



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

**Sunday 31st August 2025
St Aidan' Day**

This Sunday we're celebrating our Patronal Feast day. St Aidan was a man of remarkable character: gentle, generous and faithful. He was a man of remarkable work: spreading the gospel to this part of the world, and serving the poor with tireless diligence. But he was also a man of remarkable prayer. The excerpt below from Bede's Ecclesiastical shows a moment of remarkable prayer. Aidan retreated to a secluded place, just as Jesus did, to spend time in prayer. And from that prayer came a miracle of divine protection.

Perhaps we sometimes wonder what prayer is all about and whether it makes any difference. Aidan, as he follows the example of Jesus, reminds us that it does. Whatever we think of miraculous stories like this, we're reminded of the power of prayer. We pray because through prayer God acts in the world. We may or may not ever know the impact of our prayers, but Jesus teaches and shows us that our prayer is an integral part of God's work in our lives and our world. So we follow in the footsteps of Aidan and all the saints, as they followed in the footsteps of Jesus, knowing that through our prayer God is working his acts of grace and mercy in the world.

Readings for St Aidan's Day 2025

Excerpt from Bede's Ecclesiastical History, Book III, Chap 16

Another memorable miracle is related about Aidan by many who were in a position to know...A hostile Mercian army under the leadership of Penda...reached the royal city [of Bamburgh]...As he could not capture it by assault or siege, he attempted to set it on fire.

At that time the reverend Bishop Aidan was staying on Farne Island, which is less than two miles from the city. He often used to retire there to pray in solitude and silence...When he saw the tongues of flame and the smoke being carried by the winds right above the city walls, the story goes that he raised his eyes and hands towards heaven and said with tears, 'Oh Lord, see how much evil Penda is doing.' As soon as he had uttered these words, the winds veered away from the city and carried the flames in the direction of those who had kindled them, so that, as some of them were hurt and all of them terrified, they ceased to make any further attempt on the city, realising that it was divinely protected.

Mark 1.32-42

That evening, at sunset, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. And the whole city was gathered around the door. And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

In the morning, while it was still very dark, he got up and went out to a deserted place, and there he prayed. And Simon and his companions hunted for him. When they found him, they said to him, 'Everyone is searching for you.' He answered, 'Let us go on to the neighbouring towns, so that I may proclaim the message there also; for that is what I came out to do.'

And he went throughout Galilee, proclaiming the message in their synagogues and casting out demons.

A leper came to him begging him, and kneeling he said to him, 'If you choose, you can make me clean.' Moved with pity, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, 'I do choose. Be made clean!' Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

TODAY 9.30am: St Aidan's Day Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed 10.00am Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**
Thurs 2.00pm Community Room: **Prayer and Praise**
8.00pm Community Room: **Men' Group 'Stories and Songs of Northumbria'**
Sat 10.00am Community Room **Saturday Cafe**
11.00am Church: **Baptism of Matilda Mae**
Sun 9.30am: **Family Service** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 10th Sept 7.30pm **Rev'd Emma Duff (LGBT+ Chaplain) discussion**
Thurs 11th Sept 2.00pm **Film Club 'Sully'**
Wed 17th Sept 10.15 am -12.15pm **Art for Pleasure open morning**
Thurs 25th Sept 7.30pm **Open DCC meeting**
Fri 27th Sept 9.30am **Macmillan Coffee Morning Great Park CC**

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK: <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Trinity11>

WELCOME- To Julia Marie daughter of Hannah and Caleb, sister to Evelyn and the newest member of St Aidan's.

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+ Chaplain, 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. **Thursday 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.

ART for PLEASURE – a small, friendly, self-programming art group who meet on Wednesday mornings in the community room 10.15am to 12.15pm are having an open morning on **Wednesday 17th September**. Whether you are considering joining or just want a peek at their work you would be very welcome to pop in. For more details see poster at the back of church.

SNAKES and LADDERS PLAYGROUP- are to start using the community room and kitchen each Thursday from 8.00am to 1.30pm then in church until 2.00pm. For safeguarding reasons during this period, the rooms will not be accessible to the public.

Living on God's Good Earth: September

Brewing a fairer world

Did you know that in Britain we drink over 100 million cups of tea every day? It might be the world's most popular drink after water – but the people who grow our tea leaves rarely get a fair price for their labour. Fairtrade fortnight falls this month, and the Fairtrade Foundation are asking us to focus on the humble teabag, choosing fairtrade tea where we can and pushing the UK government to ensure a fair future for the humble brew. Find out more about at <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/do-it-fair/>

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 and their new incumbent Ruth Stradling.

For the community DCC members and officers. Snakes and Ladders Play group, Brunton Babies and Brunton Toddlers, Uniformed Groups.

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 –and on their anniversaries Isabella Neal, Doreen Hampson, Dennis Holder



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