

**The LINK**

**30p**

**February 2018**



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





Dear Friends,

A number of people have commented to me about the high number of deaths we have suffered at St Michael's since my arrival in September.

There's something about the loss of someone we love that doesn't feel right. And that's because it isn't right. It isn't how God intended things to be.

The Bible speaks of a loving Creator God who, in the beginning, made everything perfect. He looked at everything he had made (including human beings) and it was "very good" (Genesis 1:31).

Human beings were made to be in a good relationship with God and were given work to do – purposeful activity, in Adam and Eve's case, tending the garden. All started well.

But Adam and Eve disobeyed God (Genesis 3). Sin and death entered the world. Most of the Bible is the account of God revealing himself to people, initially to the people of Israel, his chosen people. Yet despite this, there was still much suffering and heart-ache.

The New Testament begins with God himself coming down to earth in the person of his Son, Jesus. The baby Jesus grew into the man Jesus. He became the most amazing healer and teacher. Yet his ministry only lasted three years. The leaders and crowd turned against him and he was tortured to death on a cross.

But three days later, his body had inexplicably disappeared from the tomb where he was laid. His friends saw him alive again! Some weeks later, he ascended to heaven.

Jesus' followers, filled with the Holy Spirit, came to realise what God had done. Our sin puts a barrier between us and God. That's because, as the apostle Paul put it, "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). The price for our wrongdoing is death – separation from God. But the verse continues, "... but the free gift of God is eternal life, in Christ Jesus our Lord."

When we come to God and say sorry for the wrong things we have done, God doesn't just forgive us. He puts us back in a right relationship with him and crucially, gives us the promise of eternal life – life forever with him, starting now.

Why do I say this now? I say it because we share the sadness of all those who have been bereaved. The pain of separation and loss is very real.

Yet we can rejoice – rejoice that all who die, trusting Jesus, are in a far better place. A place where there is no more mourning or crying or pain.

Please continue to pray for all who have lost loved ones, but praise God for the glorious hope of heaven.

In His name,

*Nigel*

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

### **The Children's Society**

This Society was originally called “Church of England Children’s Society”. It was founded in 1881 by Edward Rudolf. He was a Sunday School teacher and civil servant living in South London, who led a deputation to Archibald Tait (the Archbishop of Canterbury 1868-1882) to create C. of E. children’s homes as an alternative to the workhouse.

The first home was opened in 1882 and by 1919 there were 113, caring for 5,000 children. With an insistence on boarding out, fostering or adopting children where possible, the Society was, by the 1960’s the largest adoption in the country. Since the 1970’s their focus has been on preventative work designed to support young people within their own family. Since the 1990’s they began focusing on social justice, lobbying to change legislation and encouraging young people to speak out against poverty and mistreatment.

As you can see from the leaflets on the table their main aim is still to support vulnerable children and young people. Their emphasis is on Jesus and Luke 18 v 16 – *Let the little children come to me and do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.*

*Lesley Davey*

# **Lent lunches**

**Starting 14 February**

**12-1pm every Wednesday**

**Braintree Baptist Church**

**Cost £2.75 Adults and £1 children.**

**St Michaels and St Pauls will be hosts on 14 March.** If you can come and help that will be appreciated, but please come and support us each week.

## **CRIB AND CHRISTINGLE 2017**

What an amazing Christingle making production line that turned  
170 oranges into christingles



like a well-oiled machine.

**A BIG thankyou to everyone**



**Only another 150 to go....keep smiling**

The Crib and Christingle service was another splendid time, with even more helpers getting involved.

We had a lovely mix of all ages working together and serving those who came to our service.

On the 30 December, a total of £267.29 was sent to the Children's Society.

The service was most enjoyable with lovely singing and a friendly, welcoming, and positive atmosphere from you all.

Another thank you to everyone involved who joyfully served.

God blessed us all.

*Andy Carter*

**PS:** Why did the man in the orange squash factory get the sack?

Answer on PI4



## FEBRUARY DIARY

### **1 Thursday**

- 3.30pm ASK  
7.45pm The Identity Course – Church House

### **2 Friday**

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

### **3 Saturday**

- 9.30am Church House Work Party

### **4 Sunday 2nd before Lent**

- 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Church Family Worship – Living Water  
6.30pm Evening Worship – “Speak Lord, for your servant is listening”  
7.30pm Focus

### **5 Monday**

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

### **6 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks  
8.00pm First Priority – Church House

### **7 Wednesday**

- 9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study  
10.00am Holy Communion  
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts  
7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House  
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House  
8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer and chat – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Road

### **8 Thursday**

- 3.30pm ASK  
7.45pm The Identity Course – Church House

**9 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

**11 Sunday Next before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – A new name

6.30pm Holy Communion – Glory departed

7.30pm Focus

**12 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

**13 Tuesday MARCH LINK SUBMISSION DUE****14 Wednesday**

12.00pm Lent Lunch – Braintree Baptist Church

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

**16 Friday**

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

**18 Sunday 1st of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion – Hold fast

6.30pm Evening Worship – The hand of God

7.30pm Focus

**19 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

**20 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

**21 Wednesday**

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

12.00pm Lent Lunch – Braintree Baptist Church

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

## **22 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK  
7.45pm The Identity Course – Church House

## **23 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts  
7.30pm Flower Club

## **25 Sunday 2nd of Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Morning Worship – Remember what you have heard  
6.30pm Evening Worship – The Ark returned  
7.30pm Focus

## **26 Monday**

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

## **27 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

## **28 Wednesday**

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study  
12.00pm Lent Lunch – Braintree Baptist Church  
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts  
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

### **Funerals**

10 Jan Terina Murphy  
12 Jan Lydia Benbrook  
18 Jan Rosa Read

# Want to flex your DIY skills?

Want to make a difference?

Want to share with a great spirit?



## Church and Church House Working Party

Saturday 3 February from 9:00am

Please let Dave Marriott know if you want to make that difference.

### Jobs planned include:

#### Church:

- Gutters cleaning
- Clearing out cupboards



#### Church House & Garden:

- Clearing out cupboards
- Transportation of rubbish to recycling
- Levelling gravel in car park with new limestone
- Car Park space marking – battens and on the ground
- Painting and filling in porch/hallways
- Lots of gloss painting – Skirting boards and Internal Doors
- Review outhouse
- Removing and testing ladders
- Changing internal light fittings for energy savers
- New hinge on courtyard door
- Replacement of a number of sockets
- Lots of pruning – small trees to remove



#### Church House:

- Supporting the team with Tea/Coffee and other refreshments
- Lunch catering

## BELFRY BULLETIN

To continue from the last Bulletin, we have to go back to Sunday 17 December for the ringing to welcome the congregation to the service of Carols by Candlelight. We rang for 42 mins achieving 600 changes of St Martins Bob Doubles and 660 of St Simons Bob Doubles the ringers were Kath Downs 1, Ellis Whitehouse 2, Debbie Hill [c] 3, Maurice Downs 4, Peter Smith 5, Phil Kelly 6. This was 1<sup>st</sup> of St Simons, St Martins, and most methods for Ellis with congratulation to him for passing his senior reporters exam with top marks. In memory of Don Wood.

Monday 18 December 2017 the Tenor was Tolloed 88 times after Don Wood's funeral, once for every year of his life. In the evening we rang at the close of St Michael's School carol service.

Party Time. On Friday 22 December we all descended on Weavers Bocking for our Christmas Party. We welcomed home our Master, Bradley Hill, back from his African adventure. On behalf of the Guild Bradley welcomed Nigel, Jo and all our guests to the party and hoped we all enjoyed ourselves and we certainly did an excellent meal and interesting conversation.

Back to ringing as we helped to start the Christmas Festival by ringing a Quarter Peal before the Midnight Communion Service on Sunday 24 December. The QP was 1260 changes of Grandsire Doubles in 40mins rang by Gareth Davies 1, Ellie Gray 2, Debbie Hill 3, Bradley Hill 4, Peter Smith [c] 5. This was Elli Gray's 1<sup>st</sup> of Grandsire.

We were back in the Tower on Christmas morning to ring for the 10am service ringing touches of Plain Bob Doubles and Minor to proclaim our Saviours Birth.

To ring for 10am Service of Worship on Sunday 14 January 2018 we were joined by a group based in Essex but with ringing friends from around the country.

*Peter Smith*

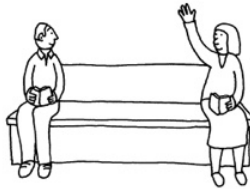
## A LITTLE HUMOUR

# NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTIONS

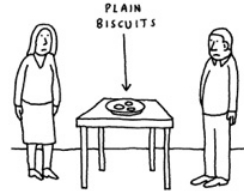
HOW THE CHURCH CAN HELP



EXERCISE



MEETING NEW PEOPLE



HEALTHY EATING



GETTING ORGANISED

AT THE PCC WE'LL DISCUSS THE APCM,  
CW VS THE BCP, THE LLM'S CRB,  
AND THE OLM'S BAP. OH, AND  
THERE ARE LETTERS FROM THE DAC,  
THE DDO, THE HOB AND THE ABC



LEARNING A NEW LANGUAGE



TRAVELLING TO NEW PLACES

Cartoonchurch.com

By popular request the cartoons are back. If anyone needs a cartoon for other church work please talk to me.


*Dave Marriott*






### Answer to P8 teaser:

Why did the man in the orange squash factory get the sack?


*He couldn't concentrate!*

## 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)