



Connecting faith and daily life

# A temper tantrum



Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Galatians 5:1. 13-25

**P**aul, in this famous passage about the fruit of the Spirit, wrestles with the notion of true freedom. He sees it in binary terms – the flesh on the one hand, the Spirit on the other. We might balk at this, or even find it unpalatable. Perhaps that's because we tend to think that the denial and suppression of human physicality, particularly sexuality, has resulted in some terrible cases of abuse.

But that isn't to say that this passage has nothing to say to us, and it's interesting to think about Paul's definition of freedom. Because we persist, don't we, in equating freedom with doing what we like. Like a toddler having a tantrum we push the boundaries, screaming and stamping our feet, insisting that we know what we want. But who is freer – the smoker who's "gasping" for a cigarette, chained to the habit, or the non-smoker who simply doesn't have the addiction that costs the other so dearly, in terms of both health and money? It's as though we're trying to prove that we're invincible and immortal, with bottomless bank accounts. But all we're really doing is playing little power games – with one another, our health, our finances, and even life itself.

Hopefully we have a healthily holistic view of our selves, perceiving our physicality as God-given, as well as our spirituality. We may quibble with one aspect of Paul's message, but the core of it is as true as ever – we are "called to freedom" and "Christ has set us free". 🍌

Lord, sometimes I need to grow up and stop playing games. Show me your way of true freedom, I pray, and make me fruitful in the Spirit. To the glory of your name. Amen.

## Summer

by Ricarda Witcombe

Church can be a strange place in the summer months. Ministers and vicars may be away and services are led by different people and in different ways. Visiting choirs, organists or music groups lead worship and it's never quite the same as normal. For some, that may be a blessed relief. For others, it can make it hard to worship at all: we feel disconcerted and just

look forward to it all getting back to normal. However, the summer months give particular opportunities. If the congregation is smaller than usual, less confident people may dare to read. When a different minister leads the service, there are new things to notice, even though the words may be the same. If the people who normally make the coffee are away, others can discover the joy of serving refreshments. What new areas of church life might you get involved in, even just for the summer? 🍌

“Faith does not eliminate questions. But faith knows where to take them.

Elisabeth Elliot (1926-2015), American author and speaker

## International Asteroid Day

by Heather Smith

If you'll pardon the pun, International Asteroid Day rocks. First celebrated in 2015, it followed discussions between Dr Brian May, astrophysicist and drummer with the rock band Queen, and Grigoriy Richters, director of a film they were working on about an asteroid hitting London.

Since an asteroid also wiped out the dinosaurs, you might wonder why they are worth a special day. The aim is to raise awareness about asteroids and what we can do to protect the planet. In all God's creation, asteroids may not seem like something to be thankful for. But we can be thankful and amazed that unlike any other species, we human beings have developed to such an extent that we can study and learn about our universe. And the knowledge we gain means that we can work on ways to deflect any asteroid that looks likely to impact. That really is worth celebrating and giving thanks for. 🍌

## 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 Copse Corner, Lympsham.
- The LEBE Café at Lympsham.

### 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 Ginie 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>30th June</b> 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist	<b>1st July</b> <b>Meet the Vicar</b> The Red Cow, Brent Knoll	<b>2nd</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>3rd</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>4th</b>  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b> 14.00-16.30 St Mary's in Bloom Afternoon Teas
<b>7th July</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion  10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist  19.00 Quiz Brent Knoll Inn	<b>8th</b>  19.30 Pastoral Care Team Meeting	<b>9th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church  19.00 PCC Standing Committee	<b>10th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>11th</b>  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>12th</b>	<b>13th</b>
<b>14th July</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist	<b>15th</b> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House East Brent  16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House East Brent	<b>16th</b> Toddlers Summer Outing	<b>17th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>18th</b>  14.30 Comfort Group  19.30 All Sorts Choir Singalong Concert St Mary's	<b>19th</b> 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings, Lympsham	<b>20th</b>

## Contacts

**SAFEGUARDING:** We take safeguarding very seriously. If you have any concerns for a child or a vulnerable adult please contact our parish Safeguarding Officer (a voluntary position) Kathy Quinnell (01278-760031) or contact the central diocesan team <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/rep>

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](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

#### 2 Kings 2. 1-2, 6-14

Elijah Ascends to Heaven

Now when the Lord was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. Elijah said to Elisha, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me as far as Bethel.' But Elisha said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So they went down to Bethel.

Then Elijah said to him, 'Stay here; for the Lord has sent me to the Jordan.' But he said, 'As the Lord lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.' So the two of them went on. Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, 'Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.' Elisha said, 'Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.' He responded, 'You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.' As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. Elisha kept watching and crying out, 'Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!' But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

Elisha Succeeds Elijah

He picked up the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and went back and stood on the bank of the Jordan. He took the mantle of Elijah that had fallen from him, and struck the water, saying, 'Where is the Lord, the God of Elijah?' When he had struck the water, the water was parted to the one side and to the other, and Elisha went over.

### Blessed Thought

Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable - if anything is excellent or praiseworthy - think about such things. (Philippians 4. 8-9)

### Meet the Vicar

Revd Kevin Wright will be serving behind the bar of The Red Cow in Brent Knoll on Monday evening (1st July). Drop in for a drink and a chat. Spread the word.

### Gospel Reading

#### Luke 9. 51-end

A Samaritan Village Refuses to Receive Jesus

When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him. On their way they entered a village of the Samaritans to make ready for him; but they did not receive him, because his face was set towards Jerusalem. When his disciples James and John saw it, they said, 'Lord, do you want us to command fire to come down from heaven and consume them?' But he turned and rebuked them. Then they went on to another village.

Would-Be Followers of Jesus

As they were going along the road, someone said to him, 'I will follow you wherever you go.' And Jesus said to him, 'Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head.' To another he said, 'Follow me.' But he said, 'Lord, first let me go and bury my father.' But Jesus said to him, 'Let the dead bury their own dead; but as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God.' Another said, 'I will follow you, Lord; but let me first say farewell to those at my home.' Jesus said to him, 'No one who puts a hand to the plough and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God.'

### Second Reading

#### Galatians 5. 1, 13-25

For freedom Christ has set us free. Stand firm, therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.

For you were called to freedom, brothers and sisters; only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for self-indulgence, but through love become slaves to one another. For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.

The Works of the Flesh

Live by the Spirit, I say, and do not gratify the desires of the flesh. For what the flesh desires is opposed to the Spirit, and what the Spirit desires is opposed to the flesh; for these are opposed to each other, to prevent you from doing what you want. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not subject to the law. Now the works of the flesh are obvious: fornication, impurity, licentiousness, idolatry, sorcery, enmities, strife, jealousy, anger, quarrels, dissensions, factions, envy, drunkenness, carousing, and things like these. I am warning you, as I warned you before: those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God.

The Fruit of the Spirit

By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit.

### Slender Silence

Hush the noise, still your breath,  
Calm the clamour of your lives.  
Close your eyes; open your mind,  
Hear the sound of slender silence  
Speaking to your heart.

Amid the blasts of life's fierce storms,  
Free your mind of all care;  
Quieten your thoughts, open your mind and  
Hear the sound of slender silence  
Speaking to your heart.

### Collect for Today

Lord, you have taught us  
that all our doings without love are nothing worth:  
send your Holy Spirit  
and pour into our hearts that most excellent gift of love,  
the true bond of peace and of all virtues,  
without which whoever lives is counted dead before you.  
Grant this for your only Son Jesus Christ's sake,  
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)

## St Mary's in Bloom

### 2.00-4.30pm Sat 6th July.

- Delicious Afternoon Tea
- Grand Raffle and Plant sale
- Children's competition - arrangement in either a tea-cup or jam jar in two age groups, up to age 7, and 7 and above.
- **Would you like to add to the flower display?** If so, please bring your arrangement to St. Mary's on Friday 5th July during the afternoon. You don't have to be an experienced floral artist to join in - we would very much welcome all arrangements, large or small, to add to the decorations.
- Donations of cake for the afternoon would also be much appreciated.

If you would like any further information, please contact the Church office on 01278 769082 or Maxine Bashford 01278 760190



### 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)

**Blessed are you, Lord God of all Creation; through your godness 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.



### Highbridge Area Foodbank

As summer holidays approach and children, who would normally receive free school meals, have to be fed at home; sometimes the money doesn't stretch that far.

**Can you help?? We are currently short of..**

Tinned Potatoes  
Tinned Carrots  
Tinned Sweetcorn  
Rice Pudding  
Biscuits  
Jam

Tinned Tomatoes  
Tinned Peas  
Tinned Fish  
Custard  
Instant Mash  
Juice

Donations can be dropped off in any of our three churches in TPOTS. Thank you for your support.



## Concert

St Mary's Church, East Brent

Thursday 18th July  
At 19.30

Singalong with your local community choir  
whilst enjoying a light hearted fun evening

Raffle  
Variety of music  
Refreshments in the interval

Free Admission  
(donations appreciated)

Proceeds to the All-Sorts Choir and St Mary's.

