

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....

- **The whole Parish at this Christmas Time**
- **The seed of faith to be planted in those who do not have a relationship with God**
- **The seed of faith, that is already planted, to start growing**

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
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
29th December 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	30th	31st	1st January	2nd	3rd	4th

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.



Connecting faith and daily life

A time of waiting

Heather Smith *reflects on* Isaiah 35:1-10 and James 5:7-10

Although taken over by frenzied preparation for Christmas, Advent is really about living with the tension of waiting. James describes the patience of the farmer waiting for the crops. The interval between planting and harvest may seem to stretch endlessly, especially if the weather causes concern about the eventual outcome. But the farmer is active in the waiting time – crops need to be nurtured so there is work to be done.

For some of us, Advent waiting may be like living in Isaiah's desert, with sand everywhere we look. The unrelenting landscape, so easy a place to lose your way if you have no guide, can seem daunting, just as waiting can seem daunting

and relentless. But Isaiah tells us of rejoicing and abundant blossoming, and of a highway on which we can travel. Advent may be a time of waiting, but it is also an opportunity to travel along the highway towards God. If the desert still seems a frightening place, on Isaiah's highway we can be sure that we are not alone or unguided. If the vast sands make us afraid, Isaiah assures us that even fools will not go astray.

Whether you see yourself as a farmer tending the crops that will bring forth good fruit, or a traveller on the road, Advent can be a time of active waiting, anticipating the changes that God will bring about in us this year. 🙏

Advent and Christmas in the hospital

by Ricarda Witcombe

Are you someone who always has something to say? Or can you never quite work out what you think in time to join a conversation? We are all different. Zechariah was struck dumb after struggling to believe the angel's message. We tend to see this as a punishment, but

maybe there's another way to look at it. Perhaps God was calling him into a time of holy space, into a new discipline that would enable him to hear above the chatter of his anxious and busy self.

The poet Rumi wrote, "the quieter you become, the more you are able to hear". We so often fill silence with chatter, either outwardly or within our heads and hearts. Maybe this week you could try, even amidst the noise of Christmas preparation, to stop talking and spend a few moments each day in silence – and see what you can hear. 🙏

“If you are too busy to pray, you are busier than God wants you to be.”

Wanda E. Brunstetter, novelist



Lord, teach us to wait well this Advent. May we tend the seed of your word, so that our wait may be fruitful and the desert may burst forth with good things on the highway that brings us closer to you. Amen.

International Migrants Day

International Migrants Day is on Wednesday. Christine Clark considers what it would be like to be a migrant.

Over the last few years the term “migrant” has become somewhat derogatory for some people, as Western European countries have felt overwhelmed by those attempting to gain entry. Some people feel that they are looking for access to our benefits system,

public sector housing and jobs, jumping the queue for these over those who are already here.

Yet being a migrant is not a lifestyle choice. Who chooses to leave their home and family to venture into the unknown, knowingly risking their life at sea or in other dangerous situations? I know I'd only do this out of sheer desperation, if this were the only way I could get myself or my family to a safer and better life.

Don't let's forget that Jesus and his parents were migrants. How would we have treated them if they'd landed on our shores? 🙏

Bible Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 35. 1-10

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,
the desert shall rejoice and blossom;
like the crocus it shall blossom abundantly,
and rejoice with joy and singing.
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon.
They shall see the glory of the Lord,
the majesty of our God.
Strengthen the weak hands,
and make firm the feeble knees.
Say to those who are of a fearful heart,
'Be strong, do not fear!
Here is your God.
He will come with vengeance,
with terrible recompense.
He will come and save you.'
Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened,
and the ears of the deaf unstopped;
then the lame shall leap like a deer,
and the tongue of the speechless sing for joy.
For waters shall break forth in the wilderness,
and streams in the desert;
the burning sand shall become a pool,
and the thirsty ground springs of water;
the haunt of jackals shall become a swamp,
the grass shall become reeds and rushes.
A highway shall be there,
and it shall be called the Holy Way;
the unclean shall not travel on it,
but it shall be for God's people;
no traveller, not even fools, shall go astray.
No lion shall be there,
nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it;
they shall not be found there,
but the redeemed shall walk there.
And the ransomed of the Lord shall return,
and come to Zion with singing;
everlasting joy shall be upon their heads;
they shall obtain joy and gladness,
and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 11. 2-11

When John heard in prison what the Messiah was doing, he sent word by his disciples and said to him, 'Are you the one who is to come, or are we to wait for another?' Jesus answered them, 'Go and tell John what you hear and see: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have good news brought to them. And blessed is anyone who takes no offence at me.'
As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John: 'What did you go out into the wilderness to look at? A reed shaken by the wind? What then did you go out to see? Someone dressed in soft robes? Look, those who wear soft robes are in royal palaces. What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. This is the one about whom it is written,

"See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way before you."

Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist; yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he.

Second Reading

James 5. 7-10

Be patient, therefore, beloved, until the coming of the Lord. The farmer waits for the precious crop from the earth, being patient with it until it receives the early and the late rains. You also must be patient. Strengthen your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is near. Beloved, do not grumble against one another, so that you may not be judged. See, the Judge is standing at the doors! As an example of suffering and patience, beloved, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

Blessed Thought

**True Humility
isn't thinking less of yourself;
it is thinking of yourself less.**

Rick Warren

Collect for Today

O Lord Jesus Christ,
who at your first coming sent your messenger
to prepare your way before you:
grant that the ministers and stewards of your mysteries
may likewise so prepare and make ready your way
by turning the hearts of the disobedient to the wisdom of the just,
that at your second coming to judge the world
we may be found an acceptable people in your sight;
for you are alive and reign with the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, 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)

ARE YOU ON OVERLOAD?

THERE WILL be times in life when it feels like there's too much to do, and not enough time to do it.

However, when you're constantly on overload, it shows up in your attitude, your relationships, your job performance and even your walk with God.

If that's where you are today, here's what you need to do:

1) Pray.

'Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken' (Psalm 55:22 NIV 2011 Edition). Before you fall apart, ask God for the wisdom to evaluate what you are doing, and then be honest with yourself about why you're in this predicament.

The writer of Proverbs says, **'Do not wear yourself out to get rich; do not trust your own cleverness. Cast but a glance at riches, and they are gone, for they will surely sprout wings and fly off...like an eagle'** (Proverbs 23:4-5 NIV 2011 Edition). Ask God to show you where you may be sacrificing your peace, health and relationships on the altar of materialism.

2) Delegate.

Moses, one of the greatest leaders in the Old Testament, was falling apart under the weight of responsibilities he needed to share with others. He got so depressed that he asked God to take his life! There were capable people all around him who were willing to help but he wouldn't let them. Sound familiar? As long as you insist on controlling and doing everything yourself, your productivity will stall and your peace of mind will evaporate.

Bottom line: if you're on overload today start making some changes.

Taken from the UCB (United Christian Broadcasters) Word For Today, which is written by Bob & Debby Gass.



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.