



Connecting faith and daily life

# Weaving the threads



Caroline Hodgson *reflects on*  
Exodus 24:12-end and Matthew 17:1-9

It's easy to see why today's Old Testament and Gospel readings have been paired in the lectionary. In Exodus, Moses takes Joshua into the mountain, where the glory of the Lord burns and God gives Moses the covenant with the people. In the account from Matthew, when Moses and Elijah appear with Jesus on the mountaintop, the echoes from long ago resonate with the disciples – and with us today, as we hear the two accounts side by side. Together, the Gospel writer and the compilers of the lectionary are showing how Jesus is the fulfilment of the Law and the prophets, and that he and his followers are new players in the story of God's encounters with God's people.

It surely helps us in our faith lives to know this, just as it helped the disciples. But it's a different matter to know how to respond. Peter's suggestion to build three dwellings, or tents, sounds like an attempt to preserve the moment for posterity – which of course is neither possible nor appropriate.

Perhaps a better response is simply to understand what a privileged insight it is, to see the hand of God at work throughout history – weaving threads and bringing together Jesus, Moses and Elijah, along with the writers of Exodus and Matthew, the disciples and, indeed, us today – and to recognise that we are privileged to be part of the divine tapestry as its pattern emerges. 🍷

**Lord God, help us to recognise that we are privileged to be part of your tapestry, and to understand our awesome responsibility, of ensuring that the picture that emerges is of your kingdom on earth. Amen.**

## Leap into Lent

by Ricarda Witcombe

An ancient Latin hymn includes these words: "Now is the healing time decreed / for sins of heart and word and deed, / when we in humble fear record / the wrong that we have done the Lord."

It is quoted in the Church of England's introduction to the season of Lent in *Times and Seasons*. In ancient days Lent's purpose was twofold – baptism preparation for new Christians, and reconciliation of those who

had been excluded from the Church because of serious fault or apostasy. It is a healing time. The Ash Wednesday liturgy urges us to "call to mind our sin and the infinite mercy of God" – so we begin this healing time by bringing the reality of our lives to God, hiding nothing. There is a relief in such honesty, for we see that it is God's mercy that is infinite, and not our sin. Lent is about celebrating forgiveness in its very deepest sense. 🍷

*Ricarda Witcombe is a hospital chaplaincy team leader based in Coventry.*

“Everything may not be perfect. There are things that may need to change, but you have the grace to be happy today.

Joel Osteen (born 1963), American pastor, televangelist and author

## Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

When it's a long dark winter after a wet or gloomy autumn the promise of spring and sunshine and dry weather can seem so far away. But in the hedge adjacent to the lambing field there are already small white flowers. These are probably too early to be

pollinated and so won't go on to produce the tiny red jewels that are wild strawberries. It will be the later flowers in May that will succeed in bearing the tiny sweet fruit that I pick and eat and share with the chickens as they wander by. So what's the point of those early flowers? I wonder a lot. Could it be that plants are optimistic, or rather that abundance is written into everything in nature? Could this be the nature of God in creation: that there is always so much possibility – always enough to feed us all and some left over. 🍷

## 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 Stevens Lane, Boat Lane, Ferry Lane and The Crescent, Lympsham.
- Local Charities in our area.

### 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>23rd February</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's Parish Communion	<b>24th</b>       19.30 Pastoral Care Team Meeting	<b>25th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church  19.00 PCC Meeting BK Methodist Church	<b>26th</b> 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's  19.30 St Christopher's Holy Communion With Imposition of the Ashes.	<b>27th</b>   14.30 Bereaved Friends Group  19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>28th</b> 10.30 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings Lympsham     	<b>29th</b> 08.45 The Rectory, East Brent. "Christ and the Chocolaterie" Lent Course 1. "Giving Up"
<b>1st March</b> 10.00 St Michael's Parish Communion (Said)  16.00 St Michael Café Church	<b>2nd</b>       	<b>3rd</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>4th</b> 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>5th</b>   19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>6th</b>       	<b>7th</b> 08.45 The Rectory, East Brent. "Christ and the Chocolaterie" Lent Course 2. "Giving Out"
<b>8th March</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>   19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	<b>13th</b>       	<b>14th</b> No Lent Course

**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.



## Bible Readings

### First Reading

**Exodus 24. 12-18**

The Lord said to Moses, 'Come up to me on the mountain, and wait there; and I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.' So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up into the mountain of God. To the elders he had said, 'Wait here for us, until we come to you again; for Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.' Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the people of Israel. Moses entered the cloud, and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

### Second Reading

**2 Peter 1. 16-21**

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. For he received honour and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, 'This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased.' We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

### #everydayfaith

#### #everydaybible

*When you read to your children, grandchildren or godchildren include bible stories (there are lots of great Bible Story books available) and ask them what it means today.*

### Gospel Reading

**Matthew 17. 1-9**

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, 'Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.' While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, 'This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!' When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, 'Get up and do not be afraid.' And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, 'Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.'

### Holy Land Visit

**Lead by Revd Stuart Burns and  
Revd Richard Neill**

1st – 10th February 2021  
Six nights in Jerusalem and  
three nights on the shore of Lake Galilee  
Cost from £2,045

#### For more details:

Open/Information Evening in  
St Andrews, Cheddar  
at 7.30 pm  
Thursday 27th February

Or speak to Kevin Wright



Church of the Holy Sepulchre

### Collect for Today

Almighty Father,  
whose Son was revealed in majesty  
before he suffered death upon the cross:  
give us grace to perceive his glory,  
that we may be strengthened to suffer with him  
and be changed into his likeness, from glory to glory;  
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



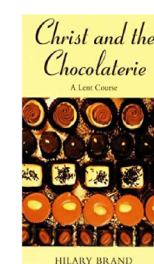
### Our Vision for the Parish of Three Saints

*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)

## Christ and the Chocolaterie

A Lent Course based on the film "Chocolat"



5 discussions (maximum 1½ hours), using extracts from the film, relevant Bible passages and the study guide by Hilary Brand to help us to prepare for Easter.



### Saturdays at 9am

at The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent  
29<sup>th</sup> Feb; 7<sup>th</sup> Mar; 21<sup>st</sup> Mar; 28<sup>th</sup> Mar; 4<sup>th</sup> April  
Tea/Coffee served from 8.45am

Preliminary viewing of the whole film "Chocolat" (117 minutes):  
Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February 9am at The Rectory

All Welcome – see flyers for more details

Details and information: Revd. Kevin Wright revdkjwright@btinternet.com or 01278 760844

## Valentine's Dinner

A Very Big Thank You  
to Paul and Sarah McClean  
for all their hard work in  
making the Valentine's Meal  
at Woodlands such a  
success.

It was a fabulous evening of  
fun, food and fellowship.

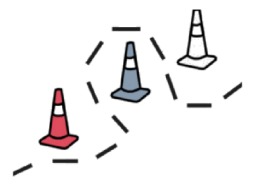
Sarah and Paul would also  
like to join in thanking all  
those who attended the  
evening, those who donated  
flowers, food and wine and  
those who helped in all kinds  
of other ways.

£2700 was raised for  
St Mary's Church roof!

A fantastic achievement!

## NEW Café Church

"On Course"



Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> March at 4pm  
in St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll  
(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

### St Michael's, Brent Knoll

Sunday, 16 February 2020  
in 48m (20–3–0 in D)

#### 1296 Cambridge Surprise Minor

1. Teresa J Dunstone
2. Mo Sweet
3. Melvyn J Freeman
4. John R Schmidt
5. Matthew C Gardiner (C)
6. Annabelle F Frost

Rung for the service of remembrance at  
St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll,  
remembering Sue Frost, former ringer at  
the tower.

### Ash Wednesday – The Beginning of Lent

26<sup>th</sup> February 7.30pm in St Christopher's  
Holy Communion (said)  
with the Imposition of Ashes

**"A moment of stillness as we begin our Lenten  
reflections and commitment to #everydayfaith"**

### Ecumenical Lent Study Group

Based on St. Mark's gospel  
Every Monday afternoon in Lent  
2.30pm-3.45pm, from March 2nd  
In Brent Knoll Methodist Church

**All welcome.**

**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.