



**Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Brunton Park**

**Sunday 16th March 2025
Lent 2**

Our two Bible readings today are not exactly full of the joys of spring. But it is Lent, so what do we expect? They are both set in the context of a journey, but what also links them is lament. Abram laments what seem to be God's unfulfilled promises; Jesus laments the state of Jerusalem. But lament in the Bible is not the same thing as being sad and sorrowful, and certainly not the same as feeling sorry for oneself or for what one has done. It's more a form of prayer. Over one-third of the psalms are classed as laments, like Psalm 13 with its opening phrase 'How long, O Lord?' And lament takes it as read that God is there, hears one's cry, and has the power to turn that which is lamentable into something better; it focusses not on the individual but on the situation that is a matter of concern and places it in God's hands. Psalm 13 concludes 'I trusted in your steadfast love; my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.'

Gerard reminded us last week that the forty days and nights of Lent (not counting the Sundays) constitute a journey. As we journey through Lent, what situations in our own lives, in the church or in the world do we lament, and how might we place them in God's hands?

Genesis 15.1-12, 17-18

The word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, 'Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.' But Abram said, 'O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?' And Abram said, 'You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.' But the word of the LORD came to him, 'This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.' He brought him outside and said, 'Look towards heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.' Then he said to him, 'So shall your descendants be.' And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Then he said to him, 'I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.' But he said, 'O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?' He said to him, 'Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtle-dove, and a young pigeon.' He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying

each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire-pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, 'To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.'

Luke 13.31-end

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem." Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."'

TODAY 9.30am: **Lent 2** Rev'd Dr Hannah Malcolm presides as Mr Ken Newitt preaches. (Rev'd Gerard at St Columba's)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm, Zoom: **Lent Bible Study**
Tues-Fri 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
12.00pm: Sacred Heart, North Gosforth: **Lent Lunch**
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: **Lent 3** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Isaiah 55.1-9, 1 Corinthians 10.1-13 and Luke 13.1-9

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 27th Mar 2.00pm: **Chat and Craft**, Community Room
Sun 30th Mar 9.30am: **Mothering Sunday Family Service**, Church
Wed 2nd Apr 12.00pm: **Lunch Group**, Rugby Club
Fri 4th April 6.00pm: **Beetle Drive**, Church
Sat 3rd May 10.00am **Eco Fest**, Church and Garden
Sat 17th May 10.00am **Big Brekkie**, Community Room

LENT LUNCHESES

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**

NOTICES - today's service link is <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Lent2>

LENT LUNCHESES – continue on Wednesday at Sacred Heart. Join us if you can.

BEETLE DRIVE – will be held on Friday 4th April at 6pm. The cost is £10 per person with an additional donation if you would like wine with your meal, which will be pizza, salad and coleslaw. We will also hold a raffle so please bring along some spare change. The sign up sheet is at the back of church.

RESEARCH REQUEST – our administrator has had a request from a colleague in the NHS asking if anyone would like to take part in a research study. The research is to build standardising assessments to identify learning difficulties and memory problems in adults in the future. They are looking for people over the age of 80 (or younger with limited formal education). Participants would receive a £200 gift voucher that can be used in lots of places including supermarkets. If you would like to take part please follow this link:
<https://jotform.com/240784440673056>

LENT COURSE – for the third in our Lent Series 'What's this doing in the Bible?', dealing with some of the passages in the Bible many of us find difficult, we will be joined from America by the Rev Dr Kelly Brown Douglas, Newcastle Cathedral's first Anglican Communion canon, who will lead us on looking at passages from the books of Ezra and Nehemiah that raise the difficult issue of racism (and also sexism) in the Bible. Everyone is welcome. The Zoom Meeting ID is: 757 377 8713 Passcode: StAidan or contact Ken via email:
kmnewitt@outlook.com

LUNCH GROUP - will meet on Wednesday 2nd April at 12pm for a 12.30pm at the Rugby Club. Please see Pat or Pauline if you wish to join us.

FRIENDS HAVING FUN – on Thursday will have good chat with tea and cake, along with games and popular music from the 40's-70's. Everyone welcome.

Living on God's Good Earth

March 2025: Sow Wild

Our flowers are gone from church for Lent, but outside the world is coming into bloom. And March is the perfect time to sow a wildflower patch! All you need is a bright, sunny spot and a little packet of wildflower seeds. If you'd like a packet of seeds to take home, there are some available in the entrance to church. There are some simple instructions available here here: <https://www.rhs.org.uk/lawns/how-to-sow-a-wildflower-patch>. Happy sowing!

For Our Prayers: St Aidan's Cycle of Prayer

For the church – For all ministers serving across our deanery, those on deanery synod. St Aidan's kids' group, baby and toddler group, and youth group.

For the community – Manor House, Bowmont House and Melton House

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

For those being baptised - Charlie

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Mavis Bennett, Peter Kenney

For those who have died – and on their anniversaries: Brian Earnshaw, Donald Wright, Bill Richardson, John Malkin, Michael Croft, Derek Chinnery

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