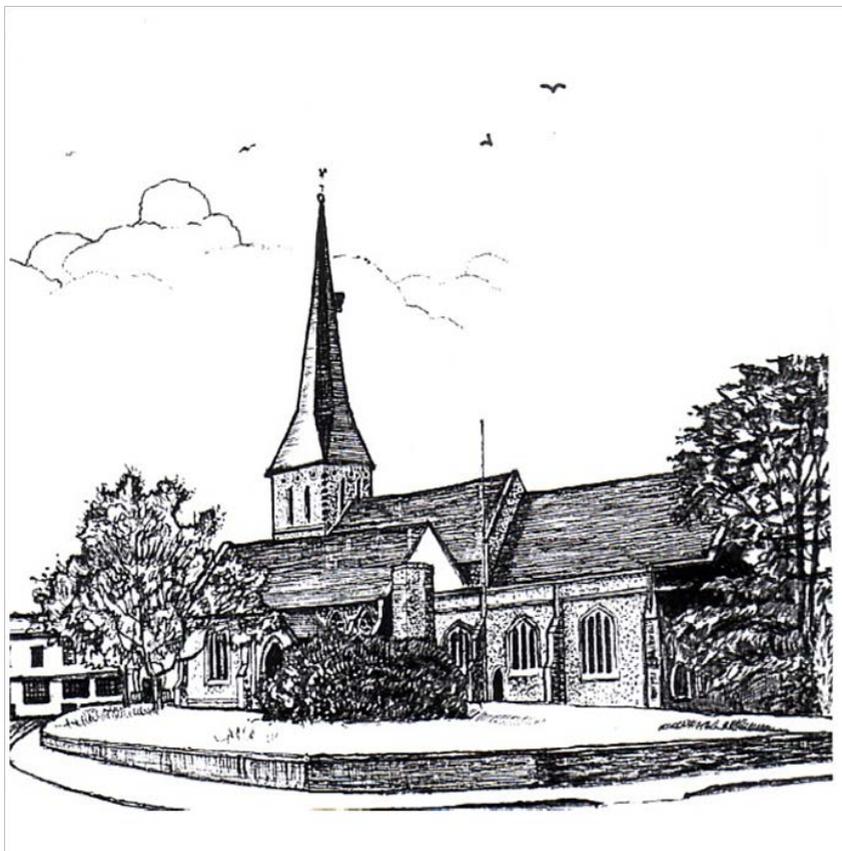


**The LINK**

**30p**

**September 2017**



**The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree**  
**[www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk)**



A young couple (let's call them Mr & Mrs Lovall) had a dream of building their own house. For years they scrimped and save and managed to purchase a plot of land. They found an architect, applied for all the permissions and the builder set to work. Eventually they were handed the keys to their new front door and joyfully moved in with their children. A few days later Mrs Lovall was standing in the kitchen she had designed and suddenly found herself feeling depressed. The years of longing, dreaming, and planning had come to an end and just for a moment (as she was surrounded by everything she wanted) she felt there was nothing more to look forward to in the future. Fortunately, that feeling only lasted a short while because she soon discovered that that was only just the beginning of a new period in her life.

I pray that as we have come to the end of what seemed like a long period of waiting, praying and planning for Nigel to join us as our new priest-in-charge we will not think that our part is done.

6 September is just the beginning of a new chapter. There is still much to be done in our parish, in our deanery, our diocese and, indeed, in our country. During the vacancy, we have employed many skills which some of us probably thought we did not have and they must not be wasted in the years to come. In reality, we are blessed that the vacancy was not as long as some have had to get through. Under God's guidance togetherness brought us to this position and that same guidance will direct our hopes for the future. But the thing is, God still has a vision for the future and it will be up to us to prayerfully find it and faithfully execute it together.

Just before I started to write this letter I received the news that our beloved brother in Christ, David Henfrey, had died and I cannot let this opportunity to pay him tribute pass. We used to joke that it was my fault that he became an accountant because he worked for me during his school holidays. And I still find that

some of my fondest memories of David go back years to Juco camps where he assiduously administered the children's pocket money. During his life time David overcame many adversities, any one of which would have floored many individuals. The early loss of his father meant that he and his mother were particularly close so they did many things together. I am sure that his love of adventurous travel came from those days and he never thought that any place was beyond his bounds. I have often benefitted from use of his disabled parking badge as we went "up West" to watch his auntie Janet in a play.

Although for us he may primarily be remembered for the years he dedicated to looking after our church finances, David also had many friends and interests outside the church, which is a mark of his character and the esteem in which he was held. David never complained about his disabilities or illnesses although he was remarkably honest in admitting to pain and the limitations caused in later life. But above all David knew, loved, and served his Saviour, Jesus Christ. It may be a cliché to say that someone set an example for us all but in David's case it is entirely true. He was much loved and will be sorely missed but his hope in Christ is now complete and he has been received in heaven with those wonderful words, "Well done, My good and faithful servant".

*Yours  
Cyril Bamforth*

## MISSION OF THE MONTH



[www.standby.me](http://www.standby.me)

Stand by Me is a Christian charity committed to rescuing and caring for some of the world's poorest children regardless of ethnicity, religious belief, or social status.

### **WE RESCUE CHILDREN IN CRISIS**

Through our children's homes, schools, and care centres we are meeting the individual needs of over 3,000 children who are orphaned, abandoned, abused, victims of war or disease or living in extreme poverty. We aim to make lasting improvements to children's lives, caring for them as Jesus would, by restoring their dignity and giving them a sense of self-worth. We want every child entrusted to us to feel loved and to reach their full potential.

We are known for the quality of our care for children. We care for children by providing for their physical, emotional, educational, and spiritual needs.

We transform the lives of some of the world's most vulnerable children, by providing them with care that meets their individual needs. Our children's homes provide a family style environment where orphaned and abandoned children can grow in acceptance and love. The children in our homes are cared for from infancy until they are able to function as an independent member of society. Our schools provide each child with a quality education, equipping them with the knowledge and tools necessary to break the cycle of poverty and eventually provide for their own future. In many countries where we work, health care is not accessible

so we provide our children and their families with a variety of health programmes including the provision of nurses, medication, food programmes and clean water.

## **WHERE WE WORK**

Stand by Me is caring for over 3,000 children in some of the world's poorest countries:

**Dominican Republic, Colombia, Romania, Ethiopia, India, Nepal, Burma.**

Stand by Me have increased their involvement in junior and senior schools, both here in England and in Northern Ireland. This expansion and connection through partnering with schools has challenged pupils thinking, broadened their global perspective and has brought home to some the needs of other youngsters in other parts of our world. We also aim to encourage supporters from all backgrounds to actively stand by children in crisis. We believe that supporters have the ability to make a lasting difference in children's lives by investing their time, abilities and resources.

Our Youth Church here at St Michaels continues to sponsor and support Tsion, who lives in Ethiopia. We enjoy receiving her letters and updates (displayed in Church House) which remind us that we are showing our faith in Jesus through our financial giving and the letters and cards we send to Tsion.

To find out more about the work of **Stand By Me**, and/or to find out the latest news and prayer requests please take a look at the '**Mission of the Month**' display in Church in the Welcome area. Thank you.

*Andy and Michelle Carter*

## FAREWELL FROM THE WICKS FAMILY



My story at St Michaels began over 31 years ago when Mum and Dad brought me along to St Michaels as a baby. As a young man, I was privileged to go to things such as Junior Club led by Greg and Margrit, then respectively Jucos, Inters, the Youth Group and Focus. I enjoyed playing guitar at family services and AEP. I had many fond memories of this time, not least because I came to faith in these years and had my faith nurtured by listening to Bible preaching and teaching from people such as Roger, Barney, Suresh and others.

In January 2015, I came back not as the 18-year-old youth who went away to university but as a man with my wife, Lauryn, and 2 children, Elijah and Sarah. My life had dramatically changed in my time in New Zealand and it felt strange to be back in a place where many still remembered me as a child. I was also new to Children's work and have learnt so much in the nearly 3 years I've been here. More challenges arrived when my responsibilities increased after Charles' departure. Through all these things my main desire has

been to serve Christ through serving the children and families at the church and school and to grow in my calling. This same calling is now leading our family to a new adventure as I move on to train as an ordinand at Oak Hill College in North London.

There have been many highlights to our time in Braintree. We are very grateful for the friends we have made in Braintree who have kept us going through nearly three busy years including the recent birth of Lizzie.

Three SMASH Clubs, two Christingle services and Light parties and last year's Christmas play were especially fun to plan and be a part of. For these big events, it has been great to see the whole church pulling together in serving Christ.

Another high point has been serving alongside Andy Carter and a wonderful group of faithful volunteers who have led at Junior Church, Spotlight and ASK, most of them since long before I came back, my deepest thanks to them for their support.

The thing I've most enjoyed has been getting to know the children at the church and the school. It's been a privilege to know these children, to share my faith and teach the Bible in assemblies, at Junior Church, at Spotlight and ASK in the same way people shared their faith and taught the Bible to me as a child. I leave the church feeling blessed by the children who are still very much in my heart. We look forward to catching up with many of you on future visits to my family and pray that St Michaels will have its own exciting adventures over the coming years as it moves into a new era.

## **BRADBURY HOUSE**

Our monthly visits to Bradbury House started again on 16 June and will continue on the following third Friday of the month. The next four visits are on:

- 15 September
- 20 October
- 17 November
- 15 December

We would love to have some extra help if you are free between 2 -3pm on any of those days. We just need people to give out hymn books and talk to the folk there.

We are the representatives of St Michaels Church. They can see the Church from their window and they can hear the bells on a Sunday- will that be all?

Please come if you can. We meet in the Church car park at 2pm, if you are later go straight to Bradbury House and ring the bell.

Thank you very much

*Rosa Read*

## **WOMEN @ ST MICHAELS.**

Some dates for your diaries...

**Saturday 27 January 2018**

### **A Celebration Conference.**

**Come on and Celebrate**

**Looking Back and Looking Forward.**

**Speaker will be Liz Jackson.**

As I have written recently it is a surprise to note that we have been in existence for ten years and we have done and experienced so much together and have so much to celebrate and thank God for as we move into the next decade. At our first ever Conference day the verse we chose to advertise our aim for Women @ St Michaels 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, for at least fourteen Saturday Schools and at five Conference Days and we want to continue this as we look forward. More information and invites will follow  
This is not all...

**PRAYER:** we have tried a variety of ways to pray together as Women @ St Michaels and so we are planning to have:

**A Prayer Lunch from 12-2.00 in Church  
on Thursday 28 September 2017.**

**Another date for your Diary**

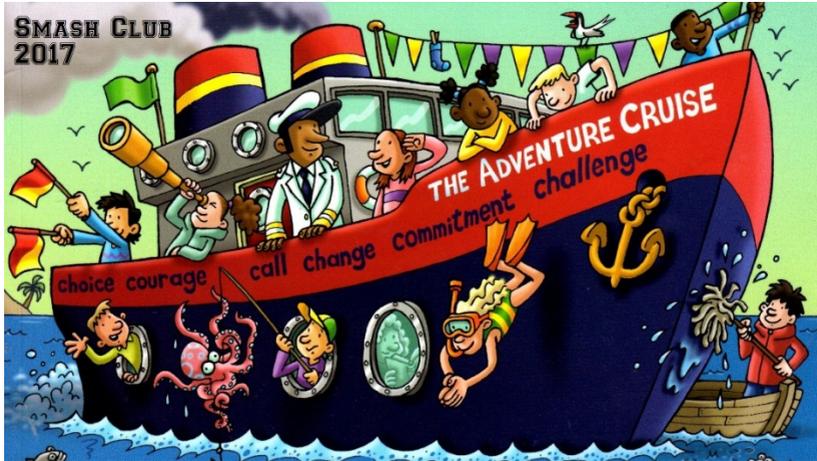
And finally, for now:

A visit to the **White Hart** which we seem to enjoy and hopefully this will be on:

**Thursday 9 November 2017**

Look forward to seeing you at all these events and please make sure everyone knows about them too!!!

*Jennifer Bailey*



For SMASH Club 2017 we were on an Adventure Cruise with Church House awash with ships, sailors, and seagulls. We spent the week cruising through the life of Jesus as told in Luke's gospel.



Each morning around 70 children, 20 junior helpers and 25 adult leaders gathered together on the deck of our cruise ship in Church House. Each voyage began with our SMASH Club puppets

performing the song 'Jesus Superhero'. We were then hosted by the lazy veteran sailor Captain Birdseye and his cheeky assistant Petty Officer Winterbottom. Each day we spoke to Sam the Cam who told us of people he met on his travels whose lives had been changed by Jesus. These included the paralysed man, Bartimaeus and Zacchaeus. In the middle of the week a fierce storm hit the ship and on Friday the lighthouse guided us safely through the storm, a metaphor for being a follower of Jesus.



## SEPTEMBER DIARY

### **1 Friday**

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

### **2 Saturday**

1.45pm Walk in the Countryside: From Toppesfield Church. Contact Terry/Miriam Clarke

### **3 Sunday**

#### **12th after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey

10.00am Church Family Worship

6.30pm Evening Worship – Canon John Turton

7.30pm Focus

### **4 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

### **5 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

### **6 Wednesday**

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study

7.30pm Licensing of Revd Nigel Adams

### **8 Friday**

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

### **10 Sunday**

#### **13th after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Keith Holloway

10.00am Morning Worship – Revd Nigel Adams

6.30pm Holy Communion – Revd Nigel Adams

7.30pm Focus

### **11 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

### **12 Tuesday**

#### **October LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

### **13 Wednesday**

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

### **14 Thursday**

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

### **15 Friday**

- 2.00pm Bradbury House Service
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

### **17 Sunday 14th after Trinity**

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Olivia Maxwell-Coote
- 10.00am Holy Communion – Roger Cooke
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Revd Harry Boreham
- 7.30pm Focus

### **18 Monday**

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 8.00pm Badminton

### **19 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

### **20 Wednesday**

- 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study
- 6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
- 7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House
- 8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

### **21 Thursday**

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

**22 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7.30pm Flower Club

**24 Sunday 15th after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Colin Fairweather

10.00am Morning Worship – Cyril Bamforth

6.30pm Evening Worship – David Huxter

7.30pm Focus

**25 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

8.00pm Badminton

**26 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

**27 Wednesday**

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

**28 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

**29 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7.30pm Flower Club

**30 Saturday**

9.00am Church House working party - tbc

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### **Baptism**

6 Aug Florence Hug

### **Funerals**

2 Aug Mary Hales

## GARDENING TIPS

September is the month of harvest and funnily enough a month of planting.

It's the start of the time to look again at the lawn and make sure it is fed, watered and where it has suffered over the summer some seed applied. Think carefully about where the lawn suffered and what is really needed. There are now seeds for dry lawns, shady lawns, wildflower lawns and the hardwearing football lawn. There is even seed for under big trees where it is dry and shady!

Start thinking about the spring and what bulbs you want to see arriving to welcome the end of Winter. These need planning for now and getting ready to plant.

For food growers, leeks, some cabbages and broccoli plants are now going in ready for the Spring.

That all said, enjoy harvesting fruit, and veg this month and possibly plan to visit an apple tasting. Great for choosing what you might like to grow and needless to say for trying lots of fruit. Little children especially seem to love munching on pieces of fresh apple!

*Dave Marriott*

For the second part of the morning the teams took part in several activities. Ed Nash organised entertaining team games and races. Our hard-working refreshments team provided both children and adults with refreshments while they pondered the day's Bible story with Jennifer, Stephen Bailey and me. Kate Farmer and June Kirk demonstrated some fun crafts which included fish glasses, money boxes and lighthouses which the children enjoyed crafting. During the week, the children and their



competitive leaders also had some great ideas for the team challenge of constructing nautically themed masterpieces (which you may have seen in church at the SMASH service) or preparing a sock puppet performance for Friday. They worked hard at home too, making beautiful pictures, models and jokes for the SMASH Club post box.

Once again, this year we had a great team of dedicated leaders and many people supporting us in prayer. Thank you again to everyone who helped make SMASH Club 2017 such a big hit with the children, it's been a privilege to serve alongside you all.

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*Joel Wicks*



## WHITE HORSE TAVERN

*'FOUR GOSPELS, ONE JESUS' Richard A Burrige.*

Mon 25 Sept. Mark 'The Roar of the Lion'  
Mon 2 Oct. Mark 'The Roar of the Lion'  
Mon 9 Oct. Matthew 'The Teacher of Israel'  
Mon 16 Oct. Matthew 'The Teacher of Israel'  
Mon 23 Oct. (Half Term. No meeting)

Mon 3 Oct. *Celebration of 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of The Reformation: -*  
Mon 6 Nov. *'Reformation, then and now' Roger Cooke.*

*'FOUR GOSPELS, ONE JESUS' Richard A Burrige.*

Mon 13 Nov. Luke 'The Bearer of Burdens.'  
Mon 20 Nov. Luke 'The Bearer of Burdens'  
Mon 27 Nov. John 'The High-Flying Eagle'  
Mon 4 Dec. John 'The High-Flying Eagle'

White Horse Tavern meets at 7.30pm on Monday evening in the Small Hall in Church House. 'Reformation then and Now' will meet in the main hall and is open to all.

If you would like to come to 'Four Gospels, One Jesus', please let Stephen Bailey, Jenny Chapman or Lin Terris know so that study material can be sent to you.

## LADIES GROUP

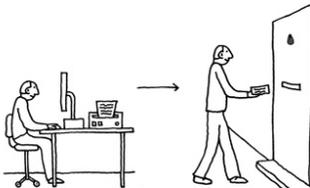
Our meeting in July saw us inviting past members for our Farewell/50th Anniversary/Summer Meal. Fifty-five members past and present were able to attend. We would like to thank Cynthia's husband, Bill for coming and kindly doing the washing up for us. The other man present was the Rev. Des. Kelly who came initially as chauffeur for his wife, Val. but earned his meal by giving us an epilogue. Des referred to Joshua chapl verse 7, which speaks about keeping to God's law wherever the future may lead us.

The atmosphere was lively and sociable with many people taking the chance to "catch up". Rev. Pam Davies was also able to attend and she gave us a Grace before the meal. Speeches were made, and everyone seemed to have had a good evening. The feeling is that it was a fitting final meeting for Ladies Group.

*Helen Kemp*

## A LITTLE HUMOUR CYBER ATTACKS

HOW THE MODERN-DAY CHURCH IS RESISTING THEM



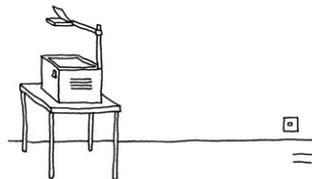
PRINTING EMAILS AND DELIVERING THEM BY HAND



MAINTAINING ANTIVIRUS PROTECTION



KEEPING UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION OFF THE WEBSITE



NOT PLUGGING THE OHP INTO THE INTERNET

CartoonChurch.com



Hi Everyone!

We're looking forward to joining you on Sunday 1 October for our CYO presentation. We have just kicked off another school year and already have full diaries so it looks to be another good one!

If you don't know anything about us, we shall look forward to sharing all next month. In the meantime, visit our website, Facebook page and grab our latest newsletter at the back of church. Please also speak to Dave Marriott or Terry Clark who are both on our team of trustees.

We shall enjoy sharing news on upcoming projects in the primary schools, let you know how our mentoring sessions are going in the secondary schools and generally update you on our regular assemblies, lessons, lunch clubs and other activities.

So, thanks in advance for having us and we shall look forward to meeting you all next month!

*Matt, Nikki, Olive, Sally & Sheena*

[www.cyoweb.org.uk](http://www.cyoweb.org.uk)  
[facebook/cyobraintree](https://facebook.com/cyobraintree)

## CLOCK TIMES

I am not a clock maker and while being at home with old engines, this, was a totally different matter!

The first thing I had noticed was that it needed new wooden winding drums and as a friend was a wood-turner I paid to have these renewed. After hundreds of years the old oak had become woodworm infested and someone had banged in nails and split the wood. This clock was not only the story of St Michael's but the story of Braintree itself. I felt the heavy hand of history on my shoulders and that it should not be discarded in such a fashion.

Where could I get more information? Braintree Museum neither wanted the clock nor could provide more information. I tried various people but to no avail. At this point I thought had I bitten off more than I could chew. What on earth could I do now? and it was taking up a large space in the garage!

Information, I needed more information. Could the old clock tell me more? I searched the frame and found a faded brass plaque! It said "John Firmin, Wm Searle Peers; Churchwardens. Thomas Hutley Coggeshall Fecit." (*Latin for made by*). So now I had something to go on. It had been made in Coggeshall by Thomas Hutley, but was he a horologist or was he just the local blacksmith who had made this clock up to standard patterns?

Coggeshall Museum opens on Sundays in the summer months and they would have the information. They told me that he was a bone fide clockmaker and if I wanted to see another of his clocks I need look no further than Paycockes Hall. In there I found a magnificent 8-day long case clock in Chinese Lacquer, I also discovered that there was in Baillie's book a lantern and a 30-hour long case clock in Ipswich. (to be continued next month)

*Rod Davey*

## BELFRY BULLETIN

We had a request from a prospective Bridegrooms mother to ring our bells to surprise him and his Bride after their wedding, this is not that unusual but the fact that the wedding was to take place at Christchurch in London Road certainly was.

We checked that the bells could be heard on London Road and that mobile phone communication was possible. With this achieved we were pleased to be able to be part of a wedding service held at another church.

On Saturday 5 August, we assembled in the tower ready to ring and hoping that all the planning was going to be successful and it was. With Lin Ould as the phone operator and I Peter Smith, 2 Ellie Gray, 3 Bradley Hill[c], 4 Ellis Whitehouse, 5 Phil Kelly, 6 Richard Ould ringing 20 mins of very good Rounds and Call Changes for the wedding of Robert Salter to Laura Allan, which were heard clearly at Christchurch.

This was a great success and we have received a very nice and encouraging message of thanks from the Bridal Party. We believe that this is a first for Braintree.

Before the communion Service on Sunday 20 August we rang a Quarter Peal to congratulate Deborah and Gavin Wood on the birth of Emma Patricia Margaret, Peter Smith's 1st Grandchild. 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles [720] and Grandsire Doubles [540] in 45mins. 1 Ellie Gray, 2 Debbie Hill, 3 Lin Ould, 4 Bradley Hill, 5 Peter Smith [c], Richard Ould. With very best wishes from the Guild. Peter was heard to say that "he has never been as nervous as he was ringing and conducting this QP"

*Peter Smith*

## 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