

Heavenly hope



Lord, thank you for hope, for heaven, and for the here and now. Keep me focused on this, and help me to keep the flame flickering, even on days of dark doubt. Amen.

Sea Sunday

by Lisa Tulfer

Today you will use something which has been brought to you by ship – food, fuel, consumer goods. Over ninety per cent of world trade is carried by a fleet of over fifty thousand ships, crewed by 1.5 million seafarers, who may face dangerous working conditions, isolation, separation from their families and the real threat of piracy.

Sea Sunday is supported by the Mission to Seafarers (www.missiontoseafarers.org),

which supports seafarers and their families in two hundred ports and fifty countries. It is a day when churches around the world hold services and collections to celebrate and recognise seafarers.

Based in Teesport near Hartlepool, Honorary chaplain Fr Edward Mathias-Jones and his team visit ships and provide onshore support to seafarers at the Flying Angel Club. As well as providing practical essentials such as phone top-up cards, warm clothes and somewhere to socialise, he says “The Club is also often the only safe place for seafarers to raise issues of exploitation or unsafe working conditions.” ☺

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Colossians 1:1-14

There's a well-known verse nestling in the middle of this reading: “we have heard of your faith... and... love... *because of the hope laid up for you in heaven*”. Those are my italics. The reason this verse stops me in my tracks is because I wonder what I – what we – think of heaven. (By “we” I don't just mean “we Christians” – this is a question for everyone.)

Cartoon heaven has a large ornate gate rising out of a cloud, with St Peter acting as a kind of bouncer, and cherubs, complete with halos and harps, lounging around on cushiony clouds. We may not take that literally, but do we have an alternative in our mind's eye? Do we need some idea of heaven for the health of our faith? Or is the very

notion damaging and distracting? Was John Lennon right? Is it healthy to think of “above us... only sky”?

This is one for personal reflection and prayer, so I can only provide my own insight, with the help of Charles Haddon Spurgeon. He preached about this in 1878: “It is clear that no man has a hope laid up in heaven unless he has hope within himself.” I agree. It's not about keeping our fingers crossed, hoping that something may or may not be reality, for surely that's a distraction. It's about looking deeper within, drawing on our inner, God-given resources, to find the flame of hope within. Hope, like charity, begins within – heaven in the here and now. ☺

Stained glass

In a three-part series, Heather Smith writes about the history and significance of stained glass

Plain coloured glass could be found in Christian basilicas in the third to fifth centuries and in England the abbey at Monkwearmouth had green, blue, amber and red glass in the seventh century. Pictorial windows came later. In the tenth century the windows of the church of St Remi at Reims depicted stories, but it was the arrival of the Gothic style that moved the art form towards

the representation of biblical characters and saints that we are now familiar with.

At first artists were not interested in creating realistic pictures, but in illustration and ideas. In the fifteenth century, influenced by developments elsewhere in art, the style moved from Gothic to Classical. New approaches and different styles during the Italian Renaissance effectively killed off the traditional art of stained glass, swiftly followed by the Reformation, when creating religious images in glass was prohibited.

Much early pictorial stained glass was destroyed in the reign of Henry VIII and little survives in England – York Minister and Canterbury Cathedral having notable exceptions. ☺

“Give me my scallop-shell of quiet, My staff of faith... And thus I'll take my pilgrimage.

Walter Raleigh (c. 1554-1618), poet, soldier, politician, courtier and explorer

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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 Red House Road, East Brent.
- Those who run and attend Brent Knoll Toddlers.

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
14th July 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist 19.00 Quiz Brent Knoll Inn	15th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House East Brent 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House East Brent	16th Toddlers Summer Outing	17th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	18th 14.30 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir Singalong Concert St Mary's	19th 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings, Lymphsham	20th
21st July 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	22nd	23rd 19.00 PCC Meeting Brent Knoll Methodist Church	24th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	25th 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group	26th	27th
28th July 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	29th	30th	31st 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	1st August	2nd	3rd

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	Revd. 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

Amos 7. 7- end

This is what he showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb-line, with a plumb-line in his hand. And the Lord said to me, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A plumb-line.'
Then the Lord said,
'See, I am setting a plumb-line
in the midst of my people Israel;
I will never again pass them by;
the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate,
and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste,
and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword.'

Amaziah Complains to the King

Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, 'Amos has conspired against you in the very centre of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. For thus Amos has said,
"Jeroboam shall die by the sword,
and Israel must go into exile
away from his land." '

And Amaziah said to Amos, 'O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom.'

Then Amos answered Amaziah, 'I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, and the Lord took me from following the flock, and the Lord said to me, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

'Now therefore hear the word of the Lord.

You say, "Do not prophesy against Israel,
and do not preach against the house of Isaac."

Therefore, thus says the Lord:

"Your wife shall become a prostitute in the city,
and your sons and your daughters shall fall by the sword,
and your land shall be parcelled out by line;
you yourself shall die in an unclean land,
and Israel shall surely go into exile away from its land." '

Gospel Reading

Luke 10. 25-37

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. 'Teacher,' he said, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' He said to him, 'What is written in the law? What do you read there?' He answered, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.' And he said to him, 'You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.'

But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, 'And who is my neighbour?' Jesus replied, 'A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.'

But a Samaritan while travelling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, "Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend."

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbour to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?' He said, 'The one who showed him mercy.' Jesus said to him, 'Go and do likewise.'

Second Reading

Colossians 1. 1-14

The letter of Paul to the Colossians

Salutation

Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and Timothy our brother,
To the saints and faithful brothers and sisters in Christ in Colossae:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father.

Paul Thanks God for the Colossians

In our prayers for you we always thank God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, for we have heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and of the love that you have for all the saints, because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. You have heard of this hope before in the word of the truth, the gospel that has come to you. Just as it is bearing fruit and growing in the whole world, so it has been bearing fruit among yourselves from the day you heard it and truly comprehended the grace of God. This you learned from Epaphras, our beloved fellow-servant. He is a faithful minister of Christ on your behalf, and he has made known to us your love in the Spirit.

For this reason, since the day we heard it, we have not ceased praying for you and asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of God's will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, so that you may lead lives worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, as you bear fruit in every good work and as you grow in the knowledge of God. May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

Blessed Thought.

*"Ours are the eyes that look out with Christ's
compassion on the world....ours are the hands
with which he is to bless humanity now"*

Teresa of Avila



Quiz Night

The Knoll Inn

7pm Sunday 14th July

£3 per person

Everyone welcome.



Collect for Today

O God, the protector of all who trust in you,
without whom nothing is strong, nothing is holy:
increase and multiply upon us your mercy;
that with you as our ruler and guide
we may so pass through things temporal
that we lose not our hold on things eternal;
grant this, heavenly Father,
for our Lord 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)

Refresher Sessions

- **For anyone who reads, or would like to read, the Bible in church**

Tuesday 30th July 7.30pm or Saturday 10th August 10am

About 40 minutes sharing skills and experiences.

- **For anyone who administers the chalice at communion (or would like to learn more about it)**

Thursday 1st August 7.30pm or Saturday 10th August 11am

About an hour discussing our practices and the symbolism of what we do. Please let Kevin know which date(s) you can come.



St Mary's in Bloom

Many thanks to all who supported St. Mary's in Bloom over last weekend. We were delighted to receive such an amazing range of floral arrangements from across the Parish & further afield, together with lots of scrummy cakes.

Huge thanks go to the small team that looked after refreshments over both days.

Particular thanks go to Caz who encouraged so many to prepare such beautiful flowers.

We were delighted to receive lots of entries for the children's competition, they were all really well done & super hard to judge.

If you were able to buy some of the flowers, we hope they look as lovely in your home as they did in St. Mary's.



The East Brent Parish History Group are pleased to announce that

The George Reed Display

Will be up in St Mary's Church, East Brent **from 25th July for two weeks.**

George Reed was the Lord of the Manor of East Brent and Burnham's greatest benefactor of the Victorian era.



Highbridge Area Foodbank

We are very grateful for support from all parts of the community, including churches. At present we are helping a large number of people, so we use up stocks of certain items quickly and have to buy more.

We are currently short of..

**Tinned Fruit
Small bags of Sugar
Tinned Rice Pudding
Small jars of Coffee
Tinned Fish
Custard**

Can you help??

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



Concert

St Mary's Church, East Brent

**Thursday 18th July
At 19.30**

**Sing along 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.



**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.