

## 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 Mead, East Brent.
- Ralph, as he is baptised this morning and his Mum, Fiona and Dad, Simon.
- Our Neighbourhood Watch and Speed Watch Schemes.

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

## Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>17th November</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Holy Communion	<b>18th</b> 19.30 Churches Together Prayer Meeting St Christopher's	<b>19th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>20th</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>21st</b> 09.15 St Christopher's Parish Prayer 14.00 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>22nd</b>	<b>23rd</b>
<b>24th November</b> 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<b>25th</b>	<b>26th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>27th</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>28th</b> 09.15 St Christopher's Parish Prayer 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>29th</b> 09.00 St Mary's East Brent School Collective Worship	<b>30th</b> 10.30 Christmas Card Crafts and Chatter St Mary's
<b>1st December</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's All-Age Communion 16.00 St Mary's Advent Reflection	<b>2nd</b> 19.30 PCT Meeting	<b>3rd</b> 10.00 Christmas Coffee Morning 2 The Worthing's, Lympsham 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>4th</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>5th</b> 09.15 St Christopher's Parish Prayer 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b> 10.00-13.00 St Michael's Christmas Fair

## 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 vision of the future?

Gillian Cooper *reflects on* Luke 21:5-19

It seems the disciples are a bit over-confident about the durability of the Temple. As visitors from Galilee, they marvel at the building's size and beauty. They are impressed by the dedication to the God of Israel that it represents, believing that God will honour it by being present there for ever. But Jesus warns them that the Temple is not as durable as it appears. He speaks of destruction and disaster to come, not only in Jerusalem but throughout the known world. Even more frighteningly, he speaks of persecution and betrayal aimed especially at those who maintain allegiance to him.

But there is good news. There is no use in relying on the physical

presence of the Temple, Jesus says. But that does not mean that Jesus' followers are without resources, or that they should despair. He promises them wisdom, so that they will know who to believe and what to say. They can endure, he says, because the kingdom of God is near. God's presence with the people does not depend on the existence of the Temple. God's kingdom does not require an earthly throne, but is an ever-present reality.

Jesus has a harsh but realistic message for his disciples. There are times when we might find the state of the world overwhelming. Everywhere we look there are warnings of impending doom and catastrophe – be it environmental, political, or economic. But like the disciples we have a choice – to despair of the world or to hope in the kingdom. ☺

## The creeds

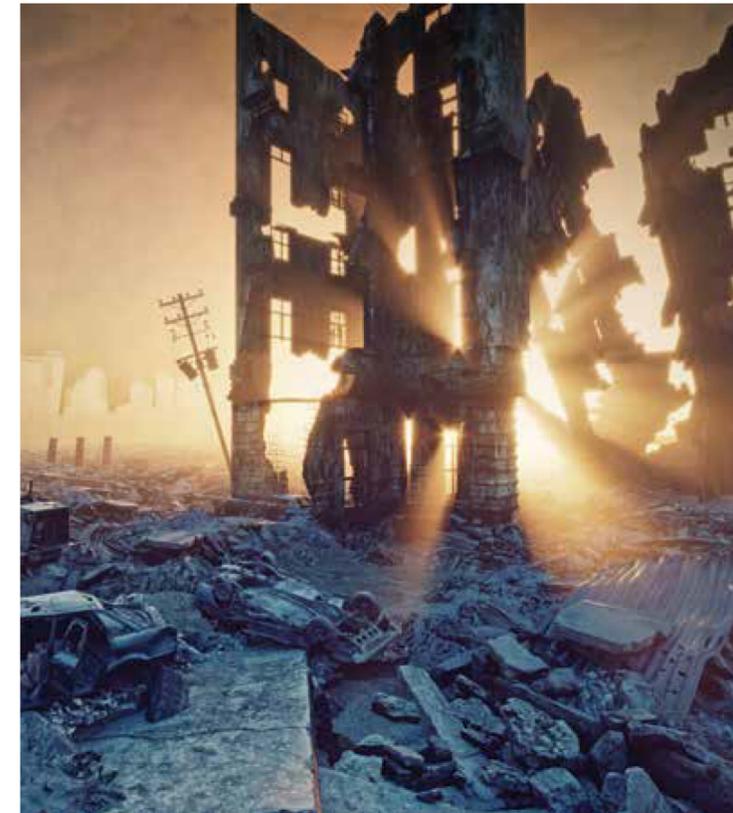
Kathryn Fleming continues her series about the Christian creeds.

If human understanding of God is at best limited, should we say the creeds at all? "Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent," said Wittgenstein, and it seems a cheek to attempt to codify the attributes of God. I'd imagine most of us sometimes struggle to honestly profess each clause, and that we all have days

when it seems best to gloss over the complexities of the virgin birth or bodily resurrection. It's a relief, then, that the Nicene Creed is explicitly corporate – "we believe" allows for individual uncertainty to be carried in a majority conviction that includes not simply those present, but the wider Church too.

Even so, it might be wiser to pare down the creeds to a minimalist alternative, like this from David Jenkins: "God is. He is for us, and therefore there is hope. God is. He is as he is in Jesus, and therefore it is worth it."

I'm pretty sure I can sign up to that, even on a bad day. ☺



Lord Jesus, in times of doubt, despair and when I feel overwhelmed, remind me that I have the choice to hope in the kingdom. Amen.

## World toilet day

by Lisa Tulfer

November 19th is World Toilet Day. This may be an unpalatable subject, but it's hugely important for anyone who's concerned about social justice throughout God's creation.

The United Nations declared access to sanitation and water a human right in 2010, yet over one third of the world's population still does not have access to a safe toilet and almost a billion people have no toilet at all. Amazingly,

more people own a mobile phone than have access to a toilet. Lack of safe toilets has huge implications for human health, spreading diseases such as cholera and dysentery, and untreated sewage threatens to contaminate the environment and the food chain. One fifth of schools worldwide have no toilet facilities, which can prevent girls attending once they start menstruating. And women with no choice but to "go" in the open, especially after dark, are vulnerable to attack and rape.

So on Tuesday, why not pray about what you can do to help? You can find out more at [www.worldtoiletday.info](http://www.worldtoiletday.info) ☺

“Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can.”

John Wesley (1703-1791), preacher, theologian and evangelist

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

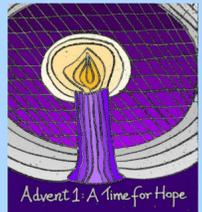
#### Malachi 4. 1-2a

See, the day is coming, burning like an oven, when all the arrogant and all evildoers will be stubble; the day that comes shall burn them up, says the Lord of hosts, so that it will leave them neither root nor branch. But for you who revere my name the sun of righteousness shall rise, with healing in its wings. You shall go out leaping like calves from the stall.

### Second Reading

#### 2 Thessalonians 3. 6-13

Now we command you, beloved, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to keep away from believers who are living in idleness and not according to the tradition that they received from us. For you yourselves know how you ought to imitate us; we were not idle when we were with you, and we did not eat anyone's bread without paying for it; but with toil and labour we worked night and day, so that we might not burden any of you. This was not because we do not have that right, but in order to give you an example to imitate. For even when we were with you, we gave you this command: Anyone unwilling to work should not eat. For we hear that some of you are living in idleness, mere busybodies, not doing any work. Now such persons we command and exhort in the Lord Jesus Christ to do their work quietly and to earn their own living. Brothers and sisters, do not be weary in doing what is right.



### "Christ is the Light" Advent Reflection

At St Mary's  
4.00pm Sunday 1st Dec  
Everyone Welcome

### Blessed Thought

"May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world, So that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor"

(The second part of the Franciscan Benediction)

### Gospel Reading

#### Luke 21. 5-19

When some were speaking about the temple, how it was adorned with beautiful stones and gifts dedicated to God, he said, 'As for these things that you see, the days will come when not one stone will be left upon another; all will be thrown down.'

They asked him, 'Teacher, when will this be, and what will be the sign that this is about to take place?' And he said, 'Beware that you are not led astray; for many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and, "The time is near!" Do not go after them.

'When you hear of wars and insurrections, do not be terrified; for these things must take place first, but the end will not follow immediately.' Then he said to them, 'Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be great earthquakes, and in various places famines and plagues; and there will be dreadful portents and great signs from heaven.

'But before all this occurs, they will arrest you and persecute you; they will hand you over to synagogues and prisons, and you will be brought before kings and governors because of my name. This will give you an opportunity to testify. So make up your minds not to prepare your defence in advance; for I will give you words and a wisdom that none of your opponents will be able to withstand or contradict. You will be betrayed even by parents and brothers, by relatives and friends; and they will put some of you to death. You will be hated by all because of my name. But not a hair of your head will perish. By your endurance you will gain your souls.

### 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.

### Advent Present for Your Young People – "Lec Deck"

As a parent, grandparent or godparent we must encourage our children to read the bible regularly.

Starting on Advent Sunday (or for use on a "dip-in" basis) this pack of cards is based on the weekly Sunday lectionary bible readings and provides stimulating thoughts and questions to be used as an individual, as a family or small group.

Ask Kevin or Chris Wright (01278 760844) for more details or order directly from the Diocesan Go Team (Sarah Lockie on 01749 685134) £8 (p&p free)



### Collect for Today

Heavenly Father, whose blessed Son was revealed to destroy the works of the devil and to make us the children of God and heirs of eternal life:

grant that we, having this hope, may purify ourselves even as he is pure; that when he shall appear in power and great glory we may be made like him in his eternal and glorious kingdom; where he 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

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

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



### Nativity Service

5.30pm Christmas Eve at St Christopher's Church, Lympsham.



### Wanted.....

Confident children from the three villages of The Parish of Three Saints to join in the fun! We have a new script, a fabulous catchy new song and more lead animals. If you have a child who is interested, please contact Rachel Newson on 07739-883629.

Rehearsals- Sat 14th Dec at 6pm,  
- Sat 21st Dec at 10am  
- Mon 23rd Dec at 6pm

**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

**Christmas Coffee Morning**  
Tuesday 3rd December  
10.00 - 12.00  
2 The Worthings, Lympsham  
Raffle  
Bring and Buy Refreshments  
Everyone Welcome  
All proceeds go to St Christopher's Church, Lympsham, Parish of Three Saints.

**Christmas Fair**  
St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll  
Saturday Dec 7<sup>th</sup> - 10am to 1pm  
Gift Stalls  
Local Quilt Display  
Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake  
Festive Music with "The All Sorts Choir"  
Light Refreshments,  
(including soup & rolls from noon)  
Parish of Three Saints – St Michael's

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.