

The LINK

30p

August 2018



**The Parish Church of
St Michael Braintree
www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk**



An amazing rescue

Dear Friends,

As I write this in July, the news has been full of an amazing rescue from a cave in Thailand. Twelve members of a youth football team, and their coach, had entered a cave. Shortly after, heavy rains partially flooded the cave, blocking the exit and forcing the group deeper into the caves.

As the days went by, with no news of the group, the chances of a happy outcome seemed increasingly unlikely. Incredibly, the group were found, two miles into the cave complex. Tragically, Saman Kunan, a 38 year old former Thai Navy SEAL, died of asphyxiation after delivering supplies of air.

Hard decisions had to be made regarding whether to leave the group in the caves for some months until the monsoon rains subsided, or to attempt the difficult task of bringing them out earlier. The decision was made to bring out the boys in groups and amazingly, all 13 were brought out safely.

We give thanks for the sacrifice of Saman Kunan and celebrate the skill and courage of all the divers and support team who got the group out in incredibly difficult and risky circumstances.

The rescue reminds me, in a number of ways, of the God revealed to us in the Bible. He is not a distant God, sitting comfortably in heaven, looking down on the world. Rather, he is a God who came down to earth in the person of his Son, Jesus.

He came into a risky and troubled world. When we could not reach God, God reached down to us. Jesus sacrificed his life for us, to pay the price for our sin. As Paul put it, “God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8). In his death, Jesus rescued us from sin and death, and in rising to life, gives us the hope of eternal life.

Please continue to pray for all concerned in the Thai cave rescue: for the family and friends of Saman Kunan as they mourn his loss; for the boys and their coach as they recover from the physical and mental effects of their ordeal.

And thank God, who didn't leave us in our “cave”, but brought about the most amazing rescue plan of all time.

Wishing you every blessing this summer,

Nigel

MISSION OF THE MONTH

CHURCH MISSION SOCIETY - LATIN AMERICA

Often when the work of the Church Mission Society (CMS) in Latin America is to be the Mission of the Month, I've tried to give a broad picture by listing the activities carried out by the Society in the countries of South America served by the former South American Mission Society (SAMS) and, since the merger of that Society with CMS, in Guatemala and Honduras in Central America too.

However, for this Link article and for the display in the Welcome Area in church, I have instead tried to focus on a few examples of different types of work carried out by CMS Mission Partners from the UK and by the "Latin Partners", local Christians who work in co-partnership. The accounts below are taken from the CMS prayer diary, Prayerlines.

First, city-based evangelism in Chile. "By the end of the year Daniel and Ellelein Kirk hope to see three missional communities established around and near their home city, Valparaiso. The couple, who feel called to support the church through church planting (as well as many other activities), hope that if the communities go well, they could move towards new church plants in the future. Pray that a spark will be ignited in these communities, which will catch fire and multiply."

Another city project, this time outreach to the homeless in Brazil. "There is no doubt that we are seeing more people on the streets as a result of the gradual squeeze that is being felt across Brazil: the ripple effect of low oil prices, endless corruption scandals, recession and inflation... as well as the challenge of a struggling education system,' writes Mark Simpson, chaplain of Christ Church in Rio de Janeiro, an international English-speaking church. Pray for Mark and his wife Jess as they reach out to homeless people through a street supplies initiative, collecting donations of nappies and milk powder, and through looking to work more closely with a Saturday night street church for homeless people, located close to Christ church."

Far away from the teeming cities, work among the indigenous people, for example in the Chaco region of Paraguay has for many years been a key part of first, SAMS, and now CMS. “ ‘People have been asking me if my work is done and whether I am coming back to England for good now that the translation work is finished,’ writes Tim Curtis in the Paraguayan Chaco. Tim helped complete the translation of the Bible into the Enxet language, a project that took 26 years. ‘To answer that question, I feel very strongly that there is still much to be done here. Pray for the next stage of the work, the production of discipleship training materials for church leaders and Christians in the Chaco, and for sustained in-depth Bible teaching in the Chaco churches.’ ”

These three examples are all of work done by Mission Partners who have gone out to South America from the UK. On the Mission of the Month notice board in the Welcome Area, you will find some glimpses of their co-workers, the Latin Partners. Also at the display you will find the CMS newspaper-style publication, *The Call*, and the prayer guide, *Prayerlines*. More about the work of CMS can also be found at www.churchmissionsociety.org .

If you would like to receive *Prayerlines* and *The Call* on a regular basis, please contact me by telephone or via my pigeonhole.

Margaret St John-Coleman

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Greetings, fellow supporters.

I have banked all monies raised in support of Christian Aid Week 2018.

The grand total is: £1.329.74.

Christian Aid will benefit from a further £82.00 from Gift Aided donations, meaning that our final total will be: £1,411.74.

Thank you for organising your Church collection. A first this year was the Big Brekkie initiative by St Mary's, Bocking. House to house collections have not been held for several years, so perhaps other fund-raising initiatives could be put in place.

I AM very aware that there are many demands put on our time and money and do understand all the difficulties. We can only do our best, which we have, so, **WELL DONE AND THANK YOU.**

Pauline Briggs

GOLDEN WEDDING GARDEN PARTY

We would like to thank all those who joined us on Sunday 1st July to celebrate our Golden Wedding Anniversary. It was such a lovely day as we enjoyed each other's company especially in the garden of Church House. We would particularly like to thank Helen and Phil Bartlett-Rawlings, Jenny and Derek Chapman, June Kirk for doing all the catering and for Stuart Kirk for erecting the gazebos.

We would also like to say thank you for the beautiful yellow rose bush and to everyone who sent us lovely cards. We will keep them in a special box to remind us of how fortunate we are to be members of such a loving Christian family. May our Lord bless you all.

Love from Cyril and Janet.

SOME QUOTES

The one who walks with Jesus on this earth will also be with him in eternity.

(Heinrich Jochums 1904-1986, Pastor/Vicar)

True repentance must be a hate of all sins and lead us to love God and Jesus Christ.

(Augustinus of Hippo (354-430, Church teacher)

Humility is pleasing to God and human beings. Humility does not take anything from you, but arrogance gives you nothing.

(Johann Friedrich Starck 1680-1756, Theologian)

Supplied by Peter Schaad

BIBLE READING GROUP REPORT

The bible reading group have been meeting weekly on Wednesdays in Church House since January. We take it in turns to read, usually a chapter each, each person reading three or four times during the evening. So far, we have read about how the world was created and almost destroyed, how the Israelites became slaves and then refugees, how they took over the Promised Land and then how they messed up. We've read more than 50 songs from the Hebrew hymn book, and some writings by the wisest man who ever lived. Still to come, a love letter, Israel's defeat and capture, the return to the Promised Land, the first Christmas, the sermon on the mount, a lot of miracles, the founding of the early church and a lot of letters to the first Christian churches.

We would be happy to welcome anyone else wishing to join us, we meet at 7:45pm for refreshments, ready to start reading by 8:00 and finish at about 9:30, but we normally talk about what we have read for a few minutes before finishing. If you can't be there every week, we will still be happy to see you whenever you can join us and although some of the group do the readings when they miss a week, this is not essential.

Dave Terris

ST MICHAEL'S SCHOOL ANNUAL AWARDS EVENING.

We introduced a new award this year in memory of David Henfrey. It is to be known as The David Henfrey Award for Challenging Adversity and will be given each year to a child or children who have faced challenges and shown remarkable strength of character.

Our first awards we were given to Brogan Lawrence and to Saffy Wyss who have both faced challenges this year.

On Brogan's Facebook Page ... Brogan's Battle his mum has written the following...

'This evening Brogan collected his award in a new category this year. I couldn't be prouder of my warrior and all that he achieves each and every day. It meant so much to hear that David Henfrey who also attended St Michael's school and was a school governor until recently would have understood Brogan's journey better than anyone. It made the award so meaningful and special. This is for all CP warriors ... Believe and achieve'.

Also a special evening in another sense because Mrs Mandy Short, headteacher has written the following:

'Tonight, will be my final awards evening ... It has been an amazing seven years which I have enjoyed immensely. I am so proud of the children tonight, a pride which is shared by everyone '

Jennifer Bailey

WHITE HORSE TAVERN VISIT



Some St Michael's folk visited the site of the original White Horse Tavern (some books say 'White Horse Inn' and some 'White Horse Tavern') The group 'drank in' the fine chapel of Kings College and the good weather.

WHAT ON EARTH IS IT?

This was found in the loft in the vestry (known as the muniments room), at the time of the restoration of the tower clock.

If anyone can remember it being used in the Church or Church grounds will they please let Rod Davey or Dave Marriott know.

Until then it is an unsolved mystery. There is a prize of a cup of cold water for the first right answer!



AUGUST DIARY

Full details of venues and contacts on Practical Information pages

1 Wednesday

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

5 Sunday 10th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All age service - The Pharisee and the tax collector

6.30pm Evening Worship - How long O Lord?

7.30pm Focus

6 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

8 Wednesday

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

12 Sunday 11th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All age service - The man who built bigger barns

6.30pm Holy Communion - Trust in the name of the Lord

7.30pm Focus

13 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

14 Tuesday SEPTEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

8.00pm First Priority – Church House

15 Wednesday

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

17 Friday

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

18 Saturday

9.00am Church and Church House work party

19 Sunday 12th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All age service - The lost son

6.30pm Evening Worship - My help comes from the Lord

7.30pm Focus

20 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

22 Wednesday

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

26 Sunday 13th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All age service - The story of the talents

6.30pm Evening Worship - Search me, O God, and know my heart

7.30pm Focus

27 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

29 Wednesday

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

30 Thursday

31 Friday

7.30pm Flower Club

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

1st July Darcie Rosina-Marie Darvill

Thanksgiving for birth

22nd July Kiri Dow

Want to share a summer working fellowship
with others?



Church and Church House Working Party

Saturday 18 August from 9:00am

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

Jobs planned potentially include:

Church:

- Gutters cleaning
- Clearing out cupboards



Church House & Garden:

- Clearing out cupboards
- Transportation of rubbish
- Outhouse tidy/stock check
- New hinge on courtyard door
- Lots of pruning/gardening
- Lights in corridor
- Recycling broken chairs
- Re-painting the outside benches
- Spreading out mulch over the side bank
- Door stops replacing
- Water butt for the garden
- Start preparation for next set of decorating



Church House:

- Supporting the team with Tea/Coffee
- Lunch catering - last time it was an outside picnic,
who knows as it's summer 😊

FRIDAY MORNING TEAM ACHEIVEMENTS

For the last 6 months you may have noticed some changes going on.

A small band of hardy helpers have been assisting me in the maintaining and upkeep of the Church and Church House.

On Friday's we spend 2 – 3 hours in the morning doing lots of little tasks or preparing for the bigger Saturday work parties.

We have been working alongside the cleaning teams, so it has been great fun and a great feeling of fellowship.

Examples of what we achieved on a Friday include:

- Mowing the lawn
- Gardening
- Frosting the windows in the print room
- Replacing of sockets
- Fitting of a smart board
- Tidying the outhouse, muniments rooms and other spaces.
- New signage
- Trips to the tip
- Eating donuts and drinking tea in fellowship

This has deliberately been short, focused tasks, and great fun.

However, two of us are having to leave the group due to new work commitments. I would like this to continue to ensure the garden is maintained and the small things continue to be done. I would like to be able to support this team with tasks and resources all ready to go.

What I need though is a team; there are 4-5 people that have already expressed an interest for helping on the occasional Friday for 2-3 hours. What I would like is more helpers, so I can share the tasks round with information.

Please come and talk to me, Rod Davey, Ed Nash, Jeff Wise, Lin or Dave Terris if you want to help on the occasional Friday.

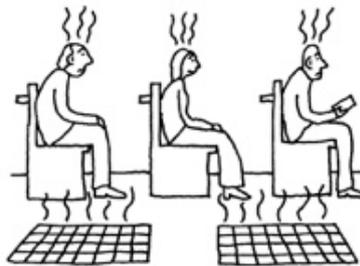
Dave Marriott

A LITTLE HUMOUR

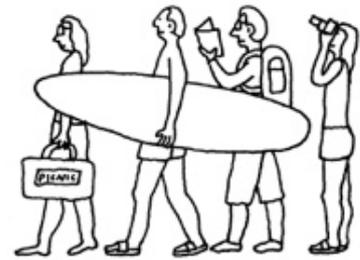
THE SUMMER



EARLY MORNING SERVICES
BECOME POPULAR



THE HEATING FINALLY
STARTS WORKING



A RELIEF CONGREGATION IS
BROUGHT IN TO COVER ABSENTEES



PARISH PICNICS
TAKE PLACE



THERE ARE NOT AS
MANY E-MAILS



MEMBERS OF THE CHURCH
SEND POSTCARDS

CartoonChurch.com

DIARY OF A NEW CHURCH WARDEN

15th June

This Saturday was something we had not had happen before. I found myself surrounded by a band of happy scout leaders and senior scouts. We had a lovely lunch outside church house and did a little light gardening and painting (a small hint of understatement). The transformation to the top of the church house garden and the office space is incredible.

26th June

This evening was the first meeting of the new fabric committee. Ben Nel, Ed Nash, Lesley Davey, and I met under the fabric in my sunny garden to discuss matters of fabric for the church and church house. Hopefully you all will start to see the positive effects of what we discussed arriving in the coming years or so, to ensure the Church and Church House are safe, secure, and suitable for sharing the word of the Lord.

4th July

Lesley and I met with the Saffron Walden Deanery Buildings Officer, who gave us lots of ideas and comments with regards to the buildings, getting funding and church building support in general. We managed to share some of the experiences we had learnt for him to use elsewhere.

6th July

On this Friday I did some work with Derek and Jeff around church house to tidy away, nothing unusual so far, except I put the copier to great use. It takes less than one minute to convert the Terrier to a pdf file in my email box. I started to scan several key church documents in, allowing Lesley and I to start to build an online set of notes for the running of the church. (If you want to know how, feel free to ask)

Dave Marriott

BELFRY BULLETIN

With last month's Bulletin taken up by our exploits in Bedfordshire we have to go back to mid-May to pick up our activities in the Tower.

We begin with Plain Bob Minor with a Tenor cover prior to Bishop Roger Morris's visit for the 10am Holy Communion with renewal of Baptism Vows on Sunday 13th May.

Before Evening Service on the Day of Pentecost, Sunday 20th May, we rang a Quarter Peal of 1260 changes Plain Bob Triples in 48mins ringing were :- Gareth Davies Treble, Ellie Gray 2, Lin Ould 3, Ellis Whitehouse 4, Debbie Hill 5, Peter Smith 6, Bradley Hill [c] 7, Richard Ould 8.

With our congratulations to Lin and Richard Ould on their retirement. 1st of Triples 1,2,4. 1st in Triples and Method as Conductor 7.

The following Evening, Monday 21st May, we again rang Plain Bob Triples prior to the Visitation Service for Church Wardens in the Archdeaconry.

We have twice attempted to ring a QP of Plain Bob Minor. The first before the 6.30pm evening worship on Sunday 17th June, the second on Monday 9th July. On both occasions the ringing was very good but unfortunately, we were unable to succeed, but we will master it.

We were hosts to the Northern District of the EACR for their monthly Advanced Practice on Saturday 16th June when a wide range of methods were rung.

On Monday 2nd July Debbie Hill and Phil Kelly welcomed Phil's visitors from Sweden to the Tower to show them around and explain the art of bellringing.

During all this activity we continued to ring for Sunday services and practice on Mondays to enhance our abilities. We managed this even though we had members on holiday, some in France, some in the New Forrest and some in Peru [were thy looking for a bear I wonder?]

Peter Smith