

Connecting faith and daily life

Learning to let go

Kathryn Fleming *reflects on* Hebrews 4:12-end and Mark 10:17-31

The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword," says the reading from Hebrews today.

Ouch – I just cut myself on scripture!

Indeed, I do so whenever I hear Jesus' words to that rich young man, who has somehow become possessed by his own possessions and just can't let go. Perhaps, like me, you'd love to be the kind of person who really does put the kingdom of God before everything else; but who struggles to jettison precious inessentials that we seem to take a lifetime accumulating. On a good day, perhaps we can sit reasonably light to our material possessions, but sitting light to our relationships is another matter altogether. The prospect of leaving children, in particular, for Jesus' sake is quite simply impossible for me to contemplate. So, what am I, what are we, to do with these challenging, uncompromising words?

Thankfully, we have two comforts in today's readings.

To quote my son in his teenage years "Jesus gets it." Or, if you prefer the words from Hebrews: "We do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathise with our weaknesses". No matter how abject and frequent our failures, Jesus understands the tangled muddle of motivations and longings that shape our actions, and if we can't order our priorities properly ourselves, there's the immeasurable comfort that "for God all things are possible", even when we can't quite let go. ☺

Gracious God, when we fail to put you first, when we lean on other things, when we are tempted to give up following altogether, thank you that you understand and love us still. Help us to trust you always. Amen.

The joy of the Prayer Book

part II

Morning and Evening Prayer, *by* Daniel Newman

The Offices begin with sentences of scripture inviting us to acknowledge and turn away from our sins. Beginning with confession of sin is humbling. I am not claiming to be a good person but I am admitting that I am not – there is no room for pride. The introduction tells us "that we should not dissemble nor cloke" our

sins from God, and it is remarkably freeing in a culture where we constantly feel the pressure to conceal our flaws and give the impression that we are successful, that we do not have to pretend before God.

When I confess my sins with other people, including the people along the row at whom I look out of the corner of my eye, that takes away reason for any despair I might feel.

I do not save up my sins until I say the Confession, however. As the Prayer Book tells us, "We ought at all times humbly to acknowledge our sins before God."

From The Joy of Being Anglican (Redemptorist Publications). Special price for Sunday Link readers ordering by phone: £7.95. 01420 88222 ☺



Prison chaplaincy

part III

by Heather Smith

Today is Prisons Sunday, marking the beginning of Prisons Week. Held each year on the second Sunday of October, for forty years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, both individuals and churches, to pray for prisoners

and their families, for victims of crime and their communities, as well as for those who work in the criminal justice system.

Prisons Week aims to encourage prayer and awareness. It motivates volunteers to step forward and give their time and gifts, whether in prison or in their own community. It provides an annual focus and reason for Christians to work together, building capacity and motivation to make a difference for people who are out of sight and often out of mind.

You can find out more at: <http://prisonsw.org> ☺

“The Lord has become everything to you, and you must become everything to the Lord.” John of Kronstadt (1829-1908), Russian priest

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Amos 5. 6-7

Seek the Lord and live,
or he will break out against the house of Joseph like fire,
and it will devour Bethel, with no one to quench it.
Ah, you that turn justice to wormwood,
and bring righteousness to the ground!

10-15

They hate the one who reproves in the gate,
and they abhor the one who speaks the truth.
Therefore, because you trample on the poor
and take from them levies of grain,
you have built houses of hewn stone,
but you shall not live in them;
you have planted pleasant vineyards,
but you shall not drink their wine.
For I know how many are your transgressions,
and how great are your sins—
you who afflict the righteous, who take a bribe,
and push aside the needy in the gate.
Therefore the prudent will keep silent in such a time;
for it is an evil time.
Seek good and not evil,
that you may live;
and so the Lord, the God of hosts, will be with you,
just as you have said.
Hate evil and love good,
and establish justice in the gate;
it may be that the Lord, the God of hosts,
will be gracious to the remnant of Joseph.

Gospel Reading

Mark 10. 17-31

The Rich Man

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him, and asked him, 'Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?' Jesus said to him, 'Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: "You shall not murder; You shall not commit adultery; You shall not steal; You shall not bear false witness; You shall not defraud; Honour your father and mother."'

He said to him, 'Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth.' Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, 'You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me.' When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, 'How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!' And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, 'Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God.' They were greatly astounded and said to one another, 'Then who can be saved?' Jesus looked at them and said, 'For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible.'

Peter began to say to him, 'Look, we have left everything and followed you.' Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or fields for my sake, and for the sake of the good news, who will not receive a hundredfold now in this age—houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children, and fields, with persecutions—and in the age to come eternal life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.'

Christian Scripture

Hebrews 4. 12-end

Indeed, the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing until it divides soul from spirit, joints from marrow; it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And before him no creature is hidden, but all are naked and laid bare to the eyes of the one to whom we must render an account.

Jesus the Great High Priest

Since, then, we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Blessed Thought

"No matter what anyone may say or do,
the word of God within the pages of the Bible
stands fast.

Nothing and no-one can erase God's truth"
(from commentary on Rev. 21. 5 - 6)

Psalm

Psalm 90. 12 - end

So teach us to count our days
that we may gain a wise heart.

Turn, O Lord! How long?

Have compassion on your servants!
Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.
Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.
Let your work be manifest to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.
Let the favour of the Lord our God be upon us,
and prosper for us the work of our hands—
O prosper the work of our hands!



What's On

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

office.tpots@gmail.com



Target Ovarian Cancer 5KM Walk



I am delighted to confirm that we completed the walk in Edinburgh and raised over £1,000 for Target Ovarian Cancer.

Thank you for your generous donations, which will help to reduce the horrible statistic of 11 women dying each day from Ovarian Cancer.

God bless you – Sandra would be so pleased.

Jim Hanmer

Interregnum Update

The advert for our new priest is now in The Church Times, on the Diocesan website and online at jobs.churchtimes.co.uk

The closing date for applications is 7th November, with informal visits and interviews taking place on 28th and 29th November.

If you haven't had a chance to read the Parish Profile yet, you will find it on our website, or there is a paper copy in the Church office.

Our Parish Representatives, Anthony Barkle and Maxine Bashford, who will take part in the shortlisting and the interviews, were voted in by the PCC last week.

Please pray for them and continue to pray for the whole recruitment process - for God's will to be done in finding a new priest who will work alongside us and guide us as we go forward.

Thank you.

The Highbridge Area Foodbank

All Donations of Non-perishable, In-date Food

Welcomed

Every day in the UK people go hungry for a variety of reasons and a simple bag of food can make a big difference. Foodbanks, like the one at Highbridge, are helping to prevent crime, housing loss, family breakdown and mental health problems.

Your local Foodbank works with referral agencies to issue food vouchers to those in need of emergency food in times of crisis. They provide a minimum of three days' nutritionally balanced, tinned and dried food donated by the local community. Caring volunteers also offer a listening ear and support over a cup of tea.

Since it was started in 2012, The Highbridge Area Foodbank has fed 5,475 people - 589 of those were under 16.

At the moment they really need donations of the following items

LOGLIFE MILK • LOGLIFE FRUIT JUICE • SMALL BAGS OF SUGAR • SMALL JARS OF COFFEE • CARROTS TIN • POTATOES TIN • FISH TIN • JAM • FRUIT TIN • RICE PUDDING TIN • BISCUITS •

If you would like to give any of the above please leave them in the Foodbank baskets found in each of our three church buildings. Thank you very much.

For more info, please see Dot Coles

If you haven't looked at the website lately, please do visit it and see what you think.

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

Please keep sending

- quality photographs of village and/or fundraising events.
- details of current and proposed fundraising or social events

by email to

j.hanmer@btinternet.com

Thank you.



Dates for your Diary

Lights of Love - Sunday 18th November at 3pm

In St Christopher's Church, Lympsham

A moment in time to celebrate the lives of those who have meant so much to us and have died.

**Festive Coffee Morning
Saturday 24th November**

At 10.30 - 12.30 in St Mary's Church, East Brent.

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation; through your goodness we have this money to offer.....
to do your work in the world.**

During our worship an offering will be collected. If you wish to join with our offering there is a yellow envelope nearby for your contribution or you can, of course, simply add your donation to the bag that will be passed along the pew during our first hymn. Many of our Church Family make a regular contribution to the running and work of the Parish by Standing Order. If this is something you would like to find out more about, please see one of the Stewards or a Churchwarden.

Prayer

Prayer and Healing Ministry

As a Church Family, God calls us to “**pray without ceasing**” for one another and for our neighbourhood. With this in mind, a Calendar of Prayer covering the whole of The Parish Of Three Saints has been drawn up. Each Sunday we will be highlighting a particular road or street, plus an organisation or group of people in our Parish or Diocese and encouraging you to pray for them during the week. The Calendar of Prayer will also be available in the prayer corners of each of our church buildings.

This week please pray for...

- Those living in South Brent Close and Crooked Lane, Brent Knoll.
- The over 65s and the clubs and societies that care for them.

Don't be afraid to ask for Prayer!

If you or a loved one are going through a difficult time and would like prayer, please contact our Prayer Group Co-ordinator **Gwen Hatton—01934 750416**. The Friday Prayer Group will support you in prayer for as long as you need it and everything is absolutely confidential.

Alternatively, if you or a loved one would like to be included in this public prayer list in the Sunday Link and prayed for by the whole Church Family, please contact Carole in the Church Office 01278-769082 or Ginnie Soffe 01278-769117. Please ask for the person's permission beforehand.

Please also contact us if you would like to remain on this list as we are currently looking to update it. Many thanks.

At present we continue to pray for Iona, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter, Nathan, Silla, Carol, Sue, Mervyn, Luke, David, Pam, Di, Bob, Richard, Jodie and Marcus.

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>14th October</u> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist	<u>15th</u> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent.	<u>16th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church 19.00 Deanery Synod Meeting St Andrew's Cheddar	<u>17th</u> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship 14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	<u>18th</u> 14.30 Comfort Group Wayfarers East Brent 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>19th</u> 10.00 Prayer Group Meeting 2 The Worthings, Lympsham	<u>20th</u>
<u>21st October</u> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<u>22nd</u>	<u>23rd</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>24th</u> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship	<u>25th</u> 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group Southcot, 87 Brent Street 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>26th</u>	<u>27th</u>
<u>28th October</u> 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<u>29th</u> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	<u>30th</u>	<u>31st</u> 09.00 - 10.30 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship	<u>1st November</u> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>2nd</u>	<u>3rd</u>

Contacts

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For further contact information please see our parish website - www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

If you would like to submit anything for the Sunday Link please email it to Carole at office.tpots@gmail.com by **Thursday**. Please also send anything for **The Parish of Three Saints** website to the same address.