



Connecting faith and daily life

# Home at last

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13

Today's reading from Deuteronomy finds Moses, now an old man, addressing the Israelites. After forty nomadic years, finally the Promised Land is within sight. After scrabbling around in the desert for food and water, pitching tent and striking camp, worshipping at makeshift, moveable altars – how desperate the people must be to cross over into the “land flowing with milk and honey” and to celebrate “all the bounty”. At last they will be able to grow and harvest food and give thanks to God before a real, solid altar – it's an almost Disneyesque idyll.

So perhaps it's unsurprising that the passage contains such strong words of entitlement – “inheritance... possess... settle”. Over three thousand years of history have taught us, however, that when you settle land you generally displace someone else, and that if you want to maintain your chocolate-box lifestyle, sooner or later you'll need to establish borders and build barriers. The people addressed by Moses might have been horrified to know that we still live in a world where so many are homeless, displaced and dispossessed, fleeing conflict, cruelty and deprivation, only to find themselves stateless and rootless, without access to food, water, shelter and sanitation.

Today's reading from Luke is also set in the wilderness, where we find Jesus “full of the Holy Spirit”. In this instance it's a place of deep spiritual enrichment. This Lent, can you learn the lessons of history and the wisdom of the wilderness? And, importantly, is there anything practical, however small, that you can do to alleviate the suffering of someone who is yearning for a place to call home? 🏠



Lord God, we hold before you all those who are in need of shelter and stability. This Lent, we pray for compassion and generosity to work for the glory of your kingdom, our one and only true home. Amen.

## Ember Days

by Julian Smith

Wednesday, Friday and Saturday are Ember Days, when we are encouraged to pray for those preparing to be made deacon or priest. Ember Days occur four times a year – in Advent, Lent, late June and late September – and have long been part of the church calendar.

There are many challenges facing anyone who chooses to be ordained – especially so, perhaps,

if it's a career change. Those on stipends may have to leave a family home for a “tied” dwelling, or move into a new community, while non-stipendiary priests and deacons may face financial insecurity in order to answer God's call to ministry. And it's not only the person being ordained who faces these challenges, but the whole family. From novelists and naval commanders to page-three girls and prime ministers, many “vicarage kids” have left their mark one way or another. So this year in particular we might pray for the children of the men and women who are preparing for ordination. 🏠

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.”

Matthew 5:3-4

## Letters from a medical student

by Tabitha Leask

Dear *Sunday Link*,  
The diversity of my fellow students' backgrounds is amazing. My course is one of the biggest graduate-entry courses in the UK, and they accept people from any discipline. I find it so refreshing to be with nearly

two hundred other students, who haven't all done the same thing in their lives up until now. Some have come straight from university, one worked in banking for ten years, one in the media.

For me this is a God-given vocation, and it's so interesting to find out what has brought everyone to this point and to learn about other people's priorities in life outside of medicine. Because we are all working towards a common cause – striving to be the best future doctors we can be, and help each other while we're at it. 🏠

## 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 Bridgwater Road, East Brent and Whitehouse Lane, Lympsham.
- Pubs and Restaurants in our parish - The Knoll Inn, The Fox and Goose, The Red Cow, The Pavilion, Hobbs Boat Inn, Ollie's and Brent House.
- Kevin and Chris, as they make preparations to move into our parish.

### 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 continue to pray for Caroline, Mervyn, Luke, Iona, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter and Marcus.

## Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>10th March</b> 08.00 St Michael's Worship of the Word  10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist	<b>11th</b> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b>12th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>13th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>14th</b>   19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>15th</b> 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings, Lympsham	<b>16th</b>
<b>17th March</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Worship of the Word  10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<b>18th</b> 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers' Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b>19th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>20th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>21st</b> 14.00 Comfort Group  <b>19.00</b> <b>Welcome and</b> <b>Licensing service</b> <b>for Kevin Wright.</b> <b>St Christopher's</b>  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>22nd</b>	<b>23rd</b>
<b>24th March</b> 08.00 St Mary's Worship of the Word  10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist  18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<b>25th</b> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b>26th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>27th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>28th</b>   14.30 Bereaved Friends Group  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>29th</b>	<b>30th</b>

## Contacts

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For further contact information please see our parish website - [www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk](http://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](mailto: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

#### Deuteronomy 26. 1-11

##### First Fruits and Tithes

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, 'Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.' When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, you shall make this response before the Lord your God: 'A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labour on us, we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

### Gospel Reading

#### Luke 4. 1-13

##### The Temptation of Jesus

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. The devil said to him, 'If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.' Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "One does not live by bread alone."'

Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, 'To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.'

Jesus answered him, 'It is written, "Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him."'

Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, 'If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you", and

"On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."'

Jesus answered him, 'It is said, "Do not put the Lord your God to the test."'

When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

### Christian Scripture

#### Romans 10. 8b-13

But what does it say?

'The word is near you,  
on your lips and in your heart'

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

The scripture says, 'No one who believes in him will be put to shame.' For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, 'Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.'

### Blessed Thought

**Our God is a loveable God -  
a radiant, happy, friendly, totally accessible  
and totally competent Being.  
(from the Divine Conspiracy by Dallas Willard)**

### Count your blessings.

Put your faith into action this Lent through daily reflections and challenges.



If you wish, please take a **Christian Aid Lent booklet** from the back of church. They are also available at St Christopher's and St Michael's.

### Psalm

#### Psalm 91

Assurance of God's Protection

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty,  
will say to the Lord, 'My refuge and my fortress;  
my God, in whom I trust.'

Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
the Most High your dwelling-place,  
no evil shall befall you,  
no scourge come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you  
to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder,  
the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Those who love me, I will deliver;  
I will protect those who know my name.  
When they call to me, I will answer them;  
I will be with them in trouble,  
I will rescue them and honour them.

With long life I will satisfy them,  
and show them my salvation.

## What's On



office.tpots@gmail.com  
www.theparishofthreesaints.org.uk



### Our Vision for the Parish of Three Saints

*Our desire is to deepen our spiritual awareness and relationship with God so that we can serve our communities more effectively as His hands and feet, and also to develop our sacred spaces to make them welcoming, flexible and suited to the broad ranging needs of our communities.*

(Taken from The Parish Profile 2018)

### The Welcome and Licensing Service for our new priest, Kevin Wright, will be held at 7pm on Thursday 21st March at St Christopher's, Lympsham.

This will be a very special occasion for Kevin and his wife, Chris, as we welcome them into our church family. Refreshments will be served afterwards in the Manor Hall.

If you can help by providing sandwiches or cakes, please contact Gwen Hatton on 01934 750416

### Please Note the change of venue.

Kevin's first service will be on Palm Sunday, 14th April, at 10.00 am at **St Michael's, Brent Knoll.**

### A Brexit Prayer

The Archbishop of York has issued a prayer for Brexit which he is inviting people to pray three times a day - at 6am, 12 noon, and 6pm.

**God of eternal love and power,  
Save our Parliamentary Democracy;  
Protect the High Court of Parliament and all its members  
From partiality and prejudice;  
That they may walk humbly the path of kindness, justice and mercy.  
Give them wisdom, insight and a concern for the common good.  
The weight of their calling is too much to bear in their own strength,  
Therefore we pray earnestly, Father,  
send them help from your Holy Place, and be their tower of strength.  
Lord, graciously hear us.  
Amen.**

© Archbishop of York

### NEW CHURCH ELECTORAL ROLL 2019

The Church of England requires all Parishes to renew their Church Electoral Roll (CER) every six years and we are currently in the process of doing this.

Those who register on the Church Electoral Roll do so to express their commitment to the Church. It provides an opportunity to attend the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM), be involved in Church decisions and to stand for election to the Parochial Church Council (PCC). We have circulated a reminder by email about applying to join the new CER and included the application form as an attachment.

The application forms will also be available at all three churches, or as a download from our website.

**If you wish to be included in the new Roll would you, please, complete the application form and return it to the Church Office by 2nd April 2019. The new CER will be effective from our APCM, which will be held at St Christopher's Church, Lympsham on 28th April 2019.**

If you have any queries or wish to request a form, please contact our Church Electoral Roll Officer, Margaret Smith on mjbsmith87@gmail.com or 01278 760691.

**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.