



Connecting faith and daily life

# Be the bridge



Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Acts 9:1-6 [7-20] and John 21:1-19

After the miracle of the catch of fish, Jesus prepares breakfast for the disciples, before commissioning Peter three times with the task of feeding his sheep. Each time the command is subtly different. The first time, the Greek literally translates as “pasture the lambs”, with a sense of nurturing and feeding. The second time his emphasis is on supervising and overseeing.

In Acts we read the astonishing story of Saul who, after an intense experience of Jesus, is utterly changed in an instant, from persecutor of Jesus’ sheep, to someone whose mission is to feed them. To fulfil his vocation Paul will travel tens of thousands of miles, write tens of thousands of words (somewhere between a quarter and half of the New Testament), and will be rejected, reviled, persecuted and imprisoned. That’s quite some career change.

Paul’s conversion experience is so strong that he is literally floored by it. He also loses his sight and is unable to eat or drink for several days. So, although he is changed in the moment of encountering Christ, before Saul the persecutor can become Paul the apostle he needs a little nurturing himself. Up steps Ananias, roused from his sleep, obedient to God despite Saul’s fearsome reputation. Interestingly, God uses a human “bridge” between an encounter with Christ and a great missionary life. How can we act as bridges for God today? 🙏

## 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 Wharfside and Accommodation Road, Lympsham.
- The Prayer team in the Parish of Three Saints.

### 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
<b>5th May</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist  19.00 Quiz Brent Knoll Inn, East Brent	<b>6th</b>	<b>7th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>8th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>
<b>12th May</b> <b>Christian Aid Week</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion  10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist  11.15 Big Brekkie - St Mary's	<b>13th</b> 09.00-10.30 Emmaus. Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b>14th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>15th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>16th</b> 14.30 Comfort Group  19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>17th</b> 10.00 Prayer group 2 The Worthings	<b>18th</b> 11.00-16.00 <b>TPOTS May</b> <b>Fayre</b> Woodlands, Brent Knoll.
<b>19th May</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion  10.00 St Michael's Parish Eucharist	<b>20th</b> 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	<b>21st</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>22nd</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's  14.00 Emmaus Church Office	<b>23rd</b> 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group	<b>24th</b>	<b>25th</b>

## Contacts

Priest in Charge	Revd. Kevin Wright	priest.tpots@gmail.com	The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4DQ	Tel: 01278 760844
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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](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.

## Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Egg production is up at the moment. The ducks, hens and bantams are all laying well each day, though sometimes they have a secret place to hide their eggs and our task is to find them before they spoil or get eaten by the ever-

vigilant collies Jim and Moll. These birds lay almost all year round, which is great for us.

The real specialists are the geese, who lay only between February and May, and now the female goose is sitting on six eggs and I'm using the incubator to try to hatch six more. She bears the cost so much more than I do. She barely eats or drinks for the thirty-five days it takes to hatch her young.

When the Spirit of God brooded over the waters at creation she (the Spirit is female in Hebrew) gave the same deep attention and commitment. Such love! 🙏

“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe.” John 20:29

Lord God, like Peter, Paul and Ananias, we are listening for your direction. Whether it is feeding your sheep, travelling great distances, or caring for someone, show us how we can become bridges between your kingdom and earth. Amen.

## The Road to Emmaus

In his book, *The Road to Emmaus and Beyond*, Fr Denis McBride focuses on Luke 24:13-end

At the end of Luke's Gospel Jesus leaves behind a community that is radically incomplete, powerless to reorganise or reinvent itself. They have to do something that is difficult for most of us, to stay

with our poverty, to sit with our own powerlessness, to be content with being moved from action to passion. The disciples are charged to stay in the city of Jerusalem and wait – not to minister to anyone, not to build anything, not to plan. They are to wait in the absence of the one they love, funded by the belief that God's gift of the Spirit will move them to mission. They cannot manufacture their own renewal; they can only wait and pray. Jesus' earlier charge is the opposite of the appeal: “Don't just sit there, do something.” Now the appeal is: “Don't do anything, wait!” 🙏



## Bible Readings

### First Reading

Acts 9. 1-6

The Conversion of Saul

Meanwhile Saul, still breathing threats and murder against the disciples of the Lord, went to the high priest and asked him for letters to the synagogues at Damascus, so that if he found any who belonged to the Way, men or women, he might bring them bound to Jerusalem. Now as he was going along and approaching Damascus, suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him. He fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him,

'Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?' He asked, 'Who are you, Lord?' The reply came, 'I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting. But get up and enter the city, and you will be told what you are to do.'

### Gospel Reading

John 21. 1-19

Jesus Appears to Seven Disciples

After these things Jesus showed himself again to the disciples by the Sea of Tiberias; and he showed himself in this way. Gathered there together were Simon Peter, Thomas called the Twin, Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two others of his disciples. Simon Peter said to them, 'I am going fishing.' They said to him, 'We will go with you.' They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing.

Just after daybreak, Jesus stood on the beach; but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Jesus said to them, 'Children, you have no fish, have you?' They answered him, 'No.' He said to them, 'Cast the net to the right side of the boat, and you will find some.' So they cast it, and now they were not able to haul it in because there were so many fish. That disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, 'It is the Lord!' When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on some clothes, for he was naked, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples came in the boat, dragging the net full of fish, for they were not far from the land, only about a hundred yards off.

When they had gone ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there, with fish on it, and bread. Jesus said to them, 'Bring some of the fish that you have just caught.' So Simon Peter went aboard and hauled the net ashore, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three of them; and though there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' Now none of the disciples dared to ask him, 'Who are you?' because they knew it was the Lord. Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and did the same with the fish. This was now the third time that Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from the dead.

Jesus and Peter

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, 'Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my lambs.' A second time he said to him, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' He said to him, 'Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Tend my sheep.' He said to him the third time, 'Simon son of John, do you love me?' Peter felt hurt because he said to him the third time, 'Do you love me?' And he said to him, 'Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you.' Jesus said to him, 'Feed my sheep. Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go.' (He said this to indicate the kind of death by which he would glorify God.) After this he said to him, 'Follow me.'

### Second Reading

Revelation 5. 11- end

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels surrounding the throne and the living creatures and the elders; they numbered myriads of myriads and thousands of thousands, singing with full voice, 'Worthy is the Lamb that was slaughtered to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honour and glory and blessing!' Then I heard every creature in heaven and on earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, singing,

'To the one seated on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honour and glory and might for ever and ever!'

And the four living creatures said, 'Amen!' And the elders fell down and worshipped.

### Blessed Thought

**" By forgiving another, I am trusting that God is a better justice-maker than I am.**

**By forgiving, I release my own right to get even and leave all issues of fairness for God to work out. I leave in God's hands the scales that must balance justice and mercy"**

**(from "What's so amazing about Grace"**

**by Philip Yancy)**

### Psalm

Psalm 30

Thanksgiving for Recovery from Grave Illness

A Psalm. A Song at the dedication of the temple. Of David.

I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and did not let my foes rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried to you for help, and you have healed me.

O Lord, you brought up my soul from Sheol, restored me to life from among those gone down to the Pit.

Sing praises to the Lord, O you his faithful ones, and give thanks to his holy name.

For his anger is but for a moment; his favour is for a lifetime.

Weeping may linger for the night, but joy comes with the morning.

As for me, I said in my prosperity, 'I shall never be moved.'

By your favour, O Lord, you had established me as a strong mountain; you hid your face;

I was dismayed.

To you, O Lord, I cried, and to the Lord I made supplication:

'What profit is there in my death, if I go down to the Pit?'

Will the dust praise you? Will it tell of your faithfulness?

Hear, O Lord, and be gracious to me! O Lord, be my helper!

You have turned my mourning into dancing; you have taken off my sackcloth

and clothed me with joy, so that my soul may praise you and not be silent.

O Lord my God, I will give thanks to you for ever.

## 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)

**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 Westcroft 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.

### The Archdeacon's Visitation

will be held

at 7pm on 9th May

at St Andrew's Church, Burnham on Sea.

This service is where the churchwardens in our Deanery are prayed for and sworn in for another year.

The Archdeacon, Anne Gell, gives thanks for the work they do and offers her advice, encouragement and support.

**Everyone is welcome.**

### 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 10am-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.