

The LINK

30p

January 2020



The Parish Church of
St Michael Braintree
www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



321 is an opportunity to explore the big issues in life: God, the world and ourselves. Perhaps you're already familiar with Christian beliefs or maybe they are completely new to you. Whatever the case, this is a fresh telling of the Christian story that assumes no prior knowledge.

It lasts just three weeks and is held on Mondays, 7.45 - 9.15pm in St Michael's Church House, Braintree, starting on 13th January. The evenings will start with tea & coffee.

If you'd like to come or find out more, please contact Nigel & Jo Adams (01376 807662). Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com



“For where your treasure is ...”

Dear Friends,

The quote above is from our Verse of the Year for 2020,

“For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” (Matthew 6:21)

They are words of Jesus, given in the Sermon on the Mount. Jesus had been calling on his hearers not to lay up treasures on earth. He gave two reasons for this. Firstly, earthly treasures are subject to decay – moth and rust can destroy them. Secondly, they can be subject to theft – thieves break in and steal them.

For some people, getting money and wealth seem to be the main motivation in life. It is as if the purpose of life is to acquire as much “stuff” as possible. But material possessions are at best temporary. I wonder how many expensive Christmas gifts will still be truly treasured in 5 or 10 years time.

But there is another kind of treasure. Jesus speaks of “treasures in heaven” – a kind of treasure that neither moth nor rust destroys. A kind of treasure that thieves cannot break in and steal.

What does Jesus mean by “treasures in heaven”? I believe he means more than money given to Christian causes that has an eternal impact. If we know God’s saving grace, I believe we are called to store up treasure in heaven by seeking to become more Christlike – more like Jesus.

What do you treasure? If we are honest, it might be our possessions, or other things such as our career, positions of influence or power or a particular relationship.

This New Year, it would be good for each of us to reflect on what we treasure. What is most important in life to us?

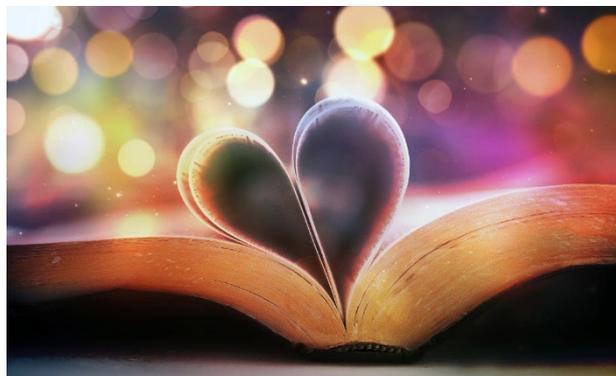
Have we discovered “treasure in heaven” – that personal relationship with a loving God, who made us and sent his Son to live and die for us? In January, we will be running a three-week course called 321. The three is about God, Father Son & Holy Spirit. The two is about Adam and Jesus – Adam, who disobeyed God and Jesus who brought us back to God. The one is us – how will we respond to such a God? We will be showing some excellent videos by Glen Scrivener and there is time for discussion.

321 will run on Monday evenings (13th, 20th & 27th January), starting with tea & coffee at 7.45pm in Church House. Please join us if you would like to think more about the treasure that God offers to us.

Wishing you every blessing for the New Year,

Nigel

Verse of the Year 2020



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matthew 6.21

MISSION OF THE MONTH



A Rocha is a Christian organisation working in the U.K. and around the world. It was founded in 1983 by Peter and Miranda Harris and you can read their exciting story in the book “Under Bright Wings”.

Today we know a terrifying number of species are becoming extinct on a daily basis. Floods and fires are bringing destruction to personal lives, property and nature across the globe. There are wars caused by scarcity of precious resources as well as a climate emergency and messages of extinction and despair. But God has given this earth to us to care for. We need to keep this vision in our minds.

Tragically at the beginning of November Chris Naylor (CEO of A Rocha International) and his wife, Susanna, and Miranda Harris wife of Peter, were killed in a road crash whilst working in South Africa. Please continue to pray for their families and friends and the continued work of A Rocha.

There are many exciting projects going on: to take just one –

A Rocha Ghana has just celebrated 20 years as a committed environmental NGO. They provide practical conservation interventions aimed at contributing to the sustainable management of the country’s important ecological habitat and species, contributing to the livelihood enhancement of deprived communities.

The A Rocha International review 2018/19 is available at the back of church. Please take a copy to keep updated on the many exciting worldwide projects.

I would encourage you also to check out the A Rocha websites: Arocha.org and arocha.org.uk for weekly and monthly local and global updates.

Ann Mahood

BIBLE READING GROUP.

I started the Bible reading group almost two years ago on January 10th 2018, now, having read all the way through the Bible, it's time to start again. So, I'm holding the first meeting of a new Bible Reading Group (although I think a few of the members from last time might be joining me) in Church House Small Hall at 2pm on Tuesday January 7th. The actual reading time each week will be slightly less than last time, so it will take slightly longer to complete, I estimate just less than two years.

If you want to read the Bible from cover to cover, or just listen to it being read, please come and join us. The format is tea or coffee at 2pm, reading from 2:15 in turns for an hour then about 30 minutes for chat and clearing up. We'll start with a Psalm or two, then starting from Genesis we'll read through to Revelation week by week, and end each week with an extract from Proverbs.

Hope to see you there.

Dave Terris

WOMEN @ ST MICHAEL'S CONFERENCE DAY FEBRUARY 8TH 2020

A Glimpse of our Speaker for the Day



Rachel Menon has worked as the Lay Minister for Women at Moulton Parish Church, since 2006. She grew up in Cromer, spent 13 years in London, (Nursing, BSc physiology, PhD and Cornhill Bible Training Course) before moving to Moulton, Northamptonshire! Married to Neil and mum to Josh (20) and Ruth (17). Out of a grateful heart to God for many opportunities to learn from and be taught God's Word, Rach's passion is teaching the Bible to women. God has given many precious opportunities to preach God's Word regionally, nationally and internationally. God also has a great sense of humour as in His Sovereignty there's a link between her PhD and preaching in Munich - find out during the conference! She also enjoys playing piano, swimming (in pool and sea!), every kind of cake and studying for The Biblical Counselling Course, which has been life-changing!

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen” 2 Peter 2:18.

Rachel will give two talks on 2 Peter. Peter's desire for all Christians whatever century they live in, is - don't stand still GROW! Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Peter also urges us - live *now* with eyes fixed on *eternity*, because we will receive a rich welcome, the biggest and best hug of all time and for all time, from Jesus Christ himself.

She is looking forward to meeting us all in 2020!

Make sure the Date is in your diary

10 OF THOSE.COM VISITED ST MICHAEL'S IN DECEMBER ...

What a combination ... coffee ... five table loads (literally) of Christian books of every kind and every price ... some of us bought quite a few Christmas presents ... queues to pay were long with buyers holding armfuls of books ... and as one member of the congregation remarked ... 'I couldn't buy every book that I wanted!

In an hour and half we sold over 200 books ...

Warwick Sculpher thank you for coming and we will see you next year ...

And then followed by our amazing Christmas Dinner!

And if you unavoidably missed this then browse the website ...
simply it is:



WOMEN @ ST MICHAEL'S

Our Origami-Est evening in school was a great evening together...

Ready for the arrival of our Guests



Sample of food ...courtesy of St Michael's school catering manager ...



And we made ... some more efficiently than others I might add ... and our efforts were replicated at our Christmas Dinner by Katie and Megan.



Esther spoke of us being Beloved of God using her life experiences to illustrate this

...

Jennifer Bailey

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

(Formerly Women's World Day of Prayer)

The World Day of Prayer is a world-wide movement led by Christian women of many traditions who call the faithful together to observe a common day of prayer each year (the **FIRST FRIDAY IN MARCH**).

The movement started in the 19th century in the US and Canada, and spread to many parts of the world. Now more than 120 countries participate in the annual day of celebration, which brings together people of various races, cultures and traditions sharing together in God's word and worship.

Through the World Day of Prayer, Christians around the world:

- Affirm their faith in Jesus.
- Share their hopes, fears, joys, sorrows, opportunities and needs.

Through the World Day of Prayer, we are encouraged to:

- Be enriched by the faith of Christians of other cultures.
- Take up the burdens of other people and pray for them.
- Become aware of the whole world and no longer live in isolation.

Our local service, prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, will be held on

Friday 6th March, 2020
At GREAT NOTLEY CHURCH at 10.30am

(It is suggested that those intending to use public transport catch the 9.40am - 9a bus service from the bus park to Great Notley)

Barbara Wells

(Committee representative for St. Michael's)

JANUARY DIARY

2 Thursday

Please note that Coffee@StMichael's is on the second Thursday (9th) in January

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

5 Sunday 2nd after Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Church Family Worship – Where your treasure is
6.30pm Evening Worship – Where your treasure is
7.30pm Focus

6 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

7 Tuesday FEBRUARY LINK SUBMISSION DUE

1.15pm Tiddlywinks
2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

8 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
7.45pm Discipleship Explored
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study
8.30pm Men@StMichael's beer and chat – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Rd

9 Thursday

10am-12pm Coffee at St Michaels 10-12 noon
3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

12 Sunday 3rd after Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship - Why spread the Good News?
6.30pm Holy Communion - Freedom in Christ
7.30pm Focus

13 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight
7.45pm 321 Course – Church House

14 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks
2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall
8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting – Church House

15 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
7.45pm Discipleship Explored
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

16 Thursday

3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

17 Friday

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

19 Sunday 4th after Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion – Seeking the lost
6.30pm All Age Tonight – Trusting Jesus when things are hard
7.30pm Focus

20 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight
7.45pm 321 Course – Church House

21 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks
2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

22 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
7.45pm Discipleship Explored
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

23 Thursday

3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

25 Saturday

9.00am Church and Church House - work party

26 Sunday 5th after Christmas

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – Reluctant evangelists

4.00pm Welcome Tea – Church House

6.30pm Evening Worship – Keep in step with the Spirit

7.30pm Focus

27 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

7.45pm 321 Course – Church House

28 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

29 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

7.45pm Discipleship Explored

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

30 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

31 Friday

7.30pm Flower Club

FROM THE REGISTERS

No entries

A WALK FOR THE NEW YEAR

Why not join us for a winter walk in the countryside on Saturday 4th January?



In a repeat of last year's January walk, we plan to meet at the start of the Fitch Way adjoining Braintree Railway Station car park from 10.15am to set off at 10.30. We head for Rayne Station where you may wish to enjoy a cup of coffee before returning to Braintree on foot or by bus.

Alternatively, continue with us along the Fitch Way to Felsted where you may like to stop at the Tea Room or the pub for a drink or some lunch. If non-walking friends or family members wish to join us for refreshment in Felsted you may well be offered a lift back to Braintree rather than walking or catching the bus!

We would value your company should you choose to join us for either the shorter or longer walk.

Terry and Miriam Clark

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Thank you for the great support we received for 'shoeboxes' again this year. We took 94 completed boxes plus fillers to the Halstead warehouse this year. The majority of these were completed boxes donated by church members with about 30 being made from some of the 'fillers' we received. Some of the £334.31 donated paid for transporting our additional boxes, we bought a few extra fillers and the rest was paid as a donation to Operation Christmas Child.



Part of the team who moved boxes and filled new ones.

Sue Marriott and I worked 4 days in the warehouse at Halstead, Dave joined us for 2 and Derek one. They got the cold job in the garage! We have enjoyed being part of their team but sadly this is probably the last year there due to big organisational changes from HQ.



It looks as if our nearest warehouse next year will be at Cambridge so I expect to collect as usual but send everything off to the regional warehouse. Thank you for all you do. Keep knitting, sewing and collecting as the receiving children certainly appreciate it!

Jenny Chapman



Shopping List January 2020

Thank you for your support in 2019, which is much appreciated by us and our clients. We have been very busy in all our centres since the weather turned cold, seeing increasing numbers of clients. Over the last two-three weeks we have had to re-stock a number of our centres part way through their opening hours. We wish you all a Happy New Year.

We currently need:

Food Items

- Packet Custard
- Tinned Custard
- Rice Pudding
- Tinned Fruit
- Tinned Soup
- Sponge Puddings

Non-food items

- Shower Gel
- Shampoo
- Deodorants
- Washing-up liquid
- Washing Liquid
- Nappies (Sizes 4 and 5)

Please no baked beans as that is one of the few items of where we have very full stocks.-

Thank you for responding to our appeals for carrier bags, we now have very good stocks of bags for life and heavy duty carrier bags and do not need these at present.

Please note: We often ask for small packs—Larger packs do not fit in our boxes and make it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split larger sizes or catering packs.

PLEASE NOTE: We are grateful for your donations to the Braintree Area foodbank. However, we can only accept donations of freshly-bought, unopened and undamaged goods which are still well within their "use by" date (no less than 6 months). We cannot use items which do not meet these requirements, and the donation is wasted. Thank you.

BELFRY BULLETIN

BELL RESORATION UPDATE

The work on the bells is going well at White's with 2 of the bells tuned with the others being prepared. If you are interested to see this work taking place there are still places available on the trip to White's engineering works. The date is Saturday 18th January 2020 so please quickly get in contact with Bradley Hill who will send you the itinerary.

Brads contact is :- brad.hill94@gmail.com or 323658.

With extra work needed fund raising is back on the agenda and so to that end we held a well attended Quiz Night in Church House and raised about £600. With our thanks to the PCC for the use of Church House. Well done to Ellie Gray and Richard Ould who looked after "front of House" whilst Debbie Hill and Lin Ould beavered away to provide a tasty 2 course supper. Thanks for coming to support us.

Lodge's have completed painting the bell frame and a very bright red it is, a pity it will not be seen once the bells are back, the ringing chamber also has been refurbished. The plaster work has been made good and the whole room painted using traditional materials and looks very smart but still leaving the character of the building evident.

If you can suggest any fund raising ideas or Grant giving organisations or a Business that gives donations we would be very pleased to hear about them. We would value your support at Tesco's from 1st January 2020 until 31st March, so please get your blue tokens and put them in our section.

We still need £17,000 to fund the extra work.

FROM THE LOG BOOK

We have been joining local towers on their practice nights, amongst them Felsted and Writtle. We went to Great Tey and had an enjoyable evening with John Connell one of our old Guild members who is Tower Captain there and taught Debbie and Bradley Hill to ring.

We have also helped with service ringing at Witham, Black Notley, Great Bardfield and Finchingfield

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Peter Smith

A CHURCHWARDEN WRITES

I know it's been a while since I wrote in the magazine, time flies when you're busy. Now I have a little time and thought I would give an update on what we have achieved over the last year and where we are planning on working in the near future.

Firstly, thanks to all who have given on Gift day towards the projects that we grouped together as "Sharing the Light". The funds raised have already been allocated towards the new lights in Church, Church House and the Audio-Visual updates.

So far, you will see that Church House has most of its new lights. This is the first phase of the update, with the main hall and the addition of some more functionality planned for February Half Term. For new features, the toilets have sensors and will turn on/off by themselves and the kitchen has an under the cupboard lighting to replace one of the ceiling lights.

With regards to Audio-Visual, the day of Gift Day saw our 9-year old projector develop a fault where it started putting lines in everything. A new projector has been installed just ahead of Christmas. Whilst not

part of the original piece we wanted to do; this was on the list to be done over the 3 years.

The Church's lights are currently on order and will be replaced in the Spring.

With regards to other works: decorating inside Church House has gone well, though now it has a lot of cracks to fill, ceilings to paint etc. (So, help at works parties and other times to paint would be greatly appreciated).

Inside the Church, Lodges have been repairing the walls and the external drainage following completion of the roof repairs. When this has all dried out this will be finished.

We have experimented with carpet on the pews, and it's been generally positive in making the seats warmer to sit on, though fixing to the pews has been an issue for the longer pieces. We intend to carpet 3 more long pews with the carpet we have in stock before deciding the next move.

I have put in the diary the next work party dates for Church and Church House. Provisionally they are:

- 25th January
- 15th February
- 4th April
- 23rd May
- 11th July
- Unconfirmed date in August
- 12th September
- 24th October

Dave Marriott

PATTERN OF SUNDAY SERVICES

The Book of Common Prayer is used for the services marked 
Common Worship is used for all other services

Sunday in the month	8.00 am	10.00 am with crèche	6.30pm
FIRST	 Holy Communion	Church Family Worship (all-age)	Evening Worship
SECOND	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
THIRD	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	All-Age Tonight
FOURTH	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
FIFTH	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	United Service

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:

First Sunday: 10am **Church Family Worship**

Third Sunday: 6.30pm **All-Age Tonight**

Other Sundays: 10am in Church House:

Followers (3-5s), **Adventurers** (5-10s) & **Next** (10-13s)

Every Sunday: 7.30pm in Church House **Focus** (13-18s)

Tuesdays: 1.15pm in Church House – **Tiddlywinks** for pre-school children & parents/carers

**The above is subject to change at festivals
Please check Diary section for exact details**

St. Michael's Church is located in:

St Michael's Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY

Facebook: [stmichaelschurchbraintree](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree)

Web: www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk