

**The LINK**

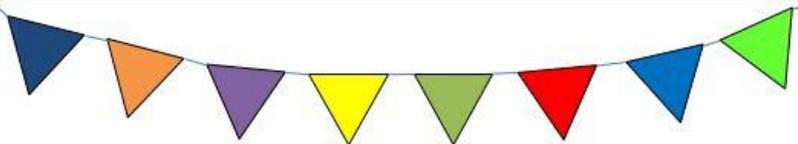
**30p**

**June 2017**



**The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree**

**[www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)**



# Summer Fete

Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June

6pm-8pm

St Michaels C of E  
Primary School



Dear Friends

Much to everyone's surprise it is election time again. Not that you would notice in my area where there are no posters up but maybe it is too early in the campaign.

Trying to decide who to vote for is a difficult task, especially if you are (like me) not very politically aware.

I know that many people find it strange that there are sincere Christians in all of the mainstream parties. They think, therefore, that (a) faith and politics must be unrelated or (b) all Christians would stand for, or vote for, the same party.

Clearly both of these arguments are spurious:

Firstly, although we are told that we are not to be of the world, we are not told to be aloof from it either. Therefore, political involvement is important. It is not a "no go" area for Christians.

Secondly, although the Bible spells out our Christian attitudes it does allow us to hold different priorities. An emphasis on green issues sits as well alongside someone else's stress on social matters. It may well cause them to vote for different people or parties but it still upholds Christian principles. The question is, however: "What should be the principles that guide us?"

Well, in the first place look no further than 1 Timothy 3 where Paul points out that leadership is an important task not to be undertaken lightly. He talks of morality, Christian conscience, incorruptibility and so on. These characteristics need to be seen in the specific candidate you are voting for.

As far as voting for a particular party is concerned your priorities may be different but there will always be issues for us all which have to be tested against the Bible. Jesus made it clear that we should look after the poor and vulnerable, seek the good for all

not just the few, be caring, avoid sinful behaviour, corruption, be aware of our responsibility to the natural world and much more besides. All these would stop us voting for parties with an anti-Christian agenda. The difficulty, as I see it, is how to decide when the policies differ but do not go against our faith. Take nationalisation, for example, as against privatisation. Neither policy seems to break God's laws, so I would reason that the free will we have been given can be put into use. In the press at the moment, there is talk of tactical voting and, personally, such action would bother me. It seems to me to have sinister overtones. Stopping someone from being elected is more important than voting for the right person.

Ultimately, it is impossible to separate our Christian conscience from our political opinions. Religious convictions should not be put aside during the voting process. Also, we should remember that overseas many Christians are being driven out of political participation altogether. They have been killed for their principles. Even in this country, as I reminded my granddaughter only the other day, we women can only vote because women died for our right.

Lastly, do vote, as apathy isn't an option. Please bear in mind the quote "All that is needed for evil to flourish is that good men do nothing." We shouldn't sit on the sidelines because we are Christians.

*Yours,  
Lesley Davey*

Incidentally, as far as our own Church elections are concerned, we thank you for your vote of confidence in us both.

*Cyril & Lesley*

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

### **CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY -- IN AFRICA**

CMS began more than 200 years ago with a group of Christians, including people like William Wilberforce whose hearts were stirred to put their call into action. Thousands of people from all walks of life are part of CMS today – praying, learning and working together not just as missionaries in the 40 countries covered by CMS but as supporters like us in link churches.

Within CMS in Africa are surgeons, doctors, nurses, teachers, agriculturalists, and administrators, etc. all with a passion to present the Good News of Jesus through their teaching, compassion, and personal example. It is impossible to write here about all of the many lives being given to the Lord's work in Africa and of the wonderful outworking of God's power upholding them in many difficult circumstances.

To mention a few – there is **Heather Johnstone (1)** in Tanzania working with The Rehema Project which benefits women and children in crisis who don't have food, clothing or shelter and who are susceptible to all sorts of illnesses because of malnutrition. Many of them struggle with the effects of HIV or AIDS and suffer abuse. They are trapped in poverty with little hope. Heather writes, "as Christians we are compelled to help."



**Jean Bosco Tshiswaka (2)** manages the Kimbilio project in DR Congo which aims to support street children, and to help them become reintegrated with their families.



**Ann-Marie Wilson (3)** has a specific ministry that aims to prevent FGM (female genital mutilation).

**Ann Moore (4)** writes of her work at Kisiizi Hospital -- “Our motto is - life in all its fullness – and we aim to bring holistic care, including spiritual care to staff, patients and visitors. Our hope is that Kisiizi becomes a centre of excellence for



the region; many patients come from a wide area to access our facilities. My time is divided between the school of nursing and the special care nursery. In the latter, I oversee the care of our smallest, most vulnerable patients. Some weigh less than 1kg, others are very sick. The school of nursing trains nurses and midwives who will work in other parts of Uganda.”

Ann also shares, “I was born and brought up in Lancashire. My family were not Christians but I was sent to Sunday School. I met with Jesus when I was 16. I fulfilled my lifelong desire to become a nurse and then a children’s nurse, first in Manchester and then in Liverpool. I worked for six years in a children’s intensive care unit looking after children who had heart surgery. I came to Kisiizi in 1996. When I first approached Mid Africa Ministry (now merged with CMS), I was asked to go to Bible College and to do midwifery. I didn’t want to do either, but both prepared me for ministry here,

which includes preaching in chapel and on the wards. Although I don't usually work as a midwife, there have been many times when looking after babies on special care that I have needed to help a mother to deliver. I remember standing by the hospital fountain one night, giving thanks to God because he knew what he was doing when he made me train as a midwife. It is good to be part of a "family" like CMS that cares about mission and its members." Please note the photos / information on the display board and the table in the refreshment area, and help yourselves to the material there.

*Marion Richardson*

## **WHITE HORSE TAVERN**

### **TRANSGENDER**

For some, changing gender may be a life-style choice. They feel that they might be female in a male body, or male in a female body. All they wish to do is to change.

Others may find what they are experiencing is distressing. The change could be traumatic. Who can they talk to? What should they expect? What will family and friends say? Parents and close friends may feel anxious about what is going on? What support can they give or what wisdom can they offer? It is a matter that teachers and youth workers are aware of also.

To help us through the issues involved, once again it is good to be able to say that Dr Jane Harpur is going to help us.

She is coming to another 'open evening' of the White Horse Tavern on **Monday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 7.30pm** in St Michael's Church House.

*Stephen Bailey*

## LADIES GROUP

We had a change to the advertised program in May; Tony Brittan found that he was unable to visit us, but arranged for a former colleague Paul Hooks to come and speak to us.

Paul was brought up in a Christian home. His father was a Methodist minister who had met his wife at Bible College. They married after his father was convinced that God had told them to. Young Paul lived in England and Scotland before moving to Northern Ireland. The divisions within the religious community were still prevalent and schoolboy Paul was confused by the question “Are you a Catholic or a Protestant?” His reply was “I am a Christian”.

The family later returned to England and Paul followed his childhood ambition of joining the Police Force. He started as a constable, became a tutor constable and so on through the ranks to a sergeant and latterly an inspector. Paul was quite candid about the difficulties he had encountered during his life, from being a young constable and seeing situations very much as black or white, to having the life experience to enable him to make more beneficial, rounded decisions.

He is married to Claire and they have two children. Paul enjoyed extreme sports such as kayaking and rock climbing. He was very active and busy, but it became obvious that he was doing too much and suffered a breakdown. In October 2014, he had a nasty fall, which left him unable to continue the physical sports he once enjoyed. Paul is now retired from the police force, but he is doing a doctorate and lectures in police studies.

Paul finished by speaking about the National Day of Prayer for the Police which is on 25th of May. He asked us to think of and pray for the Police Force that day.

Next month there will be another change to the program and we will be having a quiz.

*Helen Kemp*

## **WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR**

### **THREE WALK TOGETHER**

Two people were walking home together. One imagines they wanted to get to the safety of their own home and shut the doors and hide away.

As they trudged along a third person caught them up. We read this account of how the risen Lord Jesus met and explained his death and resurrection to two going to Emmaus in Luke 24. It is worth taking note of the last part of the event (verses 30 to 43).

- They recognised the man they had celebrated the Passover with the previous Thursday evening. They had seen him cruelly executed and now he was sitting with them
- They rush back to Jerusalem and find their friends who told them that Jesus had appeared to Peter
- A genuine physical Jesus come to them showing them his wound and eats with them.

### **A FEW HOURS PREVIOUSLY**

*Stephen Bailey*



## Where?

St Michaels Church House, St Michaels Lane

## When?

24th June, drop in between 10:00am and 12noon

## Who?

Dads, male caregivers and their children (all ages of children and teens welcome)

## What?

Table tennis, pool, free morning tea and more

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](http://www.wholetthedadsout.org.uk)

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## JUNE DIARY

### **1 Thursday**

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

### **2 Friday**

- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

### **4 Sunday**

#### **Pentecost**

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey  
10.00am Church Family Worship  
6.30pm Evening Worship – I can't pray – Canon John Turton  
7.30pm Focus

### **5 Monday**

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

### **6 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

### **7 Wednesday**

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study  
10.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey  
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts  
8.00pm Bible Study Group: Lifebuilder  
8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer chat and curry – Weatherspoons, Fairfield Road

### **8 Thursday**

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

### **9 Friday**

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

- 11 Sunday Trinity**  
8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward  
10.00am Morning Worship – A radical faith and plan – Roger Cooke  
6.30pm Holy Communion Prayer of sacrifice – Revd Harry Boreham  
7.30pm Focus
- 12 Monday**  
12.15pm Spotlight  
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers  
7.30pm Bell Ringing  
7.30pm White Horse Tavern – *Transgender* – Open to all - Church House  
8.00pm Badminton
- 13 Tuesday JULY LINK SUBMISSION DUE**  
1.15pm Tiddlywinks  
8.00pm Ladies Group
- 14 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
- 15 Thursday**  
3.30pm ASK  
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study  
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 16 Friday**  
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts  
6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House
- 18 Sunday 1st after Trinity**  
8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Beth Bendrey  
10.00am Holy Communion – A personal commitment – David Huxter

- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Prayer of praise –  
Jennifer Bailey
- 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**
- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
- 6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
- 8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder
- 22 Thursday**
- 3.30pm ASK
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 23 Friday**
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House
- 7.30pm Flower Club
- 24 Saturday**
- 10.00am Who Let the Dads Out? – Church House
- 25 Sunday 2nd after Trinity**
- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward
- 10.00am Morning Worship – Repairs take place –  
Revd Stephen Bailey
- 6.30pm Evening Worship - Prayer for guidance – Cyril  
Bamforth
- 7.30pm Focus

## **26 Monday**

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

## **28 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

## **29 Thursday**

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

## **30 Friday**

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 6.00pm St Michaels School Fete
- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House
- 7.30pm Flower Club

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Baptism**

14 May Summer Jennaway-Hume

## **THANK YOU**

David and Anne Harvey wish to thank everybody in St Michaels church family for prayer and gifts, cards, and well-wishers to celebrate our pearl (30<sup>th</sup>) wedding anniversary.

Many thanks to Katie Whitlock for making the lovely cake we enjoyed and were able to share. The kind fellowship helped to make the occasion very special.

SMASH CLUB 2017

The  
**Adventure  
Cruise**



**24 - 28 JULY 2017**

## **BELFRY BULLETIN**

### **Annual Weekend Away**

For the early Spring Bank Holiday, we were off to Sparrowpit, a Hamlett in the Derbyshire Peak District, at the invitation of Deborah and Gavin Wood for our ringing and social weekend.

Mid-morning on Friday 28 April the advance party of Lin and Richard Ould, David Learmonth and Peter Smith left Braintree to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the group. After an excellent journey, arriving mid-afternoon, Lin and David went into Chappel-on-le-Frith for supplies while Richard and Peter prepared the sleeping arrangements. On hearing the other 2 cars would be arriving earlier than expected Lin put the Chilli and Baked potatoes to cook. After the meal, we discussed the programme well into the evening.

On Saturday, we were up early as we were due at the 1<sup>st</sup> tower for 10am ringing. Showering and breakfast went smoothly and off we went to Taxal the first of 3 6 bell towers we were to visit before lunch. We enjoyed all these and had some good ringing. After lunch in Disley we rang the 6 bells there followed by two 8 bell rings to end an enjoyable and entertaining first days ringing.

Our evening meal, was held at the historic Kings Arms in Chappel. The most popular choice was Rack of Lamb with Peter being different with Rake of Lamb!!? After a lovely meal, it was back to Sparrowpit for a night cap and to wait for Bradley Hill to arrive, he had been climbing in Yorkshire. Tom Childs decided he would be peacemaker, if differences occurred he would say Branch, apparently, he learned this at University.

Sunday was more leisurely as we did not start ringing until 11.25am at Stanton in the Peak, an enjoyable 6. Then onto the unusual 5 at Winster, they are rung anti-clockwise opposite to most bells, the tuning was interesting being 2 3 4 5 7 of an octave which made them tricky to ring well, but we did. Lunch was in Bonsall, before the steep climb to the church to ring, then onto

the 8 at Hartington. We finished ringing with the 5 at Chelmorton, the highest ringable bells in England. A group of walkers came to the church to congratulate us on the lovely sound of our ringing, what an encouraging way to end our day's ringing.

Back at the cottage we had our "Traditional Cheese and Port" evening. Each of us bring a cheese of our choice and this year there were no duplications which made for a tasty treat. The port was also of a wide range from Cockburns thru' Taylors to some late bottled vintage which produced some discussion [Tom's Branch came in handy]. During the evening, we found that Ellis was inspired to run in slow motion like the Baywatch stars, not sure which one? Ellie was confused as to which country she was in. David and Tom Childs had the same father and son physical attributes. A wonderful evening.

We had to be on our toes on Monday as there were beds to strip, work top to be cleared and cleaned, floors to be hoovered, furniture returned to its rightful place and electricity and water to be made safe. We do want to be invited back next year.

On our way home, we had 4 more lots of bells to ring the 6 in the plague village of Eyams, another nice 6 at Edensor opposite Chatsworth House. We stopped for a delicious lunch at Batemans Mill in Old Tupton then to another good 6 at Clay Cross. We finished our ringing on the very nice 5 at Wingerworth. This church is a fascinating vibrant mixture of old and new. It has a stained glass curved wall where most of the services are held. Attached to the wall are the remains of the original building which houses the bells and many historic features including a mausoleum.

One of the joys of ringing at the village churches is the beautiful scenery we meet around every corner, a true reminder what a wonderful world our Lord has given us to enjoy.

It was time to say our thanks, to David Childs for arranging the itinerary, Lin for providing Friday's meal, Peter for the cottage, but

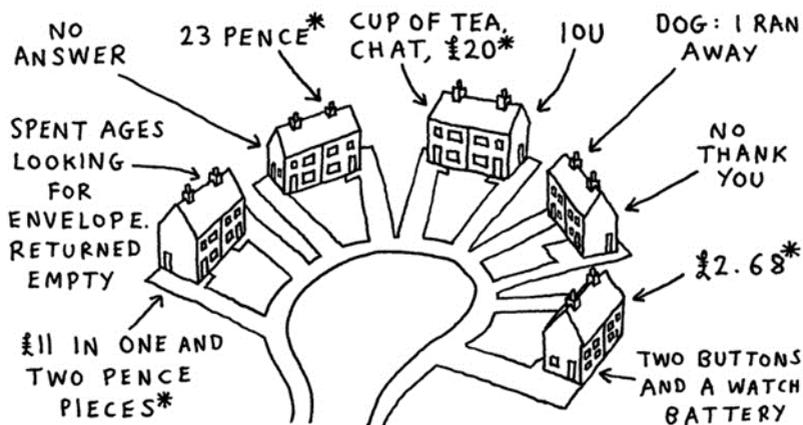
most of all to Deborah [Peter's Daughter] and Gavin Wood for the use of their beautiful cottage.

It was a wonderful 4 days of ringing, friendship, and Christian love.

*Peter Smith*

## A LITTLE HUMOUR

### COLLECTING CHRISTIAN AID ENVELOPES



\* ADDED TO EVERYONE ELSE'S: 12.5 MILLION POUNDS FOR CHRISTIAN AID

@davewalker / CartoonChurch.com

## GARDENING TIPS

Yes, I ran out of space to write lots this month, so keep the weeds under control and start harvesting the strawberries.

Enjoy the sun and get out in the garden!

*Dave Marriott*

## 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)	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

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

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

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

St. Michaels Church is in:

St Michaels Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY