

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 Ash Trees and Hill Lane, East Brent.
- The Pastoral Care Team of the Parish of Three Saints.

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 Softe 01278-769117. Please ask for the person's permission beforehand.

Please continue to pray for Mervyn, Iona, Ben, Luke, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter and Marcus.

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12th January 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	13th	14th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	15th 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	16th 14.00 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir re-starts BK Methodist Church	17th 10.30 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings	18th
19th January 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's All-Age Communion Followed by Celebration! 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	20th 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	21st 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	22nd 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	23rd 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	24th	25th
26th January 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Communion	27th	28th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	29th 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	30th 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	31st	1st February

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	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.



Connecting faith and daily life

A dove descending

Caroline Fletcher *reflects on* Matthew 3:13-end

Jesus' baptism marks the start of his public ministry, but it often puzzles people. The baptism that John performs signifies repentance, so why does the sinless Christ need to be baptised? Indeed, John himself seems to share these concerns, protesting that it would make more sense if he were baptised by Christ, rather than the other way around. Jesus' response suggests that he acknowledges John's objections, but he urges the Baptist to go ahead anyway, as his purpose in seeking baptism is not repentance but obedience to God.

The words from heaven: "This is my Son, the Beloved" are a reference to Psalm 2:7, which was recited at the anointing of a king and had come to be associated with the hoped-for Messiah. Therefore, Jesus' baptism is like a public anointing of a heavenly king and an acknowledgement of him as the Christ.

The words from heaven continue by saying that God is "well pleased" with the Son. This, too, is believed to be a reference to an Old Testament scripture – this time Isaiah 42:1. This is also believed to refer to the Messiah, set within the context of what are known as the "suffering servant" passages. Christians understand these as prophecies about Jesus which reflect the suffering that he endured. This suggests that God was not only using Christ's baptism to affirm Jesus as Messiah, but to indicate what kind of Messiah he was going to be – God's servant, whose ministry would be costly. 🕊

Lord, thank you for sending your Son as a suffering servant. May we never take it for granted and may we seek to follow his example of obedience to your will. Amen.

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Tomorrow we will wassail our apple trees both on our smallholding and in our near neighbour's orchard. We always do it on January 13th because in our part of Wales it marks Hen Galan – the old New Year – from the time in 1752 when the calendars changed but this bit of Wales kept to the old ways.

Wassailing is a pre-Christian tradition but one I'm happy to embrace, because it's a shout of thanks for past abundance and a hope for the future harvest. We speak to the apple tree, sprinkle cider around it, put a piece of toast in the branches and bang pots to drive away evil.

Drawing close to the natural world is part of our everyday life here and marking special seasons for thanks and for hope is an expression of worship of the God who brings abundance for all in nature to share. 🍏

The indigenous people of Australia

Max Serjeant continues his series about Aboriginal culture and Christianity.

Although at first glance Christianity and traditional Aboriginal beliefs seem poles apart, many Aboriginal Christians say they are two faces of the same coin.

Reverend George Rosendale – a Lutheran from Northern Queensland and member of the Gwuyimithirr people – says: "I believe the Gospel has been with the Aborigines since creation.

...When they came to understand the Gospel they began to say, 'It is very much like our teaching. Especially the Old Testament stories and laws'.

Methodist Reverend Djiniyini Gondarra from Arnhem Land says: "Sacred sites are where our law and ceremony are embodied. God gave us our law – not in the written form as with the Jewish people, but in the form of the land and the ceremonies and stories that go with it."

Many find Jesus' story has particular resonance. "Christ did not get worried about material things," says Deacon Boniface Perdjer, a Murrinhpatha Catholic from the Northern Territory. "He was born on the move, like many of us... He liked the bush as we do, and loved nature and open spaces." 🌿

“Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that thou art Thou my best thought, by day or by night; Waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.”

Eleanor Hull (1860-1935), hymn-writer, journalist and scholar

Bible Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 42. 1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.
Thus says God, the Lord,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people upon it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness,
I have taken you by the hand and kept you;
I have given you as a covenant to the people,
a light to the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the Lord, that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to idols.
See, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth,
I tell you of them.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3. 13-end

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, 'I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?' But Jesus answered him, 'Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfil all righteousness.' Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.'

Collect for Today

Eternal Father,
who at the baptism of Jesus
revealed him to be your Son,
anointing him with the Holy Spirit:
grant to us, who are born again by water and the Spirit,
that we may be faithful to our calling
as your adopted children;
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.

Second Reading

Acts 10. 34-43

Then Peter began to speak to them: 'I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him.

We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.'

NEW



Café Church

"Fools for Jesus"



Sunday 2nd February at 4pm
in St Mary's Church, East Brent
(refreshments 3.30 - 3.55pm)

Informal Praise Activities
Friendly atmosphere Lively music

All welcome - all-ages - bring your friends

For more information
Kevin Wright (Rector)

☎ 01278 760844 ✉ revdkjwright@btinternet.com



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)

Celebration

It's official!
We are now (legally)
The Parish of Three Saints
(TPOTS)!

Everyone is welcome
to a short celebration
after the worship

On 19th January 2020
At St Mary's, East Brent

Refreshments will be served

Blessed Thought

Be still
and let His love and peace
flow into every part of you,
spirit, mind and body.

(Rev. George Bennett)

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.

St Mary's Pop Up Restaurant Valentine's 3 Course Dinner

(Proceeds to the roof fund)

At 7.00pm
On Friday 14th Feb 2020
At Woodlands, Brent Knoll

Pimms served on arrival
(Cash bar available for beer, wine, cider, soft drinks)

Starters

Broccoli & Blue Cheese Soup

Double Baked Cheese Souffle

Prawn Cocktail

Main Course

Beef Bourguignon (Served with rice)

Chicken Breast wrapped in Parma ham
(Served with a tomato & cheese topping, a herb cream sauce, roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables)

Salmon Fillet
(Served with a cream sauce, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables)

Filo parcel with a feta & spinach filling
(Served with a green salad)

Desserts

Selection from the dessert trolley

Tea & coffee served with dessert

We are asking for a £25 per person donation, please.
(or £90 for a table of four)

To make a booking please contact:

Carole (TPOTS office) 01278 769082,
Email office.tpots@gmail.com

Kathy on 01278 760031,
Email kathyquinnell10@gmail.com