

**The LINK**

**30p**

**January 2017**



**The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree**

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

## **NOTICE ABOUT RESOLUTION:**

7.30pm Wednesday 4 January 2017

May we draw your attention to an important notice on the board in the South Porch.

If you cannot come to the meeting please give any member of the PCC your considered and biblical view on this matter. It will be heard and taken into account when the PCC votes.

Dear Friends

By the time you are reading this the Christmas celebrations will be over (and maybe the New Year sales as well). Although the tree, decorations and cards may still be in place as twelfth night is a few days off, the festive atmosphere has gone. A collective sigh of relief is almost palpable. Everything has returned to normal. Life will carry on in the same old way. However, for some people, this is the time to reflect upon 2016 and to look forward into 2017. They sit down and make their New Year's resolutions.

Out of curiosity I researched the web for the top 5 resolutions and found that; firstly, they were all self-centred and vague; secondly, I wondered about their success rates and finally I thought that I would make up some of my own.

Let's look at the web first:

1. Lose weight
2. Get organised
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the full
5. Stay fit

All very laudable, I'm sure but hardly thought through – maybe numbers 1 and 2 should be swapped! To lose weight you need to have a goal and a diet/exercise plan. To spend less you need a budget and so on.

As far as the success rate is concerned the most optimistic estimate is that only one person in every ten achieves anything. The psychologists put the failures of the other ninety down to a combination of unrealistic aims and lack of a support structure geared to assist in the behavioural changes required.

So if we are doomed to failure why try at all? How negative can that be I hear you say. The reality is that the resolutions are the wrong ones in the first place. If your desire is to change your life for the better; why not make a different list in the first place? If it has been proved that support and change of life style is needed, why not look to our Lord? This is where my new suggestions come in. With the aid of the Bible and, maybe some help from your friends, review your life of faith and:

1. Pray to the Lord for wisdom in regards to what resolutions, if any, He would have you make.
2. Pray for wisdom as to how to fulfil the goals God will give you. Rely on His strength for help.
3. Work with someone who will encourage you.
4. Let the odd failure act as motivation not discouragement.
5. Give God the glory as you achieve success.

Of course all this can be summed up in our verse of the year 2017, which is:

**Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding.**

**In all your ways acknowledge Him, and he will make your paths straight.**

*Proverbs 3.5-6*

Yours in Christ

*Lesley Davey*

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH ACTS MINISTRY-BURKINA FASO**

**Acts** works among the most vulnerable people in one of the poorest countries in the world-Burkina Faso. Village widows and orphans are the forgotten ones. They have no voice and no means of support. They are considered outcasts due to the fear of AIDS. Widows have no opportunity for education and no hope of gaining the skills necessary to support a family. With no financial means, no education, health care and no one to help, widows and orphans are hopelessly caught in a cycle of poverty, sickness and ignorance.

Acts works through:

1. Education it has hundreds of orphans and rural poor children in formal education; many children in vocational training; widows in micro enterprise and literacy training.

2. Community Development bringing spiritual, economic, social and physical relief.

3. Ellet Medical Centre which provides maternity care, maternal and child health, has a dispensary, a laboratory, pharmaceutical depot and ordontology. Patient visits have been increasing year on year.

4. Nutrition: Acts feeds each day 850 orphans. For some of them it is the only daily meal and this is making a great difference in their lives.

5. Temple Evangelique El Rosi Organises evangelical campaigns, trains 350 new disciples, trains pastors, has brought 1000 people to salvation.

Love in action draws the lost to the gospel message. Acts ministers to the physical and emotional wounds of the desperate while addressing their spiritual needs.

Acts knows that prayer, spiritual and moral training will bring them through as believers who are strong in the face of difficult circumstances.

Only God's love can make lasting change in the lives of men, women, boys, and girls caught in the oppression of poverty and ignorance.

If you would like more information about Acts Ministry please take a look at the display in church or speak to me.

*Terry Clark*

## **THANK YOU**

A big thank you for all your love, support and prayers since my fall and hip operation in April and my prostate cancer diagnosis in July. I really do feel supported and upheld.

My mobility has gradually improved over the last few months. I'm told it can take up to a year to recover fully and I might not get back to where I was.

I saw the oncologist at the beginning of December, and there was good news. The hormone treatment's working, and the cancer's shrinking. (For the technically minded, my PSA level has fallen from 141 to 74 and the target is no more than 12.) I'm seeing her again at the beginning of March and she hopes it will have fallen further by then.

It's a real answer to prayer, but there's further to go, so please keep praying!

*David Henfrey*

## **WHAT'S NEW AT ST MICHAELS IN 2017?**

### **Family Gathering**

Children and families have long been considered a central part of our church fellowship. We also know that families are busy and under a lot of pressure. We want to give families a chance to meet outside of Sundays and feel more connected with and supported by each other. That's why we're starting a monthly Family Gathering. Consider this a friendship group, a support network and a place to eat good food. At Family Gathering we will have a bring and share brunch, combining some of the best foods from breakfast, morning tea and lunch. You won't have to roll out of bed early for breakfast and you can be home by lunch time.

A place of encouraging and equipping

At each session there will be something to encourage you in family life from a Christian perspective. This may include DVD talks from Discipleship Explored and The Parenting Course and personal testimonies from experienced parents.

The kids will play, the adults will chat and all will eat. Sounds like a great Family Gathering!

Come and check it out:

Saturday 28 January, 10.30am Church House.

Also...

### **Dads & Kids**

We are also starting an informal group for Dads and kids to drop in together for coffee once a month on a Saturday morning, starting February (date tbc). There will be toys, games and morning tea as well as plenty of time to catch up with friends.

For more details or to volunteer to help please contact [joelgwicks@gmail.com](mailto:joelgwicks@gmail.com)

*Joel Wicks*

## **WHITE HORSE TAVERN (WHT)**

2017 is a big year in the story of the White Horse Tavern. The 31 October 1517 marked the beginning of the Reformation in Germany. Four years later, people like Thomas Cranmer met in White Horse Tavern in Cambridge to discuss the re-discovery of the good news of Jesus Christ.

### **CELEBRATION IN THE AUTUMN?**

Hopefully, under God, we might celebrate this 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary here in Braintree.

### **BUT WHY WAIT TEN MONTHS?**

WHT begins again on Monday 9 January at 7.30pm in Church House for its usual ten weekly sessions. (We do break for the half-term week.)

Like our noble predecessors, we will be studying Martin Luther, together with John Calvin, John Owen (local boy!) and others.

The 'Taverners' have got a taste for this (no pun intended!) having drunk (oops!) of the ideas of some of the early church fathers.

### **'STANDING GIANTS' SHOULDERS'**

Once again, we will be calling up on the aid of Michael Reeves who has written a book with the above title. Amazon sell it from £3.60 to £8.99 at the time of writing. You won't regret buying it.

You will be most welcome to join us in the saloon bar of the WHT (sorry I mean the Small Hall of Church of St Michael's Church House) on Monday 9 January 2017.

*Stephen Bailey*



## JANUARY DIARY

### **1 Sunday**

#### **Naming and circumcision**

8.00am

Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey

10.00am

Morning Worship – Trust in the Lord – Cyril  
Bamforth

*No evening services at St. Michaels*

### **2 Monday**

8.00pm

Badminton

### **4 Wednesday**

7.30pm

**PCC – Church House (See P2)**

### **5 Thursday**

7.30pm

Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm

Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with  
Lin first)

### **6 Friday**

6.30pm

Parish Surgery – Church House

### **8 Sunday**

#### **Baptism of Christ**

8.00am

Holy Communion – tbc

10.00am

Church Family Worship

6.30pm

Holy Communion – The Ascension Promise – tbc

7.30pm

Focus

### **9 Monday**

5.30pm

4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm

Bell Ringing

7.30pm

White Horse Tavern – Church House (see P8)

8.00pm

Badminton

### **10 Tuesday**

#### **FEBRUARY LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

1.15pm

Tiddlywinks

8.00pm

Ladies Group

## **11 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
- 8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer, chat and curry – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Road

## **12 Thursday**

- 3.30pm ASK
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

## **13 Friday**

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

## **15 Sunday 2nd after Epiphany**

- 8.00am Holy Communion – tbc
- 10.00am Morning Holy Communion – Building up each other – Roger Cooke
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Making the right choice – tbc
- 7.30pm Focus

## **16 Monday**

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

## **17 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

## **18 Wednesday**

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

## **19 Thursday**

- 3.30pm ASK
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

## **20 Friday**

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

## **22 Sunday 3rd after Epiphany**

- 8.00am Holy Communion – tbc
- 10.00am Morning Worship – The Lord who changes us – Revd Stephen Bailey
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Coming of the Holy Spirit – tbc
- 7.30pm Focus

## **23 Monday**

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

## **24 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

## **25 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

## **26 Thursday**

- 3.30pm ASK
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

**27 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7.30pm Flower Club

**28 Saturday**

10.30am Family Gathering – Church House (See P7)

**29 Sunday 4th after Epiphany**

8.00am Holy Communion - tbc

10.00am Morning Holy Communion – Our life in the world  
– Roger Cooke

6.30pm United Service at Christchurch

7.30pm Focus

**30 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

8.00pm Badminton

**31 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

No entries

## **BELFRY BULLETIN**

Three of our members have achieved significant performances in their ringing lives; Ellie Gray rang her 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Peal and to show it was no fluke rang her 2<sup>nd</sup> one the next week; Gareth Davies, a seasoned Quarter Pealer now, rang the tenor behind for the 1<sup>st</sup> time; Ellis Whitehouse, a new member of the band who we are very pleased to have ringing with us, scored his 1<sup>st</sup> QP of Grandsire. Congratulations all three.

We were asked by the traders from St. Michael's end of the High Street to bring the switching on of the lights ceremony to a close. This we did by ringing 30minutes of good tuneful ringing on the back 8 of our 10 bells, for which we were thanked and congratulated on our performance.

For the 10am service on Sunday 20 November 2016 we rang 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles in 40mins. Ellie Gray 1, Debbie Hill 2, Ellis Whitehouse 3, Peter Smith 4, Bradley Hill[c] 5.

We range this Quarter Peal in Memory of Betty Hill who passed away on 14.8.16, Debbie's Mother-in-Law and Bradley's Nan. 1<sup>st</sup> QP at 1<sup>st</sup> attempt Ellie Gray.

Prior to the 6.30pm service on 27 November we again rang a Quarter this time of 1260 changes Grandsire Doubles in 41 mins Ellie Gray 1, Debbie Hill 2, Ellis Whitehouse 3, Bradley Hill 4, Peter Smith [c] 5, Gareth Davies 6. This was 1<sup>st</sup> of Grandsire for Ellis and 1<sup>st</sup> as cover for Gareth.

What a surprise we all got when we met to ring for the 10am service on Sunday 4 December, it was almost like being in the wrong room. Debbie and Bradley Hill had been to put up the new radio controlled clock. Then they set about doing a complete clean and rearranged the seating which makes the room look bigger and more welcoming. Thank you both very much. But, as a long time Anglican, were have you put my seat?

*Peter Smith*

# LADIES GROUP

We will be having our Christmas meal on 13 December. We will enjoy a full three course meal including turkey and trimmings. Afterwards we will sing some Carols and have some seasonal thoughts and readings.

Our first meeting of 2017 will be on 10 January when Frankie and Jim Winning will tell us something about their visit to Malaysia and South America as part of their round the world trip.

*Helen Kemp*

## A LITTLE HUMOUR

### WAYS TO KEEP WARM

IN CASE THERE IS ONE YOU HAVEN'T TRIED

