

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 Eastertown, Lympsham.
- The Sunday Worship Team of 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, Mervyn, Luke, Ben, Caroline, David, Carole, Kathryn, Peter and Marcus.

Diary

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1st December 08.00 St Michael's Holy Communion 10.00 St Michael's All-Age Communion 16.00 St Mary's Advent Reflection	2nd 19.30 PCT Meeting	3rd 10.00 Christmas Coffee Morning 2 The Worthings, Lympsham 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	4th 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	5th 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	6th	7th 10.00-13.00 St Michael's Christmas Fair
8th December 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion 19.00 St Mary's Quiz Brent Knoll Inn	9th	10th 10.30 Toddlers Christmas Party Brent Knoll Methodist Church	11th 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	12th 09.15 St Michael's Parish Prayer 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	13th 10.00 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings, Lympsham	14th
15th December 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's Parish Communion	16th 19.00 Carols from the Bike Shed Brent Knoll School	17th	18th 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	19th 09.15 St Christopher's Parish Prayer 14.00 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church	20th	21st

SAFEGUARDING: We take safeguarding very seriously. If you have any concerns for a child or a vulnerable adult please contact our parish Safeguarding Officer (a voluntary position) Kathy Quinnell (01278-760031) or contact the central diocesan team <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/rep>

Contacts

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

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.



Connecting faith and daily life

Are you prepared?

Caroline Hodgson *reflects on* Isaiah 2:1-5, Romans 13:11-end and Matthew 24:36-44

In the run-up to Christmas some years ago, a British supermarket became the first in the country to open its doors for twenty-four-hour shopping. At last it was possible to shop at two, three or even four in the morning – and shop people did. The first night's opening was a resounding success in retail terms – and a dismal failure in terms of peace and goodwill. In the scramble, many of the “luxury” items sold out. The consumer frenzy gathered pace, and by midnight people were pinching things from each other's trolleys. In the early hours, the store ran out of trolleys and was forced to close for a while in order to restore order.

In today's reading from Matthew, Jesus looks back to the time of Noah, when the terrible flood took people with little warning. He offers the example of ordinary, day-to-day life for people before the flood. So it will be when the Son of Man returns. The message is clear – be prepared. Being prepared, however, means spiritual rather than material preparedness. Being prepared means being prepared in day-to-day life in the supermarket every bit as much as in church on Sunday. The supermarket shoppers were so wrapped up in material things that they forgot or disregarded the true spirit of Christmas.

This year, are we prepared to forego or share the trimmings of Christmas, if that's what God calls us to do? 🍷

Lord God, in all our preparations this year, keep our sights on what really matters. Amen.

Advent and Christmas in the hospital

by Ricarda Witcombe

This year we got a real Christmas tree for the garden by the hospital chapel. We got some solar lights and carefully erected the little solar panel in the ground, and waited. For days, nothing happened. The

weather was grey and dark. Then one evening as I left the chapel at the end of a long day, I saw what looked like a ball of fire at the foot of the tree. The sun had shone, the panel had worked and the lights were blazing. I rushed outside and trailed the lights around the tree. It was such a beautiful sign of hope; the truth that in the midst of the darkness, and even in the midst of our powerlessness, light seeps in and then the whole world looks different. Advent is a season that invites us to look for signs of hope – what might you see this week? 🍷



World Aids Day

by Lisa Tulfer

1 December marks World AIDS Day, designated by the United Nations in 1988. Although the virus was only identified in the 1980s, it has killed some 35 million people worldwide, making it among the most destructive pandemics in human history. Today, 101,000 people in the UK, and more than 36 million people around the world, live with HIV/AIDS. Three quarters are in Africa, where women are especially vulnerable to infection, and where AIDS has created a generation of orphans.

The Anglican Communion, alongside other denominations, actively supports World AIDS Day, which raises the profile of the scientific battle against the disease, supports those who live with it (often suffering stigma, prejudice and isolation), and remembers those who have died. Despite scientific advances which mean that a diagnosis is no longer necessarily a swift death sentence, each year there are nearly two million new cases, five thousand in the UK alone. 🍷

Lisa Tulfer is a freelance writer and consultant. Her academic background is in church history, and she has worked extensively in parish consultancy, with a special interest in multi-parish ministry.

“What you are is God's gift to you, what you become is your gift to God.

Hans Urs von Balthasar (1905-1988), Swiss theologian and Catholic priest

Bible Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 2. 1-5

The word that Isaiah son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem.
 In days to come
 the mountain of the Lord's house
 shall be established as the highest of the mountains,
 and shall be raised above the hills;
 all the nations shall stream to it.
 Many peoples shall come and say,
 'Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord,
 to the house of the God of Jacob;
 that he may teach us his ways
 and that we may walk in his paths.'
 For out of Zion shall go forth instruction,
 and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.
 He shall judge between the nations,
 and shall arbitrate for many peoples;
 they shall beat their swords into ploughshares,
 and their spears into pruning-hooks;
 nation shall not lift up sword against nation,
 neither shall they learn war any more.
 O house of Jacob,
 come, let us walk
 in the light of the Lord!

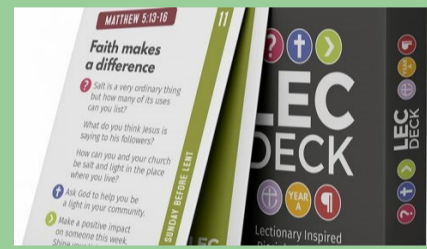
Second Reading

Romans 13. 11- 14

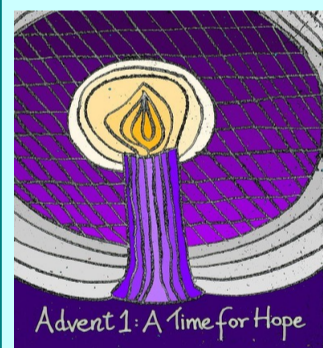
Besides this, you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep. For salvation is nearer to us now than when we became believers; the night is far gone, the day is near. Let us then lay aside the works of darkness and put on the armour of light; let us live honourably as in the day, not in revelling and drunkenness, not in debauchery and licentiousness, not in quarrelling and jealousy. Instead, put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to gratify its desires.

Advent Present for Your Young People –“Lec Deck”

As a parent, grandparent or godparent we must encourage our children to read the bible regularly.
 Starting on Advent Sunday (or for use on a “dip-in” basis) this pack of cards is based on the weekly Sunday lectionary bible readings and provides stimulating thoughts and questions to be used as an individual, as a family or small group.
Ask Kevin or Chris Wright (01278 760844) for more details or order directly from the Diocesan Go Team (Sarah Lockie on 01749 685134) £8 (p&p free)



“Christ is the Light” Advent Reflection



At St Mary's
4.00pm Sunday 1st Dec
Everyone Welcome

Gospel Reading

Matthew 24. 36-44

'But about that day and hour no one knows, neither the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. For as the days of Noah were, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. For as in those days before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day Noah entered the ark, and they knew nothing until the flood came and swept them all away, so too will be the coming of the Son of Man. Then two will be in the field; one will be taken and one will be left. Two women will be grinding meal together; one will be taken and one will be left.
 Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and would not have let his house be broken into. Therefore you also must be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an unexpected hour.'

Blessed Thought

**"God is on your side, and if He is for you,
 it really does not matter who is against you.
 The giants may be big, but God is bigger"**
 (from Joyce Meyer)

Thank you.

Anthony Barkle would like to thank you all very much for your support and prayers for him and his family during his mum's illness and passing. He has really appreciated all your kind words, messages and cards.
 Anthony will be back in operation on 10th December.

Collect for Today

Almighty God,
 give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness
 and put upon us the armour of light,
 now in the time of this mortal life,
 in which thy Son Jesus Christ came to visit us in great humility;
 that in the last day
 when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the quick and the dead,
 we may rise to the life immortal;
 through him who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit,
 now and forever.

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 Parish of Three Saints
Christmas Celebration
Sunday 22nd December
Parish Communion
 10.00am St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Carols by Candlelight
 5.30pm St Mary's Church, East Brent

CHRISTMAS EVE 24th December
Crib Services
 3.00pm St Mary's Church, East Brent
 5.30pm St Christopher's Church, Lymsham

First Communion of Christmas (Midnight Mass)
 11.30pm St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

CHRISTMAS DAY
All Age Communion
 10.00am St Christopher's Church, Lymsham

**Christmas
Coffee Morning**

Tuesday 3rd December
10.00 - 12.00
2 The Worthings, Lymsham

Raffle
Bring and Buy
Refreshments

Everyone Welcome

All proceeds go to St Christopher's Church, Lymsham, Parish of Three Saints.

Christmas Fair
 St Michael's Church, Brent Knoll

Saturday Dec 7th - 10am to 1pm
 Gift Stalls
 Local Quilt Display
 Guess the weight of the Christmas Cake
 Festive Music with "The All Sorts Choir"
 Light Refreshments,
 (including soup & rolls from noon)

Parish of Three Saints - St Michael's

**CAROLS FROM THE
BIKE SHED AT
BRENT KNOLL SCHOOL**

**MONDAY 16th
DECEMBER 7PM**

WITH LIVE MINSTRELS

**REFRESHMENTS IN THE
SCHOOL HALL**
 In aid of

**Donations of food for refreshments
and for food bank welcome.**
Please bring a torch or lantern

Gluten-free wafers are available for communion. Please speak to a Steward or Churchwarden before the service.

**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.