

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 East Ride and Brent Close, Brent Knoll.
- Our local Post Offices and shops at Brent Knoll, Lympsham and Rooksbridge.
- Kevin and Chris, as they make preparations to move into our parish and join our Church Family.

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 continue to pray for Caroline, Mervyn, Luke, Iona, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter and Marcus.

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
17th March 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 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	21st 14.00 Comfort Group 19.00 Welcome and Licensing service for Kevin Wright. St Christopher's 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	22nd	23rd
24th March 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 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	28th	29th	30th 09.30 St Mary's Churchyard Clean Up
31st March 10.00 St Michael's Mothering Sunday Parish Eucharist	1st April	2nd 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	3rd 20th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	4th 19.00 PCC Standing Committee Church Office 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	5th	6th

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.

Tipping the balance



Heather Smith *reflects on* Genesis 15:1-12. 17-18

Abram had not exactly covered himself with glory since God set him on his path to the land that God planned to give him. After arriving in Canaan with his nephew Lot, a famine sent him to Egypt in search of food and, afraid for his own safety, he said that his wife Sarai was his sister but neglected to mention that she was also his wife. Poor Sarai was taken into Pharaoh's house, but when God sent plagues Pharaoh realised something was not quite right. On the other hand, Abram bravely rescued Lot when he had been captured by enemies and stuck scrupulously to a promise not to take any goods from the King of Sodom. In today's reading, God makes a covenant with Abram. Recognising that Abram is, like all of us, neither all good nor all bad, God gives Abram the chance to believe and, when he does, it tips the balance.

It seems odd that just believing counted as being righteous, no matter what Abram had done in the past, or would do in the future. But believing God is the key to right behaviour. Abram did not always get it right even after this hugely significant commitment of God's, and neither do we. But believing works deep inside us, working its change, slowly but surely making us the people that God intends us to be. 🙏

God, whose grace is eternal, plant within us a deep seed of belief that sustains and changes us as we journey with you. Amen.

Letters from a medical student

by Tabitha Leask

Dear *Sunday Link*,
Wow, this course is full on! Everyone tells you it is a lot of work. I thought I knew what I was getting into but... this is certainly something to get used to. But I'm having a good time. After four years of not studying it is great to be using my brain

again. Medicine is fascinating – the human body has so much more going on inside it than I had ever thought, and it is so clever. I find myself marvelling every day at something new and for those who don't believe in a creator God... well, I don't understand how they can't.

That being said, it is impossible to remember all they teach. I am slowly accepting all I can do is to remember as much as I can, and not be afraid to say I don't know or ask for help when I struggle. 🙏

Walking with Poppy

Not knowing best

by Gillian Cooper

As Poppy gets older, she gets more certain that she knows best, and more determined to have her own way. So she protests when we walk in the wrong kind of weather (basically anything other than dry and cool), or when we turn the

wrong way at a familiar corner, or when she hasn't had enough treats. But if in the rain or on the unfamiliar route we meet her friend Archie, all is suddenly well again.

Lent encourages us to examine ourselves, including our tendency to think we know best. I know that as I have grown older I have become less open to new ideas and more set in my regular routines of thought and belief as well as behaviour. I need to be open to new thoughts and new adventures, taking a chance that God may have surprise and delight for me round the unfamiliar corner. 🙏

“Those who are cheerful and merry at table will benefit from their food.”
Isaiah 30:25

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Daniel 1. 1-7

Four Young Israelites at the Babylonian Court

In the third year of the reign of King Jehoiakim of Judah, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon came to Jerusalem and besieged it. The Lord let King Jehoiakim of Judah fall into his power, as well as some of the vessels of the house of God. These he brought to the land of Shinar, and placed the vessels in the treasury of his gods.

Then the king commanded his palace master Ashpenaz to bring some of the Israelites of the royal family and of the nobility, young men without physical defect and handsome, versed in every branch of wisdom, endowed with knowledge and insight, and competent to serve in the king's palace; they were to be taught the literature and language of the Chaldeans. The king assigned them a daily portion of the royal rations of food and wine. They were to be educated for three years, so that at the end of that time they could be stationed in the king's court. Among them were Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, from the tribe of Judah. The palace master gave them other names: Daniel he called Belteshazzar, Hananiah he called Shadrach, Mishael he called Meshach, and Azariah he called Abednego.

Blessed Thought

**To be a Christian without prayer
is no more possible than to be
alive without breathing.**

Martin Luther

Gospel Reading

Luke 13. 31 - end

The Lament over Jerusalem

At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, 'Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.' He said to them, 'Go and tell that fox for me, "Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed away from Jerusalem."

Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, "Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord."

Christian Scripture

Philippians 3.17 - 4.1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation so that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

A Brexit Prayer

The Archbishop of York has issued a prayer for Brexit, which he is inviting people to pray three times a day - at 6am, 12 noon and 6pm.

**God of eternal love and power,
Save our Parliamentary Democracy;
Protect the High Court of Parliament and all its members
From partiality and prejudice;
That they may walk humbly the path of kindness, justice
and mercy.
Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common
good.
The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their
own strength,
Therefore we pray earnestly, Father,
send them help from your Holy Place, and be their tower
of strength.
Lord, graciously hear us.
Amen.**

© Archbishop of York

Psalm

Psalm 27. 1-6

The Lord is my light and my salvation—
so why should I be afraid?
The Lord is my fortress, protecting me from danger,
so why should I tremble?
When evil people come to devour me,
when my enemies and foes attack me,
they will stumble and fall.
Though a mighty army surrounds me,
my heart will not be afraid.
Even if I am attacked,
I will remain confident.
The one thing I ask of the Lord—
the thing I seek most—
is to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
delighting in the Lord's perfections
and meditating in his Temple.
For he will conceal me there when troubles come;
he will hide me in his sanctuary.
He will place me out of reach on a high rock.
Then I will hold my head high
above my enemies who surround me.
At his sanctuary I will offer sacrifices with shouts of joy,
singing and praising the Lord with music.

What's On



office.tpots@gmail.com
www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk



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)

The Welcome and Licensing Service for our new priest, 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 or cakes, please contact Gwen Hatton on 01934 750416

**Kevin's first services will be on Palm Sunday, 14th April.
08.00 am and 10.00 am at St Michael's, Brent Knoll.**

NEW CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2019

The Church of England requires all Parishes to renew their Church Electoral Roll (CER) every six years and we are currently in the process of doing this.

Those who register on the Church Electoral Roll do so to express their commitment to the Church. It provides an opportunity to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), be involved in Church decisions and to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). We have circulated a reminder by email about applying to join the new CER and included the application form as an attachment.

The application forms will also be available at all three churches, or as a download from our website.

If you wish to be included in the new Roll would you, please, complete the application form and return it to the Church Office by 2nd April 2019.

The new CER will be effective from our APCM, which will be held at St Christopher's Church, Lympsham on 28th April 2019.

If you have any queries or wish to request a form, please contact our Church Electoral Roll Officer, Margaret Smith on mjbsmith87@gmail.com or 01278 760691.

Decorating the Rectory.



A huge **Thank you!** to all those who have helped clean, repair and decorate the Rectory and also to Mike and Margaret for organising and co-ordinating the entire operation. What a great team effort! It is looking really smart and welcoming - all ready for Kevin and Chris to move in.

St Mary's Churchyard Clean Up.

Thank you also to those kind volunteers who made this beautiful rockery at St Mary's, using the cobbles that were recently removed from the entrance.



**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.