



Connecting faith and daily life

Building a firm foundation



Heather Smith *reflects on* Acts 5:27-32, Psalm 118:14-end and John 20:19-end

Only a week ago we were once again surprised by the joy of Easter. For those who experienced it first hand, it must have sent their heads into a whirring frenzy. Today's Gospel reading describes how the disciples were able to see Jesus' wounded hands and sides. They were surely unlikely to forget it and it affected everything they did for the rest of their lives.

The words in the extract from Psalm 118, which would have been familiar to every Jew, take on new meaning in the light of the Easter story. Among all the words of rejoicing is the reflection: "The stone that the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone." This foundation enabled Jesus' followers to do extraordinary things.

The reading from Acts shows that the disciples (now apostles) had not been inactive in the days that followed Pentecost. They had, despite contrary instructions from the high priest, "filled Jerusalem with [their] teaching". But, said Peter on hearing this complaint, "We must obey God rather than any human authority." Many today still see Jesus as the stone they should reject, and perhaps even we who follow him treat him as the cornerstone for a building like the garage – important, but hardly central to our lives. Now is the time to consider what it really means to be Easter people. 😊

Risen Christ, may we, who seek to follow you, be inspired to build our lives on the solid foundation you provide, and to fill our villages, towns and cities with the news of your love. Amen.

St George

by Caroline Hodgson

As 23 April falls during Easter Week this year, St George's Day is transferred to 29 April. Caroline Hodgson looks at the life of this enigmatic yet emblematic man.

As with so many iconic historical figures it's difficult to distinguish fact from legend in the life of St George. It is however generally thought that he was born in third-century Cappadocia, in modern-day Turkey. His parents were Christian, and when his father died his mother returned with her son to her native Palestine. George

became a soldier in the Roman army under the staunchly anti-Christian emperor Diocletian. By his late twenties George had been promoted to the rank of military tribune. When Diocletian issued an edict that every soldier should offer sacrifice to the Roman gods, George defiantly freed his slaves and distributed his wealth to the poor, before confronting the emperor to declare himself a Christian.

Legend has it that George was imprisoned, tempted, tortured and finally executed on 23 April 303, and that his body was returned to Lydda. It's said that Diocletian's wife was so impressed by George's resilience that she became a Christian and also died for her faith. 😊

“Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the end of the earth! Let the sea roar and all that fills it, the coastlands, and their inhabitants.”

Isaiah 42:10

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 Old Rectory Close, East Brent.
- The Finance team in the Parish of Three Saints.
- The situation in Sri Lanka.

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 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 Iona, Caroline, Mervyn, Luke, Ben, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter and Marcus.

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
28th April 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 11.00 APCM 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	29th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus. Brentcombe House, East Brent	30th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	1st May 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	2nd 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	3rd	4th
5th May 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist 19.00 Quiz Brent Knoll Inn, East Brent	6th	7th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	8th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office	9th 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	10th	11th
12th May Christian Aid Week 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist 11.15 Big Brekkie - St Mary's	13th 09.00-10.30 Emmaus. Brentcombe House, East Brent	14th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	15th 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	16th 14.30 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	17th 10.00 Prayer group 2 The Worthing's	18th 11.00-16.00 TPOTS May Fayre Woodlands, Brent Knoll.

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

Easter Scripture

Acts 5. 27-32

When they had brought them, they had them stand before the council. The high priest questioned them, saying, 'We gave you strict orders not to teach in this name, yet here you have filled Jerusalem with your teaching and you are determined to bring this man's blood on us.'

But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than any human authority. The God of our ancestors raised up Jesus, whom you had killed by hanging him on a tree. God exalted him at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, so that he might give repentance to Israel and forgiveness of sins. And we are witnesses to these things, and so is the Holy Spirit whom God has given to those who obey him.'

Gospel Reading

John 20. 19 - end

Jesus Appears to the Disciples

When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. Jesus said to them again, 'Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.' When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.'

Jesus and Thomas

But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, 'We have seen the Lord.' But he said to them, 'Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe.'

A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, 'Peace be with you.' Then he said to Thomas, 'Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe.' Thomas answered him, 'My Lord and my God!' Jesus said to him, 'Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.'

The Purpose of This Book

Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

Christian Scripture

Revelation 1. 4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;
every eye will see him,
even those who pierced him;
and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.
So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

Blessed Thought

"Every part of this earth is sacred, every single pine needle, every shore, every mist in the dark woods, every clearing, every humming insect is holy in the memory and experience of our race.

You are part of the earth and the earth is part of you."

(from "God's Land", a prophetic poem from Chief Seattle 1854.)

Psalm

Psalm 150

Praise for God's Surpassing Greatness

Praise the Lord!
Praise God in his sanctuary;
praise him in his mighty firmament!
Praise him for his mighty deeds;
praise him according to his surpassing greatness!
Praise him with trumpet sound;
praise him with lute and harp!
Praise him with tambourine and dance;
praise him with strings and pipe!
Praise him with clanging cymbals;
praise him with loud clashing cymbals!
Let everything that breathes praise the Lord!
Praise the Lord!

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)

Please stay for the 2018 APCM (Annual Parochial Church Meeting)

which will take place today immediately after the 10am service.

Who can attend?

Annual Meeting of the Parishioners (Vestry Meeting)

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of this parish and persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors are welcome to attend.

APCM

All persons whose names are entered on the Church Electoral Roll of this parish are welcome to attend.

First meeting of the 2019/20 PCC

PCC Members only

Please see the church noticeboards for the agenda and further details.

Big Brekkie

Come to our Big Brekkie!

Ready to change the world over breakfast?

We will be serving delicious bacon baps after the 10am worship, while raising money to fight poverty and help save lives.

On Sunday 12th May at 11.15 am.
At St Mary's Church, East Brent.

Bacon Baps - £3.50
Tea and coffee - free
Everyone is Welcome.

christian aid week 12-18 MAY

The Parish of Three Saints May Fayre

Saturday 18th May 11 - 4pm

- Festival of flowers competition.
- Vegetable racing competition.
- Local artisan crafts.
- Cake and food stalls.
- Cream teas yummy.
- BBQ and Westcote cider.
- Maypole dancing.

Fun games and activities for the whole family.

Flower competition can be fresh, sugar, paper, textile, clay etc.

Make your own racing vegetable and race it at the fayre.

Venue: Woodlands House, Hill Lane Brent Knoll TA9 4DF.

Free entrance and friendly dogs welcome.

Competition forms are available from the village shop and the deadline for entry is 15th May. All proceeds to the Parish of Three Saints.

Please Note that Friday is "The Vicar's day of rest".
Thank you for your understanding.



Bottles needed please!

For the TPOTS May Fayre - 18th May 11am-4pm

Any bottle - Any shape - Any size!

For example - wine, olive oil, bubble bath etc

Bottles must be full, sealed and in date.

Please leave in the porch at Woodlands anytime or at the Church Office Mon and Wed 10-1pm. Thank you.

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 offertory 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.