



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

**Sunday 25th January 2026
Third Sunday of Epiphany**

This Sunday brings to end the week of prayer for Christian Unity. Every year, a week is set aside in the church year to pray for unity in the church. And so the reading set, from Paul's letter to the Corinthians, is an appropriate one. He speaks to a church that is divided, as some claim to follow the teachings of Paul, some of Apollos, some of Peter (Cephas), and he calls them to unity.

And, yet as important as unity is in the church, and as painful as it is to see a church so divided and fractured, and often bitterly so, surely the unity that Paul speaks of goes further still. In a world that is increasingly polarised, where disagreement turns to division and hatred, where the bonds of society seem at times to be dangerously fraying, this call to unity is important to hear. Paul reminds his readers that it is the cross of Christ that holds them together. An act of self-giving sacrifice that looks like weakness and foolishness to the world. And yet this foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, this weakness of God is stronger than any human strength. For Christians this is what we hold to in a divided world. A unity that is made not through dominion or power, but through the sacrificial, self-giving, generous act of love, that Christ offered on the cross.

1 Corinthians 1. 10 - 25

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters,

by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.'

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling-block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Matthew 4. 12 - 23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—the
people who sat in darkness
have seen a great light,
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death
light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

TODAY 9.30am Epiphany 3. Mr Bernie Troughton will lead and Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon 7.30pm **Bible Study Group**
Tues 3.30pm to 5.00pm **After School Drop Off Club**
Wed 10.00am Church **Book of Common Prayer Midweek Eucharist**
7.30pm **Community Room DCC meeting**
Sat 10.00am **Saturday Café**

Sun 9.30am Candlemas and Christingle Family Service. Rev'd Gerard Rundell will lead and preach

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 2nd 7.30pm Bible Study Group
Wed 4th 10.00am Book of Common Prayer Midweek Eucharist
Thurs 5th 11.30am Church, Deanery Safeguarding meeting
2.00pm Community room, Prayer and Praise

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidan2026Candlemas>

BIBLE STUDY GROUP – The Bible study group will continue its online sessions Monday 26th January at 7.30 pm, continuing to look at the book of Revelation. We have switched from Zoom to Microsoft Teams, but the format is exactly the same. Contact Ken Newitt (kmnewitt@outlook.com, 07770 480938) for the joining link or further details. All welcome.

JIGSAW PUZZLES – Janice our Children's and Families worker is looking for donations of children's jigsaw puzzles suitable for ages up to 8 years. If you have any puzzles that you no longer have use for please speak to Janice or a church warden. Thank you.

CANDLEMAS CHRISTINGLE – Our Family Service for Candlemas next week will be a Christingle service (usually it's held around Christmas, but join us to hear why Candlemas is actually a great time to hold one!). As with all Christingles, all donations given at the service will be in support of the Children's Society.

Living on God's good earth: January

New year, new you

The new year is often a time when we feel pressure to make a new start, or try new things, but it can be hard to know where to begin. If you've never done a personal carbon footprint audit, this can be a great way to think about different areas of your life and see where simple changes can make a difference. The results can help you pick one area to focus on over the coming year. There are lots of carbon footprint audits available online, but a nice simple option is <https://footprint.wwf.org.uk>. If you want one with more detail, go for <https://www.climatestewards.org/offset>.

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. Saturday Café and Thursday Groups.

For the community. Brunton Park Medical Centre and local businesses. St Aidan's Community Centre and Great Park Community centre, groups meeting in our church and community room.

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,

For those who have died and, on their anniversaries, Peter Anderson, Albert Surtees, Ian Jamieson, Fraser Denmark, Baden Robson.



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