

The LINK

30p

November 2016



The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

Remembrance Day Events

Sunday 13 November

- 10am St. Michaels Morning Service with Squadron Leader Colin Woodland of SASRA
- 11am 2 minutes' silence
- 1.30pm Remembrance Parade from Causeway House to Public Gardens
- 2.10pm British Legion open air service in Braintree and Bocking Public Gardens with parade back to St. Michaels
- 3pm Civic Service at St. Michaels led by the Royal British Legion with Squadron Leader Colin Woodland of SASRA preaching



Dear Friends

Two years ago Rod and I went to New England for our annual holiday. One evening, whilst in New York State, we met a group of Americans who were at our hotel for a reunion of the descendants of the Talcott family who left on the Lyon from Braintree in the 1630's!

Since then we have kept in touch and arranged to meet some of them again this year, whilst on our Golden Wedding tour of the U.S.A. and Canada. We spent the day with Gahrad and his wife Mary-Lou and were shown the sights. Apart from the scenery their knowledge of our home town and their hospitality, what impressed us the most was our visit to their church, the Christ Wesleyan Church of Milton, Pennsylvania.

This had been founded in 1913 in the town by the riverbank. It began with a small congregation of 50 members and by the early 1960's had shrunk to such an extent that the church was in danger of closure. However, this did not happen as a new pastor was found and the church began to grow; expanding to 80 by 1968.

In 1972 they decided to relocate to higher ground as the building was far too susceptible to flooding and was becoming too small anyway. An opportunity arose to buy a field out of town but when negotiations began the seller explained that her late husband had always dreamed of a church on that site and, by the way, did they want the whole farm? After a great deal of prayer, the decision was taken to buy all the land and trust that the Lord had plans for it. Well, it's quite clear that He did for the church itself has been extended three times and there is now also a school, youth centre, gymnasium, coffee shop and book store on the site. The congregation is now 1,500.

I asked Ken Paulhamus, the Administrative Pastor, who had shown us round what he attributed to their growth. His reply reinforced all the ideas that Cyril and I have been discussing over the past few months because he said the following:

“We knew that the Holy Spirit was leading us to reflect upon the growth of the early Church as detailed in Acts. We believed that God had given us a clear mission to be a strong voice to our community. A voice that reached an inter-generational body of believers with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ and one that empowered us all to make a difference.

As the gospel spread and the church grew it became obvious that no one person could run a church of this size – it needed a team. Ours consists of men, women, volunteers, paid leaders and those who just come to worship.

We looked at the skill sets of those around us and understood that the early fathers were right - not all are preachers or carers or administrators. What was required to grow and sustain our community was an evangelical leader who preached the Word and left the others to sustain it. As a result, we have a team of pastors who are each responsible for their area – be it administration, music, pastoral care or youth work. No one person deals with it all and no one person on the staff is isolated. Everyone within the congregation has their needs met through our Lord who uses us as his hands and feet.”

Surely this should be our model? It is a beginning and for that Cyril and I are grateful. We just need your help to formulate our vision for St Michaels and Braintree and then find the right leader.

Yours in Jesus

Lesley Davey

MISSION OF THE MONTH

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY - Latin America

Back in June, when we were preparing for the exhibition in church to mark the Queen's 90th birthday and 90 years at St Michael's, I was sorting some old papers and found a parish magazine for January 1968. Leafing through it, I came across two pages headed "Missionary Matters". Much of the information concerned support for Michael and Margaret Gooday who had gone out from St Michael's to work with the Ruanda Mission. [As Marion Richardson described in the September *Link*, Ruanda Mission later became Mid-Africa Ministries and is itself now part of the Church Mission Society (CMS).]

Back to the 1968 magazine. Another topic in Missionary Matters was of special interest to me. It read:

"South American Missionary Society. This Society has not been supported by our Church hitherto... However South America is an extremely important part of the world, and is also the sub-continent in which the Gospel is making the greatest advances in this mid-twentieth century. It is right, therefore, that we should learn more of God's challenge to us concerning South America."

So began St Michael's support for the South American Missionary Society (SAMS), support which has continued for almost half a century and today it is still true to say that South America is an area where the gospel is "making advances". The work of SAMS in South America and the Iberian Peninsular then and now is very varied, caring not just for the spiritual needs of rich and poor, in urban or extremely rural communities, but also getting involved in very practical ways with the physical, social and even environmental needs of those ministered to.

Over the years SAMS experienced a number of changes. Some years ago, like a number of other Christian organisations, the

society changed the word “Missionary” to “Mission” in its name, reflecting the fact that in the modern world, those who go out from the UK to work overseas do so as “mission partners”, working alongside local Christians, supporting and encouraging them. Today “Mission Partners” from the UK and “Latin Partners” are equally involved in sharing the gospel and living it out wherever they minister.

For the last six years this work has continued under a new parent body. On 1 February 2010 SAMS became part of the worldwide ministry of the Church Mission Society (CMS) and then earlier this year, following a “rebranding” within CMS the whole Society has become even more integrated, especially in its publications.

Since the changes within CMS, a prayer diary specifically dealing with Latin America is no longer produced. However, the October/November issue of the general prayer guide, *Prayerlines*, can be found on the Mission of the Month display in the welcome area and includes information about work in a number of South American countries.

Together with *Prayerlines*, CMS now produces a newspaper-style publication, *The Call*. You will also find copies of the autumn issue of this publication on the Mission of the Month table. It covers the worldwide work of CMS and, although this issue focuses especially on work among Muslim people both in the UK and overseas, you can also find details of the aspects of activities in Latin America and elsewhere. More about the work of CMS can also be found at www.churchmissionsociety.org.

If you would like to receive *Prayerlines* and *The Call* on a regular basis, please contact me.

Margaret St John-Coleman

LADIES GROUP

We held our A.G.M. in October. We decided to adopt the charity “Mary’s Fund”; and the committee will remain the same for the next year. During her report Joyce referred to the fact that this has not been an easy year for Ladies Group. Numbers are continuing to drop and, as 2017 will be the milestone golden anniversary year, this will probably be the time to finish.

When the business was over we enjoyed each other’s company by playing some board games together.

Next month Angie will share the pictures and memories of her recent holiday to China.

Helen Kemp

A FEW WORDS

Statement attributed to George Duffield:

Stand up, stand up for Jesus
Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you
Ye dare not trust your own.

Said by Joyce Meyer, Evangelist:
As long as you keep believing God is working.

Supplied by Peter Shaard

GARDENING TIPS

November is one month I tend not to garden as such, more of get going with the DIY in the garden.

Fences once clear of growth are prepared for a coat of paint. Furniture if possible is moved inside and out of the way for the winter.

I make sure that we are ready for winter with a stock of grit in, check the winter shovel is there and that all is as clear as possible to avoid trip hazards in dark, damp and possibly icy weather. It is always a lot better to be safe and prepared.

Dave Marriott

WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Please note that the walk scheduled for Saturday 12 November has had to be postponed to the following week, Saturday 19 November.

We do hope you will still be able to join us for a 5-mile circular walk.

We plan to meet from 1.45pm to set off at 2pm from outside The Bull / on the bridge at the lower end of Halstead High Street.

Terry & Miriam Clark

MARY'S STORY

On 31 July our beautiful lively happy 3-year-old granddaughter was admitted to Colchester General Hospital. Her breathing had been unusual and her temperature of 39C could not be controlled with Calpol. Within 15 minutes of arriving she had gone from stable to incredibly ill on oxygen and antibiotics. For the next 2 hours nurses, consultants and doctors worked constantly on Mary. Her body was hot, her arms and legs were ice cold and she had a rash.

She was transferred to the High Dependency Unit where she appeared to be improving but by 10pm it was obvious she needed to be transferred to Addenbrookes.

Doctors were so worried they were not sure she would survive the journey to Addenbrookes so she was put into an induced coma on a life support machine.

Staff worked round the clock to help her body fight the infection. It was days before test results showed that as well as a serious chest infection she had streptococcus A, enterovirus, human melapneumo virus and rhinovirus. Together they had sent Mary into Septic shock. Doctors removed over 600mls of fluid from her lungs, she had 2 blood transfusions, MRI scan and CT scans and a lumbar puncture.

After 10 days in a coma she was brought out and gradually she was taught to speak, eat and walk.

She has suffered the equivalent of frost bite on her fingers due to the lack of blood supply in her extremities. She will lose part of all the fingers on her left hand which by the time you read this might have taken place. (The operation is scheduled for 4 November)

Miraculously she is doing very well and finally on the 19 September she was allowed home.

We are very grateful to all our church family who have prayed, enquired and shown your love and concern for us as a family. It is a miracle that Mary has recovered so well.

Sasha, John, Norman and I would like to thank you all for your support.

Joyce Plaistow

Sepsis – the symptoms you need to keep an eye out for

Sepsis kills as many people nationwide in a year as breast cancer – 37,000. And yet many of people are unaware of the devastating illness.

Sepsis is a potentially life-threatening condition triggered by an infection or injury.

The body's immune system goes into overdrive as it tries to fight. This can reduce the blood supply to vital organs such as the brain, heart and kidneys.

Sepsis can lead to multiple organ failure and death.

Symptoms to watch for are a high temperature, chills and shivering, a fast heartbeat and fast breathing.

If you suspect sepsis, call NHS 111 immediately.

NOVEMBER DIARY

1 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
7.00pm Christianity Explored

2 Wednesday

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
10.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House
8.00pm Bible Study Group: Lifebuilder

3 Thursday

- 2.15pm Women's Fellowship
3.30pm ASK

4 Friday

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

6 Sunday

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey
10.00am Church Family Worship
5.15pm Evening Prayer – Jesus Chapel
6.30pm Evening Worship – Comfort with truth – Cyril Bamforth
7.30pm Focus

7 Monday

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

8 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
7.00pm Christianity Explored
8.00pm Ladies Group

9 Wednesday

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Chestnut Grove
8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer, chat and curry – Wetherspoons,
Fairfield Road

10 Thursday

- 2.15pm Women's Fellowship
3.30pm ASK

11 Friday

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

13 Sunday

25th after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Keith Holloway
10.00am Remembrance Day – Sq. Leader Colin Woodland
3.00pm Civic Service – Sq. Leader Colin Woodland
6.30pm Holy Communion – Evil will not triumph – tbc
7.30pm Focus
8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

14 Monday

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

15 Tuesday

DECEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
7.00pm Christianity Explored

16 Wednesday

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House
8.00pm Bible Study Group: Lifebuilder

17 Thursday

- 3.30pm ASK
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

18 Friday

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

20 Sunday Christ the King – A day of Prayer and Fasting

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward
10.00am Morning Holy Communion - The good shepherd – Revd Stephen Bailey
6.30pm Evening Worship – Shake up the people – Canon John Turton
7.30pm Focus

21 Monday

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

22 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
7.30pm Christianity Explored

23 Wednesday

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Chestnut Grove

24 Thursday

- 2.15pm Women's Fellowship
3.30pm ASK
7.30pm PCC

25 Friday

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House
7.30pm Flower Club

- 27 Sunday 1st of Advent**
- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote
- 10.00am Morning Worship – The door – Roger Cook
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Complete the rebuilding –
Stephen Bazlinton
- 7.30pm Focus
- 8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel
- 28 Monday**
- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House
- 8.00pm Badminton
- 29 Tuesday**
- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
- 7.30pm Christianity Explored
- 30 Wednesday**
- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
- 6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
- 7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House
- 8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funeral

19 Sept. Lucy Hughes

BELFRY BULLETIN

As a band we are continuing to practice methods we started to learn recently and we are becoming more competent in ringing them.

November is the Essex Association of Change Ringers Northern District's Quarter Peal Month. At St. Michaels we will attempt to ring Quarter Peals for afternoon and evening services during the month. More of that next month.

Guild mini outing

It was agreed that we would have a Mini Outing and not a day long one this year as we had already had our 3 days in the Derbyshire Peaks in May.

Saturday 15 October was the day chosen as our Welsh contingent were visiting that weekend.

The day consisted of 3 towers to ring at, a relaxed lunch and our traditional cheese and port evening.

Our 1st tower was the recently refurbished and augmented ring of 6 at Willingale. These very nice bells were good to ring and an encouraging start to the day and our ringing did these bells justice.

We then went to lunch at The Black Bull Fyfield. All our meals were of generous portions, very tasty, nicely presented and served. A chance remark that there is a method called Fyfield Surprise Minor had us hastily learning the blue line [method] in preparation for our next tower.

Back to the bells and the light 6 at Fyfield. We all had a good ring and then surprised the local ringers by attempting ring Fyfield Surprise Minor as they did not know it existed and we nailed it

with none of us ever having rung or seen it before that day. We were like dogs with 2 tails.

Then we were off to our last tower of the day which were the heavy 6 at Bobbingworth. This is an interesting experience as the bells are hung in a tower built over the church porch and rung when standing in the porch with this being the only entrance to the church. Again we all had a good ring and we rang Fyfield Surprise Minor again because we could.

To bring an excellent and very enjoyable day to a close we assembled to sample some interesting cheese and sip a very good port. As usually happens on these occasions there was a lot of leg pulling, general bell ringing banter and serious discussion of many subjects. A fitting way to end the day.

A GREAT DAY OF BELL RINGING AND CHRISTIAN
CAMARADERY

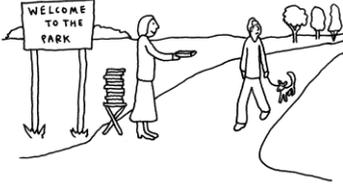
Peter Smith



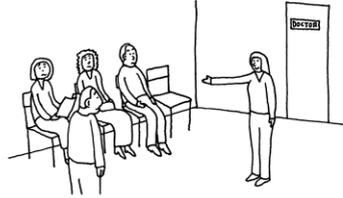
A LITTLE HUMOUR

SIDESPERSONS

TYPICAL OFF-DUTY ACTIVITIES



GIVING OUT HYMN BOOKS



DIRECTING PEOPLE TO SEATS



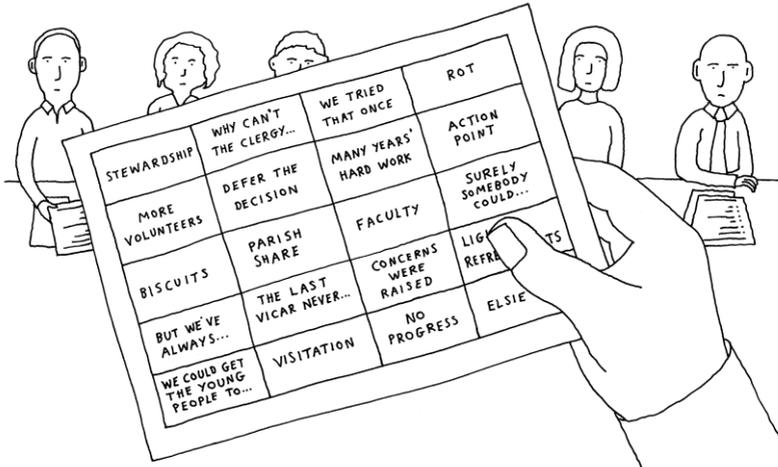
PASSING AROUND A COLLECTION PLATE



CHANGING NUMBERS

CartoonChurch.com

WORDS AND PHRASES OFTEN USED DURING MEETINGS
OF THE PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL



CartoonChurch.com

PATTERN OF SUNDAY SERVICES

The Book of Common Prayer is used for the services marked 
Common Worship is used for all other services

Sunday in the month	8.00 am	10.00 am with crèche	6.30pm
FIRST	 Holy Communion	Church Family Worship (all-age)	5.15 pm Evening Prayer  6.30 pm Evening Worship
SECOND	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
THIRD	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship
FOURTH	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
FIFTH	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	United Service

**The above is subject to change at festivals
Please check Diary section for exact details**

MIDWEEK SERVICES

 Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Wednesday of the month (**except August**) at 10.00am in the Jesus Chapel.

There is normally a celebration of Holy Communion on the evening of Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, and on the afternoon of Ascension Day. Please check Diary section.