



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

**Sunday 19th October 2025
Trinity 18**

The passage below from Genesis is one that I've always loved, as it tells the story of how Israel got his name. Jacob, the father of the twelve sons who would become the twelve tribes of Israel, is making his journey back to his homeland and his brother Esau (there's a whole other story to be told there!). On the journey we're told of this strange encounter as Jacob meets an angel. He's not named explicitly as an angel – as is the case in many similar encounters in the Bible – but this is a man of whom Jacob later says: 'I have seen God face to face'. So, Jacob wrestles this mysterious figure to try to wrest a blessing from him and in the process he gains a new name: 'Israel'.

This is the name of the people of God, the nation that God chooses to become his witnesses in the world, and one way of translating that name, as this story suggests is: 'wrestles with God'. At the heart of the identity of the people God chooses isn't docile obedience, or flawless unquestioning faith, but a people who wrestle with God. So if you've ever had a bone to pick with God; if your faith has ever struggled to make sense of things; if you've ever shouted your prayers instead of meekly offering them, then you're in good company. Much of the history of God's people, and the prayers of the Bible (especially the Psalms) is exactly this kind of faith. A faith that wrestles with a God. I, for one, find that of immense comfort!

Genesis 32. 22-31

The same night he got up and took his two wives, his two maids, and his eleven children, and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. He took them and sent them across the stream, and likewise everything that he had. Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak. When the man saw that he did not prevail against Jacob, he struck him on the hip socket; and Jacob's hip was put out of joint as he wrestled with him. Then he said, 'Let me go, for the day is breaking.' But Jacob said, 'I will not let you go, unless you bless me.' So he said to him, 'What is your name?' And he said, 'Jacob.' Then the man said, 'You shall no longer be called Jacob, but Israel, for you have striven with God and with humans and have prevailed.' ²⁹ Then Jacob asked him, 'Please tell me your name.' But he said, 'Why is it that you ask my name?' And there he blessed him. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, 'For I have seen God face to face, and yet my life is preserved.' The sun rose upon him as he passed Penuel, limping because of his hip.

Luke 18. 1-8

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, 'In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, "Grant me justice against my opponent." For a while he refused; but later he said to himself, "Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.'" And the Lord said, 'Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?

TODAY Trinity 18 Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues 3.30pm –5.00pm; **After School Drop-Off Club**

Wed 10.00am Church: **BCP Midweek Eucharist**

Thurs 2.00pm Community Room: **Chat and Craft**

Sat 10.00am Community Room: **Saturday Café**

Sun 9.30am: Bible Sunday Rev'd Emma Duff presides and preaches

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Fri 31st Oct 3.30-5pm **Halloween Family Event**

Sun 2nd Nov 7.00pm **All Souls Service**

Thurs 6th Nov 7.30pm **St Columba's, licensing of Rev'd Ruth Stradling**

Sun 9th Nov 9.30am **Remembrance Sunday**

Tues 11th Nov 11.00am **Outdoor Service of Remembrance**

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Trinity18>

ALL SOULS SERVICE – Sunday 2nd November 7.00pm when we remember and pray for deceased family, friends and loved ones. There is a sheet at the back of church to add names of those you would like read out at the service.

REV'D RUTH STRADLING LICENSING – On Thursday 6th November, 7.30pm at St Columba's, Rev'd Ruth Stradling will be licensed to the team as Team Vicar and incumbent of St Columba's. Please do join us if you're able to welcome her to the Parish and pray for her as she takes up a new ministry.

ST AIDAN'S HALLOWEEN FAMILY EVENT - join us on Friday 31st October between 3.30pm and 5pm for our Halloween event. We've got a bouncy castle, face-painting and disco, along with fun games and some 'glowing' activities, story and hot tea of chicken nuggets, hot dogs or pizza served with fries and a sweet treat. This is a ticketed event through Eventbrite (check our noticeboards or socials for links) with a suggested donation of £2 per child to cover part of the event costs. If you'd like to help of the day we will have lots of jobs, so even if you only have half an hour to spare that would be a great help to us.

REFRESHMENTS ROTAS – There are new rotas at the back of church for Saturday morning café and Sunday morning refreshments after the service. The Saturday café is a popular much appreciated place for the local community male and female to meet up with friends and get to know members of St Aidan's whilst also supporting our chosen charities. Sunday morning refreshments are a good opportunity to catch up and meet visitors after the service. It would be appreciated if able volunteers could add their names to the list. Thank you, Catherine,

EVERYDAY NORMAL: REV'D SARAH JONES – St Hilda's Jesmond, Monday 3rd November, 7pm. Rev'd Emma Duff, LGBTQI+ Chaplain to the Diocese, has sent an invitation to anyone wanting to know more about being trans, and for congregation members who hold some uncertainty on how to respond to trans people. Sarah Jones was the first trans person to be ordained in the Church of England. In her own words: 'These sessions offer an entertaining exploration for those who would like to understand trans issues for themselves from someone who can speak from personal experience on the everyday reality of being trans.' More details, and booking, can be found here: <https://bit.ly/SarahJonesEverydayNormal>

THANK YOU: Margaret Humphrey wants to thank everyone for their kindness and generosity, for all the beautiful flowers, scrumptious chocolates and the wonderful generosity in donations of just over £500, for The Children's Society for her recent Birthday.

Living on God's Good Earth: October

Use Your LOAF

When we go to the supermarket, it can feel like a minefield of choice. How do we know what counts as a 'good' or 'ethical' product when there are so many competing brands and issues to consider? If you're not sure where to begin, a helpful guide is the LOAF principle: wherever possible, look out for products which are Local, Organic, Animal friendly, or Fairtrade. Start with one or two LOAF swaps and see where it takes you!

SUNDAY SERMONS

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 Bishops Helen -Ann and Mark. Those assisting our worship: sacristans, musicians, readers, intercessors, servers, tech team.

For the community. Cather McKinnell our MP and North Gosforth Parish Council. For those leading Net Zero Newcastle, creating a sustainable future for our city.

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

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

For those who have died – Anne Sadler, remembering Bill, Sandra, Hannah and Matthew

and on their anniversaries : Frank Everitt, Richard Page, Andrew Quinn



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