



Team Parish of Christ the King

St Aidan's Brunton Park

Sunday 25th May 2025

6th Sunday of Easter

Today's two Bible readings both feature a question, one direct - Jesus asks the disabled man by the pool near the Sheep Gate in Jerusalem 'Do you want to be made well?' – and one indirect – Paul, on what is now the northwest coast of Turkey, sees a vision of a man across the Aegean Sea in Greece asking, pleading with him 'Will you come over and help us?' Both questions are surprising – would the man who had been ill for 38 years not want to be made well? And crossing the Aegean to Greece wasn't part of Paul's plan at all. Had we also had the Old Testament reading this morning we would have had a third surprising question – Ezekiel sees in a vision a valley of dry bones, representing the people of Israel in exile in Babylon, and God asks him 'Can these bones live?' In all three cases the answer to the question is 'Yes', however uncertain or unexpected. But in all three cases, that 'yes' leads to a transformation of the situation through the positive action of God, of Jesus, and of the Holy Spirit. Are we today prepared for God to ask us unexpected or surprising questions and ready to say 'yes' to God and, like Paul, 'yes' to those asking us to come and help them and transform their situation

Acts 16. 9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them. We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain

woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

John 5. 1-9

After this there was a festival of the Jews, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. Now in Jerusalem by the Sheep Gate there is a pool, called in Hebrew Beth-zatha¹ which has five porticoes. In these lay many invalids—blind, lame, and paralysed. One man was there who had been ill for thirty-eight years. When Jesus saw him lying there and knew that he had been there a long time, he said to him, 'Do you want to be made well?' ⁷ The sick man answered him, 'Sir, I have no one to put me into the pool when the water is stirred up; and while I am making my way, someone else steps down ahead of me.' Jesus said to him, 'Stand up, take your mat and walk.' At once the man was made well, and he took up his mat and began to walk.

TODAY 9.30am: **Easter 6 Eucharist** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides
Ken Newitt preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues-Fri 8.55am, Church: **Morning Prayer**
Wed 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Thurs 7.30pm, Church: **Ascension Day Service**
Sat 10.00am, Community Room: **Saturday Café**
 10.30am Church : **Kids Zone (not 4th Saturday of the month)**
Sun 9.30am: **Family Service** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides with guest speaker Dennis Fancett from the Generous Giving Team

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 12th June 2.00pm **Film Club 'Twister' community room**
Fri 13th June 3.00pm **Count on Nature, outside church**
Sat 14th June 7.30pm **Conversations at St Aidan's church**
Sat 21st June 2.00- 4pm **St Aidan's Summer Fair**

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK: <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Easter7>

LUNCH GROUP – will meet on Wednesday 4th June at the Northern Rugby Club

for a 12.30pm start. Please see Pat or Pauline if you would like to join us.

PATERNITY LEAVE – Revd. Gerard will be on paternity leave 26th – 31st May. Please direct any queries during this time to Rev'd Hannah or the church wardens.

JANICE – is no longer the church administrator and will devote her time to her role as Children and Family worker. Email staidansfamilyworker@gmail.com
Please use infostaidans@gmail.com for any admin matters.
Please forward any items for the newsletter to Catherine Stewart.
catherinedstewart@btinternet.com

ASCENSION DAY – There will be a joint service with St Columba's at St Aidan's on Thursday 29th May 7.30pm.

PRAYER GROUP – As from Pentecost Sunday 8th June there will be space available in church for those who would like to gather for prayer before the 9.30am Sunday service. For information, please speak to Derek Marshall.

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – The group will not meet on Bank Holiday Monday 26th May.

COUNT ON NATURE- Please join us outside church on Friday 13th June 3.00pm to explore and count wildlife living in our gardens.

SUMMER FAIR - We plan to hold the Summer Fair on Saturday 21st June 2pm to 4pm with refreshments, cakes, raffle, tombola and bottle stalls, books, jigsaws, toys, Bric- a Brac. Eco stall and outdoor games. However, for this to happen we require volunteers to assist on the day and to set up on the Friday afternoon. Donations towards the stalls would also be very much appreciated. Please speak to Susan Armstrong.

Living on God's Good Earth: May
No Mow May

April showers bring May flowers – that is, if we don't mow them all down... Did you know that 97% of Britain's meadows have been lost since the 1930s? May is a crucial month for pollinators like bees and butterflies. Leaving some parts of your garden un-mown over the month of May (and longer) can give wild flowers and insects a chance. Even the smallest patch can make a difference! Check out <https://www.plantlife.org.uk/campaigns/nomowmay/> for more details.

SUNDAY SERMON'S

For anyone who would like one, written copies of the Sunday sermon are available from the preacher on request. Please contact either Gerard, or the preacher of the day, to be sent a copy

For the church Janice, all involved in family outreach events and work with children and young people. Bible Study, prayer groups, Eco church group.

For the community – Our sponsored child Ivonia. For her and her country Mozambique, facing serious threat from climate change. For the work of World Vision and the conservation and education work of Wild Impact in Mozambique

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, Pat Lawson

For those who have died – Joan Graham and Joyce Gay and their families.

On their anniversaries- Mary Palgrave, Bill Mead, Althea Kirkbridge.



CONTACTS:

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