



## Team Parish of Christ the King

**St Aidan's Brunton park**  
**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2025**  
**First Sunday of Trinity**

The Old Testament reading for this Sunday reminds us to ask the question of where we hear the voice of God. Elijah has had a hard time, he is fleeing for his life, and unsure what God wants of him. So he makes his way to the most obvious place to meet with God, which is the mountain-top. We often seek special places to hear from God: churches, cathedrals, natural beauty spots, sometimes even mountain-tops. There's nothing wrong with this instinct, and often God can be found in such often-called 'thin places'. But our reading also reminds us that God isn't always found where we expect him.

At the mountaintop, Elijah sees first a great wind, then an earthquake, then a fire pass by. These are dramatic moments, yet we're told God was not in them. Instead God comes in 'the sound of sheer silence', a moment of stillness, a moment of utter calm. Some translations have this as a 'still, small voice' or a 'gentle whisper'. Sometimes we seek God in the places and moments of majesty and drama, when he's quietly speaking to us right where we already are. Too often though, we're not still enough to hear this 'gentle whisper'. So how might you find space this week, wherever you are, whatever you're doing, to listen to the 'sound of sheer silence' that could be God's voice speaking to you?

### **1 Kings .19, 1-15**

Ahab told Jezebel all that Elijah had done, and how he had killed all the prophets with the sword. Then Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah, saying, 'So may the gods do to me, and more also, if I do not make your life like the life of one of them by this time tomorrow.' <sup>3</sup> Then he was afraid; he got up and fled for his life, and came to Beer-sheba, which belongs to Judah; he left his servant there. But he himself went a day's journey into the wilderness, and came and sat down under a solitary broom tree. He asked that he might die: 'It is enough; now, O LORD, take away my life, for I am no better than my ancestors. Then he lay down under the broom tree and fell asleep. Suddenly an angel touched him and said to him, 'Get up and eat.' He looked, and there at his head was a cake baked on hot stones, and a jar of water. He ate and drank, and lay down again. The angel of the LORD came a second time, touched him, and said, 'Get up and eat, otherwise the journey will be too much for you.' He got up, and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food for forty days and forty nights to Horeb the mount of God. At that place he came to a cave, and spent the night there. Then the word of the LORD came to him, saying, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.'

He said, 'Go out and stand on the mountain before the LORD, for the LORD is about to pass by.' Now there was a great wind, so strong that it was splitting mountains

and breaking rocks in pieces before the LORD, but the LORD was not in the wind; and after the wind an earthquake, but the LORD was not in the earthquake; and after the earthquake a fire, but the LORD was not in the fire; and after the fire a sound of sheer silence. When Elijah heard it, he wrapped his face in his mantle and went out and stood at the entrance of the cave. Then there came a voice to him that said, 'What are you doing here, Elijah?' He answered, 'I have been very zealous for the LORD, the God of hosts; for the Israelites have forsaken your covenant, thrown down your altars, and killed your prophets with the sword. I alone am left, and they are seeking my life, to take it away.' Then the LORD said to him, 'Go, return on your way to the wilderness of Damascus; when you arrive, you shall anoint Hazael as king over Aram.

### **Luke 8. 26-39**

Then they arrived at the country of the Gerasenes which is opposite Galilee. As he stepped out on land, a man of the city who had demons met him. For a long time he had worn no clothes, and he did not live in a house but in the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he fell down before him and shouted at the top of his voice, 'What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beg you, do not torment me'—for Jesus had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many times it had seized him; he was kept under guard and bound with chains and shackles, but he would break the bonds and be driven by the demon into the wilds.) Jesus then asked him, 'What is your name?' He said, 'Legion'; for many demons had entered him. They begged him not to order them to go back into the abyss.

Now there on the hillside a large herd of swine was feeding; and the demons begged Jesus to let them enter these. So he gave them permission. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and was drowned.

When the swineherds saw what had happened, they ran off and told it in the city and in the country. Then people came out to see what had happened, and when they came to Jesus, they found the man from whom the demons had gone sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind. And they were afraid. Those who had seen it told them how the one who had been possessed by demons had been healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gerasenes asked Jesus to leave them; for they were seized with great fear. So he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but Jesus sent him away, saying, 'Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you.' So he went away, proclaiming throughout the city how much Jesus had done for him.

**TODAY**     9.30am: **Trinity 1** Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach

## THE WEEK AHEAD

**Wed** 10.00am, Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**  
**Thurs** 2.00 pm Community Room: **Chat and Craft**  
**Sat** 10.00am Community Room: **Saturday Cafe**  
**(no Kid's Zone)**  
11.45am Church: Free Concert by North East Recorder Orchestra  
**Sun** 9.30am: **Trinity 2** Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner will preside and preach  
(Gerard at St Columba's)  
11.30am Church: Baptism of Adelaide

## DATES FOR THE DIARY

**Wed** 25<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm **St Aidan's Community Centre AGM**  
**Thurs** 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2.00pm **Prayer and Praise Community Room.**  
7.30pm **Gosforth and District 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert, Church**  
8.00pm **Men's Group, Pub Night. Northern Football Club**  
**Sat** 5<sup>th</sup> July 10.00am **Saturday Cafe Community Room**  
10.30am **Kid's Zone, Summer Party Church**  
**Sat** 26<sup>th</sup> July **Church Summer Trip**

## NOTICES

**TODAY'S SERVICE LINK:** <https://bit.ly/StAidans2025Trinity1>

**PRAYER GROUP** – There is space available in church near the High Altar for those who would like to gather for prayer before the 9.30am Sunday service.

**MIM SKINNER** – Anyone wanting to catchup on the talk from Mim follow this link. <https://bit.ly/MimSkinnerConversationStAidans>

**COMMUNITY CENTRE AGM** – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June 7.00pm All Welcome.  
St Aidan's church can have 6 trustees on the committee. At present there are only 3, namely Julie Seaton, Barrie Todd and Chris Watson. We would very much welcome nominations for 3 more.

**FAIR-TRADE** – We are now officially a fair-trade church and are purchasing all fair-trade tea, coffee, sugar and wine for use in church.

**SUMMER TRIP** – We are planning a Church Summer Trip on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> July. We hope to hire a bus, but need at least a rough idea of numbers as soon as possible to confirm. Please register interest on the sheet at the back of church.

## Living on God's Good Earth: June

### *Flight Free?*

It's the time of year when lots of us make summer holiday plans. But our love of cheap flights abroad comes with a big carbon footprint - just one return flight to the U.S. totals the *annual* emissions of a Bolivian citizen. This year, could you swap one flight for travel by rail or sail instead? Or, as a bigger challenge, could you take the 'flight free' pledge, and go without plane travel for one whole year?

Check out <https://flightfree.co.uk/> for grounded travel ideas and inspiration!

## 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** Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's. St Columba's church and their future incumbent. DCC members and officers, Janice our Children and Families Worker.

**For the community** Snakes and 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, Charlie Bennett, Pat Lawson

**For those who have died** – Alex Mabbs and on their anniversaries- Val Hay, Connie Inglis, John Dodd, Rita Brydon



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