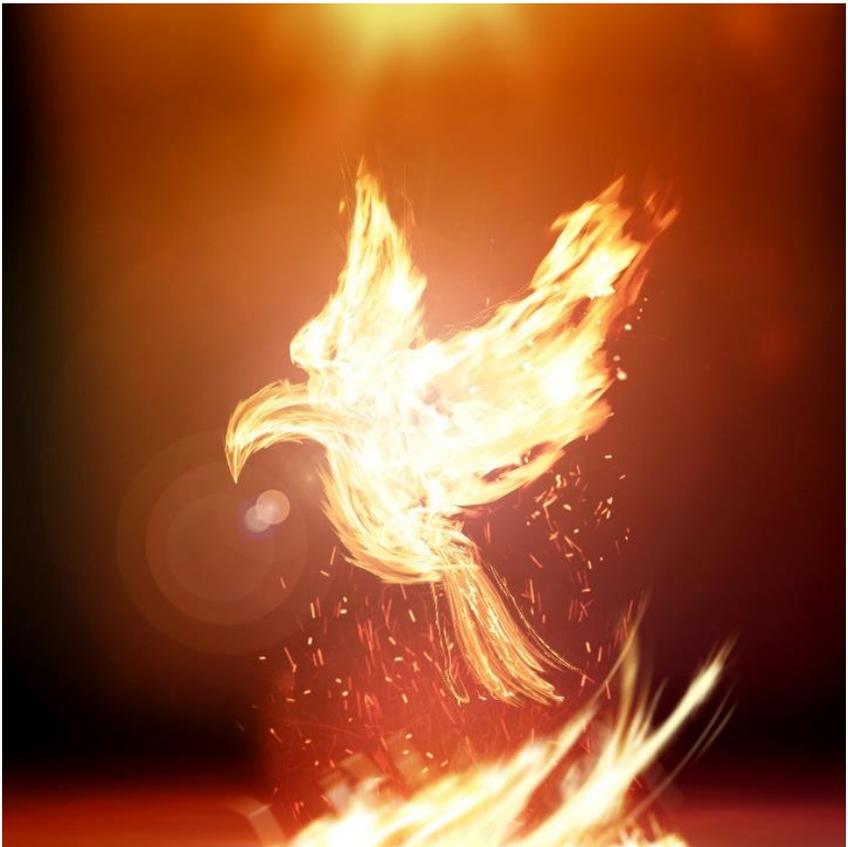


**The LINK**

**30p**

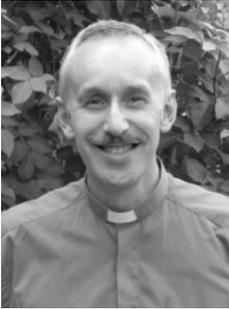
**May 2018**

**The Spirit is with Us**



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





## **“Thy Kingdom Come” – a call to prayer**

Dear Friends,

Corrie ten Boom said, “Prayer is powerful. The devil smiles when we make plans. He laughs when we get too busy. But he trembles when we pray ...” These are wise and true words, from a woman who endured the horrors of a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War.

Prayer is a truly special gift of God. It is easy to busy ourselves with our plans, but it is when we come to God in prayer that we can hope and expect to see God at work in great power.

Jesus himself knew the importance of prayer. *“Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.”* (Mark 1:35)

We would do well to follow Jesus’ example. As the late Dr Billy Graham put it,

*“In the morning, prayer is the key that opens to us the treasures of God’s mercies and blessings; in the evening, it is the key that shuts us up under his protection and safeguard.”*

Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, has called the churches across the world to pray. The initiative is called, “Thy Kingdom Come” and is focused on the period between Ascension Day (when Jesus returned to his Father) and Pentecost (when the Holy Spirit came down with great power on the early disciples). It is a call to pray that others will come to know the love of God, revealed in Jesus.

Please be thinking how you could spend a bit more time in prayer during this time. If you have access to the internet and want to know more about the initiative, please look at [www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global).

At St Michael’s, we will be having a Prayer Day on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> May. The church will be open from 12noon to 6pm and there will be a number of prayer stations inside the church. Each one will focus on a phrase from the Lord’s Prayer. Please come on that Saturday and spend some time being quiet with God, lifting up friends, family, neighbours, colleagues and others in prayer. Praying that God’s kingdom will come.

As you pray, whether in St Michael’s church or elsewhere, may God bless you, and may you be a blessing to many others.

Yours in Christ,  
Nigel

## A QUOTE OR TWO FROM THE LATE BILLY GRAHAM:

*'Some day you will read that Billy Graham is dead. Don't believe a word of it. I shall be more alive than I am now. I will just have changed my address.'*

*"My home is in **Heaven**. I'm just traveling through this world."*

*"We say to our children, 'Act like grown-ups,' but Jesus said to the grown-ups, 'Be like children.'"*

*"The only hope for enduring peace is Jesus Christ."*

*"Without the resurrection, the cross is meaningless."*

*"Take one day at a time. Today, after all, is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday."*

*"God has given us two hands, one to receive with and the other to give with."*

*"Sin is the second most powerful force in the universe, for it sent Jesus to the cross. Only one force is greater—the love of God."*

*"Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone – except God."*

*"We are the Bibles the world is reading; we are the creeds the world is needing; we are the sermons the world is heeding."*

*"Quit beating yourself up. We all live under grace and do the best we can."*

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH TEARFUND**

### **TEARFUND IS A CHRISTIAN CHARITY, CALLED TO FOLLOW JESUS WHEREVER THE NEED IS GREATEST AROUND THE WORLD**

We help communities overcome the worst effects of poverty and disasters – we believe that the same people who face these issues, also have the best idea as to how they can overcome them.

#### **Integral mission and theology**

Integral mission is the church living out its faith in Jesus in every aspect of life. It's recognising that people are more than their hunger or despair. They're complex and precious, made in God's image. And they're loved. Integral mission is answering God's call to love one another, completely. At Tearfund, integral mission is how we operate.

People need material things to survive, and we choose to work through church-based partners who help people access these things. But our partners won't stop there.

Local churches know the needs of their communities and have the potential to change lives – bringing new perspectives, helping heal emotional scars, offering hope and togetherness. This is, in our experience, the most powerful and effective way to help people make lasting changes in their lives and escape poverty.

“If we ignore the world, we betray the word of God which sends us out to serve the world. If we ignore the word of God, we have nothing to bring to the world.”

#### MICAH DECLARATION ON INTEGRAL MISSION

If you would like to know more about the work of Tearfund, please look at the website [www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org) or look at the display in church.



## Thy Kingdom Come

St Michael's Church will be holding a day for  
Prayer

on the 19th of May

Between 12.00pm and 6.00pm

You are welcome to come and pray your way  
through the Lord's Prayer

[www.thykingdomcome.global](http://www.thykingdomcome.global).



## **BELFRY BULLETIN**

We held the St. Michael's Guild of Change Ringers AGM at Church House in the small hall on Monday 19 March 2018. We reviewed the past year and made plans for the coming year.

The Guilds Master, Bradley Hill, welcomed members to the meeting with a special welcome to the Guild President Rev Nigel Adams and Church Warden Lesley Davey.

Nigel opened the meeting with prayers. The minutes of the last AGM were passed and with no matters arising we proceeded to the Officers reports.

The Masters report commended members for their commitment to service ringing with all members making a significant contribution to the Guilds progress. We had an enjoyable stay in the Peak District, rang 10 Quarter Peals 9 all Guild bands with many 1sts and for various significant occasions. With Kelvedon we won the EACR Northern District 6 bell striking competition.

The Steeple Keeper reported a quiet year. Replacing 2 ropes, muffling the bells for Remembrance Sunday. The rope on 2<sup>nd</sup> bell was lengthened for Nigel to ring during his induction service to indicate he has taken charge of the bells.

The Treasurer presented the accounts reporting a satisfactory year.

Nigel took the Chair for the election of Officers who were all re-elected. Master Bradley Hill, Deputy Master Debbie Hill, Secretary Lin Ould, Treasurer Richard Ould, Steeple Keeper Bradley Hill, Deputy Steeple Keeper Phil Kelly.

Outings; We have a 3-day stay in Bedfordshire on the 1<sup>st</sup> weekend of June at the planning stage with the hope of an Autumn outing.

We had commissioned a report on the state of our bells from the EACR Technical Advisor. We have received a concise and comprehensive report from Nigel Taylor pinpointing the work needing to be done. After a detailed discussion it was decided to take out and retune bells 1,2 and 10, renew pulleys on bells 4 to 10 , replace the 3 treble pulley sheaves, overhaul all clappers and staples and renew bushes on all bells. The sliders need sanding and covering in beeswax. Paint the frame. A big and expensive task.

We hope to extend our service ringing to at least 1 evening service a month, maybe with QP's.

We intend to ring for significant events in the coming year including the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1<sup>st</sup> Blood Transfusion, as most members are or have been blood donors.

Ellis Whitehouse thanked the members for their friendship and welcome since his career brought him to Braintree.

Nigel brought the successful meeting to a close with thanks to the Guild and with prayer.

*Peter Smith*

## **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

Walking tour around Cambridge

Shopping

Look out for the sign-up sheet in church.

## MAY DIARY

### **1 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

### **2 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

### **3 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK

### **4 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

### **6 Sunday 6th of Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Church Family Worship – The Servant King

6.30pm Evening Worship – A missionary journey

7.30pm Focus

### **7 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

### **8 Tuesday JUNE LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

7.45pm First Priority – Church House

### **9 Wednesday**

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

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

### **10 Thursday**

10.00am Holy Communion

3.30pm ASK

## **11 Friday**

- 2.00pm Bradbury House Service  
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

## **12 Saturday**

- 6.30pm CYO quiz night – Church House

## **13 Sunday 7th of Easter**

- 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Morning Worship – Alive in Christ  
6.30pm Holy Communion – The God of history  
7.30pm Focus

## **14 Monday**

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

## **15 Tuesday**

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

## **16 Wednesday**

- 9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study  
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts  
7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House  
7.30pm Confirmation Service at Great Notley  
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

## **17 Thursday**

- 3.30pm ASK

## **18 Friday**

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

## **19 Saturday**

- 12pm - 6pm 'Thy Kingdom Come' St. Michael's Church

## **20 Sunday Day of Pentecost**

- 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Holy Communion – Pentecost  
3.00pm Bereavement Service and Tea  
6.30pm Evening Worship – Pentecost

7.30pm Focus

**21 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

8.00pm Visitation Service, for Church Wardens in the Archdeaconry

**22 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

**23 Wednesday**

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

**24 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm PCC – Church House

**25 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

7.30pm Flower Club

**27 Sunday Trinity Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – Let no one disqualify you

6.30pm Evening Worship – Speaking boldly for the Lord

7.30pm Focus

**28 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

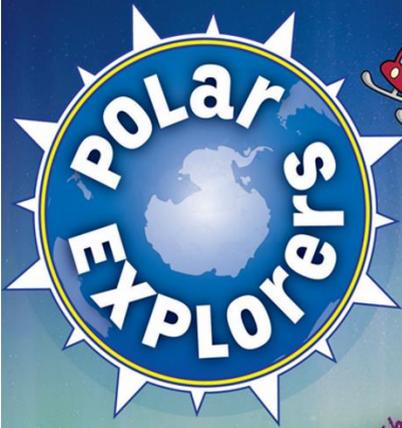
**30 Wednesday**

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

**FROM THE REGISTERS**

No entries (tbc)



5-11s

# SMASH CLUB 2018



23 - 27 JULY  
10am - 12noon  
£5 per child for  
the week

Application enquiries:  
[smash.club.info@gmail.com](mailto:smash.club.info@gmail.com)

For more info. contact:  
Andy - 01376 321248

## **GARDENING TIPS**

It is May in the garden and after a cold start to the year, the sun and heat is now in full flow.

This month can be a lot of work, depending on whether you are eagerly planting seeds, transplanting bedding plants, or even keeping the weeds under control.

In May I like to make sure that I find time for me to sit out there and enjoy the sun and see the beauty of creation at work.

If you have purchased tomato plants, now is the time to put them out. Those in the green house will be already growing nicely and as the frosts should have passed it will be ok to plant these out. I like a mix of tomatoes growing in the garden for my plate. The yellow and black cherry tomatoes are a pleasant change to the regular cherry we often grow.

May can see the beginning of the early Strawberries, though this year it could be interesting. In preparation of this, ensure that your plants have suitable protection from birds, snails, and the dreaded small child. Simple netting should suffice, though you may find that fitting it is hard, so a few good canes (or curved ones) might be useful to build a shell.

My eldest used to simply take the strawberries off the plant quick rinse and gone.... I do like them fresh and I see the point of getting in quickly before someone else does. Apparently, the strawberries start converting their natural sugars into starch from when they are picked, hence supermarket strawberries can lack the sweetness of fresh fruit.

*Dave Marriott*

# A LITTLE HUMOUR

## THE CHURCH HALL

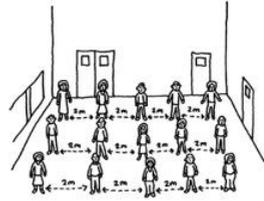
CONDITIONS OF HIRE



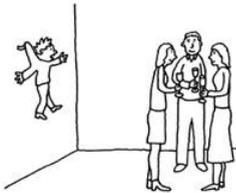
FILL IN THE PAPERWORK



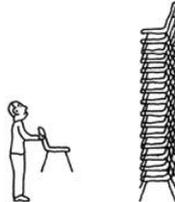
ARRIVE AND LEAVE QUIETLY



DON'T CRAM TOO MANY PEOPLE IN



DON'T STICK ANYTHING ON THE WALLS



STACK THE CHAIRS AS YOU FOUND THEM



CLEAN EVERYTHING UP

Cartoonchurch.com

### QUOTE

My granddaughter asked me what it's like to be old. I said, " Put cotton wool in your ears, pebbles in your shoes, pull on rubber gloves, smear Vaseline on your glasses, and there you have it; instant old age."

*Jeff Wise*

## WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

Our next 5-mile circular walk is planned for Saturday 5th May when we will be contouring the Colne river valley.

Meet from 1.45pm to set off at 2pm from Fordstreet Bridge alongside 'The Shoulder of Mutton' pub (Postcode CO6 3LL).



Our route takes us through Fordham before heading across to West Bergholt Church, passing through Hill House Wood. Here we join the Essex Way which brings us down to the riverside path leading back to our starting point.

If you have any questions or you wish to share transport, then just have a word with us.

*Terry and Miriam Clark*

## CYO QUIZ NIGHT



If interested, please let Dave Marriott know.  
Tickets £5 per person and includes ploughman's tea.