

The LINK

25p

November 2015



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

?

?

The Quiz

Friday 20 November

7.30pm St. Michael's school hall

£8.50 per person
Including a fish/sausage chip supper

Contact school directly
or
Christine Hart

?



?



My dear Friends

‘Be sure your sin will find you out.’ A well-known saying, and one that particularly came to my mind when the Volkswagen emissions scandal broke a few weeks ago. Indeed it has stayed with me as I discovered first that my car was affected and then that it is one of the models that’s going to be the most difficult to fix. With hindsight it is pretty obvious that what is basically a fraud involving 11 million vehicles is not going to go undetected for ever; the wonder is only that they got away with it for so long.

What is perhaps less well known is that the saying is a biblical one, and I guess that fewer people still will be aware of the context in which it occurs. It’s actually quite obscure. It’s in the Old Testament Book of Numbers (32.23) and is spoken by the Israelite leader Moses to members of the tribes of Reuben and Gad. I’ll come back to that a bit later.

The fact is that many sins do go unexposed here on earth and will be revealed only on the Day of Judgment, ‘the day when, according to my [Paul’s] gospel, God judges the secrets of men by Christ Jesus’ (Romans 2:16).

The Greek word used here for ‘secrets’ is ‘that which is hidden, concealed, covered up’. The adulterer may successfully hide his extra-marital affairs; the thief may cover up his crimes and not get caught in this life; wicked hearts and evil thoughts may remain undetected by other people; hypocrisy may be concealed for years under a pretence of piety; mean, miserly people are sometimes found to be enormously wealthy when the will is read. We can all think of examples of those whose misdeeds came to light only after their death.

Some may rub their hands with satisfaction, even with glee, when a scandal like the VW one breaks, but at the same time they wonder whether there may be others, whether in the motor industry or elsewhere, who are up to similar tricks. ‘Be sure your sin will find

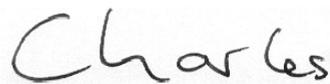
you out'...? We're not sure at all. We may feel, as did the godly in the days of the Old Testament prophet Malachi, 'Evildoers not only prosper but they put God to the test and they escape' (Malachi 3.15).

So let's get back to the original context, and those Reubenites and Gadites. Those two tribes weren't fully committed to God's plan for the Israelites to cross the River Jordan and conquer Canaan and settle there, in the Promised Land. They had a lot of livestock, and seeing good pasture asked Moses's permission to stop in Jazer and Gilead, east of the Jordan, instead. At first Moses refused, saying this would hamper the war effort and be a great discouragement to the rest, but the Rs and Gs wouldn't take No for an answer. They did offer to come and do their share of combat across the Jordan and then return to their chosen plot, and Moses accepted this. He warns them solemnly, in the words of my opening text, of the consequences if they do not keep their word. Their promise has been made in the sight of God, and he, God, will not overlook its breach.

As a matter of fact, the Rs and Gs did all that they had agreed, and the conquest was successful.

So really the saying about our sin finding us out is not a dire warning about the reality of Judgment Day – we should be convinced of that from numerous other biblical passages – but against the more subtle danger of spiritual half-heartedness. It's easy, isn't it, to coast as a Christian: to come to church, but not offer for any jobs; join in the "All things come from you, O Lord" bit, but give little or no money; listen to the Bible readings and sermon, but do nothing about them; smile at strangers over coffee, but never ask their names. In short, take our ease east of the Jordan and let others to the hard graft over on the west.

Your sincere friend and Vicar

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Charles". The letters are cursive and slightly slanted to the right.

MISSION OF THE MONTH

Crosslinks

Founded in 1922 and originally named, The Bible Churchman's Missionary Society, Crosslinks is now an international mission society with its roots in the Bible and works principally within the worldwide Anglican Communion.



Its prime focus is making Christ known through the proclamation and teaching of God's word in the power of the Holy Spirit. They are enthusiasts for creative worldwide mission and their slogan is 'God's word to God's world'

In all they do they seek to observe two fundamental priorities:

Evangelistic opportunities

Since belief comes through hearing God's word their aim is to recruit and deploy Christian disciples in evangelistic opportunities to reach the unreached wherever they are through all appropriate means.

Training trainers

Since it is the gospel that produces and sustains churches, their aim is to serve churches, primarily of the worldwide Anglican Communion, by nurturing competent, godly pastor teachers. To achieve this they resolve to focus their efforts on training, equipping and resourcing those who can teach others also.

Originally through Lea and Petra Williams, St Michaels has been particularly involved with supporting Jirka and Keira Kralovi who moved to Olomouc in the Czech Republic in 2008. (Some may remember that they came to visit us a few summers ago)

Olomouc is a large university town in Moravia, in the east of the country. Around 123,000 people live there, and this includes 20,000 or more students.

Jirka and Keira are committed to disciplining, training and equipping university students in Olomouc and further afield to become future leaders in the Czech church. This takes place through preaching, mid-week study groups, days out, weekends away, and hospitality at home.

Jirka preaches, teaches and has responsibility (through IFES) for the general oversight of students in other university CU groups in Moravia as well as for Olomouc CU.

He also teaches in the Czech Bible Institute in Kroměříž which aims to train up leaders for the future Czech church. Some of the students Jirka disciples have expressed an interest in attending the Institute.

During the summer months Jirka and Keira are involved in university student/church evangelistic camps in Czech Republic.

Keira carries out a support role. This includes providing hospitality at home, praying for Jirka and providing food for the groups he runs. As she is English she is the one who keeps in contact with the churches and individuals they partner with. She is also heavily involved in helping with organising the weekends away which they run twice a year.

As well as the above, Jirka and Keira are very committed to supporting their local church in the Czech Republic. Jirka preaches or leads the services when needed, whilst Keira regularly helps out with music during the service and with refreshments afterwards.

Please pray specifically for Jirka and Keira as they carry on the Lord's work and also, generally, for the work of Crosslinks.

<http://www.crosslinks.org/>

Rod Davey

FAIRTRADE STALL

As from the end of the year, Rose and John Loy from Kelvedon who supply us with the craft and food items on a sale-or-return basis for our monthly Fairtrade Stall will no longer be able to maintain this valuable service, which they have faithfully provided over many years.

Therefore we have to announce that the final regular Fairtrade Stall in church will be on Sunday 6 December.

We hope that we have raised awareness of the merits of being a Fairtrade shopper and encourage you to keep an eye open for such labelled products in the shops. Thank you for your continuing support.



® *Miriam and Terry Clark*

FILM AFTERNOON REVIEW FROM THE CRITICS



A thought provoking and very entertaining film about Mr Wilberforce's long struggle to halt the dreadful slave trade.

Popcorn was offered in the interval and lovely homemade cakes with sandwiches and tea at the end – and of course a chat to the other film-goers.

A most enjoyable afternoon.

It was agreed that it would be a good idea to have another film show and we hope more people will be able to attend.

Many thanks to all the helpers.

Audrey Hennessy

LADIES GROUP

We had our AGM in October. There were some changes to the committee and our new adopted charity was chosen. We then had a lively Beetle Drive, which was enjoyed by all.

Next month Lin Terris will show us some Christmas craft.

Helen Kemp

WANTED

YOU!

Through health problems several people have had to leave the Friday Church House cleaning rota.

If two or three of you could commit to joining our cleaning team once a month from February 2016, it would be very much appreciated. It may be that you are able to commit to a different day, this is also possible.

Please contact me to find out more and join our team.

Frankie Winning

CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

We are pleased to say that this is happening again and John Ray Junior School will be visiting us during the week beginning 30 November.

I know many of you enjoy being part of this so do have a word with me if you are available from Monday 30 November to Thursday 3 December.

As part of this event we plan to have the church open after the services on Sunday 29 November so that others can enjoy this Christmas Experience.

Jennifer Bailey

Day of Prayer and Gifts

Sunday 1 November

Gift Target £15,000

Church open for Prayer
and Giving from 2 pm



MISSIONARY BOXES OPENING



If you collect change at home for one or more of the mission societies we support, thank you. Please bring your box or boxes to church on Sunday 6 December or pass direct to the church rep for the relevant society on or before that date.

SHOE BOXES FOR OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD 2015

Thank you for all the shoeboxes, “fillers” and cash donations received for Operation Christmas Child (OCC) this year. Please bring completed boxes to church by Sunday 1 November. If you are running late please contact us and we can still take them to the warehouse.

If you would like to see more about the destinations of some of the boxes and the joy of the children receiving them please go to the Operation Christmas Child website.

I hope to tell you the destination of our boxes soon. If you make your donation towards transport costs online at www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk, as a number of our congregation do, you can track your box individually. If you meant to make a box but ran out of time it is still possible to create a shoebox online.

If anyone is interested in helping at the warehouse during November please contact us for further details.

Thank-you.

Jenny Chapman, Frankie Winning

HARVEST SUNDAY IN PICTURES



NOVEMBER DIARY

1 Sunday

All Saints' Day – Day of Prayer and Gifts

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey
10.00am Church Family Worship – Shepherd and sheep – David Huxter
5.15pm Evening Prayer – Jesus Chapel – Can. John Turton
6.30pm Evening Worship – A man of praise – Revd Charles Mason
7.30pm Focus
8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

2 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight - The Leader's House
12-2pm 'Pray one for me' – with Bp Roger in George Yard
7.30pm Bell Ringing
7.30pm Good Book College
8.00pm Badminton

3 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
7.25pm Elders – Church House
8.00pm Men's Bible Study

4 Wednesday

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
10.00am Holy Communion – Revd Charles Mason
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Deanery Synod – Church
8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road
8.30pm SuMMiT – Wagon and Horses, South Street

5 Thursday

- 2.15pm Women's Fellowship
3.30pm ASK – The tale of two sons
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

6 Friday

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

7 Saturday

8-10am SuMMiT Prayer Breakfast – Church House

8 Sunday 3rd before Advent - Remembrance Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Charles Mason

10.00am Morning Worship with Act of Remembrance –
What to live for – Maj. Gen. Roddy Porter

3.00pm Civic Service - Maj. Gen. Roddy Porter

6.30pm Holy Communion – How can you believe...? –
Revd Stephen Bailey

7.30pm Focus

8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

9 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight - The Guest House

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm Good Book College

8.00pm Badminton

10 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm Ladies Group

8.00pm Men's Bible Study

11 Wednesday

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road,
Chestnut Grove

12 Thursday

2.15pm Women's Fellowship

3.30pm ASK – Jesus' trial

7.30pm PCC – Church House

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

13 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

14 Saturday

10.00am Diocesan Synod – Chelmsford Cathedral

15 Sunday 2nd before Advent

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward

10.00am Holy Communion – Secrets of serenity –
Roger Cooke
6.30pm Evening Worship – Do you understand what I have
done to you? – Revd Charles Mason
7.30pm Focus
8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

16 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight - The Cheat's House
7.30pm Bell Ringing
7.30pm Good Book College
8.00pm Badminton

17 Tuesday **DECEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

10.00am CFW Planning Group – 10a Marshalls Road
1.15pm Tiddlywinks
7.30pm Evangelism Group – Church House
8.00pm Men's Bible Study

18 Wednesday

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.25pm Elders – Church House
8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road

19 Thursday

10.30am CHIP Group – Church House
2.15pm Women's Fellowship – Mr Andy Malcolm
2.30pm Holy Communion – The Hawthorns
3.30pm ASK – The end of time
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

20 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

22 Sunday **Christ the King**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Charles Mason
10.00am Morning Worship – Practical partnership –
Revd Charles Mason
6.30pm Evening Worship – Will [the Son of Man] find faith
on earth? – Can. John Turton

7.30pm Focus
8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

23 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing
7.30pm Good Book College
8.00pm Badminton

24 Tuesday

8.00pm Men's Bible Study

25 Wednesday

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Prayer Supper – Church House
8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road,
Chestnut Grove

26 Thursday

2.15pm Women's Fellowship
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

27 Friday

2.30pm Bradbury House Service – Cyril Bamforth
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Flower Club

29 Sunday Ist of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward
10.00am Holy Communion – Neighbourhood Watch –
Revd Charles Mason
6.00pm United Service at Christ Church, London Road
(no service at St Michaels)
7.30pm Focus

30 Monday

9.30am 'Experience Christmas' (John Ray Jr School)
7.30pm Bell Ringing
7.30pm Good Book College
8.00pm Badminton

FROM THE REGISTERS

No entries this month

Experience Christmas

Scenes from the Christmas story



Sunday 29 November
Church open 2.30 – 5.30

Refreshments

Greeters and café helpers needed

Part of the Braintree Town centre lights switch-on

WOMEN @ ST MICHAELS

Just some information and dates for your diary

Our next Conference day is to be in Church House on Saturday 30 January 2016 from 9-3.30 and we are looking forward to welcoming Lorna Ashworth back as our Speaker for the day. Lorna was with us in January 2014. We have lots of ideas and plans so please mark this date in your new diaries and we look forward to seeing you there.

Again in January 2016 on 9 Saturday we are planning a Prayer Breakfast for Women @ St Michaels in Church House and Kirsty Huxter will lead this. So another date for your diary.

Watch for further information.

Jennifer Bailey

LOOKING AFTER YOURSELF IN OLDER AGE

May I encourage many of you, especially those of 'more mature years', to consider taking out a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) which means that if you are unable to manage your affairs you have appointed others to act for you.

I know it can be expensive but there are web sites which can help you to set one up yourself at less cost. My experiences over the past few months have shown that, if the need arises, having an LPA in place can be well worth the expense for sparing a lot of worry and problems.

Shirley Thompson

O DU FRÖHLICHE – A FAMOUS GERMAN HYMN

Original German

O du fröhliche, o du selige,
Gnadenbringende
Weihnachtszeit!
Welt ging verloren, Christ ist
geboren:
Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

O du fröhliche, o du selige,
Gnadenbringende Osterzeit!
Welt lag in Banden, Christ ist
erstanden:
Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

O du fröhliche, o du selige,
Gnadenbringende Pfingstenzeit!
Christ unser Meister, heiligt die
Geister:
Freue, freue dich, o Christenheit!

Translation

O (you) joyful, O (you)
blessed,
grace-bringing Christmas time!
The world was lost, Christ is
born:
Rejoice, rejoice, O
Christianity!

O (you) joyful, O (you)
blessed,
grace-bringing time of Easter!
World lay in bondage, Christ is
risen:
Rejoice, rejoice, O
Christianity!

O joyful, O blessed,
grace-bring Pentecost time!
Christ our Master, sanctifies
the spirits:
Rejoice, rejoice, O
Christianity!

The tune is the same and the one for “The Internationale” which is always sung at Labour Party Conferences. (De Geyter 1888)

Peter Schaad

BELFRY BULLETIN

Recently we have been without Debbie Hill our guild Master in the tower. Debbie is recovering from an operation and we wish her well in her recovery. During her absence, Deputy Master Bradley Hill, has been doing a good job organising us and the ringing programme.



We have also been missing the presence of Queenie Brown with us and look forward to her being back with us soon. Gareth Davies also had a couple of weeks off for an operation, we are glad he is back ringing regularly.

During this time we have had help with our service ringing from Maurice Downs, who is a Life Member of the Essex Association. Thank you Maurice.

On Sunday 20 September before the evening service The Ancient Society of College Youth rang a peal of 5040 changes of Yorkshire Surprise Royal for their Societies peal weekend. This was dedicated to Queen Elizabeth II, in becoming our longest serving monarch.

For the ringing before the 10am service on Harvest Festival Sunday 30 October we were pleased to be joined by 17 ringers from East Kent who were on their annual ringing weekend. We enjoyed all 10 bells being rung for a service to a very high standard and we hope you enjoyed it as much as us.

When the EACR Northern District held the advance practice at St Michaels, there was some good ringing of methods not generally rung. This should help those who were present, to extend their abilities in their own towers for service ringing.

Peter Smith

NOVEMBER GARDENING TIP

The month of tidy and leaves

November is a good time to keep the lawns clear and to remove unwanted plants before winter settles.

Leaves left on the lawn can leave dead patches in the grass, so keep them on the lawn for as little time as possible.

Leaves can make good mulch, so they make a good alternative to bark to suppress weeds. Raking them from the lawn and placing where required to about an inch thick should help prevent weeds in the spring.

Dave Marriott

LINK

From January 2016 the price of LINK will rise to 30p.

This is the first increase for 11 years.

