

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 **Weston Road and Manor Close, East Brent and Delhorn Lane, Lympham.**
- **Bishop Peter, Bishop Ruth and their staff; Wells Cathedral and its staff.**

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
5th January 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion 19.00 St Mary's Quiz The Knoll Inn	6th Church Office Re-Opens	7th	8th 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	9th	10th	11th
12th January 08.00 St Christopher's Holy Communion 10.00 St Christopher's Parish Communion	13th	14th 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	15th 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	16th 14.00 Comfort Group	17th 10.30 Prayer Group 2 The Worthings	18th
19th January 08.00 St Mary's Holy Communion 10.00 St Mary's All-Age Communion Followed by Celebration! 18.30 St Michael's Evening Prayer	20th 16.00-17.30 Alzheimer's and Dementia Carers Group Brentcombe House, East Brent	21st 10.30 Toddlers Brent Knoll Methodist Church	22nd 08.45 10.00 Coffee Time St Mary's	23rd 14.30 Bereaved Friends Group	24th	25th

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	Revd. 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

Staying vigilant

Heather Smith *reflects on*
Matthew 2:1-12

There is a common scam in India where tourists are asked to use their tax exemption to help someone avoid tax on exporting precious stones. The tourist ends up being accused of stealing them and is advised by the scammer to hand over the value of the stones to avoid prosecution.

In a foreign country, unaware of local customs, it is easy to be duped by unscrupulous people. In unfamiliar territory the Magi came close to falling for Herod's scam. It may not have hurt them, but it would certainly have hurt the baby they had come to worship. What saved the situation was the Magi's close attention to what God had to say. Having been alert to the leading of the star, they were also alert to God's warning not to return to Herod.



Most of us don't have dreams in which God tells us what to do, but by building up a close relationship with God we become better at knowing the right direction to travel and which choices to make. It may be easy to spot the Indian scam, because it relies on our greed and is obviously too good

to be true. But sometimes we are all in a foreign country when it comes to knowing what is right.

If we stay close to God we will find it easier to make the right decisions. ☺

Lord, draw us closer to you. Help us to recognise when we have a choice to make and to hear your guidance. Be as close to us as our own breath, gently directing us in the ways of righteousness. Amen.

The indigenous people of Australia

by Max Serjeant

The colonial era saw European culture spread to every corner of the globe, and with it Christianity. The peoples the colonists encountered had their own very different belief systems, yet Christianity was taken up enthusiastically by many.

The encounter was difficult for indigenous Australians, yet today seventy-three per cent identify as Christian.

Aboriginal spiritual beliefs are based around the dreamtime – a period when the world was unformed and powerful animal-

human hybrids walked the earth, creating the natural features which exist today. These journeys were recorded in songs and stories, which are fiercely guarded and given out only as an individual goes through initiation ceremonies. It is hard to imagine a more different set of beliefs to those of Christianity, but many Aboriginal people have no problem combining the two. They separate out the religious aspects of their traditional belief system, while still retaining a sense of cultural pride. Today there are Christian Aboriginal ministers, priests and bishops of every denomination.

Max Serjeant is a writer and anthropologist, based in Western Australia, working in the field of Aboriginal land rights. In this four-part series he offers an insight into Aboriginal culture and Christianity. ☺

Animals of the Bible

The sparrow

by Caroline Fletcher

In biblical times many people struggled for food. The sparrow, being very common, was caught and sold in markets as a source of cheap meat for poor people. In Matthew's Gospel Jesus says that two sparrows could be purchased for a penny. Luke's version goes further, saying that five cost only two pennies, so a

fifth sparrow was thrown in for free.

Jesus uses this to make a deeply moving point. Even though sparrows were worth so little, not one of them fell to the ground without God knowing. If God tenderly watches over the humble sparrow, how much more are we cared for?

Today, in many places, sparrow numbers have dropped steeply. We have been guilty of undervaluing this little brown bird. The sparrow reminds us that God not only cares for us but for all creation, no matter how small and unspectacular. ☺

“We fail in the work of grace and love when there is too much of us and not enough of God.”

Suzanne Woods Fisher, *The Search*

Bible Readings

First Reading

Isaiah 60. 1-6

Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.
For darkness shall cover the earth,
and thick darkness the peoples;
but the Lord will arise upon you,
and his glory will appear over you.
Nations shall come to your light,
and kings to the brightness of your dawn.
Lift up your eyes and look around;
they all gather together, they come to you;
your sons shall come from far away,
and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses' arms.
Then you shall see and be radiant;
your heart shall thrill and rejoice,
because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you,
the wealth of the nations shall come to you.
A multitude of camels shall cover you,
the young camels of Midian and Ephah;
all those from Sheba shall come.
They shall bring gold and frankincense,
and shall proclaim the praise of the Lord.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 2. 1-12

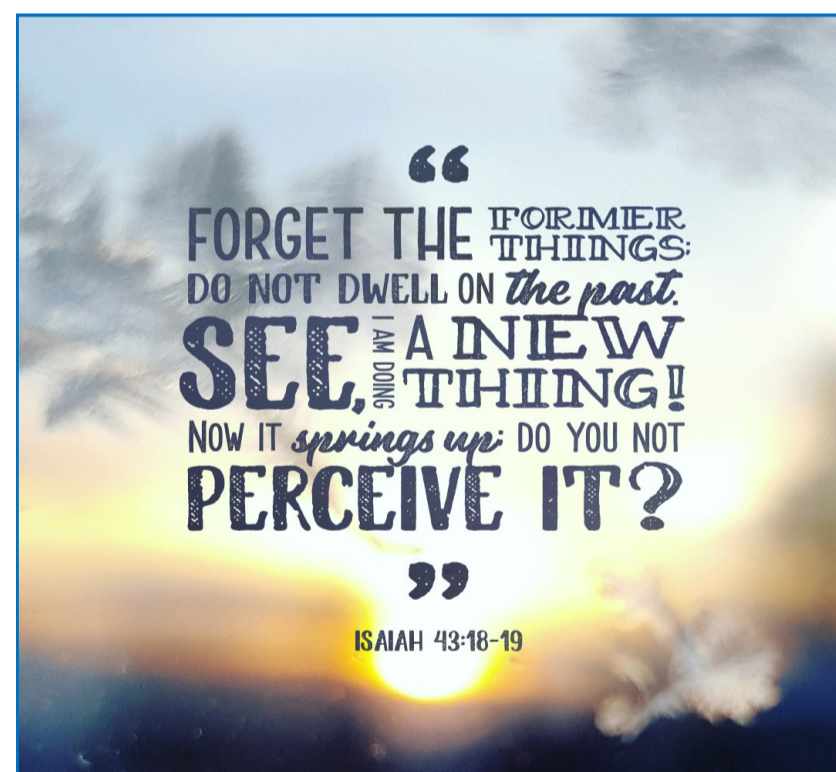
In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, asking, 'Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.' When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. They told him, 'In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet:
"And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel."
Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, 'Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.' When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure-chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. And having been warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they left for their own country by another road.

Second Reading

Ephesians 3. 1-12

This is the reason that I Paul am a prisoner for Christ Jesus for the sake of you Gentiles— for surely you have already heard of the commission of God's grace that was given to me for you, and how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I wrote above in a few words, a reading of which will enable you to perceive my understanding of the mystery of Christ. In former generations this mystery was not made known to humankind, as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit: that is, the Gentiles have become fellow-heirs, members of the same body, and sharers in the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

Of this gospel I have become a servant according to the gift of God's grace that was given to me by the working of his power. Although I am the very least of all the saints, this grace was given to me to bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ, and to make everyone see what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things; so that through the church the wisdom of God in its rich variety might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places. This was in accordance with the eternal purpose that he has carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have access to God in boldness and confidence through faith in him.



Collect for Today

O God,
who by the leading of a star
manifested your only Son to the peoples of the earth:
mercifully grant that we,
who know you now by faith,
may at last behold your glory face to face;
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.

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)

**Celebration
of becoming
a "One Parish Benefice"**

**It's official!
We are now (legally)
The Parish of Three Saints
(TPOTS)!**

**Everyone is welcome
to a short celebration
after the worship**

**On 19th January 2020
At St Mary's, East Brent**

Refreshments will be served

**Happy
NEW YEAR**

Rejoice evermore.
Pray without ceasing.
In every thing give thanks: for
this is the will of God in Christ
Jesus concerning you.

1 THESS 5:16-18

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.

St Mary's Pop Up Restaurant Valentine's Dinner

(Proceeds to the roof fund)

**At 7.00pm
On Friday 14th Feb 2020
At Woodlands, Brent Knoll**

Pimms served on arrival
(Cash bar available for beer, wine, cider, soft drinks)

Starters

Broccoli & Blue Cheese Soup

Double Baked Cheese Souffle

Prawn Cocktail

Main Course

Beef Bourguignon (Served with rice)

Chicken Breast wrapped in Parma ham
(Served with a tomato & cheese topping, a herb cream sauce, roast potatoes and seasonal vegetables)

Salmon Fillet
(Served with a cream sauce, new potatoes and seasonal vegetables)

Filo parcel with a feta & spinach filling
(Served with a green salad)

Desserts

Selection from the dessert trolley

Tea & coffee served with dessert

We are asking for a £25 per person donation, please.

To make a booking please contact :

Carole (TPOTS office) 01278 769082,
Email office.tpots@gmail.com

Kathy on 01278 760031,
Email kathyquinnell10@gmail.com

Please provide menu selections when you book.