will rebuke the storms and the chaos in our lives will be stilled. Many times they are, though they may not be stilled as quickly as we would like or hope, but life does calm down.

The Christian writer, Lavinia Byrne says that when we pray, "Ladders get put up to heaven". It's such a lovely idea about prayer, isn't it? Prayer as a ladder being put up to heaven... The disciples were desperate; their lives were in danger, they thought they would perish. Their faith was weak but, in their weakness, they called out to Jesus and he heard them and rescued them. If we can take our eyes off the chaos and the storms and focus on the love of God, we may have a chance to discover a God who we can have faith in. For we are precious in God's sight and he holds on to us drawing us back into the calm.

Genesis 2.4b-9,15-25

In the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, when no plant of the field was yet in the earth and no herb of the field had yet sprung up for the LORD God had not caused it to rain upon the earth, and there was no one to till the ground; but a stream would rise from the earth, and water the whole face of the ground then the LORD God formed man from the dust of the ground, and breathed

into his nostrils the breath of life; and the man became a living being. And the LORD God planted a garden in Eden, in the east; and there he put the man whom he had formed. Out of the ground the LORD God made to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food, the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

The LORD God said, 'It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper as his partner.' So out of the ground the LORD God formed every animal of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called every living creature, that was its name. The man gave names to all cattle, and to the birds of the air, and to every animal of the field; but for the man there was not found a helper as his partner. So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man. Then the man said,

'This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.'

Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and clings to his wife, and they become one flesh. And the man and his wife were both naked, and were not ashamed.

Luke 8.22-25

One day Jesus got into a boat with his disciples, and he said to them, 'Let us go across to the other side of the lake.' So they put out, and while they were sailing he fell asleep. A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they were in danger. They went to him and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' They were afraid and amazed, and said to one another, 'Who then is this, that he commands even the winds and the water, and they obey him?'

TODAY 9.30am: **2 Before Lent** Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner presides and preaches

LENT LUNCHEAS

Wed 12th Mar	12.00pm: St Aidan's, Brunton Park
Wed 19th Mar	12.00pm: Sacred Heart, North Gosforth
Wed 26th Mar	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

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues-Fri	8.55am, Church: Morning Prayer
Wed	10.00am, Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist
Thurs	2.00pm, Community Room: Chat and Craft
Sat	10.00am, Community Room: Saturday Cafe 10.30am, Church: Kids Zone (not 4th Saturday of the month)
Sun	9.30am: Next Before Lent Family Eco Service Rev'd Gerard Rundell leads as Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm preaches with readings from Exodus 34.29-35; 2 Corinthians 3.12 - 4.2 and Luke 9.28-36[37-43a]

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Tues 4 th Mar	3.30pm/6.30pm: Family Pancake Party / Youth Event , Church
Wed 5 th Mar	10.00am: Ash Wednesday Service , Church 7.30pm: Ash Wednesday Service , Church
Thurs 6 th Mar	2.00pm: Prayer and Praise , Community Room 8.00pm: Mens Group , Northern Football Club
Sun 9 th Mar	4.00pm: Team Evensong , St Matthews

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2BeforeLent>

TEAM EVENSONG – will be held at St Matthews on Sunday 9th March at 4pm. Come along and join us for this team service with a choir, psalms and hymns.

YOUTH PANCAKE EVENT – in addition to our family event earlier in the day, we will be hosting a deanery youth event from 6.30pm on Tuesday 4th March. Please ask Gerard for further information and to book a place, so that we have an idea of numbers. We're planning lots of fun and lots of pancakes.

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 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.

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. Meeting ID: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan

CAN YOU HELP? – we need to collect a bag of green waste from a garden centre in Newburn before Friday 28th February. If you are able to help please contact Hannah who will be able to give you more information.

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.

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.

CHAT AND CRAFT – it's always a lovely gathering at this Thursday group where we bring along our crafting and have a good chat over tea. Don't worry if you're not a crafter, you can still join us for a chat.

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 – Gerard Rundell, Hannah Malcolm, Ray Devenney and Jean Skinner. Lay ministers Ken Newitt and Bernie Troughton. Pastoral care team

For the community – Our shared outdoor spaces and the wildlife who live there, especially efforts to protect and restore the Ouseburn

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, Charlie Bennett, Mavis Bennett

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Lesley Holmes, Anne Wood, Margaret Shaw, Gordon Wilson, Joyce Barker, George Owen, Cecil Talbot, Rennison Shiplay, Jeffrey Ball, Barbara Surtees, Winifred Richardson

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