



Connecting faith and daily life

What's your name?

Georgina Byrne *reflects on* Isaiah 43:1-7
and Luke 3:15-17. 21-22

So much of who we are, how we present ourselves to the world, is wrapped up in our name. Our name might represent our nationality, our background; it might give away our likely age, or the aspirations of our parents. Some people spend their lives having to spell or explain their name. We grow into our names; some of us change them.

Isaiah 43 reminds us that our name has something to do with our relationship with God. God, the creator, we recall, names things in the beginning of Genesis and they come into being. When Isaiah tells us that God calls us by name, it signifies that God calls us into being and gives us our purpose. God knows who, what and how we truly are. We are God's.

In Luke's version of the baptism of Jesus, God names Jesus "my Son", and in so doing imbues Jesus' life with a meaning beyond imagining. Jesus is named as God's son, by God, and his whole life's purpose is made known.

Christians often recall their own baptism on this day. The Prayer Book catechism reminds us that our baptism makes us "a member of Christ, the child of God and an inheritor of the kingdom of heaven". Whatever our moniker, God has called us into being for a purpose. We are named, called, and known by God. ☺



O God, you call me into being and know me by name; walk with me through the journey of life. Protect me when storms rage and fires burn and hold me precious in your sight. For I am your child. Amen.

A new year in West Virginia

by Helen van Koevering

Our kitchen window has a wonderful view of an old oak tree where we hang a bird feeder. The squirrels use all their inquisitive ingenuity to get at those nuts and seeds. Raking leaves in the fall, I discovered hidden acorns, and right now a lone squirrel is searching the frozen lawn for remembered treasures. The frigid temperatures this Christmas

have only slightly reduced the squirrels' activity, and I'm aware too of the chickadee's call and the bright red cardinal on the bare branches. Besides the oak, the evergreen ivy and fir tree add depth to the new layer of snow, while other trees' bare branches reach upwards. And there, walking calmly past the other window, is a deer. A family of deer live in this neighbourhood, and their appearance is always a surprising delight, even to my grown children. These scenes are creating new memories for our family, reminding us of the God who remains with us in the newness. ☺

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.

St Teresa of Calcutta, missionary and humanitarian

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 Ash Trees and Hill Lane, East Brent.
- The Pastoral Care Team in our parish.
- Rev Kevin Wright and his wife, Chris, as they start to make preparations to join our Church Family in March.

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

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
13th January 08.00 St Michael's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist	14th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 19.30 Pastoral Care Team Meeting	15th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	16th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	17th 14.30 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir	18th 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings, Lympham	19th
20th January 0800 St Christopher's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	21st 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent 19.00 PCC Meeting Brent Knoll Methodist Church	22nd 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	23rd 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	24th 14.30 Bereaved Friends group 19.30 All Sorts Choir	25th	26th
27th January 08.00 St Mary's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	28th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	29th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	30th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	31st 19.30 All Sorts Choir	1st February	2nd

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.

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25 January

by Lisa Tulfer

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity starts on Friday, with the aim of being united, as Jesus prays "so that the world may believe". The World Council of Churches

organises this event, which has its roots in the early twentieth century, and each year the resources are provided by churches from a different part of the world. It traditionally takes place between 18 and 25 January, although in the southern hemisphere, where this falls during the summer holidays, it is often kept around Pentecost.

In the UK, this week is coordinated by Churches Together in Britain and Ireland, and many churches take the opportunity to hold joint events, serving both to strengthen Christian fellowship and also to witness, united, to the love of God.

You can find out more at <https://ctbi.org.uk>, or by following the Twitter hashtag #wpcu2019 ☺

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 43. 1-7

Restoration and Protection Promised

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.
Because you are precious in my sight,
and honoured, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold';
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Gospel Reading

Luke 3. 15-17, 21-22

As the people were filled with expectation, and all were questioning in their hearts concerning John, whether he might be the Messiah, John answered all of them by saying, 'I baptize you with water; but one who is more powerful than I is coming; I am not worthy to untie the thong of his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, to clear his threshing-floor and to gather the wheat into his granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

The Baptism of Jesus

Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heaven was opened, and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Christian Scripture

Acts 8. 14-17

Now when the apostles at Jerusalem heard that Samaria had accepted the word of God, they sent Peter and John to them. The two went down and prayed for them that they might receive the Holy Spirit (for as yet the Spirit had not come upon any of them; they had only been baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus). Then Peter and John laid their hands on them, and they received the Holy Spirit.

Interregnum Update

A Welcome and Licensing service will be held for our new priest, Rev Kevin Wright, on the evening of 21st March 2019.

Details of time and venue will be announced shortly.

It would be lovely if we could have a full church to make it a special occasion for Kevin and his wife, Chris, as we welcome them into our church family.

Psalm

Psalm 29

The Voice of God in a Great Storm
A Psalm of David.

Ascribe to the Lord, O heavenly beings,
ascribe to the Lord glory and strength.
Ascribe to the Lord the glory of his name;
worship the Lord in holy splendour.
The voice of the Lord is over the waters;
the God of glory thunders,
the Lord, over mighty waters.
The voice of the Lord is powerful;
the voice of the Lord is full of majesty.
The voice of the Lord breaks the cedars;
the Lord breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
He makes Lebanon skip like a calf,
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
The voice of the Lord flashes forth flames of fire.
The voice of the Lord shakes the wilderness;
the Lord shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
The voice of the Lord causes the oaks to whirl,
and strips the forest bare;
and in his temple all say, 'Glory!'
The Lord sits enthroned over the flood;
the Lord sits enthroned as king for ever.
May the Lord give strength to his people!
May the Lord bless his people with peace!

What's On

www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

office.tpots@gmail.com

Happy New Year!

Praise to you, Lord, for your blessings of health, happiness and fellowship.
We pray for your Peace, Love and Joy to be abundant in our communities,
families and with our loved ones in the year ahead.



The Parish of Three Saints welcomes
you to a

Songs of Praise

Service

at 10am

Sunday 10th February

St Mary's Church,
East Brent

Everyone is very welcome.
Come along and sing some of your
favourite hymns.

Please note: there will be no communion
at this service.

Blessed Thought

For we are God's handiwork,
created in Christ Jesus to devote ourselves to
the good deeds
for which God has designed us"

(Eph. 2.10)



CHURCHES TOGETHER IN
BURNHAM, HIGHBRIDGE
AND DISTRICT

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
18 – 25 January

Saturday, 19th January

Starting at 9.30am at
West Huntspill Methodist Church
Morning Sessions – Topic: **"Only Justice"**
- prepared by the people of Indonesia -
12.30pm : Communion Service
1.00pm : Lunch and depart
- for more details contact Christine Thomas on 256771

Sunday, 20th January

Starting at 6.30pm at
Our Lady and the English Martyrs Catholic Church

**UNITED SERVICE
OF WORSHIP**

- prepared by the people of the local churches -
of hymns, songs, readings, thoughts and prayers

followed by a shared supper
- please bring some food

Unwanted Christmas gifts???



If anyone has any unwanted Christmas gifts, please bring them to the Church
office for the East Brent Fete on July 6th.



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.