



# ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



[www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk)

**17th December 2023 - Third Sunday of Advent**



## Christmas at St Michael's

Sunday 17 December  
**6.30pm Carols by 'Candlelight'**

Thursday 21 December  
**10am "Carols we love"**  
(In Church House – the church hall)

Christmas Eve  
**10am Family Communion**  
**4pm Christingle**  
**11pm Midnight Communion**

Christmas Day  
**8am Holy Communion**  
**10am Christmas Day Family Service**

Sunday 31 December  
**10am Family Service**

### General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams Email: <a href="mailto:revnigeladams@gmail.com">revnigeladams@gmail.com</a> (Nigel's day of rest will be on Friday this week)
Churchwardens	Lin Terris Ade Odupitan
Honorary Curate	Rev Stephen Bailey
Children's and Youth Worker (part-time)	Rachel Grove Smith
Pastoral Assistant	Jo Adams
Treasurer	Vacancy

Contact Margaret Kinniburgh to add items to the Notice Sheet (by noon **Thursday**) email: [notices@stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk](mailto:notices@stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk).

### Keeping in touch

To phone, please leave a message on the church office phone (01376 321248).

St. Michael's Church website is on the following link - <http://stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk/website/> (If this does not work, you might need to clear your browsing history/web cache from your browser. In most browsers this can be done using Ctrl+Shift+Del.) On this page you can see our Magazine, Notice sheets, Annual reports and other details and will be able to access our Sunday online services.

Our Facebook page is: [www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree/](http://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree/)

If you are new to St Michael's, welcome! If you would like someone to contact you, please leave your details in the collection box by the door.

Name(s) .....

Address .....

Telephone .....

Email .....

## **Church Services**

All our services are in the church building and a video recording of the 10am services are later uploaded to our YouTube Channel "St. Michael's - Worship on the Web."

### **Sunday, 17th December**

10.00am Junior Church (3-14s) & Creche (under 3s)

10.00am Holy Communion - '*Mary's song*' - Luke 1: 39-56 - Rev Nigel Adams

6.30pm Carols by 'Candlelight' - Jennifer Bailey

### **Sunday, 24th December Christmas Eve**

10.00am Family Communion - '*Shepherds and Angels*' – Luke 2: 8-20

- Rev Stephen Bailey

4.00pm Christingle

11.00pm Midnight Communion - Rev Nigel Adams

There is a Creche available (for those under the age of 3) in the Main Hall in Church House where there are lots of toys! Creche will start at the same time as Junior Church (usually after the second song), so please bring your creche aged children into church for 10am. Please speak to Rachel Grove Smith if you have any questions.

**Oasis@StMichael's** (our informal bereavement support group) are meeting on Thursday, 21st December 2pm until 3.30pm in St Michael's Church House (Small Hall). All are most welcome to join us.

**Seasonal Refreshments for the Carol Service:** if you are able to contribute to any 'seasonal refreshments' for the Carol Service at 6.30pm it would be greatly appreciated. Also, we would welcome volunteers to help with serving the refreshments. Please let Jennifer know if you are able to help.

**Carols We Love** is a new addition to our Christmas at St Michael's. It is on Thursday, 21st Dec, 10.00-11.30am in Church House. We will enjoy some seasonal refreshment and traditional carols and will hear about the origins and meaning of "Hark the Herald Angels Sing". All are welcome to join us – do consider inviting guests. Any questions, please speak to Nigel or Jo Adams.

## **For your prayers:**

**Unwell:** Stephen Siddle, Jeff Wise, Elaine Stoodley, Gill Bass, Michael Latta, Dianne Ellam, Jill Jackson, David Goodwill, Rev Canon Alistair McHaffie (former curate), Pamhi Shonhiwa, Kirsty Huxter, Angela Hibbert-Foy, Terry Clark, Alan (Edward Toussaint's brother), Norma Huxter, Linda (Gloria Boar's daughter), Alan Bass, Jim Roberts, Dennis Buston, Katherine Cridland **Bereaved:** Michael Burke, having lost his wife Jenny, her sister and now her brother, in the last four months.

**Housebound:** David and Anne Harvey

**Mission of the Month: ACTS Ministry in Burkina Faso:** works among the most vulnerable people in one of the poorest countries in the world. On the scale of poorest countries Burkina Faso is 173 out of 179. Joanna Ilboudo set up ACTS with a vision to 'bring love and hope to the orphan and the widow'. Widows and orphans are the forgotten ones. They have no voice and no means of support. They are considered outcasts due to the fear of AIDS. Widows have no opportunity for education and no hope of gaining skills necessary to support a family. ACTS works through food support, community health, vocational training, formal education, editions and publications, training in entrepreneurial leadership and discipleship, Human Rights and civic education and protection of the environment. Only God's love can make lasting change in the lives of those caught in the oppression of poverty and ignorance. Please hold ACTS and Joanna in your prayers. The role of St Michael's rep for ACTS is vacant. Please speak to Nigel Adams if you would be interested in the role or wish to know about what the role entails or for more information visit the website [www.actsbf.org](http://www.actsbf.org).

**Christmas cards:** there is a board at the back of church if you wish to send one Christmas card to everyone at St Michael's. Donations are being collected in aid of Hope House, a local charity seeking to break the cycle of homelessness.

**Parking Permits:** From January you will need a new parking permit if you are using church house car park for other than church business. Parking permits will be valid until the end of 2024 and charged at £20 per permit. Permits will only be issued to members on the electoral roll. Application forms can be found in church (in the Welcome Area) and need to be returned with payment to Phil Bartlett-Rawlings.

**Hope Explored** is a 3 week course, from the Christianity Explored team. It asks the question, "***What's the best future you could ever imagine?***" and looks at where we seek our Hope, Peace and Purpose in life. We will be running it on three Mondays, starting on 8th Jan from 7.30pm. Please speak to Nigel or Jo Adams if you have any questions or would like to join us.