

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 Station Road, Brent Knoll.
- Doctors’ Surgeries, Dentists, Community Nurses and Community Midwives.

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
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
2nd February 10.00 St Mary’s Parish Communion (Said) 16.00 St Mary’s Café Church	3rd	4th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	5th 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary’s	6th 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	7th	8th

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

Come and see!



Christopher Davies *reflects on* John 1:29-42

John the Baptist prophesied the coming of a Messiah. How confused his followers must have been when he proclaimed: “Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” – pointing out a carpenter from Nazareth. Here we witness a modern kind of hero. Jesus was born into a poor family and raised in an unexceptional backwater, yet John sensed in him the divine presence of God. He points to Jesus and tells his followers that the man before them is the redeemer of the world. Yet clearly he is not a king or warrior – the kind of hero they might expect.

This is the One whom Isaiah prophesied would redeem the world. This is the Messiah that God has sent for us and this is how he

is revealed. At this point Jesus has performed no miracles, has made no great speeches, and has no followers. It is John who proclaims that this is the man that they should follow. And follow they do, but not because Jesus performs any amazing feat, but because he tells them to “come and see”.

“Come and see”. Come and see where I am staying, come and see what I am doing, come and make a difference with me. Jesus invites his first disciples, not to come and watch but to join him, while together they save the world, step by step. This is the unassuming character, the man who walks by the River Jordan, who shows compassion for humanity, who calls his people to join him on a quest to save the world. ☺

Lord Jesus, you invite us to “Come and see”. Help us to heed your invitation and show us how we can join you in saving the world, small step by small step. Amen.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

by Christine Clark

During the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, all the churches in my town engage in what we call “church swap”. A few people from each congregation attend the service at another church. This means that every church has some visitors who are welcomed, shown how to find their way through the service, take communion if that is their wish, and join in the coffee and chat

afterwards. The following week, back at their home church, they are invited to share with the congregation how they found things, the differences and, usually surprisingly, how many things were similar. I have been privileged to do this and have shared in services at an evangelical church as well as the URC and Roman Catholic churches.

Today, here, this is possible – and very good. We’ve come a long way since the bad old days of our intolerant and bloody religious history (remember the Tudors?). Yet, still, in many parts of the world, this co-operative unity is still a dream. This week let us thank God for this blessing and pray that other places may be able to do the same, in time. ☺

The indigenous people of Australia

Max Serjeant continues his series about Aboriginal culture and Christianity.

Reconciliation is perhaps the most frequently used word in Australian indigenous affairs today, affecting every part of Australian society – including the Christian churches. The idea is that Australians of all ethnicities recognise the past, come to terms with it and move on. In recent years, many have set

their minds to imagining what a reconciled Australian Church might look like.

“Like most Aboriginal people, I find myself in between two worlds. Belonging to the world’s oldest living culture, and a Western culture termed ‘Australian’”, says Brooke Prentis, a Waka Waka pastor. “I don’t want to be stuck between two worlds. For me this is part of what reconciliation should be about... My prayer is that instead of being stuck in the middle we choose Jesus’ world – to love, to listen, to share... As a Christian, truth, justice, love and hope spring from our biblical mandate to love; and as an Aboriginal person, from the role given to us by the Creator.” ☺

“When we struggle for human rights, for freedom, for dignity... we are not departing from God’s promise. He comes to free us from sin, and the Church... is saving the world when it undertakes to speak also of such things.

Oscar Romero (1917-1980), *The Violence of Love*

Bible Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 49. 1-7

Listen to me, O coastlands,
pay attention, you peoples from far away!
The Lord called me before I was born,
while I was in my mother's womb he named me.
He made my mouth like a sharp sword,
in the shadow of his hand he hid me;
he made me a polished arrow,
in his quiver he hid me away.
And he said to me, 'You are my servant,
Israel, in whom I will be glorified.'
But I said, 'I have laboured in vain,
I have spent my strength for nothing and vanity;
yet surely my cause is with the Lord,
and my reward with my God.'
And now the Lord says,
who formed me in the womb to be his servant,
to bring Jacob back to him,
and that Israel might be gathered to him,
for I am honoured in the sight of the Lord,
and my God has become my strength—
he says,
'It is too light a thing that you should be my servant
to raise up the tribes of Jacob
and to restore the survivors of Israel;
I will give you as a light to the nations,
that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth.'
Thus says the Lord,
the Redeemer of Israel and his Holy One,
to one deeply despised, abhorred by the nations,
the slave of rulers,
'Kings shall see and stand up,
princes, and they shall prostrate themselves,
because of the Lord, who is faithful,
the Holy One of Israel, who has chosen you.'

Gospel Reading

John 1. 29 - 42

The next day he saw Jesus coming towards him and declared, 'Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! This is he of whom I said, "After me comes a man who ranks ahead of me because he was before me." I myself did not know him; but I came baptizing with water for this reason, that he might be revealed to Israel.' And John testified, 'I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. I myself did not know him, but the one who sent me to baptize with water said to me, "He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain is the one who baptizes with the Holy Spirit." And I myself have seen and have testified that this is the Son of God.'
The next day John again was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he exclaimed, 'Look, here is the Lamb of God!' The two disciples heard him say this, and they followed Jesus. When Jesus turned and saw them following, he said to them, 'What are you looking for?' They said to him, 'Rabbi' (which translated means Teacher), 'where are you staying?' He said to them, 'Come and see.' They came and saw where he was staying, and they remained with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon. One of the two who heard John speak and followed him was Andrew, Simon Peter's brother. He first found his brother Simon and said to him, 'We have found the Messiah' (which is translated Anointed). He brought Simon to Jesus, who looked at him and said, 'You are Simon son of John. You are to be called Cephas' (which is translated Peter).

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 1. 1-9

Paul, called to be an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, and our brother Sosthenes,
To the church of God that is in Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, together with all those who in every place call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, both their Lord and ours:
Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.
I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that has been given you in Christ Jesus, for in every way you have been enriched in him, in speech and knowledge of every kind— just as the testimony of Christ has been strengthened among you— so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will also strengthen you to the end, so that you may be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is faithful; by him you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.



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
f TPOTS group

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
in Christ you make all things new:
transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace,
and in the renewal of our lives
make known your heavenly glory;
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.

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)!

Please stay on
for a short celebration
after our 10am worship today.

Everyone is welcome.
Refreshments will be served

Blessed Thought

**"A successful church is one
that issues lots of invitations.
It's then up to the Holy Spirit
to do the conversions."**

The Next Deanery Synod

When? - Saturday 25th January
What Time? - 2pm - 4pm (refreshments available from 2pm meeting begins at 2.15 p.m.)
Where? - **Blackford Village Hall**, School Lane, Blackford, Wedmore BS28 4NX
Subject? - **New Housing**

Everyone is welcome to attend

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 Church Pop Up Restaurant

Valentine's 3 Course Dinner

(All Proceeds go to the roof fund)

At 7.00pm, On Friday 14th Feb 2020
At Woodlands, Hill Lane, 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

A donation of £25 per person, please (or £90 for a table of four)

To make a booking please contact:
Carole (TPOTS Church Office) 01278 769082,
Email office.tpots@gmail.com

Please provide menu selections when you book.

A Service for Christian Unity

(based on Tenebrae)

takes place on **Sunday 26 January at 6pm**

at **St Andrews, Burnham-on-Sea.**

Musicians, readers and singers welcome.

Please let Revd Graham Witts know if you would like to take part.

Everyone welcome, just turn up!