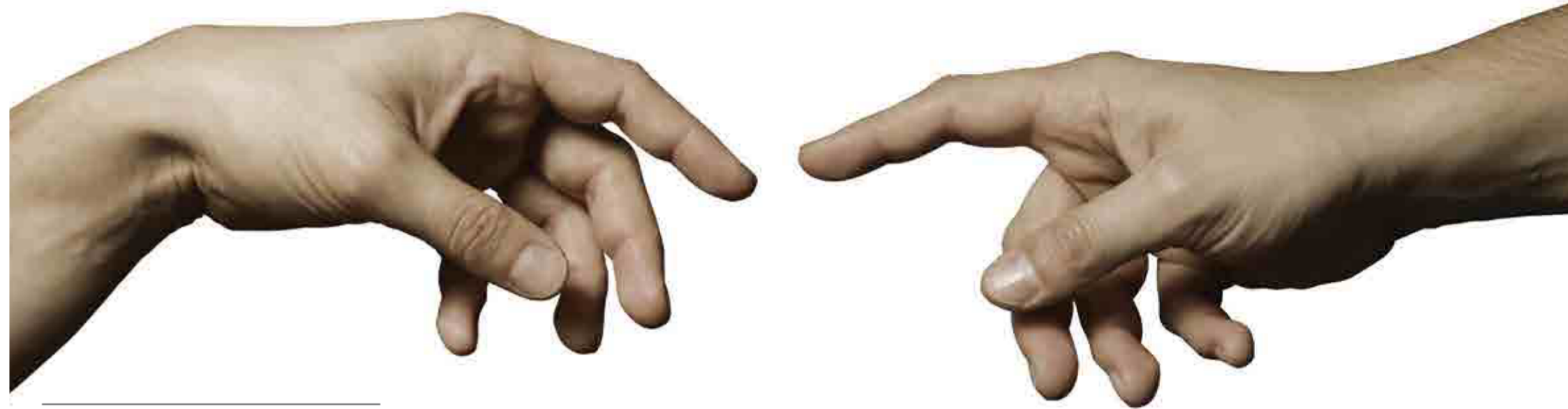




Connecting faith and daily life

Drawn to God



Heather Smith *reflects on*
Acts 11:1-18 and John 13:31-35

Building relationships with people who are very different from us isn't always easy. As humans we seem to be programmed to group ourselves into clans, suspicious of outsiders. The more dissimilar another group's values and behaviours from our own, the harder it becomes.

First-century Jews were different. They believed in only one God and had many strict laws, including diet. There was a reason for this: their distinctive identity was supposed to draw all the nations to the God of Israel. The standards were set high, so others would see them as a shining example and come to know the one, true God.

For Christians, today's reading from Acts shows how it actually came to pass. There is a great deal

more to it than a story about eating pork. Peter's vision showed that the good news about Jesus was not just for the Jews. Thankfully, Peter got it. Then, when some non-Jews arrived at the house where he was staying, he understood that they could be welcomed into the new faith.

But being open to everyone was not the end of clans. Anyone can join

the Christian clan, but Christians are still expected to have their own values, different from those of others. Jesus explained in John 13: "I give you a new commandment, that you love one another... By this everyone will know that you are my disciples". If we demonstrate that love, people will be drawn to God. 🍷

Lord, teach me your values, and a willingness to share them joyfully with others, so I may welcome all into the faith. Amen.

World Bee Day

by Lisa Tulfers

The image of a land flowing with milk and honey is a powerful one in the Bible. However, there's so much more to bees than honey, and the United Nations' World Bee Day on Monday seeks to raise awareness of this small but essential part of creation.

A third of the world's food production depends on pollination by bees. However,

bees are increasingly under threat. Worldwide, ten per cent of bee species face extinction. In the USA in 2017 bee numbers fell by a third. Significant losses are being seen across the world, including Europe. Causes for decline could include varroa mite, viruses and other diseases and pests, climate change and neonicotinoid pesticides.

Alongside international initiatives, we can do our bit – bee-friendly gardening is more than just a nice idea, it is helping to offset the pollinator crisis, which has implications for the future of our agriculture and food production. 🍷

“I have formerly lived by hearsay and faith; but now I go where I shall live by sight, and shall be with him in whose company I delight.”
John Bunyan (1628-1688), writer and preacher

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 Battleborough Lane, Brent Knoll.
- The Royal British Legion.
- Young people who are taking GCSEs and A Levels in the next few weeks.

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
19th May 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	20th 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	21st 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	22nd 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	23rd 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group	24th	25th
26th May 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	27th	28th	29th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	30th 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	31st 19.00 St Christopher's Novena Prayer	1st June 19.00 St Christopher's Novena Prayer
2nd June 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 19.00 St Christopher's Novena Prayer	3rd 9.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	4th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	5th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	6th 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer	7th 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer	8th 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer

Contacts

Priest in Charge	Rev. Kevin Wright	priest.tpots@gmail.com	The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4DQ	Tel: 01278 760844
Please Note that Friday is the “Vicar's Day of Rest”. Thank you for your understanding.				
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.

Bible Readings

First Reading

Acts 11. 1-18

Peter's Report to the Church at Jerusalem

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, 'Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?' Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, 'I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, "Get up, Peter; kill and eat." But I replied, "By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth." But a second time the voice answered from heaven, "What God has made clean, you must not call profane."

This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven. At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, "Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved." And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, "John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit." If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God? When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, 'Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life.'

Gospel Reading

John 13. 31-35

The New Commandment

When he had gone out, Jesus said, 'Now the Son of Man has been glorified, and God has been glorified in him. If God has been glorified in him, God will also glorify him in himself and will glorify him at once. Little children, I am with you only a little longer. You will look for me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, "Where I am going, you cannot come." I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.'

Second Reading

Revelation 21. 1-6

The New Heaven and the New Earth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.

He will dwell with them;

they will be his peoples,

and God himself will be with them;

he will wipe every tear from their eyes.

Death will be no more;

mourning and crying and pain will be no more,

for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life.'

Prayer for the Future

Father God, bless us as we look to the future, smooth our path and let us see possibilities to serve you better.

Bless the choices we may have to make.

As the past slips away, falling below the horizon,

help us to let go gently,

preserving only those things that serve you well.

Help us to forsake the familiar, in our quest for the best,

making our life with each other and you an adventure of discovery.

If we have to take risks, may our spirits be filled with joy and trust.

Bless our path into tomorrow with your Holy Spirit

that all we do may glorify your name

and draw people into the love and fellowship

of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Amen

Collect for Today

Almighty God,

who through your only-begotten Son Jesus Christ have overcome death and opened to us the gate of everlasting life:

grant that, as by your grace going before us

you put into our minds good desires,

so by your continual help

we may bring them to good effect;

through Jesus Christ our risen Lord,

who is alive and reigns with you,

in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

one God, now and forever.

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)

Please join us for an

Ascension Day Service

At 6.30am

On Thursday 30th May

On the top of Brent Knoll

Followed by breakfast

at St Michael's

afterwards.

Facebook

We now have a Parish Facebook page!

Just type **tpots** in the search bar.

Administrators are Max, Victoria and Kevin.



Christian Aid Week 12 - 19th May 2019

Thank you all very much for your generous donations to Christian Aid this week.

We are now able to send an amazing £528.62 to help mums in Sierra Leone deliver their babies safely. If anyone would still like to donate, please see Ginnie Soffe, Carole in the office or a Churchwarden. Thank you.



Date for your Diary

The next meeting of the Deanery Synod will take place on **13th June**. More details to follow. Everyone welcome.



**Join the global wave of prayer
calling all Christians to pray
between Ascension and Pentecost
for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.**

Novena Prayer Times

**7pm each evening (25 minutes)
31st May - 8th June**

Friday 31st May	St Christopher's Lymsham
Saturday 1st June	
Sunday 2nd June	
Monday 3rd June	St Mary's East Brent
Tuesday 4th June	
Wednesday 5th June	
Thursday 6th June	St Michael's Brent Knoll
Friday 7th June	
Saturday 8th June	



Sunday 9th June

8am St Michael's, Brent Knoll

10am St Mary's, 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 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.