

# Take heart

Heather Smith *reflects on* Ezekiel 36:24-28

The first heart transplant was carried out by Dr Christiaan Barnard in 1967 in Cape Town, a huge step in medical history. While not exactly routine, as many as two hundred heart transplants take place in the UK every year. You may be a candidate if you have severe heart failure – that is, your heart is unable to keep up with the demands on it because it cannot pump blood with normal efficiency.

It can certainly be difficult to keep up with the demands that life places on our hearts. Perhaps you have too much to cope with in your family life or, at the other extreme, suffer from loneliness. Maybe you find it hard to know where to channel your compassionate energies – so many people need help. Perhaps you struggle with issues from your past.

The solution to all our heart problems, according to Ezekiel, is that God will take out our hearts of stone and replace them with hearts of flesh. “Ah” you might say, “If only my heart were harder I wouldn’t suffer so much.” If you receive a surgical heart transplant things are never quite the same. It may save your life, but you need to take some precautions, including taking immunosuppressants for the rest of your life. If you receive a heart transplant from God, says Ezekiel, it comes with a new spirit. The combination, far from making us less able to cope, may be the key to Christ-like compassion. 🍷



Lord God, put a new heart within me, and direct my energy and my compassion in your ways. Amen.

## The Camino

by Rob Hayter

Walking the Camino has many joys – the people you meet and walk alongside, the beautiful countryside, historic towns and villages you pass through, the flora and fauna. There is abundant bird life. My favourites were the storks who build their nests on church bell towers, in trees, and sometimes even on electricity pylons.

The route we took is the Via de la Plata, an old Roman road, dead

straight for much of the way. If you are the kind of person who likes all your roads straight, however, who likes everything “just so”, and has difficulty with twists and turns, the Camino may present challenges. Some of the places you travel through are quite remote and, while many of the albergues (hostels) have modern facilities, others are very basic. A “consumer-society” approach will not work here. The Camino is what it is. I have to adapt to it, not vice versa. It teaches me to be self-sufficient and, ultimately, grateful. 🍷

“A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.” Ezekiel 36:26

## 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 Church Lane, Lympsham.
- Alternative Health Therapists in 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 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>2nd June</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 19.00 St Christopher's Novena Prayer	<b>3rd</b> 9.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	<b>4th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	<b>5th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	<b>6th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer	<b>7th</b> 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer	<b>8th</b> 14.00 Brent Knoll Fete 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer
<b>9th June Pentecost</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>12th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>13th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>14th</b>	<b>15th</b>
<b>16th</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<b>17th</b> 9.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House,	<b>18th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>19th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>20th</b> 14.30 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>21st</b> 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthing, Lympsham	<b>22nd</b>

## Contacts

Priest in Charge	Revd. Kevin Wright	<b>priest.tpots@gmail.com</b>	The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4DQ	<b>Tel: 01278 760844</b>
Please Note that Friday is the “Vicar's Day of Rest”. Thank you for your understanding.				
Reader	Nikki Burns	<b>reader.tpots@gmail.com</b>		<b>Tel: 01278 760860</b>
Church Administrator	Mrs Carole Carter	<b>office.tpots@gmail.com</b>	Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, Somerset. TA9 4HZ	<b>Tel: 01278 769082</b>

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.

## Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

What makes vegetable seeds grow? I understand the science but have you noticed that when you sow a packet of seeds, on a windowsill or in the garden, that almost everything comes up? That's amazing and sometimes it's too much! Last year there were

too many tomato plants too close together and some tomatoes fell and rotted. This year those seeds from the spoiled tomatoes grew and will produce fruit in the next couple of months with no care from me. I've also planted tomato seeds so there will be a huge surplus again this year.

This creation, of which we're part, is built for abundance not scarcity, yet we often behave as though there's not enough to share. Jesus constantly shares food with all sorts of people and that is our model too. If God gives so generously then how can we not share with generosity and joy? 🍷

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

**Acts 16. 16-34**

Paul and Silas in Prison

One day, as we were going to the place of prayer, we met a slave-girl who had a spirit of divination and brought her owners a great deal of money by fortune-telling. While she followed Paul and us, she would cry out, 'These men are slaves of the Most High God, who proclaim to you a way of salvation.' She kept doing this for many days. But Paul, very much annoyed, turned and said to the spirit, 'I order you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.' And it came out that very hour.

But when her owners saw that their hope of making money was gone, they seized Paul and Silas and dragged them into the market-place before the authorities. When they had brought them before the magistrates, they said, 'These men are disturbing our city; they are Jews and are advocating customs that are not lawful for us as Romans to adopt or observe.' The crowd joined in attacking them, and the magistrates had them stripped of their clothing and ordered them to be beaten with rods. After they had given them a severe flogging, they threw them into prison and ordered the jailer to keep them securely. Following these instructions, he put them in the innermost cell and fastened their feet in the stocks.

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake, so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken; and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, 'Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.' The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, 'Sirs, what must I do to be saved?' They answered, 'Believe on the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.' They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them; and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

### Gospel Reading

**John 17. 20-end**

'I ask not only on behalf of these, but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one. As you, Father, are in me and I am in you, may they also be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given them, so that they may be one, as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become completely one, so that the world may know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. Father, I desire that those also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory, which you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

'Righteous Father, the world does not know you, but I know you; and these know that you have sent me. I made your name known to them, and I will make it known, so that the love with which you have loved me may be in them, and I in them.'

### Second Reading

**Revelation 22. 12-14, 16, 17, 20-end**

'See, I am coming soon; my reward is with me, to repay according to everyone's work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end.'

Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they will have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by the gates.

'It is I, Jesus, who sent my angel to you with this testimony for the churches. I am the root and the descendant of David, the bright morning star.'

The Spirit and the bride say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who hears say, 'Come.'

And let everyone who is thirsty come.

Let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift.

The one who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.'

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!


The grace of the Lord Jesus be with all the saints. Amen

### Blessed Thought

**"Let all that you do be done in love."**

**(1 Corinthians 16:14)**

### A Huge Thank You!

 to Paul and Sarah McClean for hosting and organising the TPOTS May Fayre at Woodlands, Brent Knoll on 18th May.

**Thank you to everyone who helped and supported it. We raised £837.35!**

### A Message from the Archdeacon's office

We are very grateful for money received at the Licensing service for the Ordination Fund. This goes to support our Ordinands and therefore helps to enable ministry and mission across the diocese.

The money you have given will help ensure our Ordinands continue to receive support during their training, enabling ministry to continue in a wide number of parishes. Thank you.

### Collect for Today

O God the King of glory,  
you have exalted your only Son Jesus Christ  
with great triumph to your kingdom in heaven:  
we beseech you, leave us not comfortless,  
but send your Holy Spirit to strengthen us  
and exalt us to the place where our Saviour Christ is gone before,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever.

**Please Note: The Church Office will be closed from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

**If your enquiry is urgent, please ring or e-mail Reverend Kevin Wright [priest.tpots@gmail.com](mailto:priest.tpots@gmail.com)**

**Tel. 01278 760844 or contact a churchwarden. Thank you.**

## What's On



[office.tpots@gmail.com](mailto:office.tpots@gmail.com)

[www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk](http://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)



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)**  
**31<sup>st</sup> May - 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Friday 31st May	St Christopher's Lymphsham
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 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
**8am St Michael's, Brent Knoll**  
**10am St Mary's, East Brent**

### Stewardship/Church Life Giving Champion

Regular monetary income is essential for the church to function and pay its way day to day, week by week. The parish urgently needs a Stewardship/Church Life Giving Champion to work with me, the Treasurer and diocesan adviser to encourage people to commit to consistent generous support of the Church Life funds, as there is a substantial shortfall in this budgeted area. The continuing mission and outreach of the church family needs funding.

While interpersonal skills are paramount, no financial knowledge is needed; training and resources are available.

**What you can do...**

1. Pray that the right person comes forward;
2. Listen quietly for God's prompting;
3. Ask yourself if you could do this, or if there is someone you think might be good at it;
4. Speak to the Vicar or Wardens or Treasurer.

Thank you, Revd Kevin Wright (Incumbent)



**Saturday 15 June & Sunday 16 June 2019**

**2.00 – 5.00 p.m.**

A great way to spend a summer afternoon visiting three of Lymphsham's foremost gardens at the Manor, Church Farm next to the Church and Worthy House, opposite the cricket pitch. This year, the garden at Worthy House is open for the first time.

The event is principally to raise funds for the National Garden Scheme, a charity which supports causes such as McMillan Cancer UK and other cancer and nursing charities but proceeds from the tea and cake stall and plant stall go to the church.

**If you can help over this weekend, please call Lisa on 07815 417063.**

**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.