

The LINK

30p

April 2017



The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree

www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk

Dear Friends

Firstly, and most importantly Cyril and I wish to make the following announcement –

“As you will be aware the PCC has put together its Parish Profile (or in laymen’s terms our advert/job specification/brochure). This has now been officially approved by Bishop Stephen and we have been given the green light to publish an advertisement in the Church Times for our new priest-in-charge. Or to put it another way – the process for finding our new leader has begun in earnest!”

Secondly, as part of the process of putting this together the PCC reviewed its aims for St Michaels. We clarified our churchmanship and expanded upon our mission statement of “Know Christ and make Him known”.

We then produced three points that best sum up our way forward. (*Further on in the magazine you will see the poster we have designed.*) These are **Know; Grow** and **Go**.

Each word has been given an expanded explanation which is not exhaustive nor extensive but a “sound bite” to jog the memory.

Firstly, we are praying that everyone will come to **know** Jesus.

Secondly, that they will be transformed by Him and **grow** in the faith.

Thirdly, that they will **go** out into the world to serve Christ.

None of this, I hear you say, is radical but that is not its intention. Our prayer is that it will help galvanise us all (especially at the moment) into an enthused approach to our life at St Michael, Braintree. Please join us in this move forward to spread the good news of Jesus in the town.

Finally, (and on another tack completely) may we remind you that the Annual Parochial meetings are to be held at 7.30 pm on Wednesday April 26th in Church House. Please come along, prepared to come forward to help us.

After prayerful consideration, your first step will be to vote for the Churchwardens; Deputy Wardens; Representatives sitting on the Deanery Synod and Members of the P.C.C. (*To do this you must be on the electoral roll.*)

Your second step may well have been to put your own name on the ballot paper! These you will find in Church. After all, to crib from Lord Kitchener “Your Church needs You”.

Please do not feel pressurised here, such roles are not for everyone but we would hope that you could consider coming forward to help in some other way if the posts described above are too daunting.

The following list is in no particular order of importance but offers suggestions as to how you could help us to promote the gospel.

- a) Assist at Youth Church.
- b) Join the many rotas already in place to clean on Friday mornings; read or pray at the services; make the tea at the end of a service or during a function.
- c) Join a Bible Study.
- d) Come to a Work Day.
- e) Pray with us (perhaps even start up your own group).

There are so many things we need you for. They all promote the gospel and make for a sense of belonging to the Christian community at St Michael.

Yours in Christ
Lesley Davey & Cyril Bamforth

St Michael, Braintree

Our aims

We are a conservative evangelical church seeking to bring glory to God by helping people to:



KNOW

Jesus for themselves,
whatever their
background



GROW

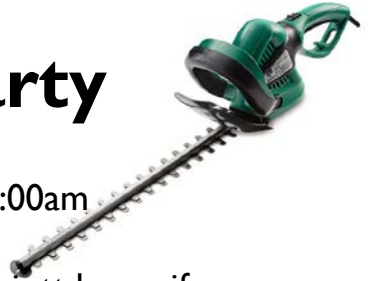
In Jesus and be
transformed by Him



GO

To serve Christ; locally,
nationally, and globally

Church and Church House Working Party



Saturday 1 April from 9:00am

Please let Cyril Bamforth / Dave Marriott know if you want to make that difference.

Jobs planned include:

Church:

- Gutters cleaning
- Checking light bulbs
- Lock repair
- Clearing out cupboards
- Checking sound system
- Painting noticeboards
- Removing shelves

Church House & Garden:

- Repainting of fences
- Lots of pruning
- Clearing moss off steps
- Transportation of rubbish to recycling
- Levelling gravel in car park
- Car Park space marking
- Lots of signage
- Spring Cutback/Weeding
- New Bike Rack

Many hands make light work

MISSION OF THE MONTH TEARFUND

Tearfund is a Christian charity called to follow Jesus wherever the need is greatest. It works tirelessly to help communities around the world escape the very worst effects of poverty and disaster. They work alongside local churches and other locally-based organisations to bring whole-person transformation.

During Lent, Tearfund is focussing on the needs of the 40,000 families living in a riverbank slum in San Pedro Sula, the second largest city in Honduras, Central America. Some of you may remember that Terry had the privilege of going to Honduras on a Tearfund Study Tour back in April 2004. In fact, he landed in San Pedro Sula on his flight from Houston where the team met staff from CASM and were taken to the riverbank slum - such a stark contrast to the affluence of Houston for his first day in Honduras! Sadly, the slum still exists on an even larger scale but God has not forgotten this place. Tearfund's Lent Appeal is striving to bring hope to this community through financial giving and prayer support.

These statistics reflect the needs in Honduras:

- 60% of children aged 4-18 are out of school
- 22% are illiterate
- 20 homicides are committed daily
- Nearly 66.67% of the nation lives below the poverty line (Unicef)

Angela, her husband and five children live in a two-room hut made of salvaged wood and plastic sheeting in San Pedro Sula's vast riverbank slum that is riddled with crime and corruption. Sometimes the water level gets so high that parts of the slum are washed away. The river is actually used as a dumping site for bodies. Yet it's this river that Angela's children must wade through to reach school. There is no school in the slum, the government won't provide any services as the people aren't legally settled.

Tearfund's partner, CASM, are supporting families like Angela's in several ways:

- by assisting young people with vocational training
- by helping women like Angela set up committees to be a voice for the community, to try to advocate with the local government for a long-term solution
- by providing Angela with a new latrine when the river washed hers away

Maybe, we at St. Michael's can stand alongside Tearfund as they seek to show God's love in action to the riverbank community through our prayer and giving. For photos of Angela and her neighbourhood see the display in the Welcome Area or visit tearfund.org, chat to Terry to know more about other Tearfund projects in Honduras and pick up a Tear Times for more on what's happening world-wide.

Miriam Clark

THE MUMPS AND MEASLES OF THE SOUL.....TRANSGENDER

The Christian faith does not exempt us from the feeling of anxiety or depression, fears or worries.

How do we cope?

WHITE HORSE TAVERN has invited a lady Christian physician, Dr Jane Harpur, to give us some medical advice from a Christian perspective to help us with what someone has called 'the mumps and measles of the soul' on Monday 22 May at 7.30pm in Church House. This is open to all and not just members of WHT.

Transgender?

Why ask the experienced Dr. Jane Harpur to help us consider this subject? The answer is that it is an issue that is facing school teachers parents and youngsters. She will help us think about how we cope with the many matters involved. WHT has invited her to come on 12 June. This, too, is open to all.

Stephen Bailey

LADIES GROUP

Jim Wild from our Church family came to speak to us in March. His talk was entitled "Light, Colour and Confusion". Jim started by showing us the T.V. test card which included the little girl by the blackboard with the toy clown. He explained that the most important test on the card was the skin tone of the child, if this was right everything else would be in place. Jim went on to show us a prism and parts of an old T.V. set and camera.

He went on to explain that light and sound travel in waves and can be found on the same spectrum. Colour can be produced from three basic sources, red, blue, and green; mixing these together in differing parts creates other colours. The eye, although a specialized organ, can very often mislead the facts. Jim showed us a selection of paper sheets; initially they all seemed white, but on further examination none were the same shade.

Next month Lionel Clark will be paying us a return visit.

Helen Kemp

“BUILD YOUR KINGDOM HERE”

I don't think this song by The Rend Collective has made it into a St Michael's service yet, but I've sung it at least half a dozen times in services and meetings elsewhere. The line that is repeating in my head at the moment is 'We are Your church'.

It is often said that the church is the people, and in many ways, this is never more true than now, when we are without a vicar. Traditionally in Anglican churches, the vicar is the figure head, the leader, which means that when a church does not have a vicar, things tend to slow down; new initiatives do not get discussed or implemented, and slowly stagnation sets in. I am praying that we will not be without a vicar for too long, but however long or short the wait, we must work together and try to continue to reach out and help the community around us. This means that we need to help with a lot of the jobs that the vicar would normally do, obviously only a few of us can preach, lead services, or serve at communion; but there are a lot of other things that we can do to help the churchwardens who are under a lot of the pressure, but doing a really great job.

Sometimes, in a long interregnum, there is an increase in things going wrong, because without a spiritual leader, as a church, we are much more vulnerable to attacks from the devil. We must accept that we will not agree on everything, and there will be times when our views on things differ; we need to agree to differ and continue to work together, because 'We are God's church', not just me or you, but us together.

Going back to the song and the line that inspired these thoughts - it is repeated three times in the song, followed by three different lines that could provide us with inspiration:

‘We are Your church, and we need Your power in us’;

‘We are Your church and we pray: revive this earth’

and finally

“We are Your church, we are the hope on earth”.

So, we must look forward, putting our trust in God, praying for our church, each other, and the community around us; and helping within the church and outside it as much as possible, because as the song says:

“We are Your church, we are Your hope on Earth”.

Dave Terris

GARDENING TIPS

April is a month of growth. It is now almost the time to bring the software plants from the greenhouse and to plant outside.

This month will be when I plant the beans outside and let them grow. One thing I enjoy in having a variety of beans growing. The yellow and green runners and the French beans. These all put nutrients back into the ground at nitrogen fixers over their lives.

They are pretty plants, originally grown as flowers before becoming a regular vegetable in the garden.

It is a time of the year to know your weeds and remove them before they seed. The annuals will be already trying to flower and the dandelions will be trying to form their clocks.

Just remember “One year’s seed, Seven years weed”, so prevent the flowers.

Dave Marriott



Where?

St Michaels Church House, St Michaels Lane

When?

22nd April, then 4th Saturdays monthly, drop in between 10:00am until 12noon

27th May, 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

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APRIL DIARY

1 Saturday

9.00am Church work party (see P6)

2 Sunday 5th of Lent

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Olivia Maxfield-Coote

10.00am Church Family Worship

4.30pm Evening Prayer – Jesus Chapel including celebration of Tom St John-Coleman becoming Reader Emeritus

6.30pm Evening Worship – We must obey God– Cyril Bamforth

7.30pm Focus

3 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

5 Wednesday

12.00pm Lent Lunch – Baptist Church

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.00pm Bible Study Group: Lifebuilder

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

6 Thursday

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

7 Friday

2.00pm Funeral of Walter Simpkins

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

9 Sunday Palm Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Beth Bendry

10.00am Morning Worship – Behold your God! – Canon John Turton

6.30pm Holy Communion – A wise counsel – Archdeacon

7.30pm Focus

10 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

11 Tuesday MAY LINK SUBMISSION DUE

8.00pm Ladies Group

12 Wednesday

12.00pm Lent Lunch – Baptist Church

8.00pm Bible Study Group: Lifebuilder

13 Thurs. Maundy Thursday

7.30pm Communion Service - St. Michaels Church

14 Friday Good Friday

12-2.00pm Church Café open for congregation and visitors

2.15pm Easter Meditation

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

15 Sat. Holy Saturday

10-1pm Church Café open for congregation and visitors

16 Sunday Easter Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward

10.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey

6.30pm Evening Worship – Chosen to serve –
Canon John Turton

7.30pm Focus

17 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

18 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

19 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

20 Thursday

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

21 Friday

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

22 Saturday

- 10.00am Who Let the Dads Out? – Church House (P13)

23 Sunday 2nd of Easter

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Keith Holloway
- 10.00am Morning Worship – The greatness of God – Roger Cooke
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Full of grace and power - Jennifer Bailey
- 7.30pm Focus

24 Monday

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

25 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

26 Wednesday

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
- 7.30pm Annual Meetings – Church House (P4 & P18)

27 Thursday

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

28 Friday

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

30 Sunday **3rd of Easter**
8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey
10.00am Morning Worship – The giving God –
 Cyril Bamforth
6.30pm UNITED SERVICE at St. Michaels –
 Canon John Turton
7.30pm Focus

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism
5 March Maisie-Rose Allen

ANNUAL MEETINGS

MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

&

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH

MEETING

Wednesday 26 April
Church House

7.30pm for Coffee
8.00pm start of meetings

This year we are going mobile, saving costs, saving paper and being green.

The Annual report will be available for download on the Church Website ahead of the meeting.



www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

CHURCH MEETINGS ARE BRILLIANT

(Some paper copies will also be available if required)

St. Michaels events in Lent & Easter

Lent lunches – Starting 1st March

12-1.15pm every Wednesday, 1st March to 12th April

Braintree Baptist Church

Cost £2.75 Adults and £1 children.

Proceeds to Braintree Foodbank and BYPC

Maundy Thursday – 13th April

7.30pm Communion Service - St. Michaels Church

Good Friday - 14th April

12-2.00pm Church Café open for congregation and visitors

2.15pm Easter Meditation

Holy Saturday -15th April

10-1pm Church Café open for congregation and visitors

Easter Sunday – 16th April

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm Evening Worship

TO BE BORN AGAIN

Hereafter is a form of the prayer to be prayed to be born again:

“Dear God: I realise that I am a sinner and I believe that Jesus Christ paid for my sins when He died on Calvary’s cross, pouring out His blood as full payment for my sins. I now consciously and deliberately ask Jesus to save me from my sins, come into my heart and make me a child of God.”

When you sincerely pray this, then the prophetic Scripture will be fulfilled, “Him that cometh unto me, I will in no wise cast out.”

And the wonderful promise of John 3:36 will instantly be fulfilled in your life: “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life!”

Peter Schaad

BELFRY BULLETIN

We have welcomed visitors to the tower recently, in some cases to join our practice night in and others to experience ringing the 10 bells at St. Michael’s to enhance their ringing experience.

Two ringers from Bridlington Priory, North Yorkshire, and David Learmonth from Felsted joined in with us on separate Monday nights. We enjoyed their visits.

A group of 15 Essex Young Ringers and their helpers came on 11th March to practice in preparation for the Ringing World National Striking Competition. We wish them well as the opposition is stiff.

Recently 3 members have had birthdays. Gareth Davies turned 18 and has now joined the Apres=ringing group. Lin Ould and Debbie Hill have celebrated rather bigger birthdays than Gareth’s. Congratulations from us all.

Peter Smith

PUZZLE

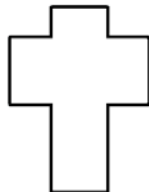
Easter Word Search

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

ALIVE
BELIEVE
BETRAYED
BREAD
CROSS
CRUCIFY
DIED
DONKEY
EMPTY
FORGIVEN



GETHSEMANE
GUARDS
HOSANNA
LIFE
NAILS
PALMS
PILATE
PRAYED
RISEN
ROOSTER



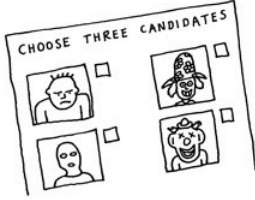
SACRIFICE
SIN
SON
STONE
THORNS
TOMB

A LITTLE HUMOUR

THE ELECTORAL ROLL

REASONS TO JOIN IT

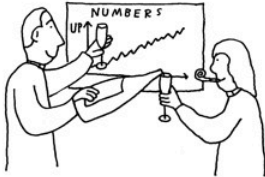
- ① YOU WILL DECIDE WHO SHOULD BE ON THE P.C.C. AND DEANERY SYNOD



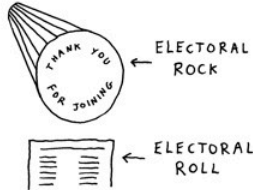
- ② YOU CAN PLAY A FULL PART IN THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH



- ③ IT WILL BOOST THE MORALE OF THE CLERGY



- ④ THERE MAY BE A THANK YOU PRESENT - SEASIDE CONFECTIONARY PERHAPS



- ⑤ YOUR NAME WILL BE EXHIBITED IN CHURCH FOR 14 DAYS

