

## 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 The Willows, Brent Knoll.
- Our local caravan parks - Westfield Farm, Dulhorn Farm and Wick Farm.
- Cohen, as he is baptised this morning and his Mum, Madison, and Dad, Oliver.

### 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 Softe 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>21st July</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<b>22nd</b>	<b>23rd</b>  19.00 PCC Meeting Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>24th</b> 09.00-10.30 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>25th</b> 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group	<b>26th</b>	<b>27th</b>
<b>28th July</b> 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion  10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist  18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<b>29th</b>	<b>30th</b>	<b>31st</b> 09.00-10.30 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>1st August</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
<b>4th August</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<b>5th</b>	<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b> 09.00-10.30 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</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.



Connecting faith and daily life

# A game of tag



Caroline Hodgson

reflects on Colossians 1:15-28

At the beginning of chapter two Paul writes, "I am struggling for you... and for all who have not seen me face to face... though I am absent in body, yet I am with you in spirit". It suggests that he was encouraging and supporting the Colossians remotely, and indeed nobody knows whether Paul ever visited Colossae in person. It's thought that Epaphras, a native of Colossae mentioned in the opening verses, heard Paul preach in Ephesus and became a Christian, before going home and founding a church.

In today's passage Paul describes Jesus at "the image of the invisible God". Christ was God on earth. After his death and resurrection, Paul became Christ's earthly representative. Since Paul, for all his zeal and energy, couldn't cover the whole earth on his missions, Epaphras brought the word to the people of Colossae. So a pattern emerges – a game of tag.

Christians have always known that, having heard the word of God, it is both a joy and a solemn responsibility to pass it on. It's not easy or straightforward. We might be shy and reserved, for example, or plain embarrassed, or

compensate with off-putting over-zealousness. Each of us has our own individual contribution to make – it's called our potential – and that, in the Christian life, can be discerned through prayer, reflection and, importantly, experience – getting out there and getting on with it.

Okay, so you're "it". When are you going to set aside time to pray about it, with the real intention of acting upon God's word to you in prayer? ☺

Lord God, with the examples of Paul and Epaphras before me, I ask you to be with me in spirit as I try to fulfil my God-given potential, and discern how I can be your representative on earth. Amen.

## Stained glass

by Heather Smith

If stained glass had a difficult time during the Reformation, it was in for an even rockier ride during the English Civil War. At St Andrews by the Wardrobe in London there is a November 1641 entry in the churchwardens' accounts that reads "paid for taking downe of old glasse and setting upp of new" – the reason: iconoclasm.

This was repeated across the country as a result of parliamentary legislation. In 1644 an ordinance stipulated

that "all Representations of any of the Persons of the Trinity, or of any Angel or Saint, in or about any Cathedral, Collegiate or Parish Church, or Chappel, or in any open place within this Kingdome, shall be taken away, defaced, and utterly demolished". The churchwardens were obliged to carry this out.

But the story is not just one of destruction. Some people attempted to prevent the destruction and save their glass. In Fairford in Gloucestershire they managed to save twenty-eight windows, even though their bishop was an ardent Puritan. ☺

“Above all, maintain constant love for one another, for love covers a multitude of sins.

1 Peter 4:8

## Walking with Poppy

Things happen

by Gillian Cooper

It's hot, and Poppy is not happy. She sits down on the pavement, panting, and looks at me with an expression that says, "Why have you turned the heat up? I'm a good girl, I don't deserve this!"

In the Old Testament Job has a similar issue. Catastrophes

have happened, and he does not deserve them. He turns on God with an accusation: it isn't fair, I don't deserve this! In reply God shows him a vast and complex universe of which Job is not the centre. Bad things happen, God implies, even to good people (and dogs), and the reason is far beyond mortal understanding. There is no point asking why, or blaming anyone, we just have to trust that God is in charge.

The answer helps Job move on. And it is what I say to Poppy, as I try to persuade her to walk as far as the park, where there is shade under the trees. ☺



## Bible Readings

### First Reading

Amos 8. 1-12

The Basket of Fruit

This is what the Lord God showed me - a basket of summer fruit. He said, 'Amos, what do you see?' And I said, 'A basket of summer fruit.' Then the Lord said to me,

'The end has come upon my people Israel; I will never again pass them by.

The songs of the temple shall become wailings on that day,' says the Lord God;

'the dead bodies shall be many, cast out in every place. Be silent!'

Hear this, you that trample on the needy, and bring to ruin the poor of the land,

saying, 'When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain;

and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?'

We will make the ephah small and the shekel great, and practise deceit with false balances,

buying the poor for silver

and the needy for a pair of sandals, and selling the sweepings of the wheat.'

The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob: Surely I will never forget any of their deeds.

Shall not the land tremble on this account, and everyone mourn who lives in it,

and all of it rise like the Nile,

and be tossed about and sink again, like the Nile of Egypt?'

On that day, says the Lord God,

I will make the sun go down at noon, and darken the earth in broad daylight.

I will turn your feasts into mourning, and all your songs into lamentation;

I will bring sackcloth on all loins, and baldness on every head;

I will make it like the mourning for an only son, and the end of it like a bitter day.

The time is surely coming, says the Lord God, when I will send a famine on the land;

not a famine of bread, or a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord.

They shall wander from sea to sea, and from north to east;

they shall run to and fro, seeking the word of the Lord, but they shall not find it.

### Gospel Reading

Luke 10. 38 - end

Jesus Visits Martha and Mary

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, 'Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me.' But the Lord answered her, 'Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.'

### Second Reading

Colossians 1. 15-28

The Supremacy of Christ

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross. And you who were once estranged and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, he has now reconciled in his fleshly body through death, so as to present you holy and blameless and irreproachable before him— provided that you continue securely established and steadfast in the faith, without shifting from the hope promised by the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed to every creature under heaven. I, Paul, became a servant of this gospel.

Paul's Interest in the Colossians

I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church. I became its servant according to God's commission that was given to me for you, to make the word of God fully known, the mystery that has been hidden throughout the ages and generations but has now been revealed to his saints. To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory. It is he whom we proclaim, warning everyone and teaching everyone in all wisdom, so that we may present everyone mature in Christ.

### Blessed Thought.

*Eternal God, in whose perfect realm  
no sword is drawn but the sword of justice,  
and no strength known but the strength of love,  
so guide and inspire the work of all who seek your kingdom  
that peoples and nations may find their security  
in that love which casts out fear  
and in the fellowship revealed to us in Jesus Christ our  
Saviour.*

### Collect for Today

Almighty and everlasting God,  
by whose Spirit the whole body of the Church  
is governed and sanctified:

Hear our prayer which we offer for all your faithful people,  
that in their vocation and ministry  
they may serve you in holiness and truth  
to the glory of your name;  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ,  
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)

### The Vision of our Diocese

**"In response to God's immense love for us we seek to be God's people, living and telling the story of Jesus."**  
(Diocese of Bath and Wells website)

**The Diocesan vision speaks of the story of Jesus' love for us and all humanity; shown by his life, teaching and work, his death and resurrection.**

**We seek to live this story, the story of his love, as disciples of Jesus Christ in the world and to tell it, both in sharing the good news and by the way in which our lives and actions speak about Him.**

### Baptism Today

Cohen,

We warmly welcome you and your family,  
as we celebrate your baptism with the  
church family this morning.

We pray that you will come to  
know Jesus for yourself as you  
grow up, and we especially  
pray for your mum and dad,  
Madison and Oliver.



### Mr Hugh Mackay

It is with great regret we announce the sad passing of Hugh Mackay on 9th July.

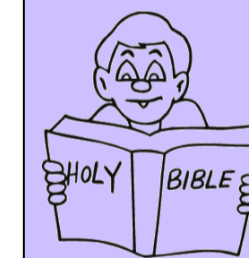
Hugh played a significant role in the parish, especially during the Re Pitching Our Tent project and in preparing grant applications for us over the years. He was also a great ambassador for Brent Knoll School and the village hall at East Brent.

He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace, Hugh.

His funeral will be at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Monday 22nd July at 5pm.

Cards and wishes have been passed to his family on our behalf.

### Refresher Sessions (all at St Mary's)



- For anyone who reads, or would like to read, the Bible in church  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> July 7.30pm or  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup> August 7.30pm or Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

**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.