

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 Prospect Close and East Drive, East Brent.
- The Diocese of Bath and Wells. “Living your story. Telling your story”

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

Diary

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---------------------|
| 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 Rev'd Tina Hodgett | 16th 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent 19.00 Carols from the Bike Shed Brent Knoll School | 17th | 18th 08.45-10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's | 19th 14.00 Comfort Group 19.30 All Sorts Choir BK Methodist Church 21.00 Beer and Carols at the Red Cow, BK | 20th | 21st |
| 22nd December 10.00 St Mary's Parish Communion (Said) 17.30 St Mary's Carol Service | 23rd | 24th 15.00 St Mary's Crib Service 17.30 St Christopher's Crib Service 23.30 St Michael's Midnight Mass | 25th Christmas Day 10.00 St Christopher's All-Age Communion | 26th | 27th | 28th |

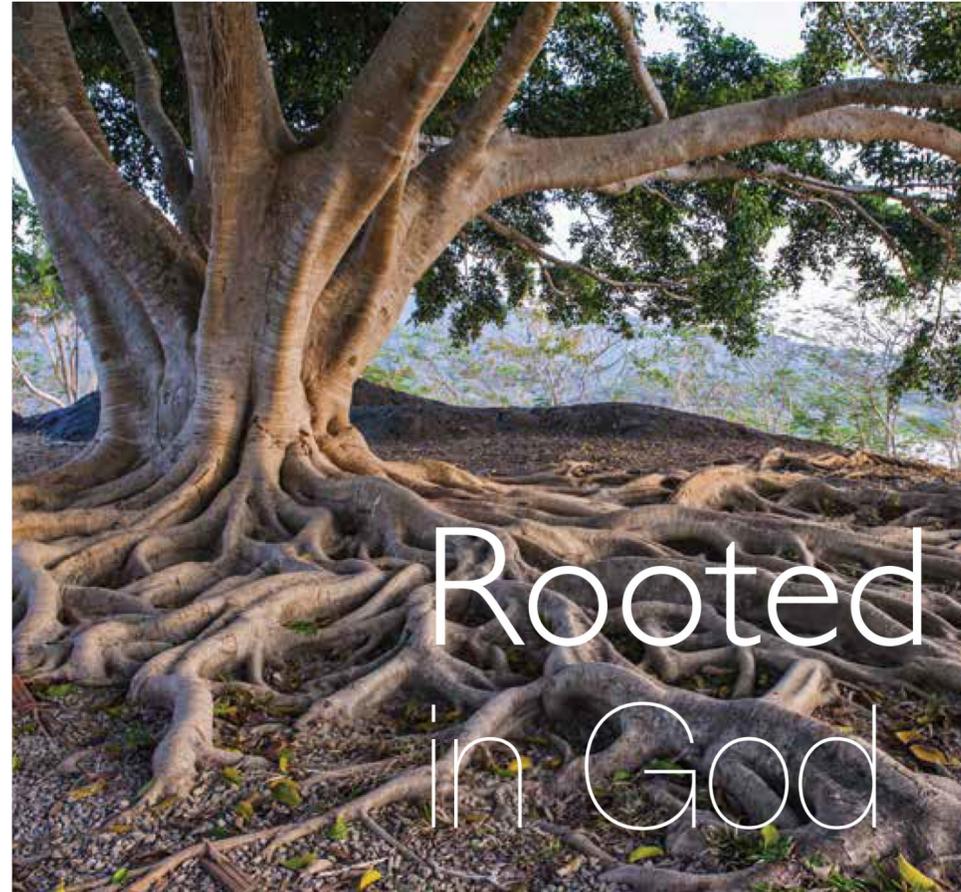
SAFEGUARDING: We take safeguarding very seriously. If you have any concerns for a child or a vulnerable adult please contact our parish Safeguarding Officer (a voluntary position) Kathy Quinnell (01278-760031) or contact the central diocesan team <https://www.bathandwells.org.uk/diocese/safeguarding/rep>

Contacts

| | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Priest in Charge | Rev'd. 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.



Heather Smith *reflects on* Isaiah 11:1-10 and Romans 15:4-13

Isaiah tells us a shoot is to come from the stock of Jesse and a branch from his roots. Jesse was the father of David, the king who was fundamental to Jewish identity. On the face of it, it is a Jewish story, but scratch the surface and it is not so simple. Matthew tells us in chapter 1 of his Gospel that Jesse is the grandson of Ruth, the non-Jewish Moabite woman who insisted on staying with her Jewish mother-in-law even after her husband died.

Shoots and branches coming from the root and stock of a plant imply going back to the very essence, firmly Jewish perhaps, but Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles, sees it as good news for Jews and Gentiles alike. "The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles" (Romans 15:12).

As Christians who have known that God accepts Gentile and Jew for centuries, this may seem like old news, but it tells us that God accepts the unexpected. The root that Jesus sprang from is not an exclusive thoroughbred plant. As Paul understood so many years later, it incorporates varied material from those who made a decision to follow God, whatever their background. God accepts us all, whoever or whatever we are. At times when we feel on the edge, or outsiders, that is very good news. 🌱

Advent and Christmas in the hospital

by Ricarda Witcombe

The hospital carol service took place in the midst of the winter pressures. The chapel filled with nurses, managers, visitors, and patients – one lay in a bed, others sat in wheelchairs wrapped in blankets. We began to sing Hark the Herald Angels Sing. I watched

people's faces as the familiar words and music transported them beyond the world of the hospital. There was laughter as we negotiated the male and female parts of Good King Wenceslas and people helped each other to know when to sing. And then something magical happened. As we sang O Come All Ye Faithful, out of nowhere a strong and beautiful descant voice soared over our singing. It was one of the nurses, who had found her way to the carol service that day. It was a moment of sheer and beautiful holiness, pointing us all, again, towards heaven. Emmanuel, God is with us. 🌱

“Worrying is arrogant because God knows what He's doing.

Barbara Cameron, author (born 1949)

God, who accepts all who come to you, assure us of your love for us. When we feel alone or unworthy, remind us that your love extends to all, whoever we are, wherever we come from and whatever our situation. Amen.

Finding God on the smallholding

by Jeni Parsons

Until December the sheep and lambs eat grass in the fields and although the growth slows down there is usually enough until this month. From now on we supplement their grass by feeding hay which is last summer's longer grass cut and dried and rolled

into bales. Our hay meadow isn't made up only of different grasses, but also contains a lot of wild flowers and herbs which the sheep love when they are allowed to graze it, and equally love when they have it as hay.

It smells to me like really good tea leaves and is soft to handle. So much loveliness in such a simple thing – dead grass – which in its transformation becomes something tasty for the sheep and delightful for us to work with. This, for me, speaks of resurrection, of new possibility, a new way of being able to nourish the world God loves and cares for. 🌱

Bible Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 11. 1-10

A shoot shall come out from the stock of Jesse, and a branch shall grow out of his roots. The spirit of the Lord shall rest on him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. His delight shall be in the fear of the Lord. He shall not judge by what his eyes see, or decide by what his ears hear; but with righteousness he shall judge the poor, and decide with equity for the meek of the earth; he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked. Righteousness shall be the belt around his waist, and faithfulness the belt around his loins. The wolf shall live with the lamb, the leopard shall lie down with the kid, the calf and the lion and the faling together, and a little child shall lead them. The cow and the bear shall graze, their young shall lie down together; and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. The nursing child shall play over the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put its hand on the adder's den. They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.

On that day the root of Jesse shall stand as a signal to the peoples; the nations shall inquire of him, and his dwelling shall be glorious.

Second Reading

Romans 15. 4-13

For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus, so that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God. For I tell you that Christ has become a servant of the circumcised on behalf of the truth of God in order that he might confirm the promises given to the patriarchs, and in order that the Gentiles might glorify God for his mercy.

As it is written, 'Therefore I will confess you among the Gentiles, and sing praises to your name'; and again he says, 'Rejoice, O Gentiles, with his people'; and again, 'Praise the Lord, all you Gentiles, and let all the peoples praise him'; and again Isaiah says, 'The root of Jesse shall come, the one who rises to rule the Gentiles; in him the Gentiles shall hope.'

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 3. 1-12

In those days John the Baptist appeared in the wilderness of Judea, proclaiming, 'Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near.' This is the one of whom the prophet Isaiah spoke when he said, 'The voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

"Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight."

Now John wore clothing of camel's hair with a leather belt around his waist, and his food was locusts and wild honey. Then the people of Jerusalem and all Judea were going out to him, and all the region along the Jordan, and they were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

But when he saw many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, 'You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bear fruit worthy of repentance. Do not presume to say to yourselves, "We have Abraham as our ancestor"; for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. Even now the axe is lying at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

'I baptize you with water for repentance, but one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. His winnowing-fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor and will gather his wheat into the granary; but the chaff he will burn with unquenchable fire.'

Blessed Thought

"Humility gives wings to any prayer"

(Evelyn Underhill)

Well Done to Toddlers for raising £100 for "Children in Need" last month!



Collect for Today

O Lord, raise up, we pray, your power and come among us, and with great might succour us; that whereas, through our sins and wickedness we are grievously hindered in running the race that is set before us, Your bountiful grace and mercy may speedily help and deliver us; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory, 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, Lympsham

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, Lympsham



CAROLS FROM THE BIKE SHED AT BRENT KNOLL SCHOOL

MONDAY 16th DECEMBER 7PM

WITH LIVE MINSTRELS

REFRESHMENTS IN THE SCHOOL HALL

In aid of

Highbridge Area **foodbank**

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



Beer and Carols

at the
Red Cow

Brent Knoll TA9 4BE
Thursday 19th December
from 9pm
All welcome



Sunday 15th December

The Reverend Tina Hodgett,
Evangelism and Pioneer Team Leader from the Diocese,
will be preaching on Sunday 15th at 10am in St Mary's.

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 godness 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.