



Connecting faith and daily life

Abundance, celebration and generosity

Georgina Byrne *reflects on*
1 Corinthians 12:1-11 and John 2:1-11

The miracle of Cana is another instance of revelation of Christ to the world in the Epiphany season. It is a rich passage – the water turning to wine evokes the sense of abundance, celebration, and God’s generosity wherever Christ is present. But it is worth taking a moment to notice how the miracle, the transformation, happens. Significantly, and perhaps surprisingly, Jesus doesn’t do anything.

His mother is the one who alerts him to the wine shortage; it is his mother who directs the servants to do as Jesus instructs them. All that Jesus tells them is to fill the jars with water, and then to take them to the steward. He does not touch the jars or pray a blessing; he does nothing. The servants do the hard work. They fill the jars with gallons of water, they take a cup to the steward and they, we imagine, pour out the wine for the guests.

Other people enable the miracle. His mother tells people to listen, and those who listen are the ones who make it happen.

Paul reminds us, in his letter to the Corinthians, how each of us has a part to play. We each have “gifts”, “services”, and “activities” to offer for the building up of the body of Christ. For Christ’s glory to be revealed today, we have to listen – and act. ☺



Generous God, whose abundant love has power to transform the world, give us ears to hear your word, a heart that is obedient to instruction, the courage to use our gifts and a willingness to make you known. Amen.

Animals and insects of the Bible

the locust

by Caroline Fletcher

Locusts are around only seven centimetres long, but have always been feared. Even today, they inflict devastation. In 2013, for example, billions of locusts devastated the Madagascan crops, threatening the livelihoods and lives of millions of people who were already on the brink of famine.

In the Bible, one of Moses’ plagues brought so many locusts to Egypt that they turned the land black and consumed every single plant. Proverbs describes young locusts marching “in rank” as they advance like a hostile army devouring everything in their path. Adult locusts have wings, and Revelation likens the noise of flying swarms to “the sound of many chariots”. In flight, though, they are at the mercy of the wind. In Exodus we read that the Egyptian plague ended when the swarm was blown into the sea.

The Gospels say that John the Baptist ate locusts. Some think this means locust beans, but it is entirely feasible that John snacked on these insects. ☺

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

When the seed catalogue arrives, or more likely I look at it online, the choice seems endless and so inviting. I dream of my polytunnel being full of tasty vegetables and fruit, a source of wonder, beauty and food. If I plant these seeds

perhaps my life will be perfect. If I can only get it right this year, then maybe everything will come out right. Hope, promise and longing are right in there in my dreams of growing food for us. I forget the slugs, aphids and rats that will also want their share of whatever I can grow.

So how do I think about this as a person of faith? Is it all mine to keep? Should I kill the pests and predators of my vegetables and my joy? “The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it”, says the psalmist – so I guess I have to share. ☺

“Princes and Lords are but the breath of kings, ‘An honest man’s the noblest work of God’.” Robert Burns (1759-1796), Scottish poet

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 Station Road, Brent Knoll.
- The doctors, community nurses, community midwives and dentists in our community.
- 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
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
3rd February 08.00 St Michael's Worship of the Word 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	4th	5th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	6th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	7th 19.30 All Sorts Choir	8th	9th

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.

Bible Readings

Hebrew Scripture

Isaiah 62. 1-5

The Vindication and Salvation of Zion
For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest,
until her vindication shines out like the dawn,
and her salvation like a burning torch.
The nations shall see your vindication,
and all the kings your glory;
and you shall be called by a new name
that the mouth of the Lord will give.
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord,
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate;
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,
and your land Married;
for the Lord delights in you,
and your land shall be married.
For as a young man marries a young woman,
so shall your builder marry you,
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,
so shall your God rejoice over you.

Gospel Reading

John 2. 1-11

The Wedding at Cana

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'
Now standing there were six stone water-jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, 'Fill the jars with water.' And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, 'Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward.' So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom and said to him, 'Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now.' Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Christian Scripture

1 Corinthians 12. 1-11

Spiritual Gifts

Now concerning spiritual gifts, brothers and sisters, I do not want you to be uninformed. You know that when you were pagans, you were enticed and led astray to idols that could not speak. Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking by the Spirit of God ever says 'Let Jesus be cursed!' and no one can say 'Jesus is Lord' except by the Holy Spirit.
Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.
To one is given through the Spirit the utterance of wisdom, and to another the utterance of knowledge according to the same Spirit, to another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by the one Spirit, to another the working of miracles, to another prophecy, to another the discernment of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, to another the interpretation of tongues. All these are activated by one and the same Spirit, who allots to each one individually just as the Spirit chooses.



WANTED - FOR A COVER UP JOB

We are hoping to start redecorating the Rectory soon, in preparation for Revd Kevin Wright's arrival in March. Please could anyone who can help with preparatory work, wallpaper stripping or painting, give your name to Mike Smith (01278 760691)
We hope to have teams working on weekdays and weekends, as and when people are free.
Many thanks.

Psalm

Psalm 36. 5-10

Your steadfast love, O Lord, extends to the heavens,
your faithfulness to the clouds.
Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains,
your judgements are like the great deep;
you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.
How precious is your steadfast love, O God!
All people may take refuge in the shadow of your wings.
They feast on the abundance of your house,
and you give them drink from the river of your delights.
For with you is the fountain of life;
in your light we see light.
O continue your steadfast love to those who know you,
and your salvation to the upright of heart!

What's On



www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk

office.tpots@gmail.com



Interregnum Update

A Welcome and Licensing service will be held for our new priest,
Rev Kevin Wright, at
7pm on Thursday 21st March 2019
at St Christopher's, Lymsham.
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.
Kevin's first service will be on Palm Sunday, 14th April.



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

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

Courage is doing what you are afraid to do,
and not allowing fear to rule your decisions.
To overcome your fears God has equipped
you with the Holy Spirit.

2 Timothy 1:7

Next Sunday

Rev Sharon Crossman will be leading
our 10 am worship next Sunday, 27th January,
at St Christopher's, Lymsham.
Please do come along to support her.

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.