

Where the veil is thin



Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on*
Revelation 21:1-6

This weekend many churches will celebrate All Saints' Day, while All Souls' was commemorated on Friday. These feasts give us a glimpse of eternity, of the thin veil between heaven and earth. We struggle for words to describe it, because we can only see in terms of what we already know. Today's passage from Revelation gives us some clues, however. St John sees heaven with all the wonder of a bride meeting her husband. There's nothing lonely about heaven. It's about home – the place where God lives, with mortals, for ever. It is a city, but it is holy instead of dangerous and terrifying. It is a place of relationship, of mortals with one another and God. God dwells with us, wiping away all the tears of the past, restoring goodness and life. Here everything wrong is put right, every hurt healed. Here even death, the ending that we can never escape, is finished. There is no more death, nor

hunger, nor thirst. There is no more poverty, nor brokenness, nor pain. This vision tells us that there is only one thing that lasts for ever, and that is the truth of Emmanuel – God with us. This eternal truth is not just for us – it is also for all those who have gone ahead, and for those yet to come. It is the one solid certainty in a fragile world. ☺

Eternal God, who holds earth and heaven together in a continuous stream of love, give us the grace to know and feel you with us today and for all eternity. Amen.

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Often I'm asked which is my favourite animal or bird on our smallholding and I usually give a very quick answer that depends on what I'm doing at the time. Watching a pig eat a tomato and get pips in its eyebrows and juice all

over its face and front legs is magic – you can't be gloomy after that! Sheep smell lovely and want to rub their faces on your trousers and nibble the cords of your waterproof coat. Poultry are inquisitive and want to join in with whatever you're doing, including standing in a freshly dug hole where you thought you'd plant a tree. It's so hard to make a choice! But then why do I have to make a choice? Instead I can rejoice in their differences, handle the awkward times with patience and love them to bits – as we commemorate the wonderful variety of human life at All Saints' and All Souls' tide. ☺

“As the first Adam's sweat surrounds my face, May the last Adam's blood my soul embrace.”

John Donne

The A-Z of healthy living Z is for zany vision of hope

Sr Thérèse Garman
concludes her series
taking us through the
alphabet

“I will cause breath to enter you,
and you shall live.” (Ezekiel 37:5)

Ezekiel has a vision of a valley of dry bones. “Can these bones live?” God asks. We ourselves have “dry-bone” days, when we are dispirited, without spirit. Acknowledging

these may be challenging – we wear masks, pretending that we never let things get us down. At these times, we tend to rely on human resources – working or partying harder, perhaps – but more is needed. What irrigates and revives Ezekiel's valley of bones is that divine Spirit that helps us rise up and live.

This vision is not about life after death, but life before death. By the power of the Spirit, this present life can be full and fruitful. When in that dry valley of bones we need renewal, a fresh encounter with God in prayer. In the bone yard of this world we need to ask the Father to refresh and revive us with Jesus, who is the water of eternal life. ☺

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Wisdom 3. 1-9

The Destiny of the Righteous

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God,
and no torment will ever touch them.
In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died,
and their departure was thought to be a disaster,
and their going from us to be their destruction;
but they are at peace.
For though in the sight of others they were punished,
their hope is full of immortality.
Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great
good,
because God tested them and found them worthy of
himself;
like gold in the furnace he tried them,
and like a sacrificial burnt-offering he accepted them.
In the time of their visitation they will shine forth,
and will run like sparks through the stubble.
They will govern nations and rule over peoples,
and the Lord will reign over them for ever.
Those who trust in him will understand truth,
and the faithful will abide with him in love,
because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones,
and he watches over his elect.

Gospel Reading

John 11. 32-44

When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, 'Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.' When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, 'Where have you laid him?' They said to him, 'Lord, come and see.' Jesus began to weep. So the Jews said, 'See how he loved him!' But some of them said, 'Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?'

Jesus Raises Lazarus to Life

Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. Jesus said, 'Take away the stone.' Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, 'Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead for four days.' Jesus said to her, 'Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?' So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upwards and said, 'Father, I thank you for having heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.' When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, 'Lazarus, come out!' The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth, and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, 'Unbind him, and let him go.'

Christian Scripture

Revelation 21. 1-6a

The New Heaven and the New Earth

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,

'See, the home of God is among mortals.
He will dwell with them;
they will be his peoples,
and God himself will be with them;
he will wipe every tear from their eyes.
Death will be no more;
mourning and crying and pain will be no more,
for the first things have passed away.'

And the one who was seated on the throne said, 'See, I am making all things new.' Also he said, 'Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.' Then he said to me, 'It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.'

Blessed Thought

"Be still and know that I am God"
(Psalm 46;10)

Please Note.

Remembrance Sunday services will be held at
10.45 am on Sunday 11th November at
St Michael's Church, St Christopher's Church
and at East Brent War Memorial.

Psalm

Psalm 24. 1-6

Entrance into the Temple
Of David. A Psalm.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers.
Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
Those who have clean hands and pure hearts,
who do not lift up their souls to what is false,
and do not swear deceitfully.
They will receive blessing from the Lord,
and vindication from the God of their salvation.
Such is the company of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.



What's On

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

office.tpots@gmail.com



Saturday 10th November, 3.00pm
St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Royal British Legion Celebration
"One Hundred Years On"

This occasion marks the end of the
First World War.

Please come and support this very special
anniversary – no tickets needed, just donations
to the Royal British Legion
Poppy Appeal.



Lights of Love

Sunday 18th November at 3pm

In St Christopher's Church, Lympsham

A moment in time to celebrate the lives of those
who have meant so much to us and have died.
Tea will be served after the service.



Festive Coffee Morning

Saturday 24th November
at 10.30 - 12.30

in St Mary's Church, East Brent

All Sorts Choir
Raffle
Refreshments
Home made stall
and more...



Christmas Fair

St Michael's Church
Brent Knoll



Saturday Dec. 1st
10 am to 1 pm

Christmas Gift Stalls
Local Craft & Nativity Displays
Festive Music (All Sorts Choir)
Light Refreshments (including soup & rolls from noon)

Parish of Three Saints, St Michael's Church



QUIZ!

Sunday 2nd December
2018 at 19.00
at Brent Knoll Inn,
East Brent.

Up to 5 in a team
£3.00 per person

Sing Christmas favourites with the
All Sorts Choir
and have a fun time!

Wear your Christmas hat!

Christmas Raffle!



Proceeds go to St Mary's Church



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

**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 West Road and Church Road, Lympsham.
- The hobby clubs in our parish.
- Our Parish Representatives, Maxine and Anthony, and those involved with the shortlisting and interviewing process.

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
<u>4th November</u> 08.00 St Michael's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist Rev Sharon Crossman preaching	<u>5th</u>	<u>6th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>7th</u> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship 14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	<u>8th</u> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>9th</u>	<u>10th</u> 15.00 Royal British Legion Celebration St Michael's
<u>11th November</u> Remembrance Sunday 10.45 St Michael's, St Christopher's and East Brent War Memorial	<u>12th</u> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House East Brent	<u>13th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>14th</u> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship 14.00-15.15 Emmaus Church Office	<u>15th</u> 14.30 Comfort Group Wayfarers, East Brent 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>16th</u>	<u>17th</u>
<u>18th November</u> 08.00 St Christopher's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist 15.00 Lights Of Love St Christopher's	<u>19th</u> 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group. Brentcombe House, East Brent.	<u>20th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>21st</u> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship	<u>22nd</u> 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>23rd</u>	<u>24th</u> 10.30 Festive Coffee Morning St Mary's

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.