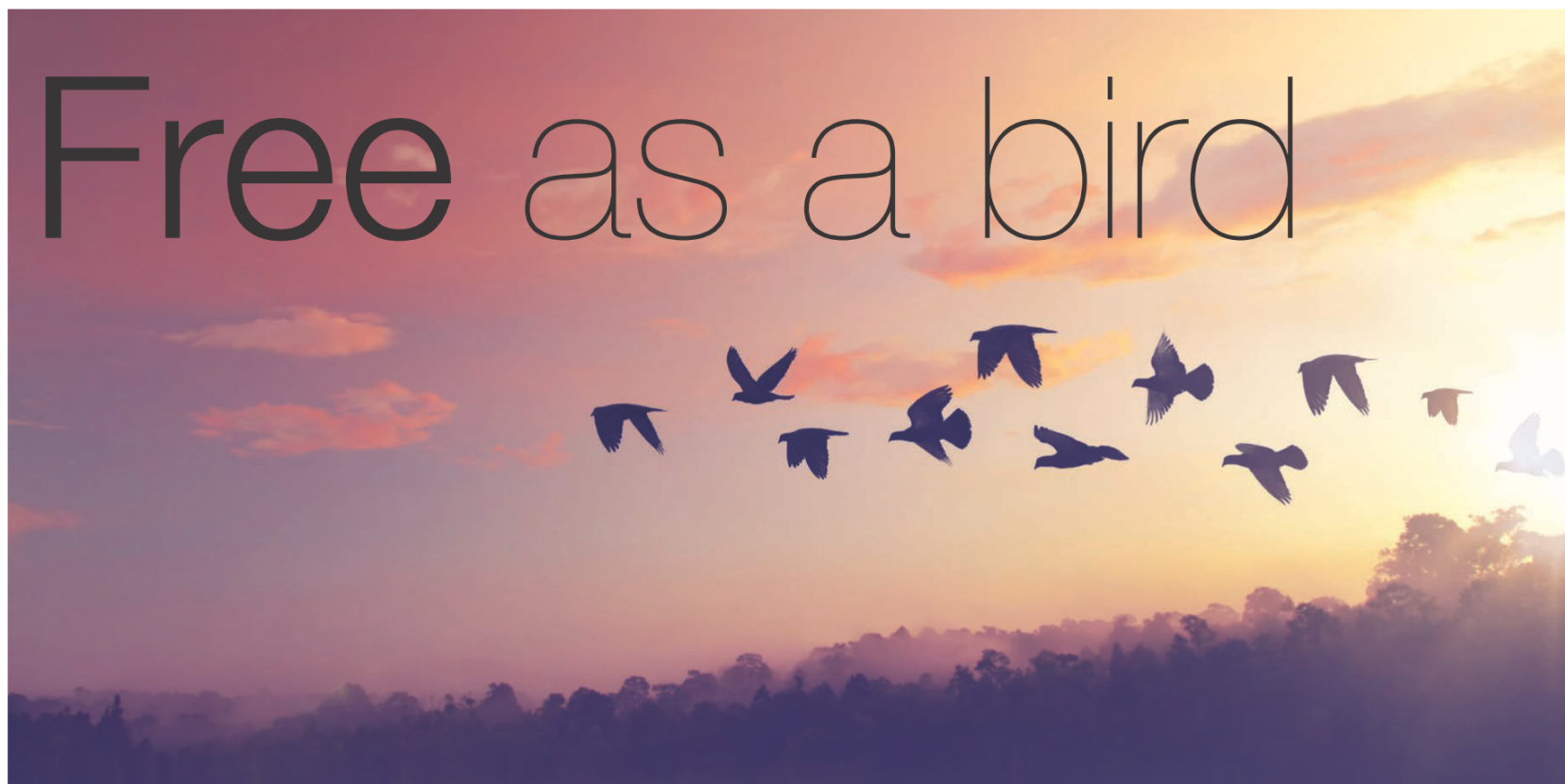


Julia McGuinness

reflects on Psalm 124

It's often only when a crisis is over that we can begin to process what's happened. We may feel reluctant to look back on difficult times, but in this psalm David leads God's people in reviewing all they've come through. This is not to relive or romanticise their experience, but to recognise both God's presence in the very thick of things, and God's faithful deliverance from trouble.

King David faced the threat of the Philistine army. Our enemies may be different – from bullies or false friends to crushing circumstances of health or livelihood. Like the psalmist the strength of our emotional reaction may lead us to describe our crisis in vivid images – the monster capable of swallowing us whole and eating us alive, or the merciless force of a flash flood that threatens to wash us away. Our sense of powerlessness



can leave us feeling as vulnerable as a bird in a snare.

Yet this psalm is a reality check. However sharp the teeth, fierce the torrent or ensnaring the traps we face, God's redeeming power is greater. As we look back in the spiritual wisdom of hindsight, we start to look up in

praise at what God has done. Then we can look forward again with renewed confidence that the one who sees even a sparrow fall not only

brings us through tough times, but strengthens our faith in the process. ☺

**Lord, help us to trust that you are with us even in the midst of our troubles. As your power protects us and your love restores us, give us discerning eyes, grateful hearts and voices willing sing your praise. Amen.**

Chaplain's blog –  
“Why are we doing this, sir?”

by Marcus Bull

All schools have a legal duty to provide a daily act of collective worship. My most visible role is preparing and leading these. But it's a challenge to get it right, especially when the vast majority of our students have no religious faith or background at all.

I always begin by displaying a list of aims and objectives. It's not like a church service. Instead, collective worship reminds us of our school's Christian ethos and values; it helps us to understand Christian seasons and festivals, beliefs and principles; it encourages us to think about our own beliefs and behaviour; and it provides opportunity for quiet reflection. We're not trying to convert the children, but to help them to think for themselves.

I sometimes wonder if we should display a list of aims and objectives in our church services, too. Do we know what we are gathered together for? Why are we doing this? ☺

## Prison chaplaincy

part I

by Heather Smith

*Heather Smith looks at different aspects of faith “inside” and in the wider criminal justice system.*

Prisons have always existed. Think of Joseph in prison in Egypt, or Peter, rescued from prison by an angel in Acts 12. In the West, until around two hundred years ago, prison was seen as the waiting room for trial. If someone were convicted of a capital offence, they would be held until execution; debtors were

imprisoned until they paid what they owed.

Before World War II prisons were filthy, disease-ridden places, and people were often imprisoned for crimes that would not now attract a custodial sentence. It wasn't uncommon for prisoners to be forced to exercise wearing hoods, or for the stalls in the prison chapel to allow the worshipper to see only the preacher.

Over time, thanks to campaigners like the chaplain of Wandsworth Prison, William Morrison, in the 1890s, the current model of the prison system developed, until eventually the purpose of prison came to be seen as both deterrence and reform, and conditions were improved. ☺

“If you wish to possess finally all that is yours, give yourself entirely to God.

Hadewijch of Brabant, thirteenth-century Belgian mystic

# **Bible Readings**

## **Hebrew Scripture**

### **Genesis 28.10-17**

Jacob's Dream at Bethel

Jacob left Beer-sheba and went towards Haran. He came to a certain place and stayed there for the night, because the sun had set. Taking one of the stones of the place, he put it under his head and lay down in that place. And he dreamed that there was a ladder set up on the earth, the top of it reaching to heaven; and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it. And the Lord stood beside him and said, 'I am the Lord, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac; the land on which you lie I will give to you and to your offspring; and your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south; and all the families of the earth shall be blessed in you and in your offspring.

Know that I am with you and will keep you wherever you go, and will bring you back to this land; for I will not leave you until I have done what I have promised you.' Then Jacob woke from his sleep and said, 'Surely the Lord is in this place—and I did not know it!' And he was afraid, and said, 'How awesome is this place! This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

## **Blessed Thought**

**"O Holy Spirit,  
Bind and cement me to Christ by all Thy ways  
known and unknown;  
by holy thoughts, and unseen graces,  
and sacramental ties;  
so that, He is in me, and I in Him,  
today and forever."**

(from a prayer by Bishop of Bloemfontain).

## **Gospel Reading**

### **John 1. 47 - end**

When Jesus saw Nathanael coming towards him, he said of him, 'Here is truly an Israelite in whom there is no deceit!' Nathanael asked him, 'Where did you come to know me?' Jesus answered, 'I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you.' Nathanael replied, 'Rabbi, you are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!'

Jesus answered, 'Do you believe because I told you that I saw you under the fig tree? You will see greater things than these.' And he said to him, 'Very truly, I tell you, you will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.'

## **Christian Scripture**

### **Hebrews 1. 5 - end**

The Son Is Superior to Angels

For to which of the angels did God ever say,  
'You are my Son;  
today I have begotten you'?

Or again,

'I will be his Father,  
and he will be my Son'?

And again, when he brings the firstborn into the world, he says,

'Let all God's angels worship him.'

Of the angels he says,

'He makes his angels winds,  
and his servants flames of fire.'

But of the Son he says,

'Your throne, O God, is for ever and ever,  
and the righteous sceptre is the sceptre of  
your kingdom.

You have loved righteousness and hated wickedness;  
therefore God, your God, has anointed you

with the oil of gladness beyond your companions.'

And,

'In the beginning, Lord, you founded the earth,  
and the heavens are the work of your hands;

they will perish, but you remain;

they will all wear out like clothing;

like a cloak you will roll them up,

and like clothing they will be changed.

But you are the same,

and your years will never end.'

But to which of the angels has he ever said,

'Sit at my right hand

until I make your enemies a footstool for your feet'?

Are not all angels spirits in the divine service, sent to  
serve for the sake of those who are to inherit  
salvation?

## **Parish Profile Update**

**Please visit our parish website to read  
the profile.**

[www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk](http://www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk)

**A paper copy is also available in the  
Church Office.**

## **Psalm**

### **Psalm 103. 19 - end**

The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,  
and his kingdom rules over all.

Bless the Lord, O you his angels,  
you mighty ones who do his bidding,  
obedient to his spoken word.

Bless the Lord, all his hosts,  
his ministers that do his will.

Bless the Lord, all his works,  
in all places of his dominion.

Bless the Lord, O my soul.





## What's On

[www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk](http://www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk)

[office.tpots@gmail.com](mailto:office.tpots@gmail.com)



### Dessert Island Discs



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 6<sup>th</sup> 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)**

### Harvest Festival

#### Bring and Share Lunch

**Sunday October 7th**

**At 12.00**

**At St Christopher's, Lympsam**  
**(Straight after worship)**

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



### 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 to be arranged.

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.



### 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.
- 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!

### If you haven't looked at the website lately, please do visit it and see what you think.

[www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk](http://www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk)

Please keep sending

- quality photographs of village and/or fundraising events.
- details of current and proposed fundraising or social events

by email to [j.hanmer@btinternet.com](mailto:j.hanmer@btinternet.com)



**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 Watersmeet Close and Gills Lane, Rooksbridge.
- The WIs (Women’s Institutes) in our parish.

### 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 it and everything is 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 also contact us if you would like to remain on this list as we are currently looking to update it. Many thanks.

At present we continue to pray for Iona, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter, Nathan, Silla, Carol, Sue, Mervyn, Luke, David, Pam, Di, Bob, Richard, Jodie and Marcus.

# Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b><u>30th September</u></b> 10.00 St Christopher’s Parish Eucharist	<b><u>1st October</u></b> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b><u>2nd</u></b> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b><u>3rd</u></b> 10.00 St Christopher’s Mid Week Worship  14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office  19.00 Extra PCC Meeting Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b><u>4th</u></b>      19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary’s	<b><u>5th</u></b>	<b><u>6th</u></b> 19.30 Dessert Island Discs Brent Knoll Village Hall
<b><u>7th October</u></b> 08.00 St Mary’s Holy Communion  10.00 St Christopher’s Parish Eucharist <b>Harvest Festival, followed by Bring and Share lunch</b>	<b><u>8th</u></b>	<b><u>9th</u></b> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b><u>10th</u></b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary’s  10.00 St Christopher’s Mid Week Worship	<b><u>11th</u></b>      19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary’s	<b><u>12th</u></b>	<b><u>13th</u></b>
<b><u>14th October</u></b> 08.00 St Michael’s Holy Communion  10.00 St Mary’s Parish Eucharist	<b><u>15th</u></b> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent  16.00-17.30 Alzheimer’s and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent.	<b><u>16th</u></b> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b><u>17th</u></b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary’s  10.00 St Christopher’s Mid Week Worship  14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	<b><u>18th</u></b>   14.30 Comfort Group Wayfarers East Brent   19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary’s	<b><u>19th</u></b>	<b><u>20th</u></b>

# Contacts

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.