

The LINK

digital edition

October 2020



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



The best we can, in difficult times

Dear Friends,

In these unprecedented coronavirus times, we are seeking to do all we can as a church, within the restrictions placed on us.

Services

Since 20th September, we have been having a weekly service in the church building. It is different, with no congregational singing, social distancing and face coverings, but it is good to be together in church. We are also opening up the church building most Wednesdays for private prayer.

We are continuing, for the time being, with our three online services – our weekly children's & families and adult services and our monthly All-Age Tonight. The adult services are also available through the week, both online and via St Michael's by Phone.

Events and groups

We are using Zoom video conferencing, for our virtual coffee each Sunday as well as Coffee@Home on the first Thursday of each month. We are also making increasing use of Zoom for numerous planning meetings.

A number of our Home Groups, including our Bible reading group and Christianity Explored, are meeting through Zoom, phone conferencing or via email circulations.

On Saturday 3rd October, we are having our first Zoom Quiz, both for church members and for family and friends.

On Friday 13th November, Women @ St Michael's will be making Fairy Lights together on Zoom.

On Saturday 14th November we have a Men's Conference and on Saturday 5th December we have a Women's Conference, both 10am-12noon on Zoom, led by Travers & Jane Harpur respectively.

Details of all these events will be in our weekly Notice Sheet and weekly updates.

I am aware that, in addition to the above planned events, many people are supporting one another with phone calls and socially distanced contacts.

These are, for many people, tough times. Whilst we cannot meet together in large numbers, let's do all we can to love and support one another in any way we can – to do the best we can, in difficult circumstances.

Wishing you every blessing,
Nigel

MISSION OF THE MONTH

SAMARITANS PURSE – OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is a branch of Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical Christian relief organization that provides aid to suffering people throughout the world who are victims of war, famine, natural disaster, poverty, and disease.

In a response to COVID-19 Samaritans Purse's 'This is Love' initiative is leveraging our disaster relief supply chain to equip the good work of UK churches and charities with PPE as they strive to meet the practical needs of the most disadvantaged in their communities, under the ever-present risk of the coronavirus.

This has involved providing such things as face masks, gloves and hand sanitiser to enable Foodbanks, those supporting refugees, sheltering homeless people and caring for those who are elderly to continue their work. To find out more follow the link.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/this-is-love/>

However, this year due the pandemic, we feel it is not possible for the church to collect shoeboxes, nor is it possible to have a day at church house to fill shoeboxes.

There are two ways in which you can still send a shoebox:

1. Online choosing either a pre-packaged shoebox or one where you choose the items and add your own customization. (These cost £20 per box and include the cost of the items and shipping).

<https://shoeboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/>

2. You can still fill a shoebox yourself. National collection week is the 9th – 16th November. One of the local collection points is Roland James estate agents in the High Street Braintree.

There maybe other local collection points still to register, so please check for the one that is most convenient for you.

<https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/find-your-drop-off-location/>

There may still be opportunities to help at a processing centre, however we are still awaiting information as to where they might be and how they might operate. If you wish to be kept informed about anything local so you can volunteer, please let me (Sue) know.

Next year, we hope things are closer to normal and we will be using the cupboard full of fillers and empty shoeboxes at Church House. So, over the year please continue to collect ready for your 2021 Shoebox.

“On behalf of Jenny may I thank all those who have supported this work in the past.” - Derek Chapman.

Sue Marriott

CARE FOR THE FAMILY ONLINE AUTUMN EVENTS

Care for the Family is a Christian charity that aims to promote strong family life. Over the years Nigel and I have been to a number of Care for the Family events and have always found them not only really helpful but very entertaining too! During the lockdown, Care for the Family have developed a number of online events and have a host of events for this Autumn.

Events are free but you will need to book a place.

Raising Faith – helping our children find a faith that lasts

Just fifty percent of children growing up in Christian homes will go on to have their own faith as adults. As parents, if we want to encourage them to find a faith that lasts, we need to model a faith that is real. Join Katharine Hill and Andy Frost as they share ideas to help you explore your children's questions, inspire them to discover God in the everyday and more.

Viewing Dates: 6, 7, 8 Oct

Time: 7.30pm

The Wisdom House

Life is hard enough without having to learn lessons the hard way. At the Wisdom House Rob Parsons will unpack dealing with difficult people, being true to yourself, and pursuing your dreams. He will also unveil the single greatest killer of strong friendships. The evening will be full of real-life stories that will make you laugh and perhaps even shed a tear.

Viewing Dates: 13, 14, 15 Oct

Time: 7.30pm

Free to Be

If you're a Christian woman, this event is for you. Our identity lies not in the season of our lives, nor in our roles and responsibilities – but in Christ. Join Cathy Madavan, Bekah Legg and Sue Rinaldi, as they equip you with practical ideas, and challenge you to become bolder, braver and more confident about the future God has created for you.

Viewing Dates: 21, 22, 23 Oct

Time: 7.30pm

Run the Race

During Run the Race, Rob Parsons explores the realities of what perseverance looks like for men today. He does so from the comfort of our studio ... while Mark Chester and Gerrit Bantjes face each other in a literal bike race, filled with obstacles and challenges. We also have some very special guests, including Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist John Archer.

Viewing Dates: 10, 11, 12 Nov

Time: 7.30pm

Mum's the Word!

Mums are kind of a big deal and we believe you're worth celebrating! Give yourself the night off for a fun and insightful evening with Katharine Hill and Cathy Madavan. They'll talk about filling your emotional tank, instilling values in your children to last a lifetime and the danger of comparison. You'll come away feeling refreshed and encouraged.

Viewing Dates: 17, 18, 19 Nov

Time: 7.30pm

Primary Parenting – building their future today

Every stage of parenting can be wonderful, but each new development in a child opens the door to new considerations. Join us for a light-hearted event about the ups and downs of raising under-twelves. Rob Parsons and Katharine Hill will present insights and top tips gathered from their combined experience of working alongside thousands of parents.

Viewing Dates: 24, 25, 26 Nov

Time: 7.30pm

To find out more or book a place: -

<https://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/events-online/>

Jo Adams

OCTOBER 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 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Monthly Zoom Coffee morning”

3 Saturday

6:45pm for 7pm Five:Fifteen Quiz – a new virtual quiz on Zoom.

Register by email revnigeladams@gmail.com by 30 Sept.

4 Sunday

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

10:00am Worship on the Web – Family Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

6 Tuesday

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

7 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

2 – 3pm Church open for Private Prayer

11 Sunday

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

10:00am Morning worship in Church – Book in advance

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

13 Tuesday

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

8 - 9pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

14 Wednesday

Church closed for private service – No Private Prayer

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7.30pm Christianity Explored on Zoom

18 Sunday

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

10:00am Morning worship in Church – Book in advance

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

6:00pm All Age Tonight on the Web

20 Tuesday NOVEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

21 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

2 – 3pm Church open for Private Prayer

7.30pm Christianity Explored on Zoom

25 Sunday

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

10:00am Morning worship in Church – Book in advance

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

27 Tuesday

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

7.30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Zoom

28 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

6 – 7pm Church open for Private Prayer

7.30pm Christianity Explored on Zoom

TAKE NOTE: Women @ St Michael's

Friday November 13th an event not to be missed from the comfort of your home via **ZOOM**



Esther is going to be with us from 7-30 – 9.00 and we are going to make **FAIRY LIGHTS** together.

The cost will be £25.00 and everything will be delivered to your door ready for the evening ahead.

Family and friends welcome to join you.

Watch for details of how to sign up.

Definitely an evening not to be missed and the end result your very own **FAIRY LIGHTS** made by you!

AND

A Women @ St Michael's Saturday School 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

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Thanks to all of those who have helped Lin and I over the last few months in keeping the church and Church House in a good state for when we can use them fully.

Over the coming months, there are no work parties as such due to restrictions and keeping space, however I am looking for volunteers that can safely, with social distancing help to look after Church House grounds and property.

Having re-painted a large part of the main hall, I would like to see if there are pairs of workers who can achieve the following:

- Complete the painting on the landing. (So we can arrange for new carpet in the corridors)
- Trim the bases of the lime trees to prevent new trees growing.
- Tidy the rest of the grounds for winter including sweeping leaves.
- Litter picking
- Strim the car park.
- Rake any fallen material off the lawns
- Paint more of the main hall (Thinking of the green gloss, ceiling and then the walls)
- Varnish the stage
- Check the gutters

Ideally you have your own tools and can work as a bubble as the pair of you (for example I worked alongside William initially to signpost and prepare the buildings as well as trimming the bases of the Lime trees, and the Nashs worked together to paint the stage). If you are working alone, you need to stay in contact with someone in case anything happens. (By for example keeping a working mobile phone on your person).

If you can help for even an hour to sweep the grounds, please let Lin or I know so that you are there safely, avoiding others and have all the materials that you need.

Dave Marriott