



Connecting faith and daily life

Cleansed and cleaned

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-end]; Psalm 138; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 and Luke 5:1-11

Today's Old Testament reading recounts Isaiah's calling to be the messenger of God. In verse 5 the prophet says something intriguing: "I am a man of unclean lips... yet my eyes have seen the King". His eyes have taken in the sight of the Lord, yet he feels unworthy of this vision, unable to do it justice, unfit to express it. In response the seraph cleanses Isaiah's lips with fire, to which Isaiah utters his simple response: "Here am I; send me!"

The idea of being unworthy is echoed in Luke. When Peter witnesses the miracle of the catch of fish, he falls down before Jesus saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" In response Jesus tells him not to be afraid, and gives him his mission - to catch people.

Often, a sense of superiority is an obstacle to faith. Sometimes, it's a sense of unworthiness, of feeling overwhelmed by God's greatness. In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul says he is "unfit to be called an apostle". He goes on to say what redeems him - it is "by the grace of God" that he is worthy.

Of course, like Paul, we need to be humble. But one of the first steps towards an active, engaged life of faith is to accept our worthiness and know that, with God's grace, we are indeed up to the task. Without this Isaiah would never have become a great prophet, Peter would not have been the rock upon which the Church is built, and Paul would not have become a tireless and prodigiously productive apostle and activist. 🌸



Lord God, through our own efforts we are indeed unworthy, unfit and undeserving. Help us to accept that and move on from it, to a place where we are willing and able to receive your grace, through which we can do your work. Amen.

Lesser-known Bible characters

Barnabas

by Caroline Fletcher

Barnabas was an influential early Christian, whose story is told in the book of Acts. The disciples gave him his name, which means "Son of Encouragement".

Barnabas encouraged Paul. The disciples did not trust Paul because he had persecuted Christians. Barnabas spoke up for

him, convincing the disciples that Paul's conversion was genuine. Barnabas also encouraged the spread of Christianity beyond Israel. When lots of Gentiles came to faith in Antioch, Barnabas was sent to find out what was happening. What he witnessed delighted him. He sought out Paul and the two of them stayed in Antioch to teach these converts. This marked the start of Paul's ministry to non-Jews, which Barnabas continued to encourage, working alongside him on his first missionary journey.

Without Barnabas we may never have had Paul's ministry and the Gospel may not have spread around the world as it has. Barnabas truly was "full of the Holy Spirit and of faith". 🌸

“He said ‘Love... as I have loved you.’ We cannot love too much. Amy Carmichael (1867-1951), Irish missionary

Apprenticeship Week

by Diane Sherwood

In the run-up to National Apprenticeship Week, which runs from 4 to 8 March, we look at apprenticeship and learning in a Christian context.

The apprenticeship system first developed in the late Middle Ages. Master craftsmen would employ young people as an inexpensive form of labour in exchange for training, food and lodging. By the early 1900s, large companies such as Belfast-based marine manufacturers

Harland and Wolff were taking on apprentice welders, riveters, platers, plumbers, painters, carpenters and designers. In the 1960s one third of boys left school to become apprentices. In the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries, however, apprenticeship fell out of favour in the UK. Recently it has seen a revival, as it is increasingly recognised that young people need support and encouragement to enter and flourish in the skilled trades.

"We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ," wrote Paul to the Ephesians. We spend our lives as apprentices in faith, with Christ we grow in faith and understanding. 🌸

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 Brent Street, Brent Knoll.
- Local builders, decorators and plumbers.
- Kevin and Chris, as they make preparations to move into our parish.

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

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
10th February 08.00 St Michael's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Mary's SONGS OF PRAISE	11th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	12th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	13th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	14th 19.30 All Sorts Choir	15th Prayer Group 2 The Worthings, Lympsham	16th
17th February 08.00 St Christopher's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	18th 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent.	19th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	20th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	21st 14.30 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir	22nd	23rd
24th February 08.00 St Mary's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	25th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	26th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	27th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	28th 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir	1st March	2nd

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.

Welcome

Welcome to this Songs of Praise service.

We hope that many of these hymns will be your favourites too.

Refreshments will be served afterwards. Please do stay for a coffee and a chat.



Please note: There will be no communion during this morning's service.

An introduction from Kevin Wright, our new Priest from April 2019



Dear Friends,

My faith journey began as a child in Gloucester, growing up in a Christian family with a knowledge of the love of Jesus and my parents setting an example of commitment to church and Sunday School. My father, Fred, was ordained when I was a teenager and people asked if I should follow him into the church. After due consideration, I felt my calling was to teach Chemistry and Science, which I did, later also adding ICT, for over 30 years. It was the right vocation.

I met Chris, my wife, when she was at college in Gloucester and we married while I was at university in Southampton. We have throughout the years always served our local church and supported and encouraged each other in our faith. Chris was also a teacher. She is an accredited Lay Worship Assistant, member of the Diocesan Synod, and, among other things, a spinner, weaver and knitter.

Over the years the discipline of regular church attendance, the Eucharist, daily scripture reading and prayer has helped us through both joyful and painfully traumatic times. My father's unpleasant but dignified death, my younger daughter's acute mental illness, experience of injustice and other life events have all shaped our faith and about twelve years ago I felt called to reconsider ordination. God's timing is perfect – this time it felt so right and I was quickly accepted and trained on The Oxford Ministry Course at Cuddesdon, which is an exemplary microcosm of the Church of England in its tolerance and breadth of churchmanship.

After a three-year Curacy in villages near Oxford, I moved to work as Rector in Woolavington with Cossington and Bawdrip and have now been called to work in TPOTS. For Chris and me it feels so right, and this has been confirmed by many other people, including the discernment panel here. The Holy Spirit has clearly led us to this point, and we see an exciting future ministry with you in these villages.

We have two married daughters and two grandsons, all of whom attend and serve in their own churches. To relax I enjoy many activities including holidays, music (both playing and listening), painting, walking and watching rugby. We have two cats. I still maintain a passion for Science and stand in awe of God's creation. God's world is great and being stunned into silence in His awesome presence seems to me to be a wonderful way to worship. We are after all human beings, not human doings.

Every blessing,
Kevin

What's On

Our Vision for the Parish of Three Saints

Our desire is to deepen our spiritual awareness and relationship with God so that we can serve our communities more effectively as His hands and feet, and also to develop our sacred spaces to make them welcoming, flexible and suited to the broad ranging needs of our communities.

(Taken from The Parish Profile 2018)

office.tpots@gmail.com

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

A Welcome and Licensing Service

for our new priest, Rev Kevin Wright,
will be held

**at 7pm on Thursday 21st March
at St Christopher's, Lympsham.**

This will be a very special occasion for Kevin and his wife, Chris, as we welcome them into our church family.

Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Manor Hall.

If you can help by providing sandwiches, cakes or nibbles, please contact
Gwen Hatton on 01934-750416

**Kevin's first service will be on Palm Sunday,
14th April, at 10.00 am
at St Mary's, East Brent.**



Thank you !

to all those kind volunteers who have been working hard re-decorating the Rectory in preparation for Rev Kevin

Wright's arrival in March. He and his wife, Chris, are extremely grateful for all that we are doing.

We have had 3 productive Saturday morning sessions so far and people have been popping in to paint during the week.

If you would still like to help, please give your name to Mike Smith (01278 760691).

Many thanks.



Urgently needed!

**2 Churchwardens
1 Deanery Synod rep
PCC members**

We are seeking people of faith to take on the ministry of Churchwarden in both St Mary's and St Christopher's.

You can be a Churchwarden of any of our three church buildings, no matter where you live. Our current Churchwardens, Mike, Gwen, Frances and Kathy will gladly chat with you and explain what is involved.

To find out more about being a Deanery Synod rep or a member of the PCC, please speak to Carole Carter, our Parish Administrator, or Max Bashford.

Please prayerfully consider whether God might be calling you to any of these Godly responsibilities.

Thank you.

Blessed Thought

**"You only love God as much as
you love the person you love
the least."**

("What's so amazing about Grace?"
by P. Yancey)

**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.