

**The LINK**

**30p**

**January 2018**



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





Dear Friends,

May I wish you a very happy New Year. This is genuinely meant – I hope that 2018 will be a happy and enjoyable year for you.

But I am very aware that 2017 was a very tough year for a number of people in our church family. Since we arrived in September, there have been a really significant number of bereavements. Life in our fallen and broken world can be hard, sad and tragically, too short. Yet the Bible tells us that there is hope.

This term, we will be running a course called the Identity Course. The name reflects the fact that the Bible reveals to us something of God's identity. A God who created everything; a God who wants to rescue us; a God who wants to have a personal relationship with us.

Yet in our world we see so much that is not right – things that raise questions for us. The Identity Course asks and addresses some big questions, such as:

- Are science and Christianity enemies or friends?
- What about other religions?
- Why do we suffer?
- Does God care about justice?

The course will run on seven Thursdays, from the 18th January. We will start with coffee and puddings at 7.45pm in the main hall of Church House and will finish at 9.30pm.

There will be opportunities to discuss things in groups – the aim of the course is that “Nothing is assumed. Everything is explained. Anything can be asked.”

If you would like to come, or want to find out more, do please contact Jo or me. Everyone is welcome, whether you consider yourself a Christian or just want to find out more. We hope you will join us.

With our best wishes for the New Year,

*Nigel*

## **WHITE HORSE TAVERN**

*“Just before Jesus came”*

Monday 8 January

Maccabees – terrorists or saints?

Monday 15 January

Those who looked for the consolation of Israel

Monday 22 January

Pharisees – Noble beginnings?

Monday 29 January

Essenes - Would you have joined this group?

Monday 5 February

Priesthood, Politics + Passion

(Subject to modification as weeks go on)

We meet on Mondays at 7.30pm in Church House

*Stephen Bailey*

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH CHAIN FOUNDATION**

In 2001, the Chain Foundation Uganda orphanage was started by retired Archbishop Livingstone Nkoyoyo in response to the needs of local orphans, former street children, abandoned children, and the disabled. The foundation is home to more than 100 orphans and other vulnerable children, including over 40 blind students. It provides a loving, Christian environment to meet the children's physical, educational, medical, and spiritual needs. The foundation also assists many at-risk or disabled children who live in nearby communities, and provides community education programmes. The Chain Foundation is located in Mukono, 20 kilometers from the capital city of Kampala.

The Martin Nkoyoyo Inclusive School at the Chain Foundation opened in February 2009. It is the first school of its kind in Uganda, integrating blind and sighted children. This model school currently serves over 300 students from the orphanage and from nearby villages. The library at the school has an expansive selection of books, including Braille books for the blind students.

Archbishop Livingstone's son Stone is currently one of the main managers at Chain Foundation and has visited St. Michaels on a number of occasions.

Here is a brief report of some of the activities from November.

### **EDUCATION**

On 2 November 2017, primary seven children sat their national leaving education (P.L.E) examinations. The rest of the school sat their exams on the 6 and 7 November.

Every Thursday of every week, the school children come together for a 1 ½ hours church prayers led by the chaplain. Children take part in the readings and sharing testimonies.

(continued on P6)

Children in the kindergarten section also completed their end of year examinations. 25 children will be joining primary section next year after completing top class.

## **FARMING**

Children are engaged in agricultural activities like farming and taking care of animals. They are engaged more on weekend and during school holidays.

## **ORPHANAGE ACTIVITIES**

These are usual orphanage activities. Children are taught positive behaviours and children's` rights. The children are given opportunity to ask questions on anything they need to understand.

The orphanage children are taught how to keep proper sanitation in and around the chain perimeters. They are mobilized and delegated to clean around their dormitories, kitchen, and toilets etc.

Chain students are engaged into sports activities as a way of exercising their bodies and also talent promotion like football, netball, running etc. sometimes children from outside are invited to compete with them.

Compound maintenance is one of the hygienic and healthy activities done at chain foundation. This is done every month to get rid of tall grass that harbours mosquitoes and causes malaria.

## **COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

Some of the children supported by chain foundation are in the community not at the orphanage. Every week and month, chain staff visits their homes and schools to check on how they are doing.

<http://chainfoundation.org/>

*Send by David Huxter*



**WOMEN  
@ST MICHAELS  
CELEBRATE 10  
YEARS WITH US**

Ten Years ago, we highlighted our aim using words from Psalm 63 verse 1 which say:

**O God, you are my God; earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.**

This has been our desire over the past ten years with all our events so may it be so for the next ten.

**See you all in Church House on  
Saturday January 27 2018**

Our Celebration begins at 9.00 on Saturday 27 January 2018 in Church House with Coffee and Danish Pastries with an official start at 9.30 and conclude at 3.30.

Our theme for the day is 'JOURNEY' and we are going to look at some Psalms for Pilgrim People...

Our Speaker will be Liz Jackson from Jesmond Parish Church, Newcastle upon Tyne who was our Speaker at the first Conference Day ten years ago.

There is still plenty of time to return applications or ask for more information.

(continued on P8)

Planned for the day... we have a Diocesan Bookstall, Interviews, Discussions, Talks, a celebration cake, refreshments and of course lunch and goody bags, amazing singing (requests for songs to Jennifer Bailey) ...you only need to bring yourself! ...oh and there will be time to simply be together to talk... and the opportunity to pray with someone if that would be helpful for you.

## **A NEW CELEBRATION**

As part of our Celebrations on this day we are planning something quite new which is for all our 'Young Women'...

This is for you if you are at

Secondary School. We have a special person coming to spend the day with you ...Ruth Ellam from St John's Colchester and she is planning activities especially for you... Your day will cost £3.50...so if you are a 'young woman' at Secondary school this is for you... look out for more information and booking forms. We can promise you an exciting day.

★ Let's  
**Celebrate!** ★



**O God, you are my God; earnestly  
I seek you; my soul thirsts for you.**

So don't miss the opportunity to be  
with us...

**See you all in Church House on  
Saturday 27 January 2018**

*Jennifer Bailey*

## **A BEAUTIFUL MESSAGE**

The legendary Wimbledon Player Arthur Ashe was dying of AIDS, due to Infected Blood he received during Surgery.

He received letters from his fans, one of which conveyed:

“Why did God have to select you for such a bad disease?”

To this Arthur Ashe replied:

50 Million children started playing Tennis,

5 Million learnt to play Tennis,

500 000 learnt Professional Tennis,

50 Thousand came to Circuit,

5 Thousand reached Grand Slam,

50 reached Wimbledon,

4 reached the Semifinals,

2 reached the Finals and

when I was holding the cup in my hand, I never asked God

“Why Me?”

So now that I'm in pain how can I ask God

“Why Me?”

Happiness keeps you Sweet!

Trials keep you Strong!

Sorrows keep you Human!

Failure keeps you Humble!

Success keeps you Glowing!

But only, Faith keeps you Going!

Sometimes you are not satisfied with your life, while many people in this world are dreaming of living your life.

A child on a farm sees a plane fly overhead dreams of flying, but a pilot on the plane sees the farmhouse & dreams of returning home. That's life!

(continued on P10)

Enjoy yours... If wealth is the secret to happiness, then the rich should be dancing on the streets. But only poor kids do that.

If power ensures security, then VIPs should walk unguarded? but those who live simply, sleep soundly.

If beauty and fame bring ideal relationships, then celebrities should have the best marriages.

Live simple, be happy! Walk humbly and love genuinely! WHY ME?

A Beautiful Message not just to read and forward but to apply practically in our personal life.

*Peter Schaad*

## **4<sup>TH</sup> BRAINTREE SCOUT UPDATE**

2018 sees 4th Braintree's 50th Birthday. We opened on the 23rd February 1968 with a few cubs and a couple of leaders. We are celebrating the year with a huge number of camps and sleepovers - at least one every month!

A particular highlight will be our group where 145 of us are camping on Brownsea Island! Brownsea was the place where the very first scout camp ever was held in 1907 - us camping there on our 50th birthday will surely be a very special and memorable experience.

4<sup>th</sup> Braintree will be in the Tesco Bags of Help Scheme from 2nd Jan to 28th Feb in town, Notley, Marks Farm and Coggeshall. This scheme could provide the group up to a £4000 grant, which would be used to buy new equipment - such as tents - that are needed desperately for our growing young people numbers.

We have over 160 young people in the group now - double compared to three years ago!

*James Hopkins*

## JANUARY DIARY

### **3 Wednesday**

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

### **4 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

### **5 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

### **6 Saturday**

10.00am Flitch Way Walk from Braintree Station

### **7 Sunday 1st of Epiphany**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Church Family Worship – The Maker’s Mark

6.30pm Evening Worship – Seek the Lord

7.30pm Focus

### **8 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

8.00pm Badminton

### **9 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm First Priority – Church House

### **10 Wednesday**

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

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

## **11 Thursday**

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

## **12 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

## **14 Sunday 2nd of Epiphany**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Morning Worship – Seek the Lord  
6.30pm Holy Communion – A cry from the heart  
7.30pm Focus

## **15 Monday**

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

## **16 Tuesday FEBRUARY LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

## **17 Wednesday**

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study  
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

## **18 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK  
7.45pm The Identity Course – Church House  
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

## **19 Friday**

2.00pm Bradbury House Service  
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts  
7.30pm Flower Club

- 21 Sunday 3rd of Epiphany**  
 8.00am Holy Communion  
 10.00am Holy Communion – You have lost your first love  
 6.30pm Evening Worship – God’s gift  
 7.30pm Focus
- 22 Monday**  
 12.15pm Spotlight  
 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers  
 7.30pm Bell Ringing  
 7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House  
 8.00pm Badminton
- 23 Tuesday**  
 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
- 24 Wednesday**  
 9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study  
 6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts  
 7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House
- 25 Thursday**  
 3.30pm ASK  
 7.45pm The Identity Course – Church House  
 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 26 Friday**  
 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts  
 7.30pm Flower Club
- 27 Saturday**  
 9.00am Women@St Michaels conference day
- 28 Sunday 4th of Epiphany**  
 8.00am Holy Communion  
 10.00am Morning Worship – The crown of life  
 6.30pm Evening Worship – A worthless house  
 7.30pm Focus

## **29 Monday**

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

## **30 Tuesday**

1.15pm      Tiddlywinks

## **31 Wednesday**

9:45am      Meeting Point Bible Study  
6.30pm      4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Funerals**

18 December Donald Wood

20 December John Watts



# Emma's Tanzania 2018

WORK THE WORLD

Dear St Michaels Church Family,

As some of you know, I am off on an adventure to Tanzania in August for 4 weeks with my University. I am now in my second year of Paediatric Nursing at Anglia Ruskin University and as part of my second year, we are given the opportunity to complete 4 weeks of placement outside of our placement zone. Either to explore another NHS Trust or travel abroad to do an elective volunteering experience. I have chosen to take on the latter. Accompanied by another Nursing Student and close friend, we will both travel to Dar es Salaam in Tanzania the first weekend in August.

This volunteering experience is organised by a company called Work the World (WtW), who for over 10 years have been sending medical and healthcare, professionals and students all over the globe. They will organise for us our healthcare placements in the local hospitals, accommodation in a WtW House and our extra trip to spend a week living in a mountain village, with many additional opportunities available.

My entire trip will cost just under £4000\*. This includes: The WtW organised section (placements, accommodation, support, village experience), vaccinations, Visa, insurance and plane tickets. Plus, some tourism activities such as scuba diving or a Safari trip.

Three of my weeks will be spent in the local hospitals situated in Dar es Salaam, within which I will hopefully have the opportunity to volunteer in the Paediatric department, Neonatal Intensive

Care Unit and Emergency department. The final week will be spent in a rural African village at the foothills of the Viduna mountains. There I will learn about the local healing and way of life. (As the trips gets closer I will find out my itinerary)

I have never travelled outside of Europe with my furthest travel so far being to France. So, this experience is a giant leap outside of my comfort zone. It has been something I have always wanted to go off and experience, after the many Church Family Members who have completed Christian Projects in countries throughout the African continent. But I have never had the means or the motive to do so. When I was made aware of the opportunity to travel with WtW as part of my course, I knew that for the first time in my life I would do whatever it took to make sure it didn't slip through my fingers. I would be signing up, either solo or with a group of my cohort members. My trip to Tanzania will mean I get to experience practising Paediatric Nursing in a developing country and get first-hand experience of a very different clinical setting to that at home. I believe this experience will open my eyes, strengthen my soul, break my heart and fill my mind with the wonders and horrors of the low-resource health care system. It will be the most emotionally, mentally and physically challenging thing I will have ever put my body through. I will see what people do when they do not have access to the equipment and supplies that we take for granted. I will experience a completely new way of life and working. But it will be worth every penny I bring together.

Thank you for taking your time to read my little section. I hope to hold a fundraising Quiz night in Church House around March/April time, but I will provide updates of any fundraising events I arrange. I know I'm very rarely in the Church, mainly due to my Nursing placements in Harlow, but when I am please feel free to ask me or my family (Christine & David Hart, Matthew and Ed) questions about my trip.

You can visit the Work the World website for the Tanzania information page at:

[www.worktheworld.co.uk/tanzania-dar-es-salaam](http://www.worktheworld.co.uk/tanzania-dar-es-salaam)

or my fundraising page at:

[www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmas-elective--tanzania](http://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emmas-elective--tanzania)

for more information about the trip.

Thank you,

*Emma Nash*

*\*All of the money raised will be spent directly on the placement and important extras (Visa, vaccinations etc.). Any extra experiences/tourism activities completed outside of placement hours, such as a Safari trip or snorkelling, will be funded out of my own pocket.*

## BELFRY BULLETIN

We have rung 2 Quarter Peals to high light 2 notable occasions, 1 National and 1 Local.

Sunday 19 November 2017 for Evening Worship two of our Guild members were joined by eight District ringers to ring 1260 changes of Plain Bob Royal in 47mins.

Debbie Hill 1, Kath Downs 2, Peter Wood 3, Vicky LeFevre 4, Peter Smith 5, Pat Cresshull 6, Maurice Downs 7, Roy Threadgold 8, Simon Ward 9, Ian Cresshull [c] 10

This was to commemorate the 70<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Phillip, Duke of Edinburgh.

It was also 1<sup>st</sup> as conductor of Royal for Ian Cresshull [Felsted]  
The 2<sup>nd</sup> QP was for Evening Worship on Sunday 26 November consisting of 600 changes St Martins Bob Doubles and 660 of St Simons Bob Doubles, 1260 changes in 44mins

Ellis Whitehouse 1, Ellie Gray 2, Debbie Hill [c] 3, Maurice Downs 4, Peter Smith 5, Gareth Davies 6. With this Quarter we celebrate Ellie Gray's 21<sup>st</sup> birthday and it was also her 1<sup>st</sup> of St Martins and St Simons, congratulations Ellie from all the Guild.

Debbie was conducting her 1<sup>st</sup> QP of St Martins and St Simons. Note's in the Guild Log Book for Sunday 10 December 2017. 5 people turned up despite 2 feet of snow!! [ I think that could be a touch of poetic licence]

Was lovely to have Phil back on a Sunday.

*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 second 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. Michael's Church is located in:

St Michael's Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY

Facebook: [stmichaelschurchbraintree](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree)

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