



Connecting faith and daily life

## 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 for the forthcoming year
- All organisations, businesses, Church activities and parish people as they enter the New Year.

### 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 Softe 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
<b>29th December</b> 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	<b>30th</b> Church Office Closed  Emails will be checked during the Christmas holidays.	<b>31st</b>	<b>1st January</b> Church Office Closed  Emails will be checked during the Christmas holidays.	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b> Church Office Closed  Emails will be checked during the Christmas holidays.	<b>4th</b>
<b>5th January</b> 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	<b>6th</b> Church Office Re-Opens	<b>7th</b>	<b>8th</b> 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>9th</b>	<b>10th</b>	<b>11th</b>
<b>12th January</b> 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion  10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	<b>13th</b>	<b>14th</b> 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	<b>15th</b> 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	<b>16th</b> 14.00 Comfort Group	<b>17th</b> 10.30 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings	<b>18th</b>

**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](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.

# All about the children



Heather Smith *reflects on* Matthew 2:13-23, Isaiah 63:7-9 and Hebrews 2:10-18

Today's readings are about children, both flesh and blood and spiritual. The Holy Family flees into Egypt. How ironic to return there, when the founding stories of the nation tell us that the Israelites escaped from Egypt with great drama many years before? In an equally dramatic escape Joseph flees with Mary and Jesus in the middle of the night – surely a terrible path to have to take. We can imagine Mary saying, "Egypt? Are you really sure?" It must have seemed like a physical and spiritual backward step.

**Saving God, give us courage to recognise those who are living in danger and to stand beside them, pointing them in the direction of your saving presence. May we follow your word, wherever it leads, confident that we are your beloved children. Amen.**

## Christmas isn't over

by Ricarda Witcombe

Even if your tree may have lost its needles and your festive food has all been eaten, the truth of Christmas is here to stay. As the African-American writer Howard Thurman put it: "When the song of the angels is stilled... the work of Christmas begins: to find the lost, to heal the broken, to feed the

hungry, to release the prisoner, to rebuild the nations, to bring peace among the people, to make music in the heart."

What might that mean in your own context, as this year draws to its end but the light of the Christmas star continues to shine? We may carry all sorts of fears and stresses into 2020, but the truth of Christmas changes things. God is with us, making a home right in the midst of our lives. That gives us such a deep place from which to draw strength and life for ourselves and others. 🌟

Like the Holy Family, we flesh-and-blood children are vulnerable beings. For the infant Christ, human inhumanity caused misery and danger, and still does for so many today. But we are also spiritual children of God, saved, Isaiah tells us, by God's presence. And God's presence brings together the physical and spiritual. The letter to the Hebrews explains that it takes the form of Christ, who became like us in every respect.

Our responsibility is to bring God's presence, both physical and spiritual, to those who suffer, confident of Christ's saving grace in their lives and ours. Even those who have fled, like the Holy Family, from physical or spiritual danger, can find God's saving presence if we point them in the right direction. 🌟

## World Braille Day

by Lisa Tulfer

Saturday is the anniversary of the birth of Louis Braille, who was born in France in 1809. Blinded by a childhood accident, by the age of fifteen he had created a reading and writing system based on military night-writing. The code that bears his name is made up of "cells" of raised dots in a two-by-three configuration, and can be used in any language, both to read and (with special equipment) to write.

The UN declared World Braille Day to celebrate the role of Braille in giving independence to people who are visually impaired, and also to encourage greater use of Braille worldwide. There is a world shortage of Braille teachers. Braille writers are expensive. Sadly, public buildings and businesses do not often use Braille to make it possible for blind and visually impaired people to access their premises and services independently.

This might be an appropriate time to ask how Braille-friendly your church is. 🌟

“Don't ask what the world needs. Ask what makes you come alive, and go do it. Because what the world needs is people who have come alive.

Howard Thurman (1899-1981), theologian and civil rights leader

## Bible Readings

### First Reading

Isaiah 63. 7-9

I will recount the gracious deeds of the Lord,  
the praiseworthy acts of the Lord,  
because of all that the Lord has done for us,  
and the great favour to the house of Israel  
that he has shown them according to his mercy,  
according to the abundance of his steadfast love.  
For he said, 'Surely they are my people,  
children who will not deal falsely';  
and he became their saviour  
in all their distress.  
It was no messenger or angel  
but his presence that saved them;  
in his love and in his pity he redeemed them;  
he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.

### Gospel Reading

Matthew 2. 13-end

Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfil what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, 'Out of Egypt I have called my son.'

When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah:

'A voice was heard in Ramah,  
wailing and loud lamentation,  
Rachel weeping for her children;  
she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.'

When Herod died, an angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt and said, 'Get up, take the child and his mother, and go to the land of Israel, for those who were seeking the child's life are dead.' Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother, and went to the land of Israel. But when he heard that Archelaus was ruling over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. And after being warned in a dream, he went away to the district of Galilee. There he made his home in a town called Nazareth, so that what had been spoken through the prophets might be fulfilled, 'He will be called a Nazorean.'

### Second Reading

Hebrews 2. 10-18

It was fitting that God, for whom and through whom all things exist, in bringing many children to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For the one who sanctifies and those who are sanctified all have one Father. For this reason Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,

'I will proclaim your name to my brothers and sisters,  
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you.'

And again,

'I will put my trust in him.'

And again,

'Here am I and the children whom God has given me.'

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.



### Collect for Today

Almighty God,  
who wonderfully created us in your own image  
and yet more wonderfully restored us  
through your Son Jesus Christ:  
grant that, as he came to share in our humanity,  
so we may share the life of his divinity;  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
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)

### A Message from The Rectory.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for the fantastically warm welcome we have received from the TPOTS church family in our first nine months here.

Thank you also for the number of Christmas gifts and good wishes we have received.

Wherever you are, whatever you have planned, we wish you a very special Christmas.

May we together flourish and grow in 2020.

With love in Christ,  
Kevin & Chris.



### St Mary's Pop Up Restaurant

#### Valentine's Dinner

(Proceeds to the roof fund)

At 7.00pm

On Friday 14th February 2020

At Woodlands, Brent Knoll

Menu choices for the 3 course meal,  
and how to make a booking,  
will be published in January's Sunday Link.

We will be asking for a donation of £25 per person, please

### A Thought for Christmas

I wonder what your year has been like – perhaps memorable, perhaps one you'd rather forget. For each of us as individuals the year will have had its joys and sorrows, its highs and lows, I am sure. Whatever has happened and whatever lies ahead, because of Christmas, we can be sure that Our Lord Jesus is with us. He came into our world as a human being. He grew into the most remarkable man history has ever known.

In his life he experienced all the emotional ups and downs of life: birth in poverty, happiness and disappointments, laughter, love and pain, even including His final sacrifice.

And Jesus did that for you and me, whoever we are.

If you haven't experienced his love for yourself, come and hear the stories about him through the year, enjoy the fellowship of his family, which is the church, and get to know Jesus in your life.

The Revd Kevin Wright

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.