



Connecting faith and daily life

# Face the facts

Heather Smith *reflects on* Psalm 67

There's really no substitute for face-to-face communication. An email can be easily misinterpreted, as can a phone call. The development of video communication shows how important we think it is to actually see someone's facial expressions and be able to look them in the eye. It brings a connection that is otherwise much harder.

Today's psalm reprises the blessing from Numbers 6 in the words: "May God... make his face to shine upon us". It is just as important that our relationship with God is face to face as it is for human communication. God's shining face shows pleasure - we can imagine, perhaps, a kindly parent beaming with pride and love at their children. But, you might say, "We can't actually see

God, so it isn't really face-to-face communication at all." The blogger Lioness Oyinbo, who is blind, offers a helpful insight. Although she can't see the look on a person's face she explains that people underestimate the physical energy between two people in face-to-face communication. Amongst other cues, she talks about this energy that exists between two people, and the fact that she can more easily pick up non-verbal information from someone she knows well.

God's energy is all around us - it sustains the world. We might think of God's shining face as that energy directed especially towards each of us. And the better we know God, the more attuned to it we will be. ☺



Lord, teach me to feel your energy, to know that it is directed towards me, and that your face shines upon me. Help me to radiate that shining love in the world. Amen.

## International Day of UN Peacekeepers 29 May

by Lisa Tulfer

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers". In our times, United Nations peacekeepers have served in situations of war and civil war in over seventy countries across four continents, working towards lasting peace. Wednesday marks the International Day of UN Peacekeepers.

Since 1948, when the first mission began in Palestine, over a million people have served under the United Nations flag in peacekeeping missions around the world, and over 3,700 have died protecting the most vulnerable and saving countless lives. The iconic "Blue Helmets" and their distinctive white vehicles have become a familiar part of the iconography of global conflict, and while deployments have sometimes been controversial, they have had perhaps the most visible impact of any UN initiative. However, the UN flag no longer offers the protection it once did and casualties among peacekeepers are higher than ever, making this year's International Day especially poignant. ☺

“O Lord, our Sovereign, how majestic is your name in all the earth!” Psalm 8:9

## 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 Orchard Close, East Brent and Slade Lane, Lympham.
- People running small businesses from home.
- Staff and pupils at the three Church schools in 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 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>26th May</b> 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	<b>27th</b>	<b>28th</b>	<b>29th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>30th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>31st</b> 19.00 St Christopher's Novena Prayer	<b>1st June</b> 19.00 St Christopher's Novena Prayer
<b>2nd June</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Eucharist 19.00 St Christopher's Novena Prayer	<b>3rd</b> 9.00-10.30 Emmaus Brentcombe House, East Brent 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	<b>4th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	<b>5th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's 14.00 Emmaus Church Office 19.00 St Mary's Novena Prayer	<b>6th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer	<b>7th</b> 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer	<b>8th</b> 14.00 Brent Knoll Fete 19.00 St Michael's Novena Prayer
<b>9th June</b> <b>Pentecost</b> 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's Parish Eucharist	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>12th</b> 08.45 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>13th</b> 19.30 All Sorts Choir St Mary's	<b>14th</b>	<b>15th</b>

## Contacts

Priest in Charge	Rev. Kevin Wright	priest.tpots@gmail.com	The Rectory, 3 Ash Trees, East Brent, Highbridge, TA9 4DQ	Tel: 01278 760844
<b>Please Note that Friday is the "Vicar's Day of Rest". Thank you for your understanding.</b>				
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](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

### First Reading

Acts 16. 9-15

During the night Paul had a vision: there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, 'Come over to Macedonia and help us.' When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.

The Conversion of Lydia

We set sail from Troas and took a straight course to Samothrace, the following day to Neapolis, and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. We remained in this city for some days. On the sabbath day we went outside the gate by the river, where we supposed there was a place of prayer; and we sat down and spoke to the women who had gathered there. A certain woman named Lydia, a worshipper of God, was listening to us; she was from the city of Thyatira and a dealer in purple cloth. The Lord opened her heart to listen eagerly to what was said by Paul. When she and her household were baptized, she urged us, saying, 'If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come and stay at my home.' And she prevailed upon us.

### Christian Aid Week 12 - 19th May 2019

We have raised £628!!! to help mums in Sierra Leone give birth safely.

This money will buy two new delivery beds for the hospital they are building in Sawulu district, Sierra Leone.

 Thank you all so much!

### Gospel Reading

John 14. 23-29

Jesus answered him, 'Those who love me will keep my word, and my Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Whoever does not love me does not keep my words; and the word that you hear is not mine, but is from the Father who sent me.

'I have said these things to you while I am still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything, and remind you of all that I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid. You heard me say to you, "I am going away, and I am coming to you." If you loved me, you would rejoice that I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I. And now I have told you this before it occurs, so that when it does occur, you may believe.

### Second Reading

Revelation 21.10,22 -22. 5

And in the spirit he carried me away to a great, high mountain and showed me the holy city Jerusalem coming down out of heaven from God.

I saw no temple in the city, for its temple is the Lord God the Almighty and the Lamb. And the city has no need of sun or moon to shine on it, for the glory of God is its light, and its lamp is the Lamb. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their glory into it. Its gates will never be shut by day—and there will be no night there. People will bring into it the glory and the honour of the nations. But nothing unclean will enter it, nor anyone who practises abomination or falsehood, but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.

The River of Life

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city. On either side of the river is the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, producing its fruit each month; and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations. Nothing accursed will be found there any more. But the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him; they will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads. And there will be no more night; they need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign for ever and ever.

### Blessed Thought

"The world can do anything the church can do except one thing; it cannot show grace".  
Phillip Yancy

### A Huge Thank You!

 to Paul and Sarah McClean for hosting and organising the TPOTS May Fayre at Woodlands, Brent Knoll last Saturday. Thank you to you both, your team and to everyone who helped with setting everything up, clearing away and making it a really fun day!

### Collect for Today

God our redeemer,  
you have delivered us from the power of darkness and brought us into the kingdom of your Son:  
grant, that as by his death he has recalled us to life,  
so by his continual presence in us he may raise us to eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God,  
now and forever.

**Please Note: The Church Office will be closed from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> May – Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June**

**If your enquiry is urgent, please ring or e-mail Reverend Kevin Wright [priest.tpots@gmail.com](mailto:priest.tpots@gmail.com)  
Tel. 01278 760844 or contact a churchwarden. Thank you.**

## 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 join us for an  
**Ascension Day Service**  
**At 6.30am**  
**On Thursday 30th May**  
**On the top of Brent Knoll**  
Followed by breakfast  
at St Michael's  
afterwards.

### Stewardship/Church Life Giving Champion

Regular monetary income is essential for the church to function and pay its way day to day, week by week. The parish urgently needs a Stewardship/Church Life Giving Champion to work with me, the Treasurer and diocesan adviser to encourage people to commit to consistent generous support of the Church Life funds, as there is a substantial shortfall in this budgeted area. The continuing mission and outreach of the church family needs funding.

While interpersonal skills are paramount, no financial knowledge is needed; training and resources are available.

### What you can do...

1. Pray that the right person comes forward;
2. Listen quietly for God's prompting;
3. Ask yourself if you could do this, or if there is someone you think might be good at it;
4. Speak to the Vicar or Wardens or Treasurer.

Thank you, Revd Kevin Wright (Incumbent)



Join the global wave of prayer  
calling all Christians to pray  
between Ascension and Pentecost  
for more people to come to know Jesus Christ.

### Novena Prayer Times

7pm each evening (25 minutes)  
31<sup>st</sup> May - 8<sup>th</sup> June

Friday 31st May	St Christopher's Lympham
Saturday 1st June	
Sunday 2nd June	
Monday 3rd June	St Mary's East Brent
Tuesday 4th June	
Wednesday 5th June	
Thursday 6th June	St Michael's Brent Knoll
Friday 7th June	
Saturday 8th June	



**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**  
**8am St Michael's, Brent Knoll**  
**10am St Mary's, East Brent**

**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.