

The LINK

30p

July 2017



The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree
www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

Dear Friends

The advertisement went out; the applications came in and the interviews began. After much deliberation, a decision was made. At last we can sit back on our laurels and hand over the baton (to mix my metaphors).

Really? Is that how it works? Is it really that simple? Well you know me; I only ask questions for which I (think I) already know the answer. Of course, it isn't. How many pages have been turned and chapters ended in the Christian book of life since that original Pentecost? A new chapter is about to begin and at the moment nothing is written on that blank page yet it is a continuation of the Acts of the Apostles.

The Lord's Prayer says, "Your Kingdom come, on earth as it is in heaven". What does God's Kingdom on earth look like in Braintree, Essex at the moment? What will it look like in 6 months' time? How about a year; or two years or five years from now? Perhaps we don't collate the two places? We ask for God's Kingdom to come but are we only thinking about some glorious future in which Christ has returned and everyone will know that Jesus' Way is the best way? I don't think that the Lord's Prayer is about the distant future. It talks about daily bread, forgiving debtors and not being lead into temptation. If we are too Augustinian and don't mind a bit of temptation today we may find there are not enough tomorrows in which to seek forgiveness. No, clearly the Lord's Prayer is a prayer for today (the here and now) in every section.

So, God's Kingdom here on that part of earth called Braintree right now looks just like you and I. You and I in whatever state of grace we are blessed with at this moment. You and I are God's Kingdom in our homes; in our schools or workplaces; in the clubs, we belong to outside of church. But nothing stands still in God's Creation.

The day after the interviews I bumped into our new minister, Revd. Nigel Adams, at High Leigh. By God-incidence we had both booked in to separate events at the same conference centre. Just before I met him I saw a notice or sign that really spoke to me about our future and I shared it with Nigel. The last stanza read, "Go accompanied". I interpreted this to mean that we must all go forward together. We cannot just expect one man to move our church to where God's Kingdom will be in the coming days, weeks and years. He will need help and support from each and every one of us. And I will never get tired of saying that going forward always starts with prayer. So between now and when Nigel and Jo come in September, (Oh dear! have I just let the cat out of the bag?) prayer should be our major means of preparation. Prayer for Nigel and Jo; prayer for the continued unity of our congregation; prayer to discover what part in God's Kingdom here in Braintree He wants you and I to play.

Yours
Cyril Bamforth

MISSION OF THE MONTH

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY - LATIN AMERICA

In the June *Link* magazine Marion Richardson wrote of the varied work of the Church Mission Society (CMS) with special reference to Africa. CMS is a world-wide organisation and this month the focus is on the Society's work in South America, the Iberian Peninsula and its most recent field of interest, Central America. In these areas the "Mission Partners" from the UK and "Latin Partners" work alongside each other, 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.

Much of the Latin American work is directed towards the socially disadvantaged in areas where the contrast between the wealthy and the desperately poor is very striking. Just as Marion last month mentioned work among street children in Africa, these vulnerable children are also the focus of a number of CMS projects in South and Central America. A new CMS ministry in Guatemala is run by recently-arrived Mark and Rosie Balfour, who are already reaching out with the love of Jesus to young people whose lives are at risk from drug or solvent abuse. Andy and Rose Roberts run *ReVive* International, a haven for abused and exploited girls in Recife, Brazil. In Santo Domingo, Ecuador Sharon Wilcox teaches life skills to people with disabilities, to help them live as independently as possible. Sharon and her colleague, Pertita, aim to show God's love in action to their students and their families.

Projects involving social care, such as these I've mentioned, are only a small part of CMS's work. Mission Partners are involved in evangelism and church planting and in building up the local church. For example, Paul and Sarah Tester, an article by whom

you will find on the Mission of the Month display in church, describe their role as “[serving] in national youth and discipleship ministries with the Anglican Church of Peru and [serving] the local church in youth and children’s work.

In contrast, also on the Mission of the Month display, you there is an account of the launch of an audio version of the New Testament in Enxet, a language of one of the indigenous peoples of the Paraguayan Chaco. The translation into Enxet has been the work of local Christians working with Tim Curtis, a CMS (and formerly South American Mission Society) Mission Partner for many years. Not only has this audio version been produced, it is pre-recorded onto a device which is “practically indestructible. The installed microchip will not erase or wear out from frequent playing. The battery can be charged through both the built-in solar panel and hand crank, or via an adaptor. It will play for up to 15 hours and contains a specially engineered speaker system that allows groups as large as 300 to hear God’s word.”

Read these and other accounts of CMS Mission Partners in Latin America and worldwide in the CMS newspaper-style publication, *The Call*, and the prayer guide, *Prayerlines*, copies of both of which you will find on the Mission of the Month display in the welcome area. 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 on 01376 326954 or via my pigeonhole.

Margaret St John-Coleman

COMMUNION and ALLERGIES

We would like to point out that gluten-free wafers are available at communion for those who are allergic to gluten/wheat. We would also like to offer non-alcoholic wine to those who are allergic to alcohol.

Our problem is how to administer both items. The suggestion is that they are available in the Jesus Chapel.

The difficulty is how to discern who needs what, once they approach the rail. To inform the wardens as you come into the chapel or speak up at the rail could be too late. Perhaps earlier in the service?

Any ideas? If you have, please speak to Cyril or Lesley.



WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR.

(With apologies for last month's fiasco which was my fault. SB)

It is helpful for our own trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and for the times when we talk to friends who may believe that the Christian faith is a kind of 'make-believe' to know the facts on which our faith is based.

One crucial part of the New Testament is Luke 24. Let's have a look at it together.

THREE WALK TOGETHER

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

As they trudged along a third person caught them up. It turns out that the unrecognised stranger is the risen Lord Jesus. He explains his death and resurrection to the two going to Emmaus.

It is worth taking note of the last part of the event (vv30-43).

- 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 rushed back to Jerusalem and find their friends who told them that Jesus had appeared to Peter.
- A genuine physical Jesus came to them all showing them his wounds, and ate with them.

A FEW HOURS PREVIOUSLY

Some women belonging to Jesus' circle of friends found the tomb, in which they had laid his lacerated and crucified dead body, empty.

- Two men, John and Peter, confirm what the women saw (Luke 24: 9-12).
- The close friends of Jesus are confused and puzzled. Where is the dead body of Jesus? They saw him die, tortured to death.

THE EVIDENCE OF EYES AND HANDS

- Now they see Jesus alive.
- Could he have been a ghost? He asks for something to eat and invites them to touch him. As he himself says, ghosts don't have flesh and bones. They don't normally eat.

No wonder Christians treasure Luke's reporting of the evidence of the women, the two men and the couple of home-bound travellers. They provide the evidence on which our trust takes its stand.

Stephen Bailey

D-DAY SERVICE

Many of you know that I am privileged to conduct services in Normandy in June for the Veterans, their families, and local residents to remember the D-Day Landings and everyone involved in the battles that followed.



Many of the parades now take place in War Cemeteries, but some take place in towns and are attended by people of many nations.

St. Michaels' Church organ, played by Norman Plastow, is still heard in Bayeux and many other places. Thanks, are also due to Stuart Kirk for the technical production of the CDs!

Dennis Buston

JULY DIARY

2 Sunday

8.00am

3rd after Trinity

Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey

10.00am

Church Family Worship

6.30pm

Evening Worship – Prayer of forgiveness – Canon

John Turton

7.30pm

Focus

3 Monday

12.15pm

Spotlight

5.30pm

4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm

Bell Ringing

7.30pm

White Horse Tavern – Church House

8.00pm

Badminton

4 Tuesday

1.15pm

Tiddlywinks

5 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 – Weatherspoons,
Fairfield Road

6 Thursday

3.30pm

ASK

7.30pm

Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm

Carry on Exploring Bible Study

7 Friday

5.30pm

4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

6.30pm

Parish Surgery – Church House

8 Saturday

9.00am

Church House work party

- 9 Sunday 4th after Trinity**
- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward
- 10.00am Morning Worship – Opposition – Revd Stephen Bailey
- 6.30pm Holy Communion – The power of prayer – Revd Stephen Bazlinton
- 7.30pm Focus
- 10 Monday**
- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern - Church House
- 8.00pm Badminton
- 11 Tuesday AUGUST LINK SUBMISSION DUE**
- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
- 8.00pm Ladies Group
- 12 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
- 13 Thursday**
- 3.30pm ASK
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 14 Friday**
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House
- 15 Saturday**
- 9.00am Church House working party (tbc)

16 Sunday 5th after Trinity
8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Olivia Maxwell-Coote
10.00am Holy Communion – Division & personal sacrifice
– Revd Robin King
12.30pm Scout Community fun day – Glebe Hall and Field
6.30pm Evening Worship – Jesus prays for himself –
Cyril Bamforth
7.30pm Focus

17 Monday
12.15pm Spotlight
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
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
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

23 Sunday 6th after Trinity
8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Keith Holloway
10.00am Morning Worship – Shall we be killed? – Canon
John Turton
6.30pm Evening Worship - Jesus prays for others –
Jennifer Bailey
7.30pm Focus

24 Monday

10-12 SMASH Club – Church House

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

26 Wednesday

10-12 SMASH Club – Church House

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder

27 Thursday

10-12 SMASH Club – Church House

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

28 Friday

10-12 SMASH Club – Church House

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7.30pm Flower Club

30 Sunday 7th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Beth Bendrey

10.00am SMASH Club Service

6.30pm United Service

7.30pm Focus

31 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

FROM THE REGISTERS

No entries

SMASH CLUB 2017

The
**Adventure
Cruise**



24 - 28 JULY 2017

IMPORTANT NOTE TO BOX HOLDERS

All sorts of charities rely upon the charity box. You see them everywhere, silently asking us to drop some coins into them.

I have just recently heard from the Children's Society about the situation regarding the new one-pound coin and thought it would be a good idea to bring it to everyone's attention.



The issue is that the old £1 ceases to be legal tender on 16 October this year and charities may well lose a great deal of their income during the change-over. If your box has lain uncashed for a while and you hand it in after 16 October, any old pounds in it may not be honoured by the banks. There usually is a grace period but this has not been confirmed.

The current advice is, therefore, to hand over your boxes well before the deadline and from now on ensure that only the new coins are saved.

Lesley Davey

GARDENING TIPS

Now we are into a bit of a lull in the garden. The summer sees a slowing of growth of the eager weeds and the preparation of fruits and vegetables for harvesting. I would recommend looking at the strawberry plants that have finished and trim them right back. This encourages better growth next year.

It is a hot month and one where the plants need special care. You want to keep your plants like the gardener, hydrated, sometimes shaded and not stressed. (Tea anyone?)

Dave Marriott

BELFRY BULLETIN

After our long weekend in Derbyshire it is back to our main reason for ringing, which is to ring for services, practice to improve our abilities and so the sound of the bells, before the services, is more welcoming.

We rang 540 changes of Plain Bob Doubles for a wedding on Saturday 25 March.

Prior to the evening service on 23 April we rang 1260 changes Plain Bob Doubles in 44mins. Ellie Gray treble, Gareth Davies 2, Debbie Hill 3, Peter Smith 4, Bradley Hill [c] 5, Ellis Whitehouse 6. A thank you to Queenie Brown for her many years of dedication to our Guild, all members wish to be associated with this tribute. For St. Georges Day. Gareth's 1st Quarter Peal inside, well done Gareth.

The EACR Northern District hold an annual 6 Bell Striking Competition. This year's winners were a joint Braintree and Kelvedon band who will go on to compete in the EACR finals.

Recently Bradley and Phil have replaced 3 worn ropes with ropes that Bradley has repaired.

For Bradley's Birthday, Ellie wanted to surprise him with a secret parachute jump. To help with this, we pretended to arrange a ringing outing for Peter's Birthday. The plan worked well as he had no idea it was parachuting, not bell ringing that he was going to do. What a great bit of fun.

Practice night on Monday 12 June was Gareth Davies last regular ringing with us before his move to Swindon to work. We will miss him and wish him every success in the future. To end the evening, we finished with a falling stand which left Gareth tolling the Tenor on his own while the rest of us gave him a round of applause.

Thank you, Gareth you have been an inspiration, to me and all the guild. BEST WISHES.

Peter Smith

A LITTLE (EXTRA) HUMOUR

THE BELL-RINGERS

USEFUL INFORMATION FOR NEW RECRUITS

BASIC INSTRUCTIONS

PULL THE ROPE WHEN DIRECTED

WHAT COULD BE SIMPLER?

THINGS YOU WILL NEED

ROPE

BELL

THESE ARE USUALLY PROVIDED

SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS ARE MARKED ON BOARDS ON THE WALLS OF THE TOWER

A QUARTER PEAL WAS RUNG HERE 14 JULY 1987

A FULL PEAL WAS RUNG HERE 24 FEB 2002

CONGRATULATIONS MARK ON PASSING YOUR DRIVING TEST BEST WISHES FROM US ALL

THIS IS THE MAN WHO RUINED A FULL PEAL WHEN HE ANSWERED HIS MOBILE TELEPHONE. THE OTHER RINGERS ARE NOT TERRIBLY HAPPY WITH HIM

CartoonChurch.com

THE HOLIDAY CLUB

CURATE (ENTHUSIASTIC)

HELPERS (A BIT LESS ENTHUSIASTIC)

REFRESHMENTS

SQUASH

ADMINISTRATOR, TAKING CARE OF PERMISSION FORMS

ONE THOUSAND EGG BOXES (I HAVE DRAWN THREE TO GIVE YOU THE GENERAL IDEA)

AREA REQUIRING GLITTER DECONTAMINATION

BADGES

I WAS REASONABLY WELL-BEHAVED, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED

PARENTS, OVERJOYED AT FREE CHILDCARE

THE WORDS TO THIS YEAR'S ANNOYINGLY MEMORABLE SONG

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