



Connecting faith and daily life

# A comfort blanket?

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Psalm 23

Psalm 23 is one of the best-known passages of the Bible. How wonderful, in time of trial and tribulation, to read and hear this confirmation that God cares for and protects us. The words of the psalm are also familiar as the hymn, "The King of Love My Shepherd Is", written in 1868 by Henry Baker. The tune that most people will know is "Dominus Regit Me", composed by John Bacchus Dykes (1823-1876). Together, these familiar words and beautiful music have reassured generations of Christians and, indeed, people of other faiths and none.

But for all its familiarity, the psalm is no comfort blanket, although it can provide great solace when we need it. But there's a challenge here, too – namely to learn to depend utterly on God – something that many of us find surprisingly difficult. We want to be self-reliant, and we rebel against being made to "lie down in green pastures", being led "beside still waters" and "in right paths". We want to find those pastures, waters and paths for ourselves.

Yet another Victorian Christian, Hudson Taylor, wrote these amazing words when he was gravely ill: "I am so weak that I can hardly write, I cannot read my Bible, I cannot even pray, I can only lie still in God's arms like a little child, and trust." This, perhaps, is one of the great lessons of Psalm 23. 🍷



Good Shepherd, you lead me, feed me and restore my soul. Help me to know deep in my heart that you are with me, and to learn to relax into your love and care, in the sure knowledge that I am held by you, for ever. Amen.

## Christian Aid Week

by Christine Clark

When Hurricane Matthew hit Haiti, Marcelin lost his home, livestock and possessions. His family was living in a disused shower block until Christian Aid gave them the help they needed.

Many churches organise house-to-house collections during Christian Aid Week. I usually take a couple of local roads, delivering the envelopes and returning a

few days later to collect them, often needing to return again for people who were out. Although Christian Aid appears to be a charity that non-churchgoers are willing to give to, every year it seems more difficult. People are reluctant, or out when you call, or make an excuse, or just give less.

Some churches have stopped the house-to-house collections in favour of other fundraising activities. That's all right – it's good to move forward and find new ways. What is important, for Marcelin and his family and others in such desperate situations, is that we do something. 🍷

“God's work done in God's way will never lack God's supplies.” Hudson Taylor (1832-1905), missionary to China

## The Road to Emmaus

In his book, *The Road to Emmaus and Beyond*, Fr Denis McBride focuses on Luke 24:13-end

The disciples have already faced dramatic change, something that can throw us off balance. We feel all at sea; we lose our sense of who we are; we are unsure where we are going. The loss of someone we love can seriously injure our own sense of identity

and direction in life: so much of what we considered important now seems irrelevant. The disciples' first loss was the loss of Jesus in a violent death; the second loss will be living in his physical absence now that he has gone to glory with God. The ascension marks Jesus' return to the Father – he will no longer be with his disciples in the same way as he was travelling through the towns of Galilee.

Meanwhile they wait; meanwhile they live in the gap, in no man's land. They are waiting for the gift of the Spirit which will transform them, in the language of Pope Francis, into "missionary disciples". 🍷

## 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 Johnson Close, East Brent.
- Women's Fellowship Groups in our parish and across the country

### 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 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 Iona, Caroline, Mervyn, Luke, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter and Marcus.

## Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>12th May</b> <b>Christian Aid Week</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist  11.15 Big Brekkie - St Mary's	<b>13th</b> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus. Brentcombe House, East Brent  19.00 PCC Meeting Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>14th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>15th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>16th</b>  14.30 Comfort Group   19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>17th</b> 10.00 Prayer group 2 The Worthings	<b>18th</b> 11.00-16.00 TPOTS May Fayre Woodlands, Brent Knoll.
<b>19th May</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<b>20th</b> 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b>21st</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>22nd</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>23rd</b>  14.30 Bereaved Friends Group	<b>24th</b>	<b>25th</b>
<b>26th May</b> 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion  10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist  18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<b>27th</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>29th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>30th</b>  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>31st</b>	<b>1st June</b>

## Contacts

Priest in Charge	Rev. Kevin Wright	priest.tpots@gmail.com	The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4DQ	Tel: 01278 760844
<b>Please Note that Friday is the "Vicar's Day of Rest". Thank you for your understanding.</b>				
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](http://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](mailto:office.tpots@gmail.com) by **Thursday**. Please also send anything for **The Parish of Three Saints** website to the same address.

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

Acts 9. 36-43

Peter in Lydda and Joppa

Now in Joppa there was a disciple whose name was Tabitha, which in Greek is Dorcas. She was devoted to good works and acts of charity. At that time she became ill and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in a room upstairs. Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, who heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him with the request, 'Please come to us without delay.'

So Peter got up and went with them; and when he arrived, they took him to the room upstairs. All the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing tunics and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was with them. Peter put all of them outside, and then he knelt down and prayed. He turned to the body and said, 'Tabitha, get up.' Then she opened her eyes, and seeing Peter, she sat up. He gave her his hand and helped her up. Then calling the saints and widows, he showed her to be alive. This became known throughout Joppa, and many believed in the Lord. Meanwhile he stayed in Joppa for some time with a certain Simon, a tanner.

### Blessed Thought

"Nothing you do can make God love you any more;  
Nothing you do can make God love you any less."

(from "What's so amazing about Grace" by Philip Yancy)

### Gospel Reading

John 10.22-30

Jesus Is Rejected by the Jews

At that time the festival of the Dedication took place in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in the temple, in the portico of Solomon. So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, 'How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Messiah, tell us plainly.' Jesus answered, 'I have told you, and you do not believe. The works that I do in my Father's name testify to me; but you do not believe, because you do not belong to my sheep. My sheep hear my voice. I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they will never perish. No one will snatch them out of my hand. What my Father has given me is greater than all else, and no one can snatch it out of the Father's hand. The Father and I are one.'

### Second Reading

Revelation 7. 9-17

The Multitude from Every Nation

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying,

'Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!'

And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, singing,

'Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honour and power and might be to our God for ever and ever! Amen.'

Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, 'Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?' I said to him, 'Sir, you are the one that knows.' Then he said to me, 'These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them.

They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.'

### Psalm

Psalm 23

The Divine Shepherd  
A Psalm of David.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.

He leads me in right paths  
for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil;  
for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff—  
they comfort me.

You prepare a table before me  
in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil;  
my cup overflows.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me  
all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord  
my whole life long.

## 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)

### Today is the start of Christian Aid Week.

Please stay on after our worship for a bacon bap and have a go at the Breakfast Quiz.

All proceeds from the Big Brekkie will go to Christian Aid to help mums in Sierra Leone give birth safely.

**Big Brekkie**

## Come to our Big Brekkie!

Ready to change the world over breakfast?

We will be serving delicious bacon baps after the 10am worship, while raising money to fight poverty and help save lives.

**On Sunday 12th May at 11.15 am.**  
**At St Mary's Church, East Brent.**

**Bacon Baps - £3.50**  
**Tea and coffee - free**  
**Everyone is Welcome.**

christian aid week 12-18 MAY

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There will be another  
Archdeacon's Visitation  
at 7pm on 16th May  
at St Benedict's Church, Glastonbury.  
All Welcome.

**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 offertory 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.

**The Parish of Three 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 Westcrot 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.

Please grab an entry form from the back of church today, or from Brent Knoll or Lympsam Village shop, and enter the flower competition at the TPOTS May Fayre. Flowers can be fresh, made of sugar, paper, textiles or clay! The more the merrier!  
Entry forms must be in by 15th May. Thank you.

**We need more bottles please!**  
**For the TPOTS May Fayre - 18th May 11am-4pm**  
Any bottle - Any shape - Any size!  
For example - wine, olive oil, bubble bath etc  
**Bottles must be full, sealed and in date.**  
Please leave in the porch at Woodlands anytime or at the Church Office, Mon and Wed 10am-1pm. Thank you.