

A glimpse of God

Kathryn Fleming *reflects on* Job 42:1-6. 10-end and Mark 10:46-end

As Jesus meets blind Bartimaeus, his opening question might seem entirely unnecessary.

“What do you want me to do for you?” he asks. The petitioner is blind. Of course, his prime need would be to have his sight restored. Surely it’s a no-brainer. But actually what he has asked for is mercy. There’s something deeper happening here, just as there is when Job realises that his search for answers will lead him only further into mystery. Though there are many and obvious physical issues to be addressed, the fundamental need for both Job and Bartimaeus is to recognise that God is God, and that in God’s presence we are all alike in need of mercy, dwarfed by “things too wonderful for me, which I did not know”.

Perhaps this might help us to hold on to our faith in hard times (even if those times are, please God, less cataclysmic than those endured by Job). Sometimes healing has more to do with experiencing God’s mercy and recognising God’s greatness, than with sorting out a physical issue. That may not always feel like good news but, as Job reminds us, God’s picture is always bigger, and we glimpse but a corner. Sometimes, wonderfully, like Bartimaeus we receive both healing and cure. But when that is not our experience let’s try cling to God as Job did, and hope to glimpse God’s loving purpose. ☺



The joy of the Prayer Book

part IV

by the Revd Dr Daniel Newman

Daniel Newman concludes his series with a meditation on the language of the Prayer Book.

A further joy of the Prayer Book is the language in which this theology comes. Features of Cranmer’s masterful prose include alliteration and doubling (e.g. “devices and desires”), repetition of pronouns (“We have erred... We have followed... We have offended... We

have left undone... We have done”) and conjunctions (“We have done this and we have done that and this is what we are like”), and its rhythm. Although traditional language is equated with formality, it offers the potential for intimacy which modern language denies us: we can address God as “Thou” which is an intimate form of address, like the French “tu”.

When I sit in Evensong, stand at the Lord’s table, or kneel at my prayer desk, as I smell the scents that come wafting on the clean sea breeze of the centuries, the Prayer Book woos me afresh for God.

From The Joy of Being Anglican (Redemptorist Publications). Special price for Sunday Link readers ordering by phone: £7.95. 01420 88222 ☺

Lord, you know our needs better than we do ourselves. Help us to trust you, so that our faith in you may heal us of our fears and bring us to worship at the feet of your Son, Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Walking with Poppy getting lost

by Gillian Cooper

Living in London has given Poppy and me a chance to explore. Today we head for Clapham and walk on the common. We wander around, taking small paths, shuffling through the leaves and following squirrels until I have completely lost my sense of direction. We

seem lost, but we are not. We simply head towards the nearest buildings, and there on the street is a helpful Transport for London map telling us just where we are, so back to the tube station we go, and home for tea.

God is even more helpful than Transport for London. God has given us signposts and maps, stories, traditions and people, to help us navigate the complicated route through our lives. But even if we seem lost, God is always with us, like the shepherd who goes looking for the one stray sheep and will not rest until all are safely home. ☺

“ **Whatever we do that creates deadness is a sin.** John V. Taylor, Anglian bishop

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 28. 14-16

Therefore hear the word of the Lord, you scoffers
who rule this people in Jerusalem.
Because you have said, 'We have made a covenant
with death,
and with Sheol we have an agreement;
when the overwhelming scourge passes through
it will not come to us;
for we have made lies our refuge,
and in falsehood we have taken shelter';
therefore thus says the Lord God,
See, I am laying in Zion a foundation stone,
a tested stone,
a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation:
'One who trusts will not panic.'

Blessed Thought

To him who is able to keep you from falling and to
present you before his glorious presence without fault
and with great joy - to the only God our Saviour be
glory, majesty, power and authority, through Jesus
Christ our Lord, before all ages, now and for
evermore! Amen.

(Jude 24;25)

Gospel Reading

John 15. 17-end

I am giving you these commands so that you may love
one another.

The World's Hatred

'If the world hates you, be aware that it hated me
before it hated you. If you belonged to the world, the
world would love you as its own. Because you do not
belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the
world—therefore the world hates you.

Remember the word that I said to you, "Servants are
not greater than their master." If they persecuted me,
they will persecute you; if they kept my word, they will
keep yours also. But they will do all these things to you
on account of my name, because they do not know him
who sent me. If I had not come and spoken to them,
they would not have sin; but now they have no excuse
for their sin. Whoever hates me hates my Father also. If
I had not done among them the works that no one else
did, they would not have sin. But now they have seen
and hated both me and my Father. It was to fulfil the
word that is written in their law, "They hated me without
a cause."

'When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you
from the Father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the
Father, he will testify on my behalf. You also are to
testify because you have been with me from the
beginning.'

Christian Scripture

Ephesians 2. 19-end

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but
you are citizens with the saints and also members of
the household of God, built upon the foundation of the
apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the
cornerstone.

In him the whole structure is joined together and grows
into a holy temple in the Lord; in whom you also are
built together spiritually into a dwelling-place for God.

Next Sunday 4th November

Rev. Preb. **Sharon Crossman**, our Area Dean, will
be preaching next Sunday, 4th November, at 10 am in
our parish at St Michael's Brent Knoll.

Please come along and show your support.

Deanery Safeguarding Training Evening

Tues 20th November 6.30-8.30pm

For anyone involved with children or vulnerable adults.

Please see Kathy Quinnell for more details.

Psalm

Psalm 119. 89-96

The Lord exists for ever;
your word is firmly fixed in heaven.
Your faithfulness endures to all generations;
you have established the earth, and it stands fast.
By your appointment they stand today,
for all things are your servants.
If your law had not been my delight,
I would have perished in my misery.
I will never forget your precepts,
for by them you have given me life.
I am yours; save me,
for I have sought your precepts.
The wicked lie in wait to destroy me,
but I consider your decrees.
I have seen a limit to all perfection,
but your commandment is exceedingly broad.



What's On

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

office.tpots@gmail.com



Interregnum Update

The advert for our new priest is now in The Church Times, on the Diocesan website and also online at jobs.churchtimes.co.uk

The closing date for applications is 7th November, with informal visits and interviews taking place on 28th and 29th November.

If you haven't had a chance to read the Parish Profile yet, you will find it on our website, or there is a paper copy in the Church office.

The PCC have now voted in our Parish Representatives, Anthony Barkle and Maxine Bashford, who will take part in the shortlisting and the interviews along with Anne Gell, our Archdeacon, Sharon Crossman, our Area Dean and Tim Hind, Lay Chair.

Please pray for them and continue to pray for the whole recruitment process - for God's will to be done in finding a new priest who will work alongside us and guide us as we go forward.
Thank you.



Churches Together in Burnham, Highbridge & District



CALLING ALL CHRISTIANS

in Burnham, Highbridge & surrounding villages

This is not just a meeting - it is a call, a plea, it might be a vision of what could be.....

It's not all weird..... honest - I just want us to have a get together and really wonder what God might be asking of us in our towns and villages and how together we might get on board.....



Wednesday 7th November
7pm (but you can roll up later it's ok)

Our Lady Catholic Church
(The round one on Highbridge Road)

TA8 1LL

Burnham -on-Sea

"Who are we as a bunch of Christians in the Burnham and Highbridge Area?"
"How can we celebrate who we are in God's name?"
"Where do we go from here?"

If you'd like to know more, make a comment, moan about the poster or to ask if there will be chocolate biscuits please contact Rev Preb Sharon Crossman (she's the one at St John's in Highbridge and has some role with Churches Together at the moment.....)

CTBurnhamandHighbridge@gmail.com

Seriously we would do so much better if we got together.....

Volunteers needed please

to tidy up the Rectory garden
in preparation for the visits from candidates on
28th November.



Please contact Mike Smith
if you can help on **01278 - 760691**

Thank you!

The Highbridge Area Foodbank is currently in need of

Longlife Milk

Longlife Fruit Juice

Small jars of coffee

Small bags of sugar

Any donation to the baskets in each of our church buildings is much appreciated. Thank you.

THE LISTENING PROJECT....

... is starting up again this autumn and you will all be receiving a letter or email in due course. We are a small team so please bear with us as we work our way down the electoral roll and through the church family. It might take us a while to get round to everyone.

This venture is all about listening to you - listening to what you value about church life, what you find helpful and what really doesn't work for you.

There are no wrong answers!

We look forward to listening to you soon.

If you need any further information, or would like to join the team doing the listening, please speak to Anthony on 07701 081077



Dates for your Diaries



Lights of Love

Sunday 18th November at 3pm

In St Christopher's Church,
Lympham

A moment in time to celebrate the lives of those who have meant so much to us and have died.

Festive Coffee Morning

Saturday 24th November at 10.30 - 12.30

in St Mary's Church
East Brent

All Sorts Choir, Home-made stall,
raffle, refreshments and more.....

Coffee Morning



**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 Rectory Way, Lympsham and Laurel Avenue, Brent Knoll.
- White House Kennels, Delhorn Boarding Kennels and Cattery, Brent Knoll Cattery.

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 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 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
28th October 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	29th	30th	31st 09.00 - 10.30 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship	1st November 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	2nd	3rd
4th November 08.00 St Michael's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist Rev Sharon Crossman preaching	5th	6th 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	7th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship 14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	8th	9th	10th
11th November Remembrance Sunday 10.45 St Michael's, St Christopher's and East Brent War Memorial	12th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House East Brent	13th 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	14th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship 14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	15th	16th	17th

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.