

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 Slade Lane, Lympsham.
- Children, their parents and the Teaching Staff at the three Church Schools in our Parish.
- Kevin, as he prepares to start his ministry here on 14th April, Palm Sunday.

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
31st March Mothering Sunday 10.00 St Michael's Family Service with Holy Communion	1st April	2nd 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	3rd 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
7th April 08.00 St Mary's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist	8th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 19.30 Pastoral Care Team meeting	9th	10th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	11th 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	12th	13th
14th April Palm Sunday 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 15.00 Brent Knoll Crosses 16.00 Palm Sunday service Brent Knoll Methodist Church	15th 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group. Brentcombe House, East Brent. 19.00 St Michael's Compline	16th 19.00 St Mary's Compline	17th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 19.00 St Christopher's Compline	18th 14.30 Comfort Group 19.00 St Mary's Holy Communion	19th 10.00 Prayer Group 2. The Worthings, Lympsham 14.00 St Mary's The Final Hour	20th

Contacts

Reader	Nikki Burns	reader.tpots@gmail.com	Tel: 01278 760860
Church Administrator	Mrs Carole Carter	office.tpots@gmail.com	Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset. TA9 4HZ Tel: 01278 769082

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.



April Fool's Day

by Christine Clark

Many countries have an annual day when practical jokes are played. In the UK, the tradition has been traced back to Chaucer's *The Nun's Priest's Tale*, and there have been examples throughout Europe over the centuries.

One of the most successful hoaxes was in 1977 when *The Guardian* published a seven-page

supplement commemorating the tenth anniversary of the island of San Serriffe's independence. It gave an elaborate description of it as a tourist destination and developing economy, with most of its place names and characters as plays on words used in printing. Many readers fell for the joke but others cottoned on, adding to the fun with letters describing holidays on the island.

Last year Easter Day and April Fool's Day fell on the same date – what an ironic juxtaposition! One can't help but wonder if, when the tomb was found empty, the disciples suspected that this was an elaborate hoax. After all, it was all a bit unlikely, wasn't it...? ☺

Heather Smith

reflects on Exodus 2:1-10

The distress that must have been felt by the Hebrew mothers whose children were killed on Pharaoh's orders is unimaginable. Unfortunately countless mothers down the centuries have felt the pain of the loss of their children because of war, famine and senseless violence. Moses' mother, whose name we are not told, hatched a plan to save her son. Presumably she intended simply to hide him until the slaughter ended, but events took a surprising turn when Pharaoh's daughter discovered him, decided

to save him, and his quick-thinking sister came up with a suggestion that returned the child to his mother.

Mothers are often very determined when it comes to doing the best for their children and that deep, fierce love is something to celebrate today. It is God-given and like all love ultimately reflects the divine. We are used to describing God as father, implying the male, but of course God is not to be placed in any human category. Today, we might consider divine love as expressed in motherhood. It could give us a tiny glimpse of the love that God feels for each of us. Looked at through the eyes of a mother our world presents the distressing prospect of a family at war, where equally loved children fight among themselves and destroy each other. No wonder God's love, like that of Moses' mother, resulted in a plan for salvation. ☺

Loving God, teach us how to love one another as a mother loves her children, seeking the best for each other and working for the harmony and peace you desire across the whole of your creation. Amen.

National Pet Month

Companions

by Gillian Cooper

National Pet Month (www.nationalpetmonth.org.uk) runs from 1 April until 6 May. To mark it, Gillian Cooper celebrates our furred and feathered companions.

We may think that keeping pets is a relatively new western phenomenon. In fact, however, recent research shows that pets have been around nearly as long as we have. Our earliest

ancestors, it seems, kept animals not just for food and work, but also as companions.

Pets must be good for us, or we humans would not have adopted them so early in our development. Despite media stories, there is little evidence that they benefit our health directly, but it feels as though they do. They give us a purpose through needing our care. They keep us fit, and help us make friends. They teach us to greet each day with a simple enjoyment, to live in the moment, and to accept whatever life brings. They comfort us in sadness. They encourage us to pay attention to the world around us. Perhaps they are a gift of God to help us be happier humans. ☺

“For most of us the prayer in Gethsemane is the only model. Removing mountains can wait.

C. S. Lewis (1898-1963) British novelist

Bible Readings

Gospel Reading

John 19 25-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, 'Woman, here is your son.' Then he said to the disciple, 'Here is your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Blessed Thought

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience.

Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive.

Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.

Colossians 3. 12-14

A Brexit Prayer

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



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.

Application forms are 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 the date of our APCM, which will be held at St Christopher's Church, Lymsham 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. Thank you.

The 2018 APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

will take place on **Sunday 28th April 2019**, immediately after the 10am service at **St Christopher's, Lymsham**.

Who can attend?

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of this parish and persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors are welcome to attend.

APCM

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of this parish are welcome to attend.

First meeting of the 2019/20 PCC

PCC members only.

Please see the church noticeboards for the agenda and further details.

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)

Greetings,

A very heartfelt thank you for the warm welcome you gave us on Thursday 21st at the Licensing. It was wonderful to see so many people there worshipping together. We are looking forward to getting to know you and journeying alongside you.

The gifts presented during the service, though essentially symbolic, were also well-chosen, thoughtful and practical. Thank you too for the personal messages of good wishes and blessings we have received already. As most of you know we are doing things in a strange order and, as I write this, we're in the throes of moving into the Parish. It will be a couple of weeks before I am up and running, but please do say hello if you see us out and about. It would be helpful if you could keep reminding us of your names please!



With all good wishes and every blessing,
Kevin & Chris Wright

Dear Everyone,

I would like to thank you all for the card and Amazon gift token, which I will spend on books. I have really enjoyed coming to Three Saints over the past year and very much value the welcome I've received in all three churches as well as the friendships made.

With every blessing for the future,
Richard Sigrist

Volunteers please!

On Sunday 7th April we will be collecting for Christian Aid at Sanders Garden Centre.

If you can spare an hour in the afternoon to help those who have been left homeless and hungry by Cyclone Idai, please see Sarah or Ginnie.

Thank you!

The Parish of Three Saints Saints May Fayre
Saturday 18th May 11 - 4pm

- ☀ Festival of flowers competition.
- ☀ Vegetable racing competition.
- ☀ Local artisan crafts.
- ☀ Cake and food stalls.
- ☀ Cream teas yummy.
- ☀ BBQ and Westcott cider.
- ☀ Maypole dancing.

Fun games and activities for the whole family.
Flower competition can be fresh, sugar, paper, textile, clay etc.
Make your own racing vegetable and race it at the fayre.
Venue: Woodlands House, Hill Lane Brent Knoll TA9 4DF.
Free entrance and friendly dogs welcome.
Competition forms are available from the village shop and the deadline for entry is 15th May. All proceeds to the Parish of Three Saints.

Listening Project Update - What's it all about?

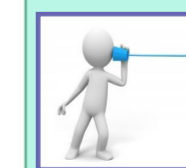
- Listening more carefully to help build relationships
- Improving the two-way communication in the life of our Parish
- Developing God's plan for our neighbourhood and wider community.

Over the past year two small teams of people from the Pastoral Care Team have been meeting with people on the Church Electoral Roll to explore six different areas of faith.

It has been a huge privilege and honour to meet with those who have taken part and we would like to thank you all for your contributions.

We have not managed to meet with everyone on the church electoral roll yet. So, if you would like to participate and haven't been asked, please see Anthony, Ginnie, Carla or Sarah to arrange a suitable time and date to meet.

We plan to present our findings to the PCC and produce a written report upon completion of the project.



There is a leaflet in each of our churches if you would like further information.



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.