

The LINK

30p

March 2020



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



Food for Thought Weekend 24th-26th April

Dear Friends,

We are very much looking forward to our weekend at the end of April, which we have called “Food for Thought”.

We have a variety of events planned and have got a team of students, mostly ministers in training, from Oak Hill College. Each of the events will have a short gospel talk by one of the team.

Friday:

We will start on Friday evening with **Creative Café** for women.

Saturday:

There will be a **Men’s Breakfast** in the morning, then **St Michael’s Family Fun** for primary school aged children and their families. The young people (Year 7 & above) will enjoy **Pizza & Games** in the afternoon, and we will have an **All-Comers Quiz** in the evening.

Sunday:

The team will be speaking at our **8am & 10am services**, as well as helping in Junior Church. In the afternoon, we will have **Tea at “The Ritz”** (the Church House Ritz that is!) and there will be a Food for Thought finale at an **All-Age Tonight** service.

We hope there will be something for everyone.

In preparation for the weekend, we are inviting church members to be doing three things: to **pray, invite and help**.

Do please be praying for the weekend. Please be thinking as well who you could be inviting to an event. There will also be a number of practical ways that people can help with the weekend – more details will follow.



In preparation for the weekend, we are running a course called, Talking Jesus. Each of the sessions includes time studying the Bible, discussions in small groups and inspirational videos with real-life examples of people who are talking Jesus. It will run on Mondays throughout March, 7.45pm for tea & coffee and an 8pm start, in Church House. Do please join us, if you are able to.

Wishing you every blessing,
Nigel

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

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)

MISSION OF THE MONTH



CHURCH PASTORAL AID SOCIETY

CPAS are the patrons of our church and work collaboratively with the church and diocese in the appointment of our minister.

We look forward to John Dunnett the General Director of CPAS visiting us on Sunday 15th March.



Their mission is to enable churches to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ.

They provide courses:

- Enabling hundreds of churches to make disciples and develop leaders
- Providing continued training for clergy and lay leaders
- Helping churches continue to thrive in times of vacancy
- Helping hundreds of people to explore God's call
- Resourcing thousands of leaders be more effective.

They give 4,500 children and young people an amazing week of fun, faith and friendship on their Ventures and Falcons holidays each year (8-18 year olds).

They appoint evangelical clergy to their nearly 700 patronage churches.

More information: cpas.org.uk

Derek Chapman

SHOEBOXES OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

I have recently heard that our shoeboxes went to Central Asia. These were some of the 52,451 sent to children in Central Asia from the UK in 2019.

From the website:- “We’re excited to tell you that your shoebox, has not only put a big smile on a child’s face it is also helping build goodwill between peoples of different faiths. It was part of a distribution that local church groups made to children of all religious backgrounds in their community. However, while political and religious sensitivities continue within Central Asia and for the safety of our ministry partners living in restricted areas, they have asked us not to disclose details about the specific country your shoebox was sent to.”

An international representative described the power of these simple shoebox gifts in their region:

“In the very restricted environments, we can’t have local believers out being vocal about their faith. A shoebox becomes a key to a closed door. I desire to be involved in the work of love. In the remote areas where people have nothing, where people are dirt poor, this box gives them hope. This is love. True love. This opens the eyes of the people. Jesus said, ‘I am the light of the world. He who follows me will not walk in darkness but have the light that leads to life (John 8:12).’ Through Operation Christmas Child, God has given us the opportunity to penetrate the darkest places in this world.”

Jenny Chapman

LENT LUNCHESES 2020

This year will be the final year for Lent lunches.

Sadly, after over 50 years of providing Lent lunches, there are no longer enough volunteers to make it viable plus in recent years the number of people attending has fallen.

This year there will be five lunches with the first held on Ash Wednesday (26th February) and the last one on 25th March.

The charity we are supporting is the Tabor Centre which supports people with disabilities.

The charge for the meal will be £3 for adults and £1 for children. Lunches will be at the Baptist Church commencing at noon and finishing at 1.15pm. It is a simple meal of soup, bread and cheese plus tea or coffee. (Gluten-free soup and bread will be available.)

It is the turn of members of St Michael's to assist with the lunch on 18th March and it would be lovely if as many members as possible could support us.

Joyce Plastow

WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

We would be delighted should you wish to join us for a Springtime 5.5 mile walk in the Essex countryside on Saturday 28th March. We plan to meet outside 'The Chequers' pub at Great Tey (CO6 1JS) from 1.45 to set off at 2pm.

As we head off in the direction of Hoe Wood we may catch a glimpse of the viaduct at Chappel before reaching Fordstreet. Here we pick up the Essex Way (a different stretch to parts we have taken on previous walks) following the River Colne and making our way back to the village of Great Tey.

If you have any questions or you would like to share transport then just have a word with us.

Terry and Miriam Clark

INCREASING ATHEISM

In the USA in 1990 there were 8% atheists, in 2000 14% and now it has gone up to 23%. In Europe it does not look any better. Hemant Mehta (convinced atheist) believes the Internet helps this trend. Google has done more to increase the number of atheists than any other power in history. It helps people of the same conviction to establish contact. The Internet has increased temptation dramatically which confirms the prophecy in 2 Timothy, chapters 3 and 4.

Peter Schaad

MARCH DIARY

1 Sunday	1st Sunday of Lent
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Church Family Worship – Treasure of Trust
6.30pm	Evening Worship – Making a start
7.30pm	Focus
2 Monday	
12.15pm	Spotlight
7.45pm	Talking Jesus
3 Tuesday	
1.15pm	Tiddlywinks
2.00pm	Bible reading – Church House Small hall
4 Wednesday	
9.45am	Meeting Point Bible Study
8.00pm	Lifebuilder Bible Study
8.30pm	Men@StMichael's beer and chat – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Rd
5 Thursday	
10am-12pm	Coffee @ St Michael's 10-12 noon
3.30pm	ASK
7.30pm	Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm	Carry on Exploring Bible Study
8 Sunday	2nd Sunday of Lent
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Morning Worship – Cross-cultural evangelism
6.30pm	Holy Communion – Unexpected blessings
7.30pm	Focus
9 Monday	
12.15pm	Spotlight
7.45pm	Talking Jesus
10 Tuesday	APRIL LINK SUBMISSION DUE
1.15pm	Tiddlywinks
2.00pm	Bible reading – Church House Small hall
8.00pm	First Priority prayer meeting – Church House
11 Wednesday	

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

12 Thursday

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

14 Saturday

9.00am Church and Church House - work party (to be confirmed)

15 Sunday 3rd Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship – Talking to strangers
6.30pm All Age Tonight – Jesus & a sinful woman: “Go and sin no more”
7.30pm Focus

16 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight
7.45pm Talking Jesus

17 Tuesday

2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

18 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

19 Thursday

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

20 Friday

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

22 Sunday 4th Sunday of Lent - Mothering Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Church Family Worship – A Mother’s Request
6.30pm Evening Worship – Making a difference
7.30pm Focus

23 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

7.45pm Talking Jesus

24 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

25 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

26 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

7.30pm Flower Club

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

29 Sunday 5th Sunday of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion – The cost of commitment

6.30pm United Service – **Elim Church** -

No service at St. Michael's

7.30pm Focus

30 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

7.45pm Talking Jesus

31 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

2.2.20 Harrison Pullum

2.2.20 Aaron Junior Leighton Dickens-Attille

FOODBANK LENT APPEAL

Thank you so much for your support of Foodbank. We are launching our annual Lent Appeal ahead of Ash Wednesday on 26th February. Since 1st April, 2019 we have fed 4,600 people, almost as many people as we fed in the whole year to 31st March, 2019. We gave out 14 tonnes of food in December and January alone. This has been our busiest year so far and our centres remain very busy. Despite the amazing amount of food received at harvest festival and Christmas our warehouse stocks are lower than we would usually have at this time of year.

During Lent there are two ways in people can help someone in food crisis.

Firstly, there is the 40p for 40 days. Put 40p aside each day to be able to make a donation of £16 at the end of 40 days. Donations may be made by cheque payable to Braintree Area Foodbank Ltd and given to Helen Hopkins to pass on, or via our website at <https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

Alternatively, you can follow our AdLent calendar, putting aside one item a day for forty days and then taking the items collected to one of our collection points. AdLent Calendars will be available from the table in the crossing.

If you require any further information please ask me.

As ever, many thanks, Helen

ADLENT CALENDAR



PLEASE USE HASHTAG **#ADLENTCALENDAR** TO SPREAD THE WORD

Biscuits 01	Tinned Rice Pudding 02	Tinned Sponge Puddings x 2 03	500g Bag of Pasta 04
Packet Custard 05	500g Bag of Rice 06	1ltr Long Life Milk 07	Tin Opener 08
Unisex Thermal Scarf 09	Nappies size 4 - 5 10	Tinned Fruit 11	Tinned Hot Meat 12
80 Tea Bags 13	Unisex Thermal Gloves 14	Tinned Vegetables 15	Tinned Soup 16
Packet Soup 17	Tinned Spaghetti 18	Shampoo 19	500g Bag of Sugar 20
Instant Mash Potato 21	Chocolate Bars i.e KitKat/Penguin 22	Jam 23	Tinned Cold Meat i.e ham/Corned Beef 24
Men's/ Women's Deodorant 25	Tinned Potato's 26	Tinned Fish 27	Baby Wipes 28
Shower Gel 29	Unisex Thermal Socks 30	Thermal Mugs 31	Small Jars of Coffee 32
Head Torches 33	Small Boxes of Cereal 34	Tinned Meals 35	Tinned Tomatoes 36
Long Life Fruit Juice 37	Hand Sanitizer 38	Baby Food/Milk 39	Small Box of Non-Biological washing powder 40

www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk e:info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk t:01376330694

To find out where to donate please visit
<https://braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/collection-points/>



Braintree Area Foodbank is registered charity No 1148782 Registered in 8183618. These donations will be going to a local food bank.

BELFRY BULLETIN

BELL RESORATION UPDATE

Saturday 18th January 2020 was the date for our visit to White's the company charged with the restoration work.

We were to meet in time to leave at 7.30am and nobody was late so off we went to Appleton. A pleasant journey.

We were given a warm welcome and an overall view of the work that White's are involved in and what was being done to our bells. There were examples of our tuned bells with others being made ready, the type of headstock that will be used and some of the new wheels being made.

We then had the opportunity to have a closer look at all the different processes that were taking place. Personally, I found making the new wheels fascinating from the making and assembling the wooden frame and the heating the wood to bend to fit the finished frame to complete the wheel.

It was excellent to be joined by Revd. Charles Mason who showed a great interest in the project. It was also good to meet and chat with Claire Malone-Lee one of our Guild members.

Also on site is The Balscote Ring a light 12 bells. I think the entire party had a go including 6 1/2 year old Rosie Gray and her younger brother Ben.

White's of Appleton Ltd are the oldest continuously trading bellhanging company in the UK. The company was founded in 1824 by Alfred White with current owner Brian being the 5th generation to run the firm. I have a more detailed history if you would like to read it.

After this very interesting visit we walked to St Laurence church Appleton to ring methods to accommodate all the ringers abilities on the 13cwt 10.

It was now time for a very nice lunch at The Vine, Cumnor. My notes tell me that Debbie helped to bring out the meals and James helped clear the tables but he got a pint!!!!

Our 1st tower after lunch was St. Michael at Cumnor which were again 13cwt but with 8 bells. The tower had a wooden spiral staircase with the steps only attached to the central post that looked like a single tree trunk. Again, all ringers were catered for.

The final church of the day was St. Lawrence North Hinksey with a 5 1/4 cwt 6. The ringing chamber was small and had a weight limit, so we had to take it in turns to go up to ring.

And so back to the comfy coach and home. It had been a very enjoyable and informative day which we hope everyone enjoyed.

We were very pleased to see many of the Church Family and District ringers joining us.

When Bradley and Ellie worked out how to turn on the mike Bradley kept us entertained and informed with a detailed commentary on the day's events and points of interest

We arrived home after an excellent and very well organised day.

THANK YOU, BRADLEY.

Please support us at Tesco's by getting the blue tokens at the checkout and putting them towards the Bell Project.

THANK YOU.

Peter Smith