



**The Team Parish of Christ the King
St Aidan's Church Brunton Park
Sunday 8th March 2026**

Third Sunday of Lent

How appropriate that today, International Women's Day, our gospel reading should feature a woman centre-stage. The story of the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well is the longest single conversation Jesus has with another person in any of the four gospels. It's also, as we might expect with John's gospel, one of the most profound, touching as it does on two of the fundamental activities of our corporate life together as a church, worship and witness, as Jesus explores with the woman what true worship is, and she, albeit in the form of a question to the people of the city ('Can this really be the Messiah?'), becomes the first person outside Jesus' immediate circle to witness to who he truly is.

All this takes place in the context Jesus asking her for water to drink, so crossing and breaking down the barriers of race, religion and culture (from the perspective of an orthodox Jew, there was no such thing as a good Samaritan); and resulting in him welcoming and being welcomed by those who were seen as at best outsiders and at worst beyond the pale, both racially impure and religiously suspect. And leading to their recognition that 'this is truly the Saviour of the world'.

It challenges us as to how we and the wider church model Jesus in worship, witness and welcome today?

Exodus 17.1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the LORD, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The LORD said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the LORD, saying, 'Is the LORD among us or not?'

John 4 3-30, 39-42

Jesus left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴ But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵ So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'.
⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' ¹¹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' ¹³ Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' ¹⁵ The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' ¹⁷ The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' ¹⁹ The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' ²¹ Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' ²⁵ The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' ²⁶ Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?'
²⁸ Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

TODAY 9.30am Third Sunday of Lent. Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside
and Mr Ken Newitt will preach.

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon		Bible Study Group
Tues	3.30-5pm,	After School Club
	7.30pm	Community Room Lent Course 'The Chosen'
Wed	10am	BCP Midweek Eucharist
	12pm	Lent Lunch at St Columba's
Thurs	2.00pm	Community Room Film Club 'The Blindside'
Sat	10.00am	Saturday Café
Sun	9.30am	Mothering Sunday Family Service. Rev'd Gerard Rundell will preside and preach

DATES FOR THE DIARY

Mon 16th	Bible Study Group
Tues 17th	After School Club
	7.30pm Lent Course 'The Chosen' Community Room'
Wed 18th	12pm St Columba's Church
Thurs 19th	Community Room Coffee and Conversation

NOTICES

TODAY'S SERVICE LINK <https://bit.ly/StAidans2026Lent3>

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 LUNCHES – Lent lunches will be held as usual on Wednesdays at 12pm:
1th March: St Columba's. 18th March: St Cuthbert's

FILM CLUB- This week we are showing 'The Blindside' with Oscar winner Sandra Bullock. A homeless teen is taken in by an American family and all their lives are transformed for the good.

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.

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
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- Mark Edwards and St Cuthbert's and St Matthew's. Ruth Stradling and St Columba's. DCC members and officers

For the community. Snakes and Ladders Playgroup, Brunton Babies and Toddlers, Uniformed Groups.

For the world – all countries facing hardship and conflict especially in the Middle East. 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, and, on their anniversaries, –Edith Hindmarsh, Vera Selby.



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