



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

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2026  
Second Sunday of Lent**

This week's Gospel contains one of the most famous verses in the Bible, John 3.16: 'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.' And the 'so' in that verse is an important one, as it tells us both *how much* God loved the world, but also *the way* God loved the world. God loved the world so *much* that he gave his only Son. But also, God loved the world *like this*: he gave his only Son. The shape of God's love, is Jesus.

The shape of God's love for the world is the Son of Man who is lifted up on the cross, a love so high that all the world might see it. The shape of God's love for the world is Christ buried in the tomb, a love so deep that the only way it could be expressed was the gift of his most precious and only Son. And the shape of God's love is Christ risen, a love so wide, so all encompassing, that nothing and no one is outside it's saving reach. This is the shape of God's love. This is the height, and depth and breadth of God's love. A love shaped like Christ on the cross. God loved the world so much, and God loved the world like this: he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

### **Genesis 12. 1 – 4a**

Now the LORD said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

## John 3. 1 - 17

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus<sup>l</sup> by night and said to him, 'Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.' Jesus answered him, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above. 'Nicodemus said to him, 'How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?' Jesus answered, 'Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit.<sup>l</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, "You must be born from above." The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.' Nicodemus said to him, 'How can these things be?' Jesus answered him, 'Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

'Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you<sup>l</sup> do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

'For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

'Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

**TODAY** 9.30am Second Sunday of Lent (NB no Family Service).

Bernie Troughton will lead and Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach

### **THE WEEK AHEAD**

<b>Mon</b>		<b>Bible Study Group</b>
<b>Tues</b>	3.30-5pm,	<b>After School Club</b>
	7.30pm	Community Room <b>Lent Course 'The Chosen'</b>
<b>Wed</b>	10am	<b>BCP Midweek Eucharist</b>
	12pm	<b>Lent Lunch at Sacred Heart</b>
<b>Thurs</b>	2.00pm	Community Room <b>Prayer and Praise</b>
<b>Sat</b>	10.00am	<b>Saturday Café</b>
<b>Sun</b>	9.30am	<b>Third Sunday of Lent</b> Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and Mr Ken Newitt will preach.

## **DATES FOR THE DIARY**

<b>Mon 9th</b>	Bible Study Group
<b>Tues 10th</b>	After School Club 7.30pm Lent Course 'The Chosen' Community Room'
<b>Wed 11th</b>	12pm St Columba's Church
<b>Thurs 12th</b>	Community Room Film Club 'The Blindside'

## **NOTICES**

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidans2026Lent2>

**LENT COURSE** – Our Lent Course this year will be returning to 'The Chosen' a TV series re-telling the story of Jesus and his disciples. It will be Tuesdays at 7.30pm in the Community Room and joining with others across the team.

**LENT LUNCHESES** – Lent lunches will be held as usual on Wednesdays at 12pm:  
4th March: Sacred Heart. 11th March: St Columba's. 18th March: St Cuthbert's

**SACRISTANS – HELP NEEDED** – In the past there were four couples sharing sacristan's duties but we now only have Chris and Pauline Watson and Pat Page. We would like to expand the team to lighten the load on them. Duties involve ensuring all items including candles, altar bread, wine, and linens are prepared for the Eucharist service, and offers a chance to learn more about what goes on in the vestry behind the scenes! Training would be given to anyone interested in learning what is involved. Please speak to one of the sacristans or church wardens if that sounds like something you could do.

**TIDY OUT** – Janice is looking for volunteers to help tidy out the kid's group cupboard on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March from mid-day. If anyone can spare an hour or two please speak to Janice.

**GREAT PARK EASTER EVENT** - St Aidan's church have a table at this year's community centre event on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March between 10.30am - 1.30pm and we'd love to have a few volunteers around to chat to people and let them know a bit more about us, our services and activities. Please let Gerard or Janice know if you're able to come along.

### **The Seeds4Change project is planning for Spring.**

We will be beginning our community vegetable growing with raised planters at the side of church and establishing a monthly gardening group for anyone who is interested to share their gardening know how, or to learn something new. As the project develops, we hope to create wider links with our community and ensure that everyone can enjoy the greenspace that we have here. If anyone is interested, please contact Helen Raffle on 07962802193 or [helenraffle@talktalk.net](mailto:helenraffle@talktalk.net)  
This is all possible with some generous funding from Faiths Forum for London

## Living on God's Good Earth

### March 2026: Sow Wild

Our flowers are gone from church for Lent, but outside the world is coming into bloom. And March is the perfect time to sow a wildflower patch! All you need is a bright, sunny spot and a little packet of wildflower seeds. There are some simple instructions available here:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/lawns/how-to-sow-a-wildflower-patch>. Happy sowing

### 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-** Archdeacon Rachel Wood and Area Dean Paul Baker. Churchwardens Catherine, Susan and Dorothy

**For the community.** People's Kitchen foodbank 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, Joyce Richardson.

**For those who have died** Margaret Preece, Pauline Adair and remembering their families.

**On their anniversaries** – Barbara Surtees, Audrey Dickinson, Muriel Gandy, Brian Flanagan, Muriel Brown, Frances Wright, Sheila Smith, Dick Race, Jane Hatton.



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