



Connecting faith and daily life

Last in our series of special issues written by women about women

How well do you know yourself?



Heather Smith *reflects on* Jeremiah 1:4-10

The prospect of public speaking is a common cause of anxiety, as are job interviews and exams. Jeremiah is a clear example of someone who doubts his ability. He is one in a long line of people who are chosen by God, who feel that they can't do what is required of them. Moses resists God's request to speak to Pharaoh, while Jonah is not keen to confront the people of Nineveh.

When it comes to judging our own capabilities and limitations, we often think we are best placed to know what they are. We've lived with ourselves longer than anyone and we are intimately acquainted with all our bad points – and possibly our good. God begs to differ. "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you". It's quite hard to argue with that. Who can remember anything about themselves before they were even conceived? Other people often recognise what we are capable of when we can't see it ourselves. If other human beings can see more in us than we can, how much more can God?

Opportunities are God's way of helping us to be ourselves – the person God made. They may be challenging, but by grasping them we will find out who we really are. God has promised to be with us so we are always safe even if, like Jeremiah, we struggle to believe it. 🍵

Creator God, teach us to follow your lead and to take up the challenges we face, trusting in you to sustain us through our fear. Amen.

Monica of Hippo

Monica, mother of Augustine of Hippo, is commemorated on Tuesday. Lisa Tulfer looks at her life and legacy.

Famous for being the mother of St Augustine, who gave us most of what is known about her in his *Confessions*, Monica is revered as a woman of prayer, fortitude and virtue. Born in 331 or 332, probably a Berber tribeswoman, and raised a Christian, she married a violent and adulterous Roman

magistrate. Her three surviving children included Augustine, whose waywardness and refusal to embrace the Christian faith caused her great grief. He flirted with Manicheism (a sect originating in Iran) and fathered a son by his concubine. Monica prayed unceasingly for her son's conversion, and was assured by a bishop that "the son of so many tears cannot perish". Eventually she followed Augustine to Rome and then Milan, finding to her joy that after seventeen years of resistance he had indeed embraced Christianity. She died at Ostia on their return journey to Africa. 🍵

Women in Christianity

by Georgina Byrne

From the beginning, Christians have gathered to break bread and share wine to remember Jesus. At first they met in people's homes, only moving into churches when Christianity became acceptable as the religion of the state. In the early centuries, women would have welcomed guests, fed them, and made them comfortable. They

were unable, by social convention, to exercise public ministry, but they opened their homes to apostles.

In the public space the Eucharist was, until recently, presided over by men alone. But leading prayers, reading scripture and preaching are only part of church life. For as long as church buildings have been built, someone has cleaned, put flowers into vases, sewn and mended altar linen, baked the altar bread, and made those places welcoming and beautiful. We might wonder whether the ministry of hospitality, offered, mostly, by women, has drawn people to Christ just as often as has the finest sermon. 🍵

“Where you go, I will go; where you lodge, I will lodge; your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Ruth 1:16

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 Purving Row, Purving Row Lane, Purving Way and North Road, Lympsham.
- Our three Civic Parish Councils.

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 Barbara, Iona, Caroline, Mervyn, Luke, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter and Marcus.

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25th August 08.00 St Mary's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist (Plans displayed after worship) 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	26th	27th	28th	29th	30th	31st
1st September 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's All Age Communion 18.00 Celtic Evening Prayer Ralph's Wood Weather permitting	2nd	3rd	4th 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's 19.00 PCC Standing Committee Church Office	5th 09.15 St Mary's Parish Prayer	6th	7th 12.00 Lympsham Harvest Home
8th September 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist 18.00 Quiz at Brent Knoll Inn	9th	10th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	11th 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	12th 09.15 St Mary's Parish Prayer 19.45 (change of time just this week) All Sorts Choir St Mary's	13th	14th 19.00 St Michael's Friends Event - A Night at the Movies

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

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

Jeremiah 1. 4-10

Now the word of the Lord came to me saying, 'Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations.' Then I said, 'Ah, Lord God! Truly I do not know how to speak, for I am only a boy.' But the Lord said to me, 'Do not say, "I am only a boy"; for you shall go to all to whom I send you, and you shall speak whatever I command you. Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you, says the Lord.' Then the Lord put out his hand and touched my mouth; and the Lord said to me, 'Now I have put my words in your mouth. See, today I appoint you over nations and over kingdoms, to pluck up and to pull down, to destroy and to overthrow, to build and to plant.'

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.

25th August at St Christopher's - Today Everyone is welcome to view the plans and chat about them over coffee. Suggestions welcome.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13. 10-17

Now he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the sabbath. And just then there appeared a woman with a spirit that had crippled her for eighteen years. She was bent over and was quite unable to stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, he called her over and said, 'Woman, you are set free from your ailment.' When he laid his hands on her, immediately she stood up straight and began praising God.

But the leader of the synagogue, indignant because Jesus had cured on the sabbath, kept saying to the crowd, 'There are six days on which work ought to be done; come on those days and be cured, and not on the sabbath day.' But the Lord answered him and said, 'You hypocrites! Does not each of you on the sabbath untie his ox or his donkey from the manger, and lead it away to give it water? And ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen long years, be set free from this bondage on the sabbath day?' When he said this, all his opponents were put to shame; and the entire crowd was rejoicing at all the wonderful things that he was doing.

Second Reading

Hebrews 12. 18-end

You have not come to something that can be touched, a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom, and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet, and a voice whose words made the hearers beg that not another word be spoken to them. (For they could not endure the order that was given, 'If even an animal touches the mountain, it shall be stoned to death.' Indeed, so terrifying was the sight that Moses said, 'I tremble with fear.') But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.

See that you do not refuse the one who is speaking; for if they did not escape when they refused the one who warned them on earth, how much less will we escape if we reject the one who warns from heaven! At that time his voice shook the earth; but now he has promised, 'Yet once more I will shake not only the earth but also the heaven.' This phrase 'Yet once more' indicates the removal of what is shaken—that is, created things—so that what cannot be shaken may remain. Therefore, since we are receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us give thanks, by which we offer to God an acceptable worship with reverence and awe; for indeed our God is a consuming fire.

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)

Collect for Today

Let your merciful ears, O Lord, be open to the prayers of your humble servants; and that they may obtain their petitions make them to ask such things as shall please you; 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)



Pop-up Church Celtic Evening Prayer (about 30 minutes)

Sunday 1st September at 6pm
in Ralph's Wood - weather permitting.
Please use word of mouth, social media
and the telephone to confirm it is going
ahead and to share.

There will be posts on Facebook (TPOTS)
and Twitter (@TPOTS6) and a message on
The Rectory phonenumber (760844).

Please invite friends and neighbours.
Please share lifts and bring chairs or picnic
blankets if you wish.

Teas

in St Michael's Church
SUNDAYS THROUGHOUT AUGUST

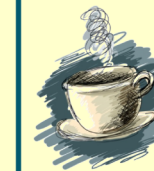
REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED BETWEEN

2.00PM AND 4.30PM IN

ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

VESTRY

PROCEEDS TO FRIENDS
OF ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH



Coming soon.....

Café Style Church

35 mins of informal, interactive praise and worship
At 4pm on 16th Sep in St Mary's, East Brent.
Refreshments from 3.30pm.

COFFEE MORNING

167 Brent Street

Brent Knoll

Saturday 7th September

10.30am to 12 noon

Bring and Buy table

Proceeds to St. Michael's Church

Roof Appeal



Churches Together

A Festival of FLOWERS AND QUILTS



12th -14th September 2019

Thursday 12th, Friday 13th 10.00 a.m. - 5.0 p.m.
Saturday 14th 10.00 a.m. 4.30 p.m.

Free admission.

Refreshments. Good car parking.

OUR LADY AND THE ENGLISH MARTYRS

HIGHBRIDGE ROAD,
BURNHAM - ON - SEA, TA8 1LL

COM-FOR-TEA

Comfort Group

At times we all need a bit of

Compassion,

and a place to be as Open with others as we feel able.

To Meet to share worries, fears, joys
and triumphs. To build Friendships and beat loneliness.

An Opportunity to be ourselves

With Refreshments

and a cup of Tea in a safe, homely space,
where confidentiality and privacy will be respected.

Open to Everyone:

male or female, old or young, whether you go to church or
not, whether you have a faith or have none.

We meet at 2pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month,
starting from 19th September.



For further information, or to request a lift, contact:

Dot tel. 01278 760600 or

Anthony tel. 07701 081077 or

Email lpacare.tpots@gmail.co.uk

Supported by The Parish of Three Saints (TPOTS).
St Mary's, East Brent; St Christopher's, Lymsham;
St Michael's, Brent Knoll.



Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. Please speak to a Steward or Churchwarden before the service.

**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.