



Connecting faith and daily life

# A journey of discovery



Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Luke 20:27-38

**D**o you remember being very young? Perhaps you can remember having no notion that life was anything other than how you perceived it. Your whole world consisted of your mother's womb, then your cot, your room, and so on. As you grew, developed and explored, you started to reshape your concepts about life and the world, and to recognise possibilities and new horizons. Perhaps you learnt about pain through crawling towards something and bumping your head against it. You started to learn about friendship, love, sorrow and loss. You started to understand that everything comes to an end, but then you learnt that each end contains within it the makings of a new beginning – when a leaf falls from a tree it decomposes on the ground, enriching the soil and creating the conditions for new life.

The Sadducees in today's Gospel reading had a failure of imagination, and were dogmatically and doctrinally boxed into fixed ideas. They assumed the afterlife to be a mere continuation of earthly existence. They were also mean-spirited in trying to trap Jesus. But Jesus is not to be contained, and comes back with the wonderful image of those who have died an earthly death as "like angels... children of God... children of the resurrection".

Childhood is, and should be, a time of discovery, wonder and awe, of finding freedom and learning. We can never know what awaits us the other side of the grave, and it would be a mistake to limit ourselves – in this life or the next. 😊

**Lord God, as I grow through life, help me to retain a sense of awe and wonder at your creation – until at last I meet you, in unimaginable joy. Amen.**

## The creeds

*Kathryn Fleming continues her series about the Christian creeds.*

Whether you hear that word, "creed", and think instinctively of a great choir belting out the first movement of Bach's B Minor Mass, or find yourself wondering what you actually believe yourself, you can't spend long in most Christian churches without engaging with some kind of statement of faith.

Recently I was present as my diocese formally cemented a

partnership with an Anglican diocese in Kenya – and, before anything was signed and sealed, right at the centre of the liturgy, English and Kenyans standing together were asked to proclaim the Apostles' Creed. It mattered, you see, that we knew we were part of the same family, able to express clearly what we shared as the foundation for our new relationship. Despite the differences in our contexts, we stood united by the fundamental truths that characterise the life and faith of a Christian – and that is the key purpose of those statements that we use Sunday by Sunday. 😊

**“Strength of my heart, I need not fail, not mind to fear but to obey... Strength of my heart, I rest in Thee. Fulfil Thy purposes through me.**

Amy Carmichael, (1867-1951), missionary

## International Day for Tolerance

by Christine Clark

Saturday marks the International Day for Tolerance. Marking the establishment of this awareness day in 1995, the Director General of UNESCO summed it up: "Tolerance is an act of humanity, which we must nurture and enact each in our own lives every day, to rejoice in the diversity that makes us strong and the values

that bring us together." His words could have come from a manual for living a Christian life. Would that we all lived by them. It's easy to disapprove of intolerance of race, religion or disability. Yet the more insidious intolerances are difficult to spot – although these may be ones that we ourselves are guilty of. How many of us do not accept anyone or anything that is different? Those who have religious practices not ours, vote for an opposing party, dress unusually or have a tattoo? Or just do things differently?

Someone once said, "I am only intolerant of one thing and that is intolerance." Quite so. 😊

## 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 Popham Close, East Brent.
- Our Village Agent, Kim.

### 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>10th November</b><br>10.45<br>East Brent War Memorial Remembrance Day Service<br>10.45<br>St Christopher's Church Remembrance Day Service<br>10.45<br>St Michael's Church Remembrance Day Service<br>19.00<br>St Mary's Quiz - The Knoll Inn | <b>11th</b><br>16.30 and 18.30<br>St Mary's Working Party Meeting            | <b>12th</b><br>10.30<br>Toddlers "Children in Need"<br>Brent Knoll Methodist Church | <b>13th</b><br>08.45-10.00<br>Coffee Time<br>St Mary's                                  | <b>14th</b><br>09.15<br>St Christopher's Parish Prayer<br>19.00<br>PCC Meeting<br>BK Methodist Church<br>19.30<br>All Sorts Choir<br>St Mary's | <b>15th</b><br>10.00<br>Prayer Meeting<br>2 The Worthing's, Lympsham   | <b>16th</b><br>19.00<br>Medieval Feast and Music<br>St Michael's       |
| <b>17th November</b><br>08.00<br>St Christopher's Holy Communion<br>10.00<br>St Michael's Holy Communion  | <b>18th</b><br>19.30<br>Churches Together Prayer Meeting<br>St Christopher's | <b>19th</b><br>10.30<br>Toddlers<br>Brent Knoll Methodist Church                    | <b>20th</b><br>08.45-10.00<br>Coffee Time<br>St Mary's<br>14.00<br>Emmaus Church Office | <b>21st</b><br>09.15<br>St Christopher's Parish Prayer<br>14.00<br>Comfort Group<br>19.30<br>All Sorts Choir<br>St Mary's                      | <b>22nd</b>  | <b>23rd</b>  |
| <b>24th November</b><br>08.00<br>St Mary's Holy Communion<br>10.00<br>St Christopher's Holy Communion<br>18.30<br>St Michael's Evening Prayer   | <b>25th</b>  | <b>26th</b><br>10.30<br>Toddlers<br>Brent Knoll Methodist Church                    | <b>27th</b><br>08.45-10.00<br>Coffee Time<br>St Mary's                                  | <b>28th</b><br>09.15<br>St Christopher's Parish Prayer<br>14.30<br>Bereaved Friends Group<br>19.30<br>All Sorts Choir<br>St Mary's             | <b>29th</b><br>09.00<br>St Mary's East Brent School Collective Worship | <b>30th</b><br>10.30<br>Christmas Card Crafts and Chatter<br>St Mary's |

## 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.

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

#### Micah 6. 6-8

'With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt-offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,  
with tens of thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?'  
He has told you, O mortal, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

### Blessed Thought

**"May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths and superficial relationships so that you may live deep within your heart.**

**May God bless you with anger at injustices, oppression, and exploitation of people, so that you may work for justice, freedom and peace"**

**( A Franciscan Benediction)  
found in 'Prayer' by P. Yancy.**

### Gospel Reading

#### Luke 20. 27-38

Some Sadducees, those who say there is no resurrection, came to him and asked him a question, 'Teacher, Moses wrote for us that if a man's brother dies, leaving a wife but no children, the man shall marry the widow and raise up children for his brother. Now there were seven brothers; the first married, and died childless; then the second and the third married her, and so in the same way all seven died childless. Finally the woman also died. In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife will the woman be? For the seven had married her.'

Jesus said to them, 'Those who belong to this age marry and are given in marriage; but those who are considered worthy of a place in that age and in the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage. Indeed they cannot die any more, because they are like angels and are children of God, being children of the resurrection. And the fact that the dead are raised Moses himself showed, in the story about the bush, where he speaks of the Lord as the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob. Now he is God not of the dead, but of the living; for to him all of them are alive.'

### Second Reading

#### 2 Thessalonians 2. 1-5, 13-17

As to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered together to him, we beg you, brothers and sisters, not to be quickly shaken in mind or alarmed, either by spirit or by word or by letter, as though from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord is already here. Let no one deceive you in any way; for that day will not come unless the rebellion comes first and the lawless one is revealed, the one destined for destruction. He opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, declaring himself to be God. Do you not remember that I told you these things when I was still with you?

But we must always give thanks to God for you, brothers and sisters beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the first fruits for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and through belief in the truth. For this purpose he called you through our proclamation of the good news, so that you may obtain the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ. So then, brothers and sisters, stand firm and hold fast to the traditions that you were taught by us, either by word of mouth or by our letter.

Now may our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and through grace gave us eternal comfort and good hope, comfort your hearts and strengthen them in every good work and word.

### Churches Together

#### Burnham and Highbridge District

**Our Parish is hosting this month's Churches Together Prayer Meeting**

On Monday 18th November 7.30pm  
At St Christopher's Church, Lympsham.

**Everyone is Welcome.**

### Collect for Today

Almighty Father,  
whose will is to restore all things  
in your beloved Son, the King of all:  
govern the hearts and minds of those in authority,  
and bring the families of the nations,  
divided and torn apart by the ravages of sin,  
to be subject to his just and gentle rule;  
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)



## Medieval Feast and Music in St. Michael's Church, Brent Knoll on Saturday November 16<sup>th</sup> at 7pm

music by *Caliban's Dream*.

There is 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 following 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.

### Parish Prayer

9.15 -9.45 am  
Thursday 14th November  
St Christopher's

30 minutes of quietly being in God's presence, listening to him and bringing before him the needs of our parish, nation and world.

**Everyone is very welcome**

"Be joyful in hope,  
patient in affliction, faithful in prayer"

(Romans 12.12)

**Christmas Card Crafts & Chatter with Lunch.**  
**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November**  
**10.30 to 2.30**  
Come & join us in St. Mary's to make Christmas cards together.  
Materials supplied but you're welcome to bring anything along you'd like to use up!  
**Morning coffee, cake, mince pies & a delicious soup lunch provided.**  
**£10 per person**  
Grab a bargain on the Christmas bring & buy table  
To book your place please call into the Church office, call Maxine 760190 or Dot 760600 or Chris 760034 or email [maxbash@btinternet.com](mailto:maxbash@btinternet.com)  
Proceeds to St. Mary's East Brent, Parish of Three Saints

## "Christ is the Light" Advent Reflection

At St Mary's  
Sunday 1st Dec at 4pm  
Everyone 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 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.