

The LINK digital edition

November 2020



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



Visiting speakers

Following the Prime Minister's announcement about a new national lockdown, St Michael's (in line with churches across England) will be closed for services for four Sundays, starting on Sunday 8th November. We will still be having Worship on the Web, our online services for both children and families as well as adults.

We are looking forward to welcoming a number of visiting speakers for our online services during November.

On Sunday 1st November, we welcome back **Andy Malcolm** from **the Fishermen's Mission**. Andy will be joining us for our Family Services (online and in church), giving us an update on their work amongst the people of the fishing industry during these hard pandemic times. He will also be speaking about the Parable of the Lost Son.

Sunday 8th November is Remembrance Sunday, and we are delighted to have **Squadron Leader Colin Woodland**, with us on behalf of **the Soldiers and Airmen's Scripture Readers Association**. He will be speaking at our 10am online service and I will also be interviewing him about his 39 years in the RAF and his faith.

This year, we are sadly unable to have the public act of remembrance in the Memorial Gardens or our Civic Service in St Michael's Church. Instead, Rev Tim Barnes and I will be combining the two events, with members of the Royal British Legion, and with Squadron Leader Colin Woodland speaking, for a special YouTube event called, "**Braintree & Bocking Remembers**". Do please tune in for this – it will be launched on the St Michael's YouTube channel on Sunday 8th November from 2pm.

On Sunday 22nd November, at our online morning service, we will be welcoming a speaker from the **Barnabas Fund** for our **Suffering Church Sunday**. The level of persecution of Christians worldwide is truly shocking and the Barnabas Fund do a great to deal to provide hope and aid to the persecuted church.

Worship on the Web, our online services, are launched each Sunday at 9.45am for the Children's & Families service and 10am for the adult services – but available on catch up through the week and via St Michael's by Phone.

We hope that online, you will be able to join us to worship our wonderful God each Sunday.

We are also looking forward to welcoming **Travers & Jane Harpur**, who will be speaking respectively at our **Men's Conference** (Saturday 14th November) and **Women's Conference** (Saturday 5th December), both 10am-12noon on Zoom.

We hope you will be able to join us for many of these events and services.

Wishing you every blessing,
Nigel

MISSION OF THE MONTH BARNABAS FUND

Barnabas Fund is an organisation who supports the persecuted church, mainly in Muslim dominated countries. They have felt under attack over the last few years which they shouldn't be surprised about when they are working in so many different countries and helping huge numbers of persecuted brothers and sisters all over the world. The Founder used to be Muslim himself which might be a reason that Barnabas is attacked more than most other organisations working where Allah is 'God'.

There are many demands on Church funds and Barnabas will not take our support for granted. They continue to serve the persecuted church and the needs are growing monthly with their resources being stretched like never before.

We look forward to hearing more about the persecuted church at our Suffering Church Sunday on 22nd November.

I have supported Barnabas personally for a number of years.

<https://barnabasfund.org/>

Peter Schaad

A GOOD READ FOR CHRISTMAS.

We have a happy custom in the St Michael's church family. Just before Christmas and up to Easter many of us buy a book of daily Bible readings. This seems to be a popular custom because we never seem to order enough!

'thegoodbookcompany' are offering this year a book of Bible readings about Christmas. Appropriately it is called the 'The Christmas we didn't expect' (no, it is not about the lockdown).

It is by David Mathis. It has twenty-four daily Bible readings from various parts of the New Testament, and it repays the thoughtful reader.

It sells for £6.79 and is also available as an ebook from 'thegoodbookcompany' for £4.79

Paperback copies are available in St Michael's church. If we run out, we can always get more.

<https://www.thegoodbook.co.uk/>

Stephen Bailey

NEWS OF LEA AND PETRA WILLIAMS

Many of you reading LINK will remember Lea and Petra who were with us at St Michael's when Lea was Children and Families Worker.

Lea and Petra with Olivia and Teddy are moving to the Czech Republic in 2021 where they are going to a city called Brno (the second largest and fastest growing city after Prague)



It is a city that they know well from Petra's family connections and Petra studied there too. They will join a small Anglican congregation planted there in 2011. They are going as CMS mission partners and their call is:

'To lead the Anglican Congregation in Brno and develop a vibrant international Christian Community where people meet Jesus and grow as disciples.'

They have met our mission partners Jirka and Keira and have been in touch with them via Zoom.

Petra says that they need all the prayers they can get!

Lea and Petra will move to Oxford in January for CMS training and hope to head to Brno in the Summer 2021.

Lea was learning Czech when he was with us in Braintree so no doubt he is as fluent as Petra now!!

If you would like to know more go onto the website:

<https://churchmissionsociety.org/people-in-mission/lea-and-petra-williams/>

Jennifer Bailey

NOVEMBER DIARY

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

Online services are launched on Sundays as follows:

9.45am Children's & Families service

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/junior-church>

10.00am – Adult services & monthly Family Service

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

6.00pm – All-Age Tonight

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

The services are available at these times, or to watch or listen to after those times, on catch-up

1 Sunday

10:00am Family Service in Church – Book in advance

10:00am Worship on the Web – Family Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

3 Tuesday

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

8 - 9pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

4 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

2 – 3pm Church open for Private Prayer

7.30pm Christianity Explored on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

5 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Monthly Zoom Coffee morning” with Nigel & Jo Adams

8 Sunday Remembrance Sunday

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children's and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

10 Tuesday

- 2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo
- 8-9pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

11 Wednesday

- 10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom
- 7.30pm Christianity Explored on Zoom
- 8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

13 Friday

- 7:30pm Women@StMichaels Craft evening on Zoom

14 Saturday

- 10-12noon Men's conference on Zoom with Travers Harpur

15 Sunday

- 9:45am Worship on the Web – Children's and Families Service
- 10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service
- 11:00am After Church "Zoom Coffee"
- 6:00pm All Age Tonight on the Web

17 Tuesday NOVEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

- 2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

18 Wednesday

- 10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom
- 8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

22 Sunday

- 9:45am Worship on the Web – Children's and Families Service
- 10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service
- 11:00am After Church "Zoom Coffee"

24 Tuesday

- 2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

25 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7.30pm Christianity Explored on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

29 Sunday

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

Men @ St Michael's Conference

We have the St Michael's Men's Conference on Zoom on Sat 14th Nov, 10am-12noon, titled "Under Pressure: being a Christian man today".

There will be an interview with Travers Harpur, some talks about the life of King David and time for discussion in groups. If you would like to join us, please send Nigel Adams a brief email and he will email you the Zoom link and outline for the morning.

A WOMEN @ ST MICHAEL'S SATURDAY SCHOOL

This is being planned for Saturday December 5th from 10.00-12.00 via **ZOOM**

Jane Harpur will be our speaker. She is to be enjoyed!

We plan to have available for this occasion the content of the morning in booklet form to be sent to those of you who would like it but are unable to access ZOOM.

Watch for more details but do write the dates in your diaries but there will be lots of reminders !

Jennifer Bailey