

Spiritual sunlight

Julia McGuinness *reflects on* Psalm 19

From a golden-coral dawn to a jewelled sparkle of stars, the splendid beauty of the skies evokes wonder. In them we sense the signature of the Creator. Our response echoes that of the psalmist. As he contemplates the sun's orderly circuit across the heavens, his thoughts turn to the direction of human lives.

God has set the sun's course, but allows humankind free will to choose our own pathway. Our lives are best lived, not by random self-pleasing, but according to God's order. Through the Law, God signposts how we may follow the course for which we have been created. The rebellious spirit of our age rails against this as limitation. The psalmist sees it as liberation. The Law is no dry guide. It generates life-giving renewal and rich insight.

The Law acts as spiritual sunlight. Under its penetrating rays we can see how we are out of kilter with God's will. Without such light from above we have only the markers of the behaviour of those around us, and are liable to follow other people's agendas. The Law may shine a light on the psalmist's hidden faults, but he welcomes the exposure that enables him to get back on track.

As Christians, we are called to be Son-seekers, allowing the Living Word to guide us for our good, so our lives shine with God's glory. ☺

Lord, from self-help to sales talk and spin, we are bombarded daily by words that would direct our actions. Help us to treasure your word, allowing its truth to guide our actions and its power to transform our lives. Amen.

Angels

part II – the annunciation

by Trevor Dennis

The most famous angel in the Bible is Gabriel. It's partly because we know what to call him – most of the angels in the Bible are just angels – but mostly, of course, because of Luke's wonderful story of his meeting with Mary. Christmas is

still some way off, but when it comes remember that Mary's annunciation is not the only one in the Bible. The first annunciation is in Genesis 16 and begins as an encounter between Hagar and "the angel of the Lord". That messenger is referred to as an angel, but actually turns out to be God, for Hagar "sees" God, and even gives God a name. Fancy that! Hagar is the first person in the Bible to "see" God, the only one to give God a new name – and she a slave and a foreigner. That says something about God, don't you think? Sometimes we don't need angels. ☺

“The universe is but one vast symbol of God.

Thomas Carlyle (1795-1881), historian

International Day of Peace

by Christine Clark

In the aftermath of World War II, the different levels of guilt and responsibility by Germany and Japan were explored in depth. Now both countries are accepted as members of the UN in a spirit of international forgiveness, because forgiveness and reconciliation are vital for lasting world peace.

The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") is observed around the world each year on 21

September. Established in 1981 by a United Nations resolution, it provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to peace above all their differences and to contribute to building a culture of peace.

The theme this year is "Together for Peace – respect, safety and dignity for all" and, as every year, the United Nations Peace Bell will be rung at the UN headquarters in New York. The bell is cast from coins donated by children from several continents, and was a gift from the United Nations Association of Japan, as a reminder of the human cost of war. The inscription reads: "Long live absolute world peace". ☺

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 50. 4 - 9

The Servant's Humiliation and Vindication

The Lord GOD has given me
the tongue of a teacher,
that I may know how to sustain
the weary with a word.
Morning by morning he wakens—
wakens my ear
to listen as those who are taught.
The Lord GOD has opened my ear,
and I was not rebellious,
I did not turn backwards.
I gave my back to those who struck me,
and my cheeks to those who pulled out the beard;
I did not hide my face
from insult and spitting.

The Lord GOD helps me;
therefore I have not been disgraced;
therefore I have set my face like flint,
and I know that I shall not be put to shame;
he who vindicates me is near.
Who will contend with me?
Let us stand up together.
Who are my adversaries?
Let them confront me.
It is the Lord GOD who helps me;
who will declare me guilty?
All of them will wear out like a garment;
the moth will eat them up.

Gospel Reading

Mark 8. 27- end

Peter's Declaration about Jesus

Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, 'Who do people say that I am?' And they answered him, 'John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.' He asked them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Peter answered him, 'You are the Messiah.' And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him.

Jesus Foretells His Death and Resurrection

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.'

He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, 'If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.'

Christian Scripture

James 3. 1-12

Taming the Tongue

Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers and sisters, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. For all of us make many mistakes. Anyone who makes no mistakes in speaking is perfect, able to keep the whole body in check with a bridle. If we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we guide their whole bodies. Or look at ships: though they are so large that it takes strong winds to drive them, yet they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great exploits.

How great a forest is set ablaze by a small fire! And the tongue is a fire. The tongue is placed among our members as a world of iniquity; it stains the whole body, sets on fire the cycle of nature, and is itself set on fire by hell. For every species of beast and bird, of reptile and sea creature, can be tamed and has been tamed by the human species, but no one can tame the tongue—a restless evil, full of deadly poison. With it we bless the Lord and Father, and with it we curse those who are made in the likeness of God. From the same mouth come blessing and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this ought not to be so. Does a spring pour forth from the same opening both fresh and brackish water? Can a fig tree, my brothers and sisters, yield olives, or a grapevine figs? No more can salt water yield fresh.

Coffee Time 8.45 -10.00 Wednesdays during term time

St Mary's Church, East Brent

Dot and Zoe need some help please!!

In order for this relaxed friendly group to continue we need some kind volunteers please.

- Someone who could spare one morning a month from 8.15 - 10.30 during term time to help run coffee time.
- And someone who could give 30 mins of their time from 9.55 - 10.25 approx. on a Wednesday morning to wash up and clear away.

Please ring Dot on 01278-760600 if you can help. Thank you!

Psalm

Psalm 116. 1 - 8

Thanksgiving for Recovery from Illness

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
the pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the LORD:
'O LORD, I pray, save my life!'

Gracious is the LORD, and righteous;
our God is merciful.
The LORD protects the simple;
when I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest,
for the LORD has dealt bountifully with you.

For you have delivered my soul from death,
my eyes from tears,
my feet from stumbling.



What's On

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

office.tpots@gmail.com



Dessert Island Discs



Luckily I've recorded all my favourites classical composer's music on my IPad

Come and have your appetites whetted by listening to pieces of classical music chosen by local people. Brian Freestone will present the music with technical assistance by John Page.

Saturday 6th October 7.30pm
at Brent Knoll, Village Hall

Tickets £6

**from Brent Knoll Post Office
or Ged Keele (01278 769010)**

**Raffle and light refreshments available
(with cash bar)**

Songs of Praise.

Have you got a favourite hymn or chorus?

Following a suggestion at the Visioning Evening, Pauline Chadwick is thinking about organising a TPOTS Songs of Praise, to be held on a Sunday in November.

If you would like to, please write your favourite hymn, or hymns, on a piece of paper and hand it to Pauline at any 10am service.

If you normally attend the 8am or any other service please leave your piece of paper on the organ at St Mary's and St Christopher's or the piano at St Michael's.

Thank you very much.

More details will follow.



Harvest Festival

Bring and Share Lunch

Sunday October 7th
At 12.00

At St Christopher's, Lympsham
(Straight after worship)

Bring food to share with you.
Tea and Coffee provided.



Sponsored Walk in memory of Sandra Hanmer



Four generations of the Hanmer family will be doing a 5KM walk in Edinburgh on 29th September 2018 to raise funds for the Target Ovarian Cancer charity.

This is in memory of Sandra who died on 22nd September 2017 and to celebrate the first birthday of our great granddaughter, Tilly.

We do hope you can support us in some small way, either by cash at Church or Lympsham Shop or via our just giving page.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/jim-hanmer-the-ovarian-cancer-walk-run-edinburgh>

Thank you for reading this.

God bless you, Jim Hanmer

Interregnum Update

We are happy to report that the Parish Profile was approved by the PCC at their meeting on 10th September and has also been approved by Archdeacon Anne.

Please look on our parish website to read the profile.
www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

A paper copy is also available in the Church Office.

The team are now busy writing the advert, which is due to go into the Church Times at the end of September. Interviews are scheduled for the end of November.

Thank you for your prayers, support and encouragement. Please continue to pray for all those involved in the process.

Sarah, Kathy and Ginnie

**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 first 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.

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 Harp Road, Vole Road and Pill Road, Brent Knoll.
- James Heappey, our local MP.

Please also continue to pray for those who have asked for prayer: Jeanne (Jan), Iona, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter, Nathan, Silla, Carol, Sue, Mervyn, Luke, David, Pam, Di, Bob, Richard, Jodie and Marcus.

Our Healing Ministry is available following each 10am Sunday Worship. Two people from our Healing Ministry team will pray with you if you are in need of healing for yourself or a loved one. You do not need to explain your specific need unless you wish to.

Prayer Group Co-ordinator Gwen Hatton—01934 750416

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<u>16th September</u> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<u>17th</u> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	<u>18th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>19th</u> 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship 14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	<u>20th</u> 14.30 Comfort Group Wayfarers East Brent 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>21st</u> 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings Lympsham	<u>22nd</u>
<u>23rd September</u> 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<u>24th</u>	<u>25th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>26th</u> 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship	<u>27th</u> 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group Southcot, 87 Brent Street 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>28th</u>	<u>29th</u>
<u>30th September</u> 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist	<u>1st October</u> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	<u>2nd</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>3rd</u> 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship 14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	<u>4th</u> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u> 19.30 Dessert Island Discs Brent Knoll Village Hall

Contacts

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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.