

## 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 Worthy Crescent, Lymphsham and Edingworth Road, East Brent.
- All single parent families in our parish.

### 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>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>
<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, Lymphsham 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>4th</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>5th</b> 09.15 St Mary'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
<b>8th December</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion  10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>11th</b> 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>12th</b> 09.15 St Michael's Parish Prayer  19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>13th</b>	<b>14th</b>

**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>

## Contacts

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.



# Topsy turvy

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Jeremiah 23:1-6, Colossians 1:11-20 and Luke 23:33-43

“I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king”. Today, the last Sunday of the Church's year, we celebrate the fulfilment of the promise related in Jeremiah.

Our reading from Luke is one of the most upsetting accounts of the crucifixion – a strange choice, you might think, for a day that celebrates Christ's kingship. Yet on closer examination there is both warning and encouragement here, as Jesus reveals his kingship in his death on the cross. Implicit in the choice of this reading for today, then, is a warning not to become over-sentimental in the coming seasons of Advent and Christmas – because the child in the manger is also the man upon the cross.

Strangely, this is encouraging, as it is evidence of God's topsy-turvy kingdom on earth. While the world strives for fame, success and wealth, God measures things differently – “Many who are first will be last, and the last will be first”, says Matthew (19:30). You cannot get more last than a crucified, rejected man, yet Christ's glory and kingship are seen on the cross, in the ultimate sacrifice he made for humankind.

Today's reading from Colossians brings together these apparently contradictory aspects of today's readings, revealing Christ the King in all his glory: “through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross”.

Lord Jesus, Christ the King, as we prepare to celebrate your birth, remind us not to get carried away by the glitter and glitz. Help us to remember the man upon the cross, and keep us encouraged by your topsy-turvy kingdom. Amen.

## The creeds

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

Perhaps, instead of reciting the Creed in worship, we could affirm the Beatitudes and thus commit ourselves to pursue “orthopraxy” – right living – in place of orthodoxy – right belief. That might well seem more attractive, shifting the emphasis away from the God we strain to understand, to our

own patterns of fallible human behaviour. It could change the Church overnight! But that's not the point. We need our creeds, building blocks of faith and liturgy, that unite us week by week with the Church, stretching through space and time. The Creed we recite together is part of the great eucharistic act – the thanksgiving we offer God as we proclaim our glimpses of God's nature, our celebration of God's action, and our declaration of ourselves as people shaped by our relationship with God and defined by the words that we profess.

“Pride is often used as a way to protect our hearts and to hide the truth. Pride causes us to shut down and build walls.

Heather Bixler, blogger and author

## Walking with Poppy Harnessed

by Gillian Cooper

Poppy now has to go walking in a harness not a collar – vet's orders! She has always hated having anything round her, so getting her to tolerate the harness has been a challenge, but we are making progress. She still backs away when the harness appears, but as

soon as it is on she is off out of the door and along the path, almost as if she is saying, “OK, if I have to wear this thing, let's get on with it.”

Poppy has no choice about the limitations she lives with. But Jesus did. Before he was the “Christ the King” we celebrate today, he was born as the vulnerable baby we will remember in a few weeks' time. He got on with the job of being human, the best human we have ever seen, even to the point of suffering a human death, to free us from our harnesses of sin and mortality.

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

**Jeremiah 23. 1-6**

Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, concerning the shepherds who shepherd my people: It is you who have scattered my flock, and have driven them away, and you have not attended to them. So I will attend to you for your evil doings, says the Lord. Then I myself will gather the remnant of my flock out of all the lands where I have driven them, and I will bring them back to their fold, and they shall be fruitful and multiply. I will raise up shepherds over them who will shepherd them, and they shall not fear any longer, or be dismayed, nor shall any be missing, says the Lord.

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up for David a righteous Branch, and he shall reign as king and deal wisely, and shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In his days Judah will be saved and Israel will live in safety. And this is the name by which he will be called: 'The Lord is our righteousness.'

### 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)

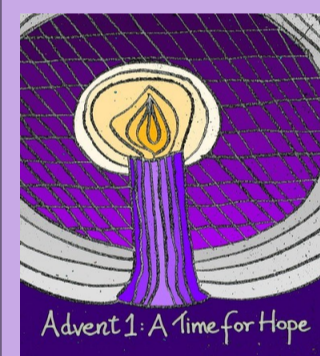


### Second Reading

**Colossians 1. 11-20**

May you be made strong with all the strength that comes from his glorious power, and may you be prepared to endure everything with patience, while joyfully giving thanks to the Father, who has enabled you to share in the inheritance of the saints in the light. He has rescued us from the power of darkness and transferred us into the kingdom of his beloved Son, in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation; for in him all things in heaven and on earth were created, things visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or powers—all things have been created through him and for him. He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. He is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that he might come to have first place in everything. For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, and through him God was pleased to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.



### “Christ is the Light” Advent Reflection

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

### Blessed Thought

**God of Peace,  
whose Son Jesus Christ proclaimed the kingdom  
and restored the broken to wholeness of life,  
look with compassion on the anguish of the world,  
and by your healing power  
make whole both people and nations,  
through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

(Post Communion prayer for 3rd Sunday before Advent)

### Collect for Today

Eternal Father,  
whose Son Jesus Christ ascended to the throne of  
heaven that he might rule over all things as  
Lord and King:  
keep the Church in the unity of the Spirit  
and in the bond of peace,  
and bring the whole created order to worship at his feet;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God,  
now and forever.

### Gospel Reading

**Luke 23. 33-43**

When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[ Then Jesus said, 'Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing.']] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by, watching; but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, 'He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!' The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine, and saying, 'If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!' There was also an inscription over him, 'This is the King of the Jews.'

One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, 'Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!' But the other rebuked him, saying, 'Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.' Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.' He replied, 'Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in Paradise.'

## 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)

### Nativity Service

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



### Christian Aid Update



Thank you so much for your very generous donations to Christian Aid Week back in May. 10,000 churches took part and an amazing £7.56 million was raised across the UK and Ireland through donations, activities and The Big Brekkie.

You will remember we showed a film about the appalling conditions in which mothers were giving birth in Sawula Village, Sierra Leone? Well you'll be very pleased to know that one of the pregnant ladies, Jebbeh, gave birth safely to a healthy baby boy and that your money has gone to help build and equip a brand new health clinic, where Nurse Judith is now working. Your gifts have such an important impact in helping the poorest and most vulnerable communities in our world.



**Thank you again for  
your support.**

## 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

CAROLS FROM THE  
BIKE SHED AT  
BRENT KNOLL SCHOOL

**MONDAY 16th  
DECEMBER 7PM**

WITH LIVE MINSTRELS

REFRESHMENTS IN THE  
SCHOOL HALL

In aid of  
Highbridge Area  
foodbank

Donations of food for refreshments  
and for food bank welcome.  
Please bring a torch or lantern

**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.