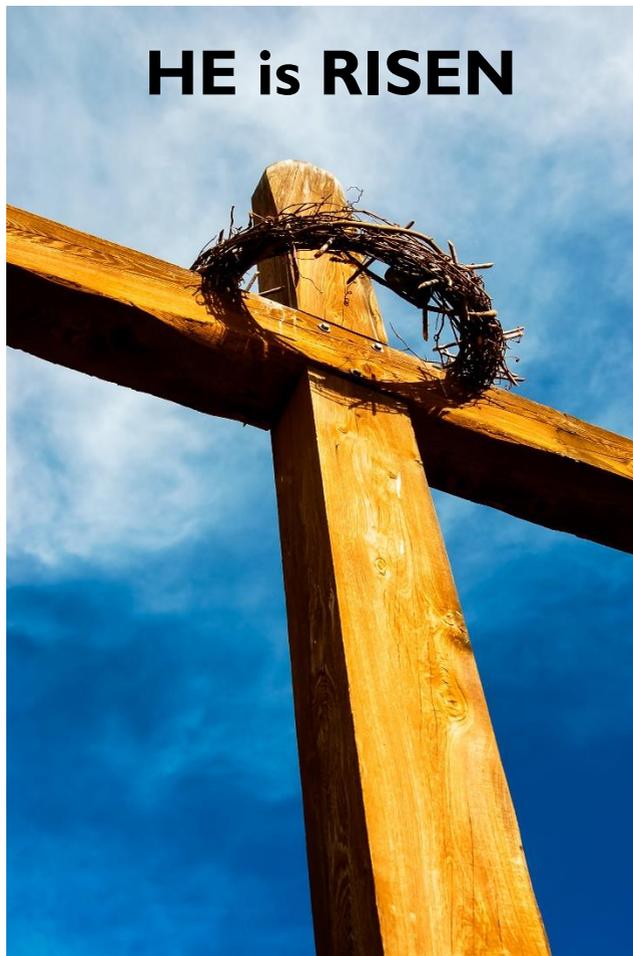


**The LINK**

**30p**

**April 2018**

**HE is RISEN**



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

# ANNUAL MEETINGS



CHURCH MEETINGS ARE BRILLIANT

Wednesday 25 April

7.30pm for 8.00pm start - Church House



Dear Friends,

One of the things I love about the Christian life, in fact life in general, is that God has made each of us different and individual. No two people are identical. Even so-called identical twins each have their own characters and identities.

If we follow and trust Jesus, we should see that God has given each of us particular gifts and abilities. They are often referred to as spiritual gifts.

Some of these are up-front gifts such as preaching or leadership. Some are practical gifts, such as administration or craftsmanship. Others are supportive gifts, such as encouragement, prayer or hospitality. Each of us has different gifts and they are given to us to help to build up the church, the people of God.

In the summer term, we will be running the Network Course. It will run on five Monday evenings, starting on 16 April at 8pm in Church House. The course helps you to identify your spiritual gifts and the God-given passions you have for serving in the body of Christ. The course will run approximately fortnightly, on 16 & 30 April, 14 May, 11 & 25 June.

We very much hope that as many members of St Michael's as possible will be able to join us for the Network Course. If you

are planning to come, could you please sign up on the sheet at the back of church, as we need to have sufficient guide books for each person. Please speak to me if you have any questions about the course.

As we identify the God-given gifts and passions that we each have, it will help us to gain a vision of how God is wanting the work to develop at St Michael's over the coming months and years. I do hope you will be able to join us.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

## **WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER**

will now be held at

**Christchurch at 10.30am**

**On Thursday 12 April**

Christchurch is located at: 7 London Rd, CM7 2LD

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

### **Make Jesus Known (MJK)**

MJK is the agency for evangelism led by Tim Cooke who grew up in St Michael's. it exists to take the gospel anywhere and everywhere at low cost to the local church. They often work in poorer areas than larger organisations with higher back office costs. In recent times Tim has been to Moldova, the poorest country in Europe, where he went around by ox cart! He has also been to Romania Belgium, Ukraine and Poland amongst others. Last week in Kuchen, Germany working in schools with an Evangelistic Youth team and Crossfya the band MJK run. The week culminated in an outreach event called Cake Rock Festival where 70 young people responded. Please pray that these will become lifelong disciples of Christ. In May Tim is due to go to work with the church in Uganda provided the funds to get him and the team there are raised here in the UK. He will be working in prisons, universities, and at large outreach events with up to 20,000 present.

Back home in Saddleworth, Tim and Charissa run the Early Church a fresh expressions congregation in their village whereabouts 120 attend each week. Early Church is more a mission field than a church as a lot of folk come to get their children into a church primary or secondary school rather than from any interest in the gospel. Initially this group were unresponsive to the gospel but of late there has been some growth. Charissa leads a ladies bible study every fortnight, Tim and Charissa lead a group in their home (recently acquired because despite it needing complete renovation it gives room for such things), Tim runs a fortnightly beer and bible evening and a monthly bible breakfast for men. This month he will host a repeat of last year's Quiz night evening as an outreach event. Last time so many came (100) he had to close the list. Please pray there would be similar interest and a gospel response this year.

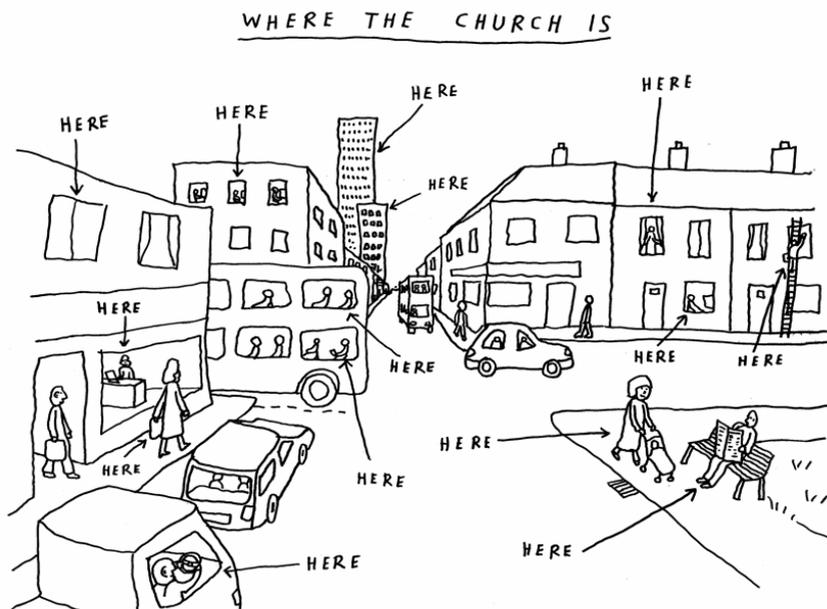
Once a fortnight Tim and Charissa also run a club for junior school children where about twenty come to play and hear the gospel. They are in need of established Christians to support them as numbers limit what they can do now and in the future. There is only one other Christian couple in the village.

*Tim and Roger Cook*

## WHERE IS THE CHURCH?

Leading on from the discussions at the Identity Course, I thought this summarises well that the Church is the people and is everywhere. Its great isn't it?

*Dave Marriott*



CartoonChurch.com

## REFLECTIONS ON THE GARDEN

### Then

My friends, could you not sit with me,  
For just an hour at Gethsemane?  
Could you not try and share with me  
My grief and pain at Gethsemane?

My friends, I did not ask of thee  
To drink the cup reserved for me,  
But for an hour at Gethsemane  
To stay awake and watch over me.

### Now

Now I know what You did for me  
After You left Gethsemane,  
I marvel at Your love for me  
And dimly perceive Your agony.

I also know, if it should be  
That I am in a Gethsemane,  
That You **will** stay awake for me  
And support me to eternity.

*Lesley Davey*

# **EASTER SERVICES AT ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE**

Everyone is most welcome to join us for any of these services, which are at

***St Michael's Church  
CM7 1EY***

(unless otherwise stated)

## **Thurs 29<sup>th</sup> March – Maundy Thursday**

8.00pm Holy Communion

## **Friday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Good Friday**

9.30am United Service at St Paul's Church,  
Braintree, CM7 3DY

followed by a Walk of Witness to  
George Yard

3.00pm An Hour by the Cross

## **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Day**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Family Communion

6.30pm Evening Service

## THE CHURCH IN THE SUN



Can you identify where I took this picture? It is not often the sun lines up just right.

*Dave Marriott*

# **SMASH CLUB**

**JULY 23<sup>RD</sup> TO JULY 27<sup>TH</sup> 2018**

**HELPERS NEEDED TO DELIVER THIS  
EXCITING WEEK!  
IS THAT YOU?**



**IF IT IS.....PLEASE SEE JUNE, EMMA, ED OR  
ANDY CARTER....  
BEFORE THEY SEE YOU!**

## APRIL DIARY

### **1 Sunday**

**Easter Day**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Church Family Worship – He is Risen  
6.30pm Evening Worship – Easter Day  
7.30pm Focus

### **2 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing  
8.00pm Badminton

### **4 Wednesday**

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House  
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House  
8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer and chat – Wetherspoons,  
Fairfield Road

### **8 Sunday**

**2nd of Easter**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Morning Worship – Be filled!  
6.30pm Holy Communion – Peter’s report  
7.30pm Focus

### **9 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing  
8.00pm Badminton

### **10 Tuesday** **MAY LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

7.45pm First Priority – Church House

### **11 Wednesday**

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study  
10.00am Holy Communion  
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

### **12 Thursday**

10.30am Womens World Day of Prayer - Christchurch

**13 Friday**

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

**14 Saturday**

6.30pm Emma's Tanzania fundraising quiz night

**15 Sunday 3rd of Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion – Jesus first

6.30pm Evening Worship – A growing church

7.30pm Focus

**16 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Network Course – Church House

8.00pm Badminton

**17 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

**18 Wednesday**

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

**19 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK

**20 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

**21 Saturday**

8.30am Mens meeting breakfast

**22 Sunday 4th of Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – Mature in Christ

6.30pm Evening Worship – Persecution and rescue

7.30pm Focus

## **23 Monday**

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

## **24 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

## **25 Wednesday**

- 9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
- 6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
- 7.30pm Annual Meetings - Church House

## **26 Thursday**

- 3.30pm ASK

## **27 Friday**

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

## **29 Sunday 5th of Easter**

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Holy Communion – God’s mystery
- 6.30pm United Service – no service at St. Michaels
- 7.30pm Focus

## **30 Monday**

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 8.00pm Network Course – Church House
- 8.00pm Badminton

## **31 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

No entries (tbc)

## **TRIP TO CAMBRIDGE**

Why not join in a trip to visit the site of the WHITE HORSE TAVERN in CAMBRIDGE?

It is on SATURDAY 14 JULY.

A coach will leave St Michael's at 9.30am.

Here are the options:

- A guided tour around KING'S COLLEGE and its chapel costing £7.00 per person
- Lunch at the 'Grad-Pad'
- Punting
- Shopping
- Walking tour around Cambridge

Look out for the sign-up sheet in church.

*Stephen Bailey*



EMMA'S  
FUNDRAISING



**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2018 @ 6:30pm**

**St Michaels Church House**

Maximum of 8 people to a team

**Adult (16+): £8.50    Child (<16): £5**

***The night will consist of:***

- 8 Rounds
- Raffle and Cake sale
- Short presentation about my upcoming experience

\*(Sorry no alcohol permitted)\*

**Ticket includes Fish/Chicken and Chips, Tea,  
Coffee and Squash!**

**To book your team/seat contact me via:  
emmagracenash@icloud.com OR see me directly.**

**PLEASE LET EMMA KNOW BY  
SATURDAY 7 APRIL AT THE LATEST**

## GARDENING TIPS

Spring is great for me, a time of renewal, enlightenment, and growth. I love to see the wonders that have been hidden under the snow, in the ground shooting through.

There are though the other plants that start shooting through first though: the weeds. This is where they try to get a start on the other plants in the garden. Hairy bitter cress for example has been making its presence known now for the last few weeks and is trying to take over parts of the lawn and other spaces. This is an annual that needs removing before seeding as they will grow everywhere. The good news is it generally is a simple one to pull out when small.



The lawn needs a lot of love this time of year. It is probably the most cut, trod on, pushed around piece of the garden. Now is a good time to start its trim, feed it and what I find most effective, rake it. Be gentle with the first few cuts and keep the lawn relatively long so that it can become adjusted having been left for months. Make sure long clippings are not left on the lawn as it prevents it from growing. Short clippings are fine as they break down. A good rake will clear out the ground round the grass, remove dead thatch, moss, covering leaves and make the lawn look a lot lighter. A powered rake is really good for lifting this mixture out of the lawn. Indeed, I find I often get more lifted by my power rake than my lawn mower as I go around.

As an aside we filled a 1-ton bag of material raked out from under the trees in the lawn of Church House where the new lawn is starting to take shape. So, it is effective and something we need to do again soon. (Volunteer anybody?)

*Dave Marriott*

## **BELFRY BULLETIN**

The past month has followed our usual pattern of Service Ringing and practice nights. We also hosted the Northern Districts advanced practice and attempted a Quarter Peal.

Members from the District Association met at St. Michael's on Saturday 17 February to practice methods that are not generally rung in their own towers.

Sunday 25 February for Evening Worship was the Service chosen for the Quarter Peal attempt. We rang Grandsire Caters but unfortunately failed to complete the QP with 5 minutes to go.

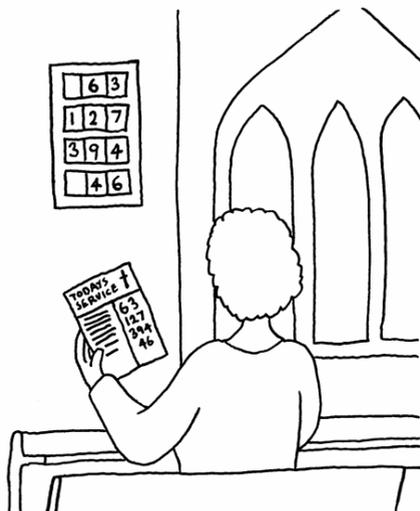
Our practice nights have been invaluable in advancing our competence in a wider range of methods and in individual and collective improvement in performance, this is important as it makes our Service ringing more appealing.

We take very seriously our taking part in the Services by ringing prior to them as this is the number 1 priority of our Guild.

*Peter Smith*

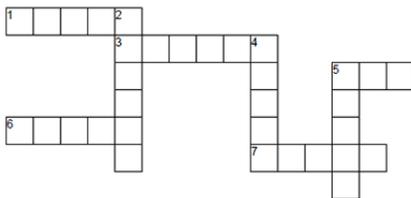
## A LITTLE HUMOUR

CartoonChurch.com



SHE COULD HARDLY BELIEVE SHE HAD WON ON HER FIRST VISIT TO CHURCH

## EASTER PUZZLE



### ACROSS

1. The color of snow; the opposite of black
3. Messengers from heaven
5. To produce tears; to weep
6. Not dead
7. To have nothing inside

### DOWN

2. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
4. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb
5. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers

EASTER	CLOTH	CRY	EMPTY
ALIVE	WHITE	STONE	ANGELS