



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

**Sunday 17th August 2025
Trinity9**

The letter to the Hebrews reminds us that we are not alone in our faith. We are, as he says, 'surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses.' Our faith is not ours alone but shared with a whole host of the faithful, living and dead. We are inspired by the faith of those who have gone before us and shown the possibility of a race run faithfully to its end. We are joined by the faithful of today and run alongside one another in our race of faith. We encourage and cheer one another on. We pick one another up when we stumble. We carry others when we feel strong. And we pass the faith on to others just beginning their race. So, looking to Jesus, and surrounded by this cloud of witnesses, let us run with perseverance the race of faith that is set before us.

Hebrews 11.29-12.2

By faith the people passed through the Red Sea as if it were dry land, but when the Egyptians attempted to do so they were drowned. By faith the walls of Jericho fell after they had been encircled for seven days. By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had received the spies in peace.

And what more should I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets—who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, obtained promises, shut the mouths of lions, quenched raging fire, escaped the edge of the sword, won strength out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight. Women received their dead by resurrection. Others were tortured, refusing to accept release, in order to obtain a better resurrection. Others suffered mocking and flogging, and even chains and imprisonment. ³They were stoned to death, they were sawn in two, they were killed by the sword; they went about in skins of sheep and goats, destitute, persecuted, tormented—of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground.

Yet all these, though they were commended for their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better so that they would not, without us, be made perfect.

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God.

Luke 12.49-56

'I came to bring fire to the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled! I have a baptism with which to be baptized, and what stress I am under until it is completed! Do you think that I have come to bring peace to the earth? No, I tell you, but rather division! From now on, five in one household will be divided, three against two and two against three; they will be divided: father against son and son against father, mother against daughter and daughter against mother, mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and daughter-in-law against mother-in-law.'

He also said to the crowds, 'When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, "It is going to rain"; and so it happens. And when you see the south wind blowing, you say, "There will be scorching heat"; and it happens. You hypocrites! You know how to interpret the appearance of earth and sky, but why do you not know how to interpret the present time?

TODAY 9.30am: Trinity 9. Rev'd Mairi Howell presides and preaches.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am Church: **BCP Midweek Morning Prayer**
Thurs 2.00pm Community Room: **Friends Having Fun**
Sat 10.00am **Saturday Cafe Community Room**
Sun 9.30am: **Trinity 10** Rev'd Canon Jean Skinner presides and preaches

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Thurs 28th Aug 2.00pm **Chat and Craft**
Sat 30th Aug Time TBC **Summer trip to Newbiggin by the Sea**
Wed 10th Sept 7.30pm **Rev'd Emma Duff (LGBT+ Chaplain) discussion**
Thurs 25th Sept 7.30pm **Open DCC meeting**

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK: <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Trinity9>

SUMMER TRIP – Our summer trip will be on Saturday 30th August. A sheet will be available at the back of church for those to register their interest including travel arrangements.

GERARD'S LEAVE – Gerard will be on leave from Monday 4th Aug – Monday 25th Aug. Any enquiries during that time can be made to the Churchwardens, or if you need clergy support to Jean Skinner.

OPEN DCC MEETING AND DISCUSSION – Following a request from the congregation to display some visible support for Pride next year (a poster, banner, or similar) the DCC has decided to host an open meeting. This isn't a decision St Aidan's has taken so far, and we want a good process to reach a consensus. A couple of dates for your diary are: Wednesday 10th September, 7.30pm, Rev'd Emma Duff, Newcastle Dioceses' LGBT+ Chaplin, will host an evening at St Aidan's with input and discussion on the wider questions the church faces, and the experience of LGBT+ people in the church. Wednesday 25th Sept, the DCC will hold an open discussion which all are welcome to attend, on how we want to respond.

CHRISTIAN AID –GAZA - Following enquiries by some as to what we can do in response to the situation in Gaza. Helen Cunningham from Christian Aid has suggested, donations to the Middle East Appeal, as apparently Christian Aid is supporting partners who are able to do some good despite restrictions there. The 'Fast for Gaza' campaign that encourages people to fast once a week, to sign up on the website to let Christian Aid know that they are joining, and also if they want to, to contact their MP as a lot of people may not be able to fast.

Living on God's Good Earth: August

Put your money where your mouth is!

Sometimes it feels like the changes we make don't amount to much when we can't make big businesses or industries change as well. But there is one area where we can really effectively push the levers of power: in our banking and investments. Do you know what your bank is up to, and are you happy with it? You can vote with your wallet and decide to move your money away from those who invest in destructive industries like coal, oil, or the arms trade. Find out more by checking out the *Just Money Movement*, and consider joining their Big Bank Switch:

<https://justmoney.org.uk/the-big-bank-switch/>

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 Archdeacon Rachel Wood and Area Dean Paul Baker

For the community Churchwardens: Catherine Susan and Dorothy. People's Kitchen, foodbank and Children North East.

For the world – For refugees and recent arrivals in our community who are looking for safety and peace.

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Martin Seaton, Sue Bates, Sheila Lonie, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Pat Lawson, Lindsay Miller

For those who have died – Noel Sargent **and on their anniversaries** Dorothy Dunthorne, Frances Walker, Doris Gray, Hal Gibson



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