

Tumbling down



Ricarda Witcombe *reflects on* Mark 13:1-8

We are almost at the end of the church year, and today's Gospel reading prevents us from simply coasting to the finish. The Gospel journey is never easy, but neither is it unaccompanied by the God who makes life possible in any situation. Mark gives us a glimpse of a private conversation between Jesus and his disciples. It is a conversation that speaks of fear and reassurance in equal measure. Herod's Temple was incomplete but still known as the most beautiful building in the world. The disciples, like everyone else, are in awe of its sheer beauty and size. Jesus, however, draws their attention to something deeper. None of it will last, he says. This building, that has taken such years of skilled work, such vision to build, and such expense, will come tumbling down.

It's a salutary reminder for our own lives. Most of us pour energy into things that ultimately will fade into insignificance. It's well known that on their deathbed, few people would say they wish they had spent more time working. Jesus goes on to warn against those who will interpret world events wrongly and, acknowledging that there will be war and rumour of war, he tells them not to be afraid. Within all of this is a call to something deeper, to the God who is greater than the whole of creation, whose kingdom lasts for ever. ☺

Eternal God, whose love is stronger than anything in all creation, give us the grace to trust in you when our foundations are shaken, that in every circumstance we may find the path of life and walk it. Amen.

Universal Children's Day

by Lisa Tulfer

Next Tuesday, 20 November, is Universal Children's Day. Established by the United Nations in 1954, it is designed to promote international togetherness and awareness among children worldwide, and to improve children's welfare. It also marks the UN's adoption of the Declaration

(and later Convention) on the Rights of the Child.

In the UK, the day tends to be eclipsed by a closely related event, BBC Children in Need, which has been all about fun and fundraising since 1980. In that time it has raised over £600 million for disadvantaged children and young people in the UK. Individuals, schools, businesses and churches participate in events to raise money to help bring about the vision of every child being safe, happy and secure, with the chance to reach their potential – aspirations which are themselves based on the United Nations' Declaration on the Rights of the Child. ☺

National Parks

by Jo Jones

National Parks were established as part of the reconstruction of Britain after the Second World War. People living in increasingly crowded, industrialised towns craved access to open country – access that was denied by increasing enclosure of land by landowners. In 1932 a mass trespass on Kinder Scout in the Peak District intensified pressure for change. In the 1950s

the Peak District became the first of fifteen national parks across England, Wales and Scotland. They were established to conserve and enhance the natural beauty, wildlife and cultural heritage of their area, promote enjoyment and understanding by the public and foster the economic and social well-being of local communities.

How often in the Bible the wilderness is the place where God is found. Designed to be in reach, we need to treasure these national parks as places where our souls get a chance to breathe – along with much other wildlife! ☺

“The man of prayer finds his happiness in continually creating, searching, being with Christ.

Roger of Taizé (1915-2005), founder and prior of the Taizé community

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Daniel 12. 1-3

The Resurrection of the Dead

At that time Michael, the great prince, the protector of your people, shall arise. There shall be a time of anguish, such as has never occurred since nations first came into existence. But at that time your people shall be delivered, everyone who is found written in the book. Many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky, and those who lead many to righteousness, like the stars for ever and ever.

Interregnum Update

We are pleased to say that shortlisting has been completed and one candidate has been invited for interview on 29th November. The Archdeacon is leading a Holy Communion at 10.30am on that day at St Mary's with the interview panel, to which all parishioners are warmly invited .

Informal visits will take place the day before, on 28th November, and will include all three church buildings, the schools, post offices, pubs and the rectory.

Please continue to pray for discernment, both for the interview panel and the applicant and that God's will be done.

Thank you.

Blessed Thought

"Listen for God's voice in everything you do, everywhere you go; he is the one who will keep you on track"

The Message Bible

Gospel Reading

Mark 13. 1-8

The Destruction of the Temple Foretold

As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, 'Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!' Then Jesus asked him, 'Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.'

When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, 'Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?' Then Jesus began to say to them, 'Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, "I am he!" and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumours of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Christian Scripture

Hebrews 10. 11-25

And every priest stands day after day at his service, offering again and again the same sacrifices that can never take away sins. But when Christ had offered for all time a single sacrifice for sins, 'he sat down at the right hand of God', and since then has been waiting 'until his enemies would be made a footstool for his feet.' For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are sanctified. And the Holy Spirit also testifies to us, for after saying,

'This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the Lord:

I will put my laws in their hearts,

and I will write them on their minds',

he also adds,

'I will remember their sins and their lawless deeds no more.'

Where there is forgiveness of these, there is no longer any offering for sin.

A Call to Persevere

Therefore, my friends, since we have confidence to enter the sanctuary by the blood of Jesus, by the new and living way that he opened for us through the curtain (that is, through his flesh), and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith, with our hearts sprinkled clean from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.

Psalm

Psalm 16

Song of Trust and Security in God

A Miktam of David.

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge.

I say to the Lord, 'You are my Lord;

I have no good apart from you.'

As for the holy ones in the land, they are the noble, in whom is all my delight.

Those who choose another god multiply their sorrows; their drink-offerings of blood I will not pour out or take their names upon my lips.

The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

The boundary lines have fallen for me in pleasant places; I have a goodly heritage.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me.

I keep the Lord always before me;

because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure.

For you do not give me up to Sheol,

or let your faithful one see the Pit.

You show me the path of life.

In your presence there is fullness of joy;

in your right hand are pleasures for evermore



What's On

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

office.tpots@gmail.com



This afternoon



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...



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

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



CHRISTMAS COFFEE MORNING

At
2 The Worthings, Lympsham
On
**Tuesday 4th December
10.00am-12.00pm**

Come and have a chat, coffee
and mince pie!

**RAFFLE
CAKES
BRING & BUY**

All proceeds go to
St Christopher's Church, Lympsham



Burnham and Highbridge Churches Together Meeting Update

On 7th November a large group of Christians from several different churches in the wider Burnham area, including nine people from our own parish, gathered together at Our Lady Catholic Church, Burnham to explore better ways of working together.

The evening was led by Rev Sharon Crossman and some of the questions we considered were; Who are we as Christians in this community? Where and how might God be calling us? How do we best work together? Apart from the Highbridge Foodbank, what other joint events or shared projects could we undertake?

There was a lot of discussion, sharing of ideas and post it notes(!) over tea and cake. Three people came forward to act as representatives and were prayed for. Please watch this space for more information about future plans and see the website for a photo.

**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 The Mead, East Brent.**
- **West Croft Cider Farm.**
- **Our Parish Representatives, Maxine and Anthony, and all 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>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
<u>25th November</u> 08.00 St Mary's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<u>26th</u> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent.	<u>27th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<u>28th</u> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship	<u>29th</u> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>30th</u>	<u>1st December</u> 10.00-1300 Christmas Fair St Michael's Brent Knoll
<u>2nd December</u> 08.00 St Christopher's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 19.00 Christmas Quiz Brent Knoll Inn, East Brent	<u>3rd</u>	<u>4th</u> 10.30-12.00 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church 10.00-12.00 Christmas Coffee Morning 2 The Worthings, Lympsham	<u>5th</u> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 10.00 St Christopher's Mid Week Worship	<u>6th</u> 12.30 Bereaved Friends Group Christmas Lunch Red Cow, Brent Knoll 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<u>7th</u>	<u>8th</u>

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.**