



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

**Sunday 14th December 2025
Third Sunday of Advent**

Advent is a time of waiting. But what are we waiting for? Matthew is claiming that Jesus is the true Messiah, much to the annoyance of his Jewish readers. Where Jesus is behaving in a very different manner to John. So what did Jesus and John the Baptist disagree on? As we wrestle with the text of Matthew how do we make sense of today's text in this season of Advent. Advent isn't a penitential season in the same way that Lent is. Advent is about preparation for something different. Transformation. It's a time of waiting and expectation for divine reversal of the powers that be. Advent is not about waiting for Christmas, as important as the feast of the incarnation is for us as disciples of Jesus. We're waiting, instead, for the fullness of God's reign to be realized in our midst. What we're waiting for is nothing less than what Mary sang long ago -- the reversal of the powers that be, the undoing of every oppression, the feeding of all who hunger, and the elevation of all left out or shut out of power. We wait with Isaiah for springs to emerge in deserts, and highways where the path seemed impossible to navigate, leading exiles home. The waiting of John the Baptist is for an apocalypse, a dramatic realization of God's reign here and now. Jesus wasn't exactly going about breathing fire. Instead Jesus has a dramatic answer that almost seems a non-answer. He doesn't say, "Yes, I'm the one." Instead, he asks the disciples of John to look around them and see what is happening -- blind people seeing, lame people walking, deaf people hearing, lepers being cleansed, dead people being raised, poor people getting good news for a change. When we look around us, what do we see happening as signs of God's kingdom having drawn near, here and now? Who helps us see and hear what's happening all around us, things we may not have noticed or understood to be signs of God's kingdom? Every Sunday, we are invited to gather around the Lord's Table, and experience waiting anew as we feast on Christ today in anticipation of feasting with him in the heavenly banquet. But what does that heavenly banquet look like? And would we recognise it if we saw it?

Isaiah 35. 1 – 10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the LORD,
the majesty of our God.

Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees. Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'

Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped; then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert; the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.

A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.

No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there. And the ransomed of the LORD shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Matthew 11. 2- 11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no

As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

TODAY Advent 3: Revd Canon Jean Skinner will preside and preach
Gerard at St Matthew's and St Cuthbert's
3 to 5pm: Christmas Party at the Vicarage

THE WEEK AHEAD

Tues	3.30pm –5.00pm; After School Drop-Off Club (term time)
Wed	10.00am Church: BCP Midweek Eucharist
Thurs	2.00pm Community room. Friends having Fun 6pm Great Park Community Centre. Nativity Trail
Sat	10.00am Community Room: Saturday Café 7.00pm Church: Festival of Carols and Readings - with the Colla Voce Chamber Choir and Orchestra.
Sun	9.30am Advent 4 Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach 11.30am, Church: SEN Nativity

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Wed	24 th Dec	4pm Nativity in Church 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Thurs	25 th Dec	9.30am Christmas Eucharist

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Advent3>

CHRISTMAS CHARITIES – All donations given at our Christmas services will this year go to Christian Aid and St Oswald's Hospice.

SHARED CHRISTMAS CARDS – remember to bring one card along to church and pin it on our community Christmas card board. No need to write anymore to anyone in church. Donations in lieu of buying cards will go to our Christmas charities Christian Aid and St Oswald's Hospice.

CHRISTMAS PARTY – Gerard and Karen and the family would like to invite you to a Christmas get-together at the vicarage, 60 Barmoor Drive, NE3 5RG, on Sunday 14th December, 3-5pm. We'll have mulled wine and mince pies and a chance to meet and share each other's company! Do drop in whenever suits you between 3 and 5, and we'll look forward to seeing you.

FESTIVAL of CAROLS and READINGS- 20th Dec at 7.00pm in Church with the Colla Voce Chamber Choir and Orchestra. With choral music by Benjamin Britten, Cecilia McDowall, John Rutter and congregational carols.

SEN NATIVITY – Sunday 21st 11.30am. This year we're going to be offering a special Nativity for families who might find our Christmas Eve service a bit overwhelming. It'll be a short-relaxed service, with quieter music, dimmer lighting and an invitation to come as you are. Join us on 21st, for a more an accessible opportunity to hear the story of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS – There are envelopes at the back of church for anyone wishing to make a donation towards Christmas flowers. Thank you

Living on God's good earth

December: Christmas is for Sharing

It's the most expensive time of the year! As we look forward to celebrating the birth of Jesus, the pressure to spend a lot - and waste a lot - can be very high. This month, look for ways to live and give more simply. You could give one Christmas card to the whole church on our community card board, or try 'Secret Santa' style giving with family or friends, donating any money you save. When present shopping, buying experiences and consumables are a great way to cut down on waste! --

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 Our Prayers:

For the church. Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's. Ruth Stradling and St Columba's. Safeguarding Officer Catherine, that our church would be a safe place for all.

For the community. Refugees and recent arrivals in our community, for all who to our city in search of safety and peace. For those in our community who are searching for God, that they would come to faith, those preparing for baptism.

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, Lindsay Miller, Marion Newitt, Rebecca

For those who have died, and on their anniversaries: Mattie Hodgeson, Jordan Loftus, Barry Waemsley, Douglas Gamblin, Lillian Trotter, Kenneth Hylton, Margaret McMillan



CONTACTS:

Office: 0191 236 7952 infostaidans@gmail.com

Team Rector: Revd Gerard Rundell 07394 792277 rev.g.rundell@gmail.com

Janice Charlton: Children and Family Worker staidansfamilyworker@gmail.com

Newsletter: Catherine Stewart catherinedstewart@btinternet.com

Bookings Secretary : Susan Armstrong bookings.staidansbrunton@gmail.com

St Aidan's Church Brunton Park Newcastle www.staidanschurchurchbruntonpark.co.uk