

The LINK

30p

February 2017



The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

Dear Friends,

Firstly, we would like to thank every one of you for your steady support over the past six months. This must appear to you all to be a tortuous, arduous and long drawn out process to find a replacement for Charles. Unfortunately, this seems to be the way of everything nowadays – all the technicalities have to be observed and every jot and tittle checked and re-checked.

However, and this is our second point; one major hurdle has been cleared. On 4 January, after consultation with you all and a talk from David Banting of the CPAS, the PCC voted by a clear majority to invoke the resolution regarding women bishops and alternative episcopal oversight.*

As a result of this vote we are now able to put the following paragraph into the Parish Profile (or advertising brochure, if you prefer):

*As conservative evangelicals we hold to the doctrine of male headship in St Michael's but only in respect of our leader. To us the policy of mutual flourishing is equally important as nobody should feel unwelcome here. We are all equal in the sight of God. We are the family of God where everyone is involved in the leadership at all levels, including teaching, preaching and presiding at communion; **but** our male leader is the head of our family, as Christ is the head of His Church.*

Thirdly, we want to make it abundantly clear that the PCC has not rejected women's ministry. We realise that the vote has the potential of upsetting those who feel we do not support women in ministry but this is not the case, we do. In fact, a major result of the vote has been to confirm and clarify their equal status within St Michaels.

Now is the time for us all to come together in order to re-shape the future. It became clear throughout this process that we all want the Holy Spirit to send us a team leader and not a “dominant male”. We will be looking shortly to interview someone who heads a team of men and women to bring the Gospel out to the people of the town.

To this end, the resolution result will be sent to “the powers that be” and we can then move swiftly on to advertising in the Church Times for our new man. Please pray that the Holy Spirit will work quickly to bring him to us.

Yours in Christ

Cyril & Lesley

* We will only require the oversight of the Bishop of Maidstone in the, unlikely, event of a situation arising where we feel our own Bishop cannot work with us because of our views on headship.

MISSION OF THE MONTH LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP

This month we are due to pray for Langham Partnership. Here is some latest news from them.

*“We want to see the Bible **changing the church**, so that the church, under God, can change the world.”*



Ruth Padilla DeBorst, a Langham scholar and already an internationally sought-after speaker and theological leader in Latin America says, *“Thanks to John Stott’s vision and self-sacrificial commitment to the values of God’s reign, and to the faithful stewardship of Chris Wright and his team in Langham Partnership, the seeds of radical discipleship are being sown and watered in the Latino world by schools of biblical preachers, by biblical scholars, and by evangelical writers.”*

Stephen Bailey

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child

I am delighted to say we took 106 boxes to the Chelmsford warehouse in November along with numerous fillers and money to assist with transport. Several members of St Michael's worked in the warehouse checking and packing the 21,319 boxes that were processed this year. The first 8,282 went to Zambia and the rest were sent to Ukraine. A big thank you to all who helped to make this possible.

In order for this to be achieved with full boxes we are dependent on those who knit, sew and collect things throughout the year. Items made include hats, gloves, scarves, bags, finger puppets. If you are able to make any of these items and would like a pattern please contact me or look on the website. Unfortunately we are unable to send any homemade stuffed items.

The following is written by a man, Evgeniy, who received a shoebox when he was 12, was delighted with his bar of soap and flannel, hid the soap for over a year until they had showers on site at his orphanage and was thrilled to share it with a friend. 'Today, I work for a pharmaceutical company that makes eye care products. Looking back, I realize that my shoebox gave me a sense of hope. It showed me that someone really cared enough to pack this gift and send it to me. To the person that packed my shoebox, I say, "Thank you! You gave me something small, but it was so significant!"

Now as I pack shoeboxes, every one contains a bar of scented soap just like the one I received and a washcloth. I want the child to experience what I experienced. I want them to know that there's someone who cares for them. Most of all, I want them to know God loves them.' He became a Christian after he was adopted.

Sending a shoebox is a way of showing God's love to those who are much less fortunate than us.

Frankie helping with the last shoebox of the year.



Derek and Jim sealing boxes after checking.

Jenny Chapman

LADIES GROUP

Frankie and Jim Winning from our own Church family came to speak to us in January. Following a conversation with a friend of one of their daughters Frankie suggested to Jim that they copy the friend's example and go backpacking around the world. At first Jim was understandably sceptical, but the more they looked into the idea, the more feasible it became. So in September 2005 they set off.

Their first stop was South Africa. They visited the Kruger National Park, which is the size of Wales. They encountered 22 different species of animals and were able to handle or stroke many of them including elephants, ostriches, cheetahs and giraffes. They visited the township and main town of Soweto, the one-time home of Nelson Mandela as well as the Cape Town hospital where the first human heart transplant was carried out in 1967.

They went next to Malaysia and Singapore. Whilst there they saw some orang-utans and helped to move some freshly hatched turtles to the safety of the sea. They were entertained by and participated in an evening of homemade local entertainment that included a lady playing the flute with air from her nostrils, dancing amongst moving poles and Frankie and Jim introducing the locals to the Ockay Cokay!

The next stop was New Zealand. There are approximately 40,000,000 sheep on both islands. They spent that Christmas on the North Island, where their lunch consisted of roast lamb with all the trimmings and pavlova. Frankie was disappointed not to have a beach BBQ on Christmas day, but the weather was not nice enough; however, they were able to celebrate New Year sitting in a hot tub in the open air. Whilst in New Zealand they

saw Penguins, visit a beach which is also home to many gannets and see some geysers which dispelled bubbling mud.

Throughout the trip, Jim and Frankie found many opportunities to worship in local Churches. Often the language was a barrier to fully participating fully, but on each occasion the aura of Christian worship was present.

Next month Alex Bass will be paying us a return visit to tell us something of the Brecklands and Thetford.

Helen Kemp



Whenever you buy anything online you could be collecting free donations for us – The Friends of St Michael's School – Braintree.

Do you shop in any of these places...?

There are over **3,000** shops and sites on board ready to make a donation, including:

Amazon, John Lewis, Aviva, M&S, Tesco and Sainsbury's – it doesn't cost you a penny extra!



It's as easy as 1, 2, 3...

1. Head to

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stmbraintree/>
and join for free.

2. Every time you shop online, go to easyfundraising first to find the site you want and start shopping.

3. After you've checked out, that retailer will make a donation to your good cause for no extra cost whatsoever!

There are no catches or hidden charges and The Friends of St Michael's School - Braintree will be really grateful for your donations.

Please take just 5 mins to sign up, go via easyfundraising to your usual shopping websites and the pennies will come rolling in to us, it won't cost you at all.

There is an app you can download for phones and tablets and a reminder you can set up. Head to www.easyfundraising.org.uk for more information.



The banner features three icons: a pink heart with a smile, a green shopping basket, and a gold coin with a pound sign. Below these icons are the words 'Join', 'Shop', and 'Raise'. To the right, the text reads 'Collect FREE funds for us' in large teal letters, followed by 'any time you shop with' and the Easyfundraising logo (a teal circle with a white 'e') and the tagline 'easyfundraising feel good shopping'. On the far right, a teal rounded rectangle contains the text 'Sign up now' in white.

Katie Whitlock

FEBRUARY DIARY

1 Wednesday

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

2 Thursday

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

3 Friday

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

5 Sunday

4th before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Church Family Worship
5.15pm Evening Prayer – Jesus Chapel
6.30pm Evening Worship – Pentecost
7.30pm Focus

6 Monday

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

7 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8 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
- 8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer, chat and curry – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Road

9 Thursday

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

10 Friday

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

12 Sunday 3rd before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Morning Worship – Our life in Christian fellowship – Canon John Turton
- 6.30pm Holy Communion – Cut to the heart
- 7.30pm Focus

13 Monday

- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House
- 8.00pm Badminton

14 Tuesday MARCH LINK SUBMISSION DUE

- 8.00pm Ladies Group

15 Wednesday

- 8.00pm Bible Study Group: Lifebuilder
8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer, chat and curry – Wetherspoons,
Fairfield Road

16 Thursday

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

17 Friday

- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

19 Sunday 2nd before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion – Our life in the home –
Revd Stephen Bailey
6.30pm Evening Worship – Lame beggar healed
7.30pm Focus

20 Monday

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

21 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

22 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

23 Thursday

- 3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

24 Friday

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

26 Sunday Next before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship – Our life at work – Roger Cooke
6.30pm Evening Worship – By faith in His name
7.30pm Focus

27 Monday

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

28 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

FROM THE REGISTERS

No entries

BELFRY BULLETIN

Ringling has been going well with our Service ringing and practice nights being well attended and on occasions ringing all 10 bells.

For one service, recently we rang Plain Bob Minor on the front 6 bells with FOUR tenors covering.

We enjoyed our Christmas Service ringing and hope you did as well.

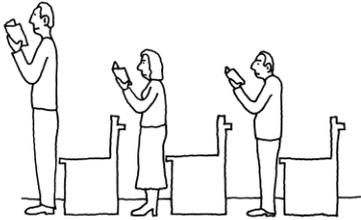
Guild Master, Bradley Hill, almost turned our Christmas dinner into an intelligence test when he produced some sheets of conundrums for us to solve during the evening but we managed in a none competitive way. We had a very enjoyable evening with the usual discussion and leg pulling that takes place amongst our very friendly group. Debbie Hill arranged the event in her own inimitable way, THANKS Debbie. And nobody forgot what meal they had ordered !!!

At our practice night on Monday 10 January we only had 6 members in attendance. It was Ellis Whitehouse Birthday so to wish him Happy Birthday on his Birthday we rang the following Quarter Peal := 1260 changes Plain Bob Doubles in 42mins Treble Ellie Gray, 2 Debbie Hill. 3 Ellis Whitehouse, 4 Peter Smith, 5 Bradley Hill[c], 6 Gareth Davies

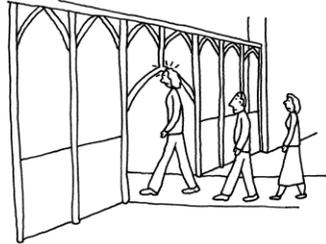
Peter Smith

A LITTLE HUMOUR

THE PERILS OF BEING TALL



CAUSING AN OBSTRUCTION



BANGING ONE'S HEAD



IT IS DIFFICULT TO HIDE WHEN
A VOLUNTEER IS REQUIRED



BEING ASKED TO RETRIEVE THINGS
FROM HIGH SHELVES

CartoonChurch.com

GARDENING TIPS

February is a month of preparation, its thinking what I want to grow and where to plant it. I ask myself what am I trying to achieve: is it for food? for colour? for structure? or just because?

I often think of replanting, relocating, and feeding to make sure what is in my garden flourishes. If its lacking sun, food or simply doesn't fit then it will need more care or die. Each plant is unique and needs the right conditions. Think what will regrow and ask is it in the right place and what do you need to care for it.

So, get a piece of paper, plan the garden and design. You might surprise yourself what you find and what you need.

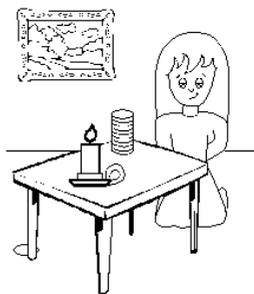
Dave Marriott

Lost Coin Word Search

N O I T A R B E L E C H N T P
Y J S E P S W K Z D X C I N A
A R D E C A K Y H S C R N A R
S E E S I R A H P H E A E T A
N H O S H E P H E R D E T N B
S R E Y A R P A H S C S Y E L
T F O R G I V E N E S S N P E
F O U N D E A I L O S T I E J
I T B P N R O U O J S V N R O
T B W T T C T H G I L Z E P Y

ask
celebration
coins
forgiveness
found
heart
heaven
joy
light

lost
ninety-nine
parable
Pharisees
prayer
repentant
search
sheep
shepherd



The **Parable of the Lost Coin** appears in Luke 15:8–10. In it, a woman searches for a lost coin, finds it, and rejoices. It is a parable on redemption that Jesus tells after the Pharisees and religious leaders accuse him of welcoming and eating with "sinners."