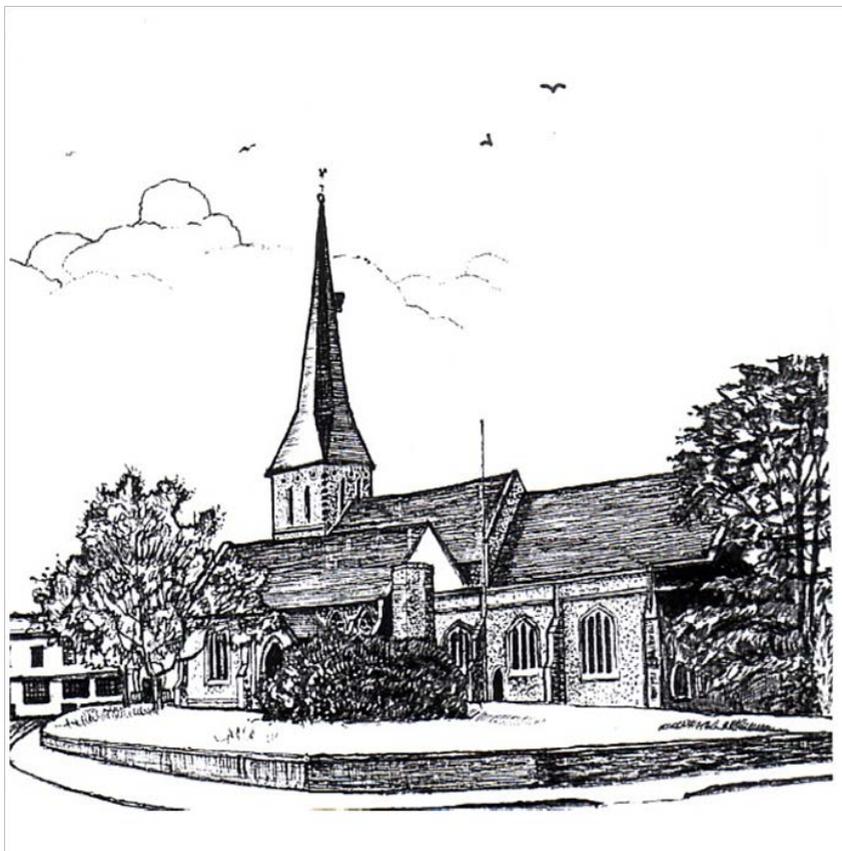


The LINK

30p

May 2017



The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



Summer Fete – 30th June 6-8pm



Are you a
face painter?

Do you have your
own company
and would like a stall?

Roll up, roll up, We need you...

Would you be happy to have
an estate agent board
advertising in your garden?

Can you apply
glitter tattoos?

Could your company donate
us a raffle prize?

13 weeks to go...

If you can help with any of the above then
please contact chinnockdean@yahoo.co.uk

Thank you



Dear Friends

When you see a light at the end of a tunnel, be careful! It might just be an express train hurtling towards you!

However, I like to think that we are now coming to the end of the vacancy tunnel and are coming out into the light of a new beginning at St. Michael's.

As I write this letter it is the afternoon of Easter Day when once more we celebrate new life as our Lord the Father restores life to His faithful Son. Something that John Turton said at the service on Maundy Thursday got me thinking about just how faithful Jesus was to His Father's Will.

In the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus prays, "let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will" (Matthew 26:39). Yet just a few minutes later as Judas and the armed crowd come to arrest Him, Jesus says, "Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and He will at once send me more than 12 legions of angels (*to protect Jesus*)" (Matthew 26:53).

I must admit that sometimes I forget that Jesus had a real choice. Matthew 26:53 is not just rhetoric. The devil himself confirms that God the Father's angels are on standby orders to protect Jesus the Son (Matthew 4; 6).

Jesus chose "the path least travelled". His human body rightly knew and feared what was laid out in His Father's Will but His faithful soul knew far more deeply what love God had for His rebellious creation. And whilst the time from Gethsemane to the Cross and the grave must have seemed endless; and the time from Crucifixion to Resurrection must have seemed like an eternity; Christ's triumph brings us endless joy and eternal love.

And a new beginning! And that beginning is for both our individual and corporate lives. A personal Saviour who frees each one of us from death and a Bridegroom who binds us together in life. So, as we go past Easter 2017 we are awaiting the enquiries and application forms from those whom God is preparing to lead a new stage in the life of St. Michael's Braintree.

First there will be the AGPM on 26 April when we put to bed the events of the past year, trusting that we have faithfully run the race and kept the faith in a period of uncertainty.

Then those assigned the task will carefully consider the applicants for the post of priest-in-charge and arrange for interviews. Finally, with God's help, we will appoint the man who will lead us into a new beginning. It sounds so simple, I don't know what I was worried about!

If the Disciples had understood what Jesus was telling them, they would not have fled from Gethsemane and hidden in an upper room. If Peter had understood that it was by denying Christ that his own life was saved according to God's Will, he would not have wept so bitterly. If Mary had really known that Jesus would be raised on the third day, she would not have been so distraught to see the stone rolled away. If the PCC or Lesley or I knew exactly whom God had called as our next minister we would be less anxious about the days ahead.

Yet it is all in His Hands. To parody the end of Matthew 26;38, "watch (and pray) with us" for "the hour is at hand" (Matthew 26;45).

Yours
Cyril Bamforth

MISSION OF THE MONTH
CPAS
1836-2016:
CELEBRATING 180 YEARS OF MISSION

Growing Leaders

Inspirational courses and books to develop local church leaders at all levels, including material specifically for teenagers. *Growing Leaders* resources have been used in around 700 churches nationwide.

‘*Growing Leaders* has begun to have a real ripple effect through our church ... we have begun to see people taking up leadership roles, understanding what their calling is and living out that calling in their lives.’ Debbie MacLeod, course leader, St Paul’s, Howell Hill.

Mentoring Matters

Mentoring is an important tool in nurturing disciples and developing leaders. This resource contains everything needed to start a church-based mentoring network: identifying, equipping and resourcing mentors.

Venture holidays

Each year, about 4,500 children and young people attend these life-changing holidays for 8-18s: enjoying new experiences, making life-long friends, exploring the Bible and discovering more about Jesus.

‘Ventures is where I became a true Christian and became on fire for God. They’ve changed my life.’ Katherine, 16

Falcon Camps

More than 20 holidays attended by 500 children and young people who face disadvantage in their daily lives. Amazing volunteer leaders demonstrate the love of God through their words and actions.

Patronage

As patron of more than 500 benefices nationwide, we seek to fill vacant parishes with incumbents who have a heart for the gospel and are committed to seeing people won for Christ and built up in the faith.

Arrow Leadership Programme

Arrow is a transformational 18-month programme enabling Christian leaders aged 25-40 to lead more like Jesus, be led more by Jesus, and lead more to Jesus.

‘The carefully blended triple focus on leadership, evangelism and character is unique and catalysing.’ Rich Johnson, vicar, All Saints, Worcester

Vocations events

CPAS runs events to help people explore God’s call on their lives, including **lifecall** days for 16-25s and *You and Ministry* weekends, which have been running for 50 years.



MOSES, ABRAHAM, ISAAC AND EASTER

Abraham was asked by God to sacrifice his son, Isaac; just as centuries later God sacrificed His Son too.

God answered Moses' question "Who are you" with the answer "I AM who I AM"; just as centuries later Jesus answered the same question with the same answer.

These events prompted me to pen these few lines as an attempt to shed some light on the mysteries of Easter.

I AM who I AM.
I AM not what **you** want me to be.

I AM who I AM
But,
Oh, can't you see?

I AM is the Lamb
Who saved you and me.

Lesley Davey

Tom St John Coleman, Reader Emeritus

On Sunday 2 April, we held a special Prayer Book Evening Prayer to mark the occasion of Tom becoming 'Reader Emeritus' and we were delighted to welcome the Bishop of Colchester to be our preacher.



The service was followed by afternoon tea, where Tom's service as a Reader for over twenty years was recognised by a letter of thanks from the Bishop, a cake, and a gift of a book of daily devotions from St. Michaels.

Rev. Stephen Bailey spoke warmly of Tom's faithful service, preaching at 8a.m. Communion and taking the 5.15 Evening Prayer as well as visiting older members of the congregation and officiating at funerals.

Why Emeritus? Readers, after a lot of theological training are admitted to the Office of Reader and like ordained ministry, it is recognised nationally and is for life. They are Licenced Lay Ministers as they hold the Bishop's Licence and are accountable to him with regular reviews through the Local Adviser for Readers in Chelmsford.

At present when Readers get to 70 they surrender their licence and are granted Permission to Officiate by the Bishop and are accountable to the local incumbent. There is no longer a requirement on them for reviews or in-service training and they can continue to do all the roles of Reader, but with less pressure.

A time may come when a Reader may want to 'retire', like Tom. He is still a Reader, but can be made emeritus, meaning that he is not expected to do anything and can be honoured and thanked for his service.

John Turton
Braintree LARC

I am sincerely grateful for the many ways I have felt supported and encouraged by St. Michael's in my being made a Reader Emeritus on 2nd April.

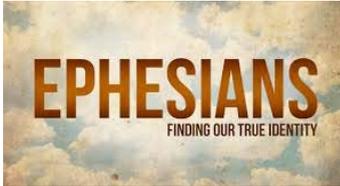
It was a wonderful day and I shall treasure the memory of it always.

May I also thank you, my dear friends, for your prayers during my recent illness.

Tom

WOMEN @ ST MICHAELS

Over 50 Women @ St Michaels met on a recent Saturday for our latest Saturday School. This time we met for:



*A Soul Searching
Journey through the
Letter of Paul to the
Ephesians*

Sarah Hayward, the Vicar of St Pauls led us to see (entertainingly but in depth!) how God lavishes us His daughters with all wisdom, understanding and promises us ‘every spiritual blessing in Christ.’

The morning included as always pastries and coffee from 9-9.30 followed by: worship, (the singing is amazing too!) Bible study talks, an interview and testimony with Sarah, conversation, and the opportunity to know God, ourselves and each other a little better. There were interesting activities for us as groups and jewels at the end to enable us to reflect on all ‘the riches we have in Christ.’

Our refreshments with coffee were ‘second to none, a sight to behold’!

We think that this was our fourteenth Saturday School! One of the most encouraging aspects is that the morning was as fresh and exciting as our very first Saturday School. A joy to see so many women of all ages gathered together simply above all else to ‘seek after God.’

At our first ever Conference day the verse we chose to advertise our aim was from Psalm 63. verse 1 which says:

“O God you are my God. Earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you...”

This is what we have been doing at fourteen Saturday Schools and at our Conference Days.

Thanks to Sarah especially and to everyone who contributed a ‘big thank you.’

THE WHITE HART

Eventually we made it to the White Hart for our promised meal... fun, food, good company. A lovely evening out and we will go again soon!

Something to note:

AN ANNIVERSARY

In January 2018 we will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary as Women @ St Michaels and we are planning to celebrate with an extra special Conference Day... probably on Saturday 28 January 2018. Ideas / suggestions towards this event will be welcomed!

Watch the notice sheet for future events for all
‘Women @ St Michaels.’

Jennifer Bailey



Where?

St Michaels Church House, St Michaels Lane

When?

27th May, then 4th Saturdays monthly, drop in between 10:00am until 12noon

24th June

Who?

Dads, male caregivers and their children

What?

Table tennis, pool, toys, free morning tea

Toys
for the
children
to play
with

Tea,
coffee &
great
food

Give
mum
some
time off

Meet
other
dads

Who Let The Dads Out? is supported, resourced and enabled by BRF as one of its core ministries. BRF is a Registered Charity.

www.wholetthedadsout.org.uk

A core ministry of BRF · Charity Reg. 233280 · Company No. 301324

MAY DIARY

1 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

2 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

3 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

4 Thursday

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

5 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7 Sunday 4th of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Beth Bendry

10.00am Church Family Worship

5.15pm Evening Prayer

6.30pm Evening Worship – What is prayer? – Canon John Turton

7.30pm Focus

8 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

8.00pm Badminton

9 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm Ladies Group

10 Wednesday

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

11 Thursday

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

12 Friday

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

13 Saturday

- 10.30am Family Gathering – Church House
- 1.45pm Country walk on Danbury Common – see Terry/Miriam Clarke

14 Sunday 5th of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote
- 10.00am Morning Worship – Overview of Nehemiah – Canon John Turton
- 6.30pm Holy Communion – Why should we pray? – Revd Stephen Bazlinton
- 7.30pm Focus

15 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House
- 8.00pm Badminton

16 Tuesday JUNE LINK SUBMISSION DUE

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

17 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

18 Thursday

- 3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

19 Friday

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

21 Sunday 6th of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward
10.00am Holy Communion – A weeping heart –
Roger Cooke
6.30pm Evening Worship – How should we pray? –
Jennifer Bailey
7.30pm Focus

22 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm Bell Ringing
7.30pm White Horse Tavern – *the mumps and measles
of the soul* – Open to all - Church House
8.00pm Badminton

23 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

24 Wednesday

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

25 Thursday Ascension Day

- 2.15pm Ascension Day Communion
3.30pm ASK
7.30pm PCC

26 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7.30pm Flower Club

27 Saturday

10.00am Who Let the Dads Out? – Church House

28 Sunday 7th of Easter

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey

10.00am Morning Worship – A broken spirit –
Revd Stephen Bailey

6.30pm Taize service – Canon John Turton

7.30pm Focus

29 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

31 Wednesday

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder

FROM THE REGISTERS**Baptism**

2 April Joshua Padfield

Funerals

7 April Walter Simkins (d 3/3)

18 April James Townrow (d 28/3)

EXPERIENCE EASTER

Children from Year 4 at John Ray and Years 3 and 4 from St Michael's were able to 'Experience Easter' in St Michaels Church this year...about 240 children and staff.

The Flower Club once again rose to the occasion magnificently with some lovely displays symbolising parts of the Easter Story for the children to journey through from Palm Sunday in the Welcome Area, foot washing in the Jesus Chapel, a Passover meal in the Chancel. The garden of Gethsemane was visited, followed by a visit to the cross and the climax of the Easter Story the Resurrection in the Crèche Room.

At each point in the journey the St Michaels team of very able storytellers told the story of each part of the Easter Story with an activity for each child throughout.

We began each session with the new Bible Society Film...The Super Cool Story of Jesus...it is a super cool film too!

The Easter eggs donated by the congregation of St Michaels were very well received...so many eggs, every child had two each, some left over for Easter Sunday too and I was able to give some to a group of Youngsters outside church who were intrigued to see what we were doing inside the Church. Thank you everybody. Such a great response.

John Ray and St Michaels have Experienced Easter and Experienced Christmas now but Gloucester Diocese do Experience Pentecost, so maybe there next.

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards Experience Easter, it is hard work but an exciting privilege to be able to share the Easter Story with so many children.

Jennifer Bailey

LADIES GROUP

Lionel Clark from our Church Family paid us a return visit in April. Lionel again demonstrated his gift for creating beautiful flower arrangements. He did seven arrangements for us, two of which were a pair, complimenting each other well. Lionel used a variety of flowers and foliage including eucalyptus leaves and conifers; chrysanthemums, spray carnations, roses, tulips, and gerbera. The designs ranged from a classic crescent to a more contemporary one with sticks and two rows of roses.

Next month Tony Britten will be telling us more about his work within the International Christian Police.

Helen Kemp

GARDENING TIPS

May is the first month to consider putting weak new plants outside on their own. The last frosts should have cleared and now the garden will grow at an accelerated pace.

Keep an eye on the early fruit and veg, those eager slugs and snails will now be looking for food (especially if its damp). It may be worth investing in some copper sticky tape to wrap round plant pots and trays. Slugs and snails dislike copper as they react to it, generating small electric shocks.

If you have a hedgehog visit your garden, look after it as its favourite foods are slugs and snails. They like saucers of water and a bit of pet food too. Avoid slug pellets and make sure if you have a pond there is a cover on it at night and a way for the hedgehog to climb out if its falls in.

Now is a good time to finish off your planting and transfer the small plants to bigger pots, cane up the beans and simply enjoy the colour of the next round of flowers.

Dave Marriott

Tell us if you want help, the Lord can read hearts and
minds, we alas can't.

If you want a pastoral visit please let the Wardens or
Readers know.

(see practical information for contact details)

ASCENSION DAY 25 MAY 2017

This is the day when Jesus returned to Heaven to be with HIS and our Heavenly Father. After having been crucified He remained 40 more days on Earth and was seen by many witnesses. With His sacrifice, He paid for all the sins in the world, the ones in the past and the ones to still be committed.

Ascension Day is a public holiday in the country of my birth, Switzerland.

He is the one who spoke in the OT to God's people. God the Father never speaks to us and cannot be seen by us.

“And the Father who sent me has himself borne witness about me. His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen.” John 5: 37

God the Father is Spirit, Jesus is the only one who has a body. He is man and God in one person.

All who have been born again (see contribution **TO BE BORN AGAIN ON PAGE 20** in April's LINK) will be saved and will be raptured before the great tribulation. The Holy Spirit will return to Heaven with Christ's Church i.e. the born-again believers.

Praise be to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

Peter Schaad

BELFRY BULLETIN

With help from ringers from the District we have attempted to ring 2 Quarter Peals which unfortunately were not successful.

On Saturday 18 March to bring the District Advanced Practice to a close we got to within 120 changes of the end of Original Bob Minor. A pity as this would have been a first for some of the ringers.

Prior to the 6.30pm service on Mothering Sunday, with four St Michaels ringers in the band, we got two-thirds of the way through Grandsire Caters, that was disappointing. We rang Plain Bob Royal up to service time.

Our service and practice night ringing is showing a wider rang of methods being rung, which is good experience for the band.

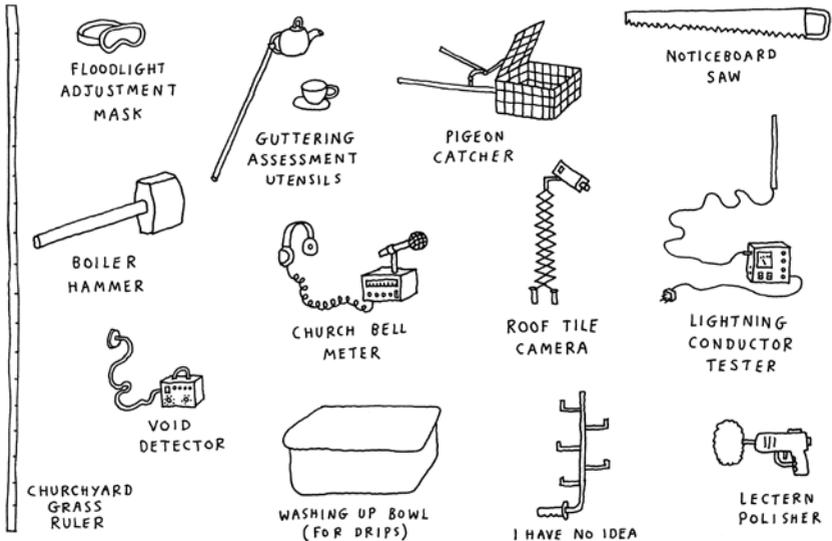
Plans are well advanced for our ringing and social weekend away in Derbyshire, more of that next month.

Peter Smith

A LITTLE HUMOUR

CHURCH MAINTENANCE

A BASIC TOOL KIT



CartoonChurch.com

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

**Behold
 Blessed
 Clothed
 Dead
 Disciple
 Find
 Forgive
 God
 Joy
 Nations
 Power
 Rise**

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.**

St. Michaels Church is located in:

St Michaels Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY