



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

**Sunday 21st December 2025
Forth Sunday of Advent**

As we approach the final Sunday of Advent, and the celebrations that are to come on Christmas Day, I simply want to take this space to offer all those who read this – whether digitally, or in paper, whether you join our services in person or online, or whether you're a part of the wider community – a very blessed Christmas.

Because Christmas is far more than gifts and food. It's far more than mulled wine and mince pies. Far more than the singing of carols and gathering with friends and family. Christmas is the moment that we celebrate that God came to be Emmanuel: 'God with us'. Christmas is the moment we remember that whatever the ups and downs, the joys and sorrows, of our own experience, they've been shared by the very creator of the universe. We are profoundly known by the God who was born in fragile human flesh on Christmas day. We are deeply loved by the God who put off the glory of heaven to stoop to earth. So, whether you're anticipating Christmas with great joy, or whether it's a day that will be hard to get through, however you mark the celebrations, may you know that God is truly with you, and may you be blessed in his presence, this Christmas and always.

Isaiah 7.10-16

Again the LORD spoke to Ahaz, saying, Ask a sign of the LORD your God; let it be deep as Sheol or high as heaven. But Ahaz said, I will not ask, and I will not put the LORD to the test. Then Isaiah said: 'Hear then, O house of David! Is it too little for you to weary mortals, that you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. Look, the young woman is with child and shall bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. He shall eat curds and honey by the time he knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good. For before the child knows how to refuse the evil and choose the good, the land before whose two kings you are in dread will be deserted.

Matthew 1. 1-17

An account of the genealogy of Jesus the Messiah the son of David, the son of Abraham.

Abraham was the father of Isaac, and Isaac the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Judah and his brothers, and Judah the father of Perez and Zerah by Tamar, and Perez the father of Hezron, and Hezron the father of Aram, and Aram the father of Aminadab, and Aminadab the father of Nahshon, and Nahshon the father of Salmon, and Salmon the father of Boaz by Rahab, and Boaz the father of Obed by Ruth, and Obed the father of Jesse, and Jesse the father of King David.

And David was the father of Solomon by the wife of Uriah, and Solomon the father of Rehoboam, and Rehoboam the father of Abijah, and Abijah the father of Asaph, and Asaph the father of Jehoshaphat, and Jehoshaphat the father of Joram, and Joram the father of Uzziah, and Uzziah the father of Jotham, and Jotham the father of Ahaz, and Ahaz the father of Hezekiah, and Hezekiah the father of Manasseh, and Manasseh the father of Amos,^[e] and Amos^[f] the father of Josiah, and Josiah the father of Jechoniah and his brothers, at the time of the deportation to Babylon.

And after the deportation to Babylon: Jechoniah was the father of Salathiel, and Salathiel the father of Zerubbabel, and Zerubbabel the father of Abiud, and Abiud the father of Eliakim, and Eliakim the father of Azor, and Azor the father of Zadok, and Zadok the father of Achim, and Achim the father of Eliud, and Eliud the father of Eleazar, and Eleazar the father of Matthan, and Matthan the father of Jacob, and Jacob the father of Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom Jesus was born, who is called the Messiah.

So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; and from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations.

TODAY 9.30am Advent 4 Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach
11.30am, Church: **SEN Nativity**

THE WEEK AHEAD

Wed	24 th	No 10am BCP service 4.00pm Nativity in Church 11.30pm Midnight Mass
Thurs	25 th Dec	9.30am Christmas Eucharist
Sat	27 th Dec	No Saturday Café

Sun 28th Dec 9.30am **Holy Innocents** Rev'd Gerard Rundell presides and preaches with readings from Jeremiah 31. 15-17 and Matthew 2. 13-18.

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Wed 31 st	10.00am	BCP Midweek Eucharist
Sat 3 rd Jan	10am	Saturday Café
Thurs 8 th	2.00pm	Film Club the first 'Paddington'
Thurs 22 nd	7.00pm	Conversation at St Aidan's with Catherine McKinnell MP
Sat 24 th	TBC	Burn's Night Supper

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Advent4>

NEWSLETTER – there will be no newsletter next week, Sunday 28th December Holy Innocents. The following service links are for Christmas Day and Holy Innocents

<https://bit.ly/StAidan2025ChristmasDay> & <https://bit.ly/StAidan2025Christmas1>

Readings for Midnight Mass: Isaiah 9. 2-7 Luke 2.1-14

Christmas Morning: Isaiah 52. 7-10 John 1. 1-14

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.

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 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.

THANK YOU – Carols on the Green raised £181.75 for the Salvation Army.

FAMILY SERVICE – Please note there will be no family service during January.

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. Bishop's Helen Ann and Mark. Archdeacon Rachel Wood and Area Dean Paul Baker. Those assisting our worship: sacristans, musicians, readers, intercessors, servers, tech team. Churchwardens: Catherine, Susan and Dorothy

For the community Catherine McKinnell, our MP and North Gosforth Parish Council. Those leading Net Zero Newcastle, creating a sustainable future for our city. Peoples Kitchen and Children North East Charity.

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

For those in need – Esther Wooler, Sue Bates, Christine Crompton, Charlie Bennett, Lindsay Miller, Marion Newitt, Rebecca

For those who have died, Elsie Docherty, John Sleight, Sheila Lonie

and on their anniversaries: Joyce Boston, Rhys Jones, William Gilchrist, Margaret Pitkethly, Mike Tiffin, Kim Harrington, Shirley Pentland, John Ward, Hazel Nicholls, Sheena Macleod, Eleanor Swan, Alice Vout, Joyce Russell, Minnie Browne, Doris Bartle, Charlotte Holmes, Martin Orde, Arnold Venus, Dorothy Lithgow, Robert Hedley.



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