

## 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 Wickham Way, East Brent and Copse Corner, Lympsham.
- Our church cleaners, flower arrangers and bellringers across the parish.
- Rudy, as he is baptised this morning and his Mum, Katie and Dad, Aron.

### 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>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>  19.30 Refresher Session (Readers) St Mary's	<b>31st</b> 09.00-10.30 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>1st August</b>  19.30 Refresher Session (Chalice) St Mary's	<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> 10.00 Refresher Session (Readers) St Mary's  11.00 Refresher Session (Chalice) St Mary's
<b>11th August</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist (Plans displayed after worship)	<b>12th</b>	<b>13th</b>	<b>14th</b> 09.00-10.30 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>15th</b>	<b>16th</b> 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings, Lympsham	<b>17th</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 flexible approach



Caroline Hodgson *reflects on*  
Colossians 2:6-15 [16-19]

In its heyday Colossae was a large, populous and prosperous city, although by Paul's time it had dwindled in size and significance and become known as a hub of "syncretism". This is defined in the dictionary as "the amalgamation of different religions, cultures, or schools of thought". In first-century Colossae this meant a mashup of Jewish, Gnostic and pagan ideas, including an angel cult in which the archangel Michael was venerated. It was, you might say, an alternative kind of place.

We live in an age in which diversity, inclusiveness and individual choice are celebrated, in which people pick and choose the religious, ethical and moral frameworks for their lives according to personal choice (although in reality their choices depend largely on background, upbringing, experience and the influence of those around them). Our lifestyle and ethical choices may change as we grow through life, and that's also celebrated.

Christians reading today's passage might feel

uneasy, wondering whether we, in this age of fluid and flexible thinking, have become "captive through philosophy and empty deceit". Is this the "human way of thinking" that Paul warns against?

I love Paul's poetry, faithfulness, commitment and passion, and I wouldn't recommend subscribing to an angel cult. However, I don't agree with his way of setting "human tradition" in opposition to a life lived "according to Christ". So, trying to keep the example and teaching of Christ above all in my sights, I say the opening verses of this passage as a personal prayer. 🙏

**Lord God, as I have received Christ Jesus the Lord, may I continue to live my life in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as I was taught, abounding in thanksgiving. Amen.**

## International Friendship Day

by Christine Clark

International Friendship Day was conceived in 1930 by the founder of Hallmark Cards. It is easy to be cynical and suspect that there was an element of commercialism in the idea. Today the celebration has all but vanished in Europe and the USA, although it has been taken up enthusiastically in some Asian countries.

If we drop our cynical misgivings and see the wider picture, the concept of celebrating friendship should be welcomed. After all, if Christians subscribe to the idea that God is love, which we in turn reflect, this love can be shown in our daily lives as kindness, compassion, mercy and friendship.

We keep old friends and make new friends; some we see regularly and often, others we keep in touch with just at Christmas; we have best friends and people to nod good morning to in the street; neighbours and friends at work. All sorts of friendships, all opportunities for Christians to show their best side. 🙏

“The friendship of the Lord is for those who fear him, and he makes his covenant known to them.”

Psalm 25:14

## Stained glass

by Heather Smith

Stained glass saw a revival in the late eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, alongside a number of artistic, philosophical and religious developments. The Oxford Movement placed an emphasis on pre-Reformation doctrine and liturgy, with obvious connections to the fabric of the church. At the same time, the Cambridge Camden Society (the Ecclesiologists) was concerned with preservation of churches and their architecture.

The textile designer, writer and socialist activist William Morris

joined forces with the artist Ford Madox Brown to set up a studio producing stained glass, although not much was installed in ancient churches because of philosophical differences between the two men and the Ecclesiologists. Other artistic styles that influenced stained glass included Art Nouveau, Naturalism and Opulence.

Cathedrals and churches still commission stained glass and many prominent artists have contributed windows. Their subjects are varied. No longer obviously biblical, and even sometimes abstract, they surely all contribute to the spiritual and faith life of those who see them. 🙏

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

#### Hosea 1. 2-10

##### The Family of Hosea

When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to Hosea, 'Go, take for yourself a wife of whoredom and have children of whoredom, for the land commits great whoredom by forsaking the Lord.' So he went and took Gomer daughter of Diblaim, and she conceived and bore him a son.

And the Lord said to him, 'Name him Jezreel; for in a little while I will punish the house of Jehu for the blood of Jezreel, and I will put an end to the kingdom of the house of Israel. On that day I will break the bow of Israel in the valley of Jezreel.'

She conceived again and bore a daughter. Then the Lord said to him, 'Name her Lo-ruhamah, for I will no longer have pity on the house of Israel or forgive them. But I will have pity on the house of Judah, and I will save them by the Lord their God; I will not save them by bow, or by sword, or by war, or by horses, or by horsemen.'

When she had weaned Lo-ruhamah, she conceived and bore a son. Then the Lord said, 'Name him Lo-ammi, for you are not my people and I am not your God.'

##### The Restoration of Israel

Yet the number of the people of Israel shall be like the sand of the sea, which can be neither measured nor numbered; and in the place where it was said to them, 'You are not my people', it shall be said to them, 'Children of the living God.'

### Gospel Reading

#### Luke 11. 1-13

##### The Lord's Prayer

He was praying in a certain place, and after he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, 'Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.' He said to them,

'When you pray, say:

Father, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come.

Give us each day our daily bread.

And forgive us our sins,

for we ourselves forgive everyone indebted to us.

And do not bring us to the time of trial.'

##### Perseverance in Prayer

And he said to them, 'Suppose one of you has a friend, and you go to him at midnight and say to him, "Friend, lend me three loaves of bread; for a friend of mine has arrived, and I have nothing to set before him." And he answers from within, "Do not bother me; the door has already been locked, and my children are with me in bed; I cannot get up and give you anything." I tell you, even though he will not get up and give him anything because he is his friend, at least because of his persistence he will get up and give him whatever he needs.

'So I say to you, Ask, and it will be given to you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you. For everyone who asks receives, and everyone who searches finds, and for everyone who knocks, the door will be opened. Is there anyone among you who, if your child asks for a fish, will give a snake instead of a fish? Or if the child asks for an egg, will give a scorpion? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!'

### Second Reading

#### Colossians 2. 6-19

##### Fullness of Life in Christ

As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the universe, and not according to Christ. For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily, and you have come to fullness in him, who is the head of every ruler and authority. In him also you were circumcised with a spiritual circumcision, by putting off the body of the flesh in the circumcision of Christ; when you were buried with him in baptism, you were also raised with him through faith in the power of God, who raised him from the dead. And when you were dead in trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, God made you alive together with him, when he forgave us all our trespasses, erasing the record that stood against us with its legal demands. He set this aside, nailing it to the cross. He disarmed the rulers and authorities and made a public example of them, triumphing over them in it.

Therefore do not let anyone condemn you in matters of food and drink or of observing festivals, new moons, or sabbaths. These are only a shadow of what is to come, but the substance belongs to Christ. Do not let anyone disqualify you, insisting on self-abasement and worship of angels, dwelling on visions, puffed up without cause by a human way of thinking, and not holding fast to the head, from whom the whole body, nourished and held together by its ligaments and sinews, grows with a growth that is from God.



*Watch out for details of  
Open-Air Pop-up Celtic  
Worship during August/  
early September."*

### Collect for Today

Merciful God,

you have prepared for those who love you

such good things as pass our understanding:

Pour into our hearts such love toward you

that we, loving you in all things and above all things,

may obtain your promises,

which exceed all that we can desire; through Jesus

Christ your Son our 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)

### Baptism Today

Rudy,

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,  
Katie and Aron.



### 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.

### 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.

His funeral was held at Sedgemoor Crematorium on Monday 22nd July. Some of us from the parish attended. He will be sorely missed. Cards and wishes have been passed to his family on our behalf.

Rest in peace, Hugh.

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 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.

### Teas

**in St Michael's Church  
SUNDAYS THROUGHOUT AUGUST**

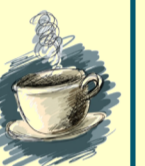
**REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED BETWEEN**

**2.00PM AND 4.30PM IN**

**ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH**

**VESTRY**

PROCEEDS TO FRIENDS  
OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



**An opportunity for everyone to have a look at  
the proposed improvements to our church  
buildings.**

Plans for each particular church building will be displayed after our 10am worship during August.

11th August at St Mary's

18th August at St Michael's

25th August at St Christopher's

Everyone is welcome to view the plans and chat about them over coffee. Suggestions are welcome.



### Highbridge Area Foodbank

**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 for your continued support.**