

## 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 Boundaries, Lympsham and Old Bristol Road, East Brent.
- Local farms and Farmers Markets
- Churchwardens, the PCC and Carole in the Church Office.

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

## Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>26th January</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Communion	<b>27th</b>	<b>28th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>29th</b> 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>30th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>31st</b>	<b>1st February</b>
<b>2nd February</b> 10.00 St Mary's Parish Communion (Said) 16.00 St Mary's Café Church	<b>3rd</b>	<b>4th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>5th</b> 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>6th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b>
<b>9th February</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>12th</b> 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>13th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>14th</b> 19.00 Valentine's Dinner Pop Up Restaurant Woodlands	<b>15th</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.



Connecting faith and daily life

# The true light

John Witcombe *reflects on* Isaiah 9:1-4, 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 and Matthew 4:12-23



Epiphany is when we hear stories of God being revealed in the world – and when we ask for God to be revealed in our own lives. In today's readings we are encouraged to trust that, no matter how dark, the true light will always shine – whether in the world, or in the Church. The first two readings for today recognise that the people of God will sometimes find themselves walking in darkness, whether in the world (Isaiah) or even in the Church (Paul, in the letter to Corinth). Just as the world can feel a dark place because of violence and oppression, so even a local church can be a place where the darkness of disagreement and conflict can cloud the horizon.

Jesus speaks to us through the words of the Gospel, calling us to repent, to turn away from darkness and seek the light. If we are to follow him, it will always mean leaving something of our old life behind – and that's never going to be easy. It could be that the place where we are feels too dark to find the path forwards, so we just don't know where to tread. These are times to ask God to make it clear, step by step. As we take single steps forward, following God's voice, the darkness will

fade to grey and God's light will start to shine. The Magi followed a star: we follow the light of Christ, which the darkness will never extinguish. ☺

**Holy God, you call us to step out of darkness into your marvellous light. Help us all, even those who find it hard to see the way, to find the path that leads back to you and your life for each of us. Amen.**

## The indigenous people of Australia

*Max Serjeant concludes his series about Aboriginal culture and Christianity.*

Australian missions have played a role in Aboriginal history going back to the arrival of the first European settlers. For some they were part of the colonial machine which dispossessed them, while for others they introduced them to their Christian faith and provided shelter from less well-intentioned colonists.

Life within the missions could be hard, and sometimes children were taken there against the will of their parents. Despite this, plenty of Aboriginal people look back on their mission days fondly and have positive memories of the missionaries they lived with.

Most of the missions had fallen out of use by the 1960s and the buildings were left to crumble. Today, however, some have been given a new lease of life through the outstation movement. Looking to escape the pressures of urban life and reconnect with their traditional culture, many Aboriginal people have returned to their ancestors' lands and make their communities in the very missions where they or their parents spent earlier parts of their lives. ☺

## Holocaust Memorial Day

by Caroline Fletcher

27th January, the anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, is Holocaust Memorial Day, when we remember all those who were murdered by the Nazis. About six million Jews died in the Holocaust and information about many of them is contained on the Database of Shoah Victims' Names. This is being compiled by Yad Vashem, the World Holocaust Remembrance Center, to ensure

that the individuals behind the figures are not forgotten.

The Center exists to remember people such as Sara and Yehuda, a Hungarian couple who were murdered at Auschwitz on May 25, 1944. The database reveals that their nine children and Yehuda's brother, wife and their children were also slaughtered at the same time: a whole family wiped out in a day.

The Yad Vashem website says that about 430,000 Jews were deported from Hungary to mainly Auschwitz between May and July 1944, just like Sara and Yehuda. Most were sent straight to the gas chambers. May we never forget them. ☺

“ Let your holy home be your heart.   
 Lailah Gifty Akita, author

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

#### Isaiah 9. 1-4

But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. In the former time he brought into contempt the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, but in the latter time he will make glorious the way of the sea, the land beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the nations.

The people who walked in darkness  
have seen a great light;  
those who lived in a land of deep darkness—  
on them light has shined.  
You have multiplied the nation,  
you have increased its joy;  
they rejoice before you  
as with joy at the harvest,  
as people exult when dividing plunder.  
For the yoke of their burden,  
and the bar across their shoulders,  
the rod of their oppressor,  
you have broken as on the day of Midian.

### The Five Marks of Mission

- TELL** = To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom  
**TEACH** = To teach, baptise and nurture new believers  
**TEND** = To respond to human need by loving service  
**TRANSFORM** = To seek to transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and to pursue peace and reconciliation  
**TREASURE** = To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

### Gospel Reading

#### Matthew 4. 12-23

Now when Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and made his home in Capernaum by the lake, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali, so that what had been spoken through the prophet Isaiah might be fulfilled:

'Land of Zebulun, land of Naphtali,  
on the road by the sea, across the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles—  
the people who sat in darkness  
have seen a great light,  
and for those who sat in the region and shadow of death  
light has dawned.'

From that time Jesus began to proclaim, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.'

As he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the lake—for they were fishermen. And he said to them, 'Follow me, and I will make you fish for people.' Immediately they left their nets and followed him. As he went from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John, in the boat with their father Zebedee, mending their nets, and he called them. Immediately they left the boat and their father, and followed him.

Jesus went throughout Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom and curing every disease and every sickness among the people.

### Second Reading

#### 1 Corinthians 1. 10-18

Now I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you should be in agreement and that there should be no divisions among you, but that you should be united in the same mind and the same purpose. For it has been reported to me by Chloe's people that there are quarrels among you, my brothers and sisters. What I mean is that each of you says, 'I belong to Paul', or 'I belong to Apollos', or 'I belong to Cephas', or 'I belong to Christ.' Has Christ been divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? I thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius, so that no one can say that you were baptized in my name. (I did baptize also the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else.) For Christ did not send me to baptize but to proclaim the gospel, and not with eloquent wisdom, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its power.

For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**NEW**



**Café Church**  
"Fools for Jesus"



**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 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

God our creator,  
who in the beginning  
commanded the light to shine out of darkness:  
we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ  
may dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief,  
shine into the hearts of all your people,  
and reveal the knowledge of your glory in the face of 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)

### A Little Explanation of "The Parish of Three Saints"

Although we have been operating as one parish for several years now, I was licensed last year not to The Parish of Three Saints but to "The Benefice of Brent Knoll, East Brent and Lympsham". Physically there are of course three church buildings, and so it will continue to be, if we can afford it.

However, the final legal change was agreed by Bishop Peter last October to make the church here, both in practice and church law, ONE parish, ONE benefice and ONE congregation, celebrating fellowship, love, worship and joy, and sharing responsibilities and concerns together. Separately, small congregations will be a self-fulfilling prophecy of decline. Together, with mutual support, we are stronger, can keep the buildings open and will grow.

You are not quite unique across the country, but you are pioneers in this respect in rural ministry. I regard the church here as very special and it is a privilege to serve here.

We may all be different but there is only one God.

Please continue to support each other.

Revd Kevin Wright.

At our celebration last Sunday, we received a message from our Bishops:

*Bishop Ruth and I are delighted to congratulate all who worship and serve in the parish, benefice and family of Three Saints as you celebrate this significant stage of your journey of faith together.*

*St Paul declares that we are all one in Christ Jesus. In a world that is so often divided by conflict, intolerance and prejudice, it is a real witness when we show our love for each other through a spirit of oneness.*

*As we all seek to live out the story of Jesus, Bishop Ruth and I pray that God will continue to bless you richly with hope and joy, and that you will be a blessing to all you meet.*

*Our prayers are with you today.  
With warmest Christian greetings,*

*+Peter Bath and Wells*

**A Service for Christian Unity (based on Tenebrae)**  
**Tonight at 6pm at St Andrews, Burnham-on-Sea.**

**Everyone welcome, just turn up!**

**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.**

### Thank you from the Foodbank

Dear Friends at the Parish of Three Saints,

Thank you so much for your kind donation of £60 from your Harvest collection.

As you know, many people locally are in considerable financial hardship and call on the support of our Foodbank so we are particularly grateful for such donations.

Please accept our apologies for the delay in acknowledging your donation & accept this letter as our official receipt.

Kind regards,

Nick Bashford (Chair)

