



Connecting faith and daily life

## 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 Mendip Road, Mudgley Road, Rookery Close, Rooksbridge.
- Crime Prevention and Rescue Services - Police (Beat Surgery), Fire and Rescue, and Paramedics.

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

## Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>20th October</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Harvest Thanksgiving and Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's Harvest Thanksgiving and Holy Communion	<b>21st</b>  19.30 Pastoral Care Team Meeting	<b>22nd</b> 09.00 St Mary's EB School Harvest Service  10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>23rd</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>24th</b> 09.30 St Michael's BK School Harvest Service  14.30 Bereaved Friends Group  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>25th</b> 09.00 St Mary's EB School Collective Worship	<b>26th</b>
<b>27th October</b> 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion  10.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion  18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<b>28th</b> 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b>29th</b>	<b>30th</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>31st</b>  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>1st November</b>	<b>2nd</b>
<b>3rd November</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's All Saints All Age Communion	<b>4th</b>	<b>5th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>6th</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>7th</b>  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>8th</b>	<b>9th</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	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](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.

# Pestering

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* Luke 18:1-8

All parents know how children can pester. And they also know the relief of giving in and letting them have whatever they are after, for the sake of a bit of peace. The story Jesus tells imagines God like an exasperated parent, giving the children what they want. But of course there is more to it than that. The issue here is not biscuits or sweets, but justice. That is what the widow in the story wants, that is what God is being pestered for, and so that is what God is willing to give. But is that all?

Our Old Testament reading tells of Jacob wrestling with God all

night, even after he is injured. He does not want justice. Justice for him would involve punishment for all his cheating and conniving. He wants, and gets, a blessing, and also a new name, Israel – the name that he will pass on to his descendants, God's people.

We may think we want justice, our just deserts, but what we need is a blessing, and the name God gives us, his children, despite our faults and failings. "When the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?" Faith to pester God not for what we want, but for what we need? 🙏

**God of justice and blessing, give us faith to know that we can come to you with our requests, and wisdom to know what we need, that we may persist in asking for justice on earth, and receive your blessing now and in all eternity. Amen.**

## Faith and disability

*God understands sign language*  
by Heather Smith

You may never have encountered anyone for whom British Sign Language (BSL) is their first language, but it's more common than you might think. The deaf community has a vibrant, supportive culture, often with special church services. Many say, however, that they would like to feel confident and included

attending any service. Deaf people may often feel left out, but be keen to join in, while non-deaf churchgoers may want to include them, but struggle to know how.

Neil Robinson, the Salisbury Diocese Minister with Deaf and Hard of Hearing People, says he has two identities – in Christ, and as a deaf person. When they come together he is at his happiest. As a newly ordained priest, his training vicar encouraged him to work to his strengths and abilities, and to believe that he has a great deal to contribute because of, not despite, his deafness. In turn, Neil wants to encourage other deaf people to feel the same. Neil prays in BSL because, of course, God understands. 🙏

“Truth is the highest thing that man may keep.”  
Geoffrey Chaucer (1340-1400), English poet



## Finding God on the Smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

If there is a heavy dew when I go to check the sheep early in the morning I can see their tracks on the grass telling me where they've been overnight. There's a word in Welsh, *cynefin*, which is about familiar paths; the homely feeling of being on the path where you belong

in the landscape, rooted by relationship and history, that fits this early morning experience for me. There's no adequate English translation, but I experience what I think it means both in the sheep field and in my sinking into my local Welsh community and in the relationship I have with God here.

I follow the sheep paths, seeing where they've stood to eat a particularly tasty weed, or where they've lain down and there's no dew at all, just a soft hollow in the green. Such rootedness is a slow process but it leads to abundant life. 🙏

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

**Hebrews 13. 1-8, 15-16**

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.'

So we can say with confidence,  
'The Lord is my helper;  
I will not be afraid.  
What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever. Through him, then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.

### Gospel Reading

**Luke 14. 1, 7-14**

On one occasion when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath, they were watching him closely.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable. 'When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour, in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you, "Give this person your place", and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place. But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, "Friend, move up higher"; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you. For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.'

He said also to the one who had invited him, 'When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid. But when you give a banquet, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.'



**Thank you very much for your donations of food and money at this Harvest Thanksgiving Service. Everything you have given today will go directly to the Highbridge Area Foodbank.**

**If you would like to do more.....**

**The Trussell Trust annual Christmas appeal, in conjunction with Tesco stores, will run this year from Thursday 21st to Saturday 23rd November.**

**We would be very happy to hear from anyone who would be interested in supporting us with staffing the collection point in Burnham Tesco for an hour or two, collecting donations by car or sorting food at our 'warehouse' at the Methodist Church in Burnham.**

**Please see Maxine Bashford for more details.**

**Thank you for your continuing support.**

### Blessed Thought

*Fix your thoughts on what is true,  
and honourable, and right, and pure  
and lovely.*

*Think about things that are excellent and  
worthy of praise.*

*Philippians 4. 8*

### Collect for Today

Almighty and everlasting God,  
increase in us your gift of faith  
that, forsaking what lies behind  
and reaching out to that which is before,  
we may run the way of your commandments  
and win the crown of everlasting joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you, I  
n 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)



### Medieval Feast and Music

Do come and enjoy a  
*Medieval Feast in St. Michael's Church,  
Brent Knoll*

*on Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm  
with music played by Caliban's Dream.*

Why not get a table of friends together? Numbers are limited so please book early. There will be no ticket charge in the hope that, if you enjoy your evening, you will give generously to the **Save Our Special Ceiling Appeal** which is now urgent with the theft of lead from the roof.

We will be selling our special St Michael's Angel Ale and there will be a cash bar. Families are welcome.

Please email [rosemary.keele@btinternet](mailto:rosemary.keele@btinternet) or phone 01278 769010 for further information.

### Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 10am St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

**All Saints All-Age Communion  
with guest speaker Cheryl Govier from the  
Diocesan Go Team.**

Cheryl is an enthusiastic, inspirational speaker, passionate about work with children and young people.

She will tell us about the work across the diocese.

### Churches Together Burnham and Highbridge District

#### **Prayer Meeting**

Monday 18th November 7.30pm

St Christopher's Church

All Welcome

**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 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.