

The LINK

30p

September 2016



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



Parish Surgery

St. Michael's Church office will be open to discuss parochial matters such as:

- baptismal requests
- marriage requests
- prayer needs
- spiritual support and guidance

Fridays 6:30 to 7:30pm

St. Michael's Church House Office
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www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk
[@stmichaelschurchbraintree](https://www.instagram.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree)

Dear Friends

I am writing this on 7 August as the reality of our situation strikes home. Today we are having the first 3 services that were not previously arranged by Charles before he left. I can remember two previous interregnums at St. Michael's when Dick Mulrenan and Barney Davies left. That in itself must be fairly unique for a modern day parish. I have been coming to St. Michael's since November 1967 and during that time we have only had three vicars! So an interregnum in itself is not something we are used to.

The difference, though, between now and the previous two occasions is that in both of them we had a curate to see us through; someone who had had a few years to get used to us and vice versa. This time we are on our own. Or are we?

Interregnum is one of those strange words that I only associate with the Church of England where quaint terminology is still the order of the day. (In the last three weeks we have had the "Archdeacon's visitation" and the "Quinquennial Inspection"! What did Shakespeare say? "A rose by any other name...") Interregnum means between rulers or possibly between kings. If we owe Charles Mason a debt of love for anything it is that during his 15 years with us we were constantly reminded that Jesus Christ is the only king or ruler St. Michael's could ever need.

So are we on our own? Of course not, and the two people who realise that most are Lesley and I. I was told a long time ago that there was a vicar at St. Michael's who would allow no church meeting to take place unless he was present. Apparently the only exception was his wife who ran the Mother's Union. Certainly for all my time in Braintree the clergy have been keen to include as many members of the congregation in church

activities as possible. As a result we have thriving children and youth work; we have all manner of practical committees that actually get things done and when I listen to people talking over coffee on Sunday morning I know that many of you actively care for and assist brothers and sisters in the fellowship.

But above all, we will never be alone because Jesus Christ is our constant companion. When Charles announced he was leaving I admit it came as a bit of a bombshell. Then I started hearing voices (no not the sort that get you locked away). God was speaking to me through many channels which not only became a comfort but which also gave me a clear message. It was this (and some of you have already heard me say it). “You are entering into a dark place which is unknown to you. Fear not, be assured that Jesus Christ has already gone ahead of you.”

I would like to have said that God gave me the name and address of our next vicar, but nobody promised being a Christian was easy. We still have to follow those quaint ways of the Church of England. The next step is the PCC meeting with the Bishop of Colchester on 8 September. The action point for everyone now is prayer. Be specific that God will direct us to the person He has chosen to lead our church family into an unknown but exciting future.

Yours in Christ our Saviour

Cyril Bamforth

MID-AFRICA MINISTRY CHANGES TO CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY – AFRICA

Since the 1960s at St Michaels we have been supporting mission work in Africa, first by way of the Ruanda Mission. Then that work spread to other African countries thus becoming Mid-Africa Ministry. Now, the working title is Church Mission Society – Africa.

CMS states that underpinning everything they do is a desire to see people discover a living, loving relationship with Jesus and that their priorities are:

Making Disciples – wanting to see communities of people being like Jesus with one another and within their neighbourhoods.

Encouraging Leaders – walking with local leaders worldwide and investing in their calls to mission.

People at Risk – showing people made vulnerable by unjust systems or circumstances, that they are valued by God.

Lasting economic change – it's about dignity and dependency, encouraging entrepreneurship and generating income for generations to come.

Peace and reconciliation – helping people in conflict to find forgiveness and a way forward.

Creation care – “For God so loved the world” the planet and the people – and we want to join Him in the renewal of both
All of the above happen within the realms of Evangelism, Healthcare, Agriculture and Supporting Widows and Orphans.

Two people working within CMS – Africa are Catriona and Stephen Bennett who first met in Uganda, whilst working in healthcare. They will be based at Gahini hospital in Rwanda where Steve will be working as a surgeon, training local doctors and establishing a safe surgical service. Catriona, an anaesthetist will work alongside nurse anaesthetists – providing care and helping staff develop their skills in this area. By the time they start working in Rwanda, they'll have welcomed their first child. Bisoke Balikenga is the provincial youth coordinator for the Anglican Church of the Congo. He is married to Furaha and they have three children. He has been involved in youth activities since 1969. He describes his vision as, “reaching young people with the gospel enabling them to discern the way forwards and to make informed decisions”. He hopes to raise up young “Christian patriots” who can contribute to the fight against poverty and work towards the reconstruction of D R Congo and the Republic of Congo. Recently, he has been working among the Pygmy people whose homelands have been devastated by logging, war and encroachment from farmers.

Please note the photos / information on the display board and the table in the refreshment area and please help yourselves to the material there.

Marion Richardson



WHITE HORSE TAVERN



Monday 19 September at 7.30 in Church House marks the first session at '***The White Horse Tavern.***'

See Stephen Bailey, Jenny Chapman or Lin Terris for details.

BELFRY BULLETIN

With holiday season reducing attendance numbers it has given us the opportunity to practice different ringing from our norm.

Ellie, Phil and Gareth, after doing so on their own, practiced raising and lowering a bell in peal for the 1st time. Not easy but a good effort.

Having seen Roy Threadgold, an experienced ringer from Wethersfield, ring double handed (a bell with each hand), Bradley has wanted to try it. Eventually Mum Debbie was persuaded to let him have a go, he did and very well too. I wonder if he will do it again?

Richard, Phil and Gareth are learning to ring Plain Bob Doubles on a working bell (inside) with experienced ringers on all other bells. One practice night they took the opportunity to all ring inside together for the first time, very pleasing.

During this holiday season the number of ringers available throughout the District has been low and so we have been unable to ring on two Sundays. Sorry.

Peter Smith

A LIFE POINT OR TWO

- We can learn the way God thinks and try to do the same and we can also learn how God talks and try to talk the same.
- You can't be a lazy Christian and have victory.
- GOD loves us so much that He never leaves us alone.
- Have you ever seen an apple tree trying to make apples like most of us are trying to achieve things without doing GOD'S will?

- There is not a moment in my life when I don't need GOD.
- JESUS said and says if you abide in me you will bear much fruit.

Peter Schaad

GARDENING TIPS

September is now here and it's still prime time in the garden. My favourite part of this time of year is being able to pick an apple off the tree and munch away.

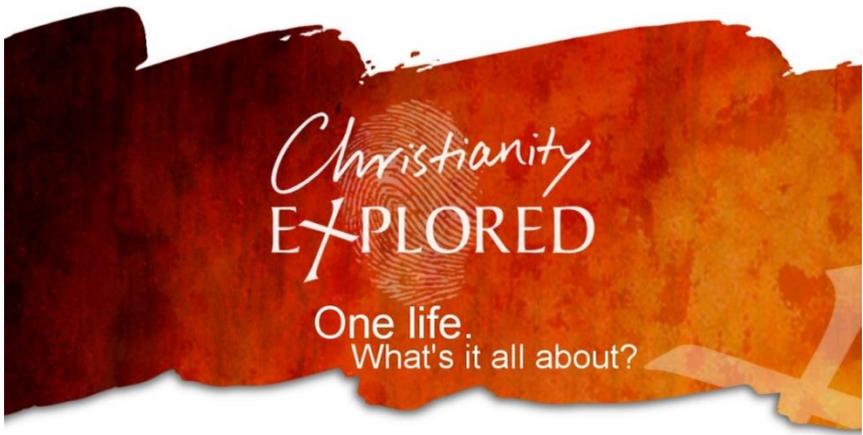
Looking at my trees this year the *Falstaff* is absolutely loaded with fresh good looking fruit and if it follows from the last few years the flavour is excellent. I might even get a number of apples from the *Bramley* that has so far eluded productivity.

The tomatoes are still being collected, and even more exciting I can see next to them a number of green chillies looking ready for picking. What I am unsure of is how hot they are. It looks like the best harvest I've had for a few years. The experiment is working.

I would now think about making sure any parts of the garden that have been stressed over the summer and the school holidays are looked after. Maybe some autumn feed/weed in the lawn where that tent was. Putting some aeration holes in the lawn where paddling pools were will also allow the compressed soil under the grass to be opened up, allowing water to permeate and the grass to recover.

One thing I do still enjoy is the early evening outside, if I can, the autumn sun is still great.

Dave Marriott



**Tuesdays from 4 October
7- 9 pm
St Michaels Church House**

- An informal course to discover what being a Christian is really all about.
- Starts with a free hot meal
- Babysitting available - please ask
- Also ideal for new Christians
- Last session 15 November

To book or for more information, please contact:

Lin Terris
Joel Wicks

SEPTEMBER DIARY

1 Thursday

2.15pm Women's Fellowship

2 Friday

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

4 Sunday 15th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey

10.00am Church Family Worship

5.15pm Evening Prayer – Jesus Chapel

6.30pm Evening Worship – God's love for his sinful people
- Jennifer Bailey

7.30pm Focus

5 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm Evangelism Group

8.00pm Badminton

6 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

7 Wednesday

10.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road

8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer, chat and curry – Wetherspoons,
Fairfield Road

8 Thursday

2.15pm Women's Fellowship

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm PCC

9 Friday

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

- 11 Sunday 16th after Trinity**
 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote
 10.00am Morning Worship – Ephesians: An overview – Roger Cooke
 6.30pm Holy Communion – Turn back to God – Revd Stephen Bailey
 7.30pm Focus
 8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel
- 12 Monday**
 12.15pm Spotlight
 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
 7.30pm Bell Ringing
 8.00pm Badminton
- 13 Tuesday OCTOBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE**
 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
 8.00pm Ladies Group
- 14 Wednesday**
 6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
 8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road, Chestnut Grove
- 15 Thursday**
 3.30pm ASK
 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)
- 16 Friday**
 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House
- 18 Sunday 17th after Trinity**
 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward
 10.00am Morning Holy Communion - Spiritual blessings in Christ – Revd Stephen Bailey
 6.30pm Evening Worship – Complacency & idolatry – Canon John Turton
 7.30pm Focus

19 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House
- 8.00pm Badminton

20 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

21 Wednesday

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

22 Thursday

- 2.15pm Women's Fellowship
- 3.30pm ASK
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

23 Friday

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

25 Sunday 18th after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion – (tbc)
- 10.00am Morning Worship – Thanksgiving and prayer – Canon John Turton
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Turning back – Cyril Bamforth
- 7.30pm Focus
- 8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

26 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House
- 8.00pm Badminton

27 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

28 Wednesday

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road,
Chestnut Grove

29 Thursday

2.15pm Women's Fellowship
3.30pm ASK
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with
Lin first)

30 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Flower Club

FROM THE REGISTERS

No Entries



This year's SMASH Club was titled 'Space Academy' and was about Daniel and his friends trying to live God's way, in the face of great danger, in a place far from home.



Each morning around 70 children, 20 junior helpers and their adult leaders gathered together at Mission Control in Church House. We

were hosted by the anxious 'Disaster Dan' and the confident 'Captain Courageous' who were preparing for a mission to space. Each day we spoke via 'skype' to Angelica Faith (Emma Nash) on the International Space Station, who shared a story about Daniel and his friends to help us survive in space.



Thursday saw our dramatic 'launch' with a cliff-hanger ending and on Friday we rescued Angelica from the stricken space station.

For the second part of the morning the teams took part in several activities. Ed Nash organised lots of energetic games. Frankie Winning and her team provided both children and adults with refreshments while they reflected on the day's Bible story with Andy, Stephen Bailey and me. Lauryn Wicks demonstrated some fun crafts which included lion cupcakes, vegetable fridge magnets and personalised 'writing walls' which the children enjoyed making.



During the week the children and their competitive leaders also had some great ideas for the team challenge of constructing something space related to show on Friday, including space rockets, robots and

the 'Mars Rover'. They worked hard at home too, producing beautiful pictures, models and jokes for the SMASH Club post box.

This year, as ever, we had a great team of dedicated leaders and an army of people supporting us in prayer. Thank you again to everyone who helped make SMASH Club 2016 such a joyful and special time, it was a blessing to be involved.

Joel Wicks

A LITTLE HUMOUR

READING THE LESSON

ADVICE



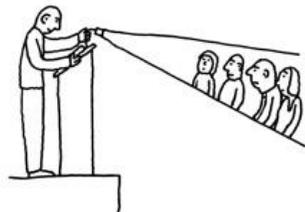
**SPEND TIME REHEARSING
AT HOME**



**WORK ON YOUR DICTION
AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY**



TURN UP



**ADJUST THE MICROPHONE
AND LECTERN LIGHT**



TRY NOT TO RUSH



**BE CONFIDENT-
RELAX AND ENJOY IT**

CartoonChurch.com

