

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 Worthings, Lympsham.
- Spiritual growth and nurture for those attending the Lent Course over the next few weeks.

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
1st March 10.00 St Michael's Parish Communion (Said) 16.00 St Michael Café Church	2nd	3rd 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	4th 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	5th 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	6th World Day of Prayer 2020 10.30 St Andrew's Church, Burnham	7th 08.45 The Rectory, East Brent. "Christ and the Chocolaterie" Lent Course 2. "Giving Out"
8th March 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	9th	10th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	11th 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	12th 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	13th	14th No Lent Course
15th March Carole not in Office 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's All Age Communion 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	16th Carole not in Office 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	17th Carole not in Office 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	18th Carole not in Office 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	19th Carole not in Office 14.00 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	20th Carole not in Office 10.30 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings	21st 08.45 The Rectory, East Brent. "Christ and the Chocolaterie" Lent Course 3. "Getting Wise "

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

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

Succumbing to temptation

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7, Romans 5:12-19 and Matthew 4:1-11

Today's readings from Genesis and Paul's letter to the Romans form a kind of history of temptation and sin, while our Gospel reading shows Christ breaking the cycle, about to triumph over death itself.

In Genesis, knowledge is the real temptation. The serpent knows how to beguile Eve: "your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil". She finds it impossible to resist the opportunity to know, even though she can't really know what knowledge is or involves.

The reading from Romans also deals with knowledge – in this case knowledge of the law. In writing that "sin is not reckoned when there is no law", Paul is tackling the thorny question of how someone who doesn't know God's Law can be deemed to have sinned. The paradox is that, although we can't escape sin and death, since we are descended from Adam, each of us is our own Adam or Eve, capable of wilfully turning away from God.

This has puzzled generations of theologians and thinkers, but perhaps, like Eve, we don't need to know. Maybe we need faith more than knowledge. Because the wonderful news is that Adam and Eve's disobedience has been written off by the more powerful obedience of Jesus, and that each time we are obedient to God's will, even in a small way, we bring the kingdom a little closer. 🍷

Lord God, this Lent, I pray that you will teach me about temptation and sin in my life, and guide me in imitating Christ's empowering, world-saving obedience. Amen.

Leap into Lent

Ricarda Witcombe continues her Lenten series.

The word Lent comes from an old English word *lencten*, meaning springtime. It is to do with the lengthening of the days. Winter is behind us, however cold it may still feel, we have turned a corner and are facing into the light. We've seen how snowdrops and crocuses can pierce through

the hard ground with their fragile petals. Gradually over these weeks, in fields up and down the country, tiny lambs are adding their brand new voices to the world. These triumphs of life, which happen in all sorts of ways, are always miracles. They remind us that, whatever else is happening, new life is still to be found. The poet G. M. Hopkins wrote about the "dearest freshness deep down things". Could you take time this week to notice the signs of new life in the world around you, and to pray that something of that freshness might stir in your soul? 🍷



Zero Discrimination Day

by Christine Clark

"Make some noise... speak up and prevent discrimination from standing in the way of achieving ambitions, goals and dreams." Such was the call from UNAIDS when the first Zero Discrimination Day was launched in 2014. What a wonderful message – yet how sad that this is necessary.

The day has become notable for its fight to establish

equality before the law and in practice throughout the UN. It particularly fights for the rights of those living with HIV/AIDS, but also on behalf of those in the LGBT+ community in countries that criminalise homosexuality. Additionally, it has been used by Armenian Americans in California to remember those who were killed in the Armenian Genocide of 1914-1923.

Perhaps one day no one who is deemed "different" in any way will live in fear of discrimination or unequal treatment in law or practice. Until we get there, let's use this day. Make a noise! Speak up! 🍷

“ I walk in my integrity; redeem me, and be gracious to me. My foot stands on level ground; in the great congregation I will bless the Lord.

Psalm 26:11-12

Bible Readings

First Reading

Genesis 2. 15-17 and 3. 1-7

The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, 'You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.'

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die."' But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.'

So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 4. 1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted for forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.' But he answered,

'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you", and "On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus said to him, 'Again it is written, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendour; and he said to him, 'All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.'

Jesus said to him, 'Away with you, Satan! for it is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Second Reading

Romans 5. 12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgement following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

#everydayfaith
#everydayprayer

Keep a small map of the world handy and pray for a different country each day.

More resources can be found at:
<https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/ministry-for-mission/discipleship/everyday-faith/>

Church Electoral Roll

There is to be a revision of the Church Electoral Roll commencing in March (only amendments/additions). This document will be published in April.

Collect for Today

Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are, yet without sin: give us grace to discipline ourselves in obedience to your Spirit; and, as you know our weakness, so may we know your power to save; 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)



St. Mary's Church East Brent

Our 12th Century Grade 1 Listed Church has a badly leaking roof which is causing considerable damage.

Unless we can make significant repairs the future of our Church is in serious danger.

The estimated cost of repair is in the region of **£130,000** excluding the cost of any unseen damage.

We have already received significant donations and have the possibility of matched funding grants but we need to **show support** from our community by raising in the region of **£40,000**.

Maintenance of St. Mary's is the responsibility of the Parish. The wider Church of England cannot contribute and, unless we can show **local support**, grant funders will **not** consider our application.

**Does St. Mary's presence in the Parish matter to you?
If so, will you help us?**

Please contact: The Church Office, Church Road, East Brent, TA9 4HZ

Email: office.tpots@gmail.com

Phone: 01278-769082

St. Mary's East Brent in The Parish of Three Saints. Church of England Registered Charity Number: 1140097

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
29th Feb; 7th Mar; 21st Mar; 28th Mar; 4th April
Tea/Coffee served from 8.45am

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

All Welcome – see flyers for more details

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

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020
Praying with Zimbabwe
FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

St Andrew's Church,
Burnham
10.30am

A SERVICE FOR EVERYONE
Rise! Take Your Mat and Walk
www.wdop.org.uk

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.

Volunteers Needed Please!

To reach out more to our communities this Easter, we are planning to deliver an Easter Card and a Pastoral Care leaflet, explaining the function of our LPAs, to every house in The Parish of Three Saints.

That might seem like a huge undertaking but, as the saying goes, many hands make light work!

So we are looking for a large number of volunteers to help with this, please. If you feel you could deliver a small pile of cards and leaflets during the week of 22nd - 29th March, please contact Ginnie Soffe at ginniesoffe@hotmail.co.uk tel: 07919 441239 or Carole, in the Church Office tel: 01278 769082 by 15th March.



Thank you very much!

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.