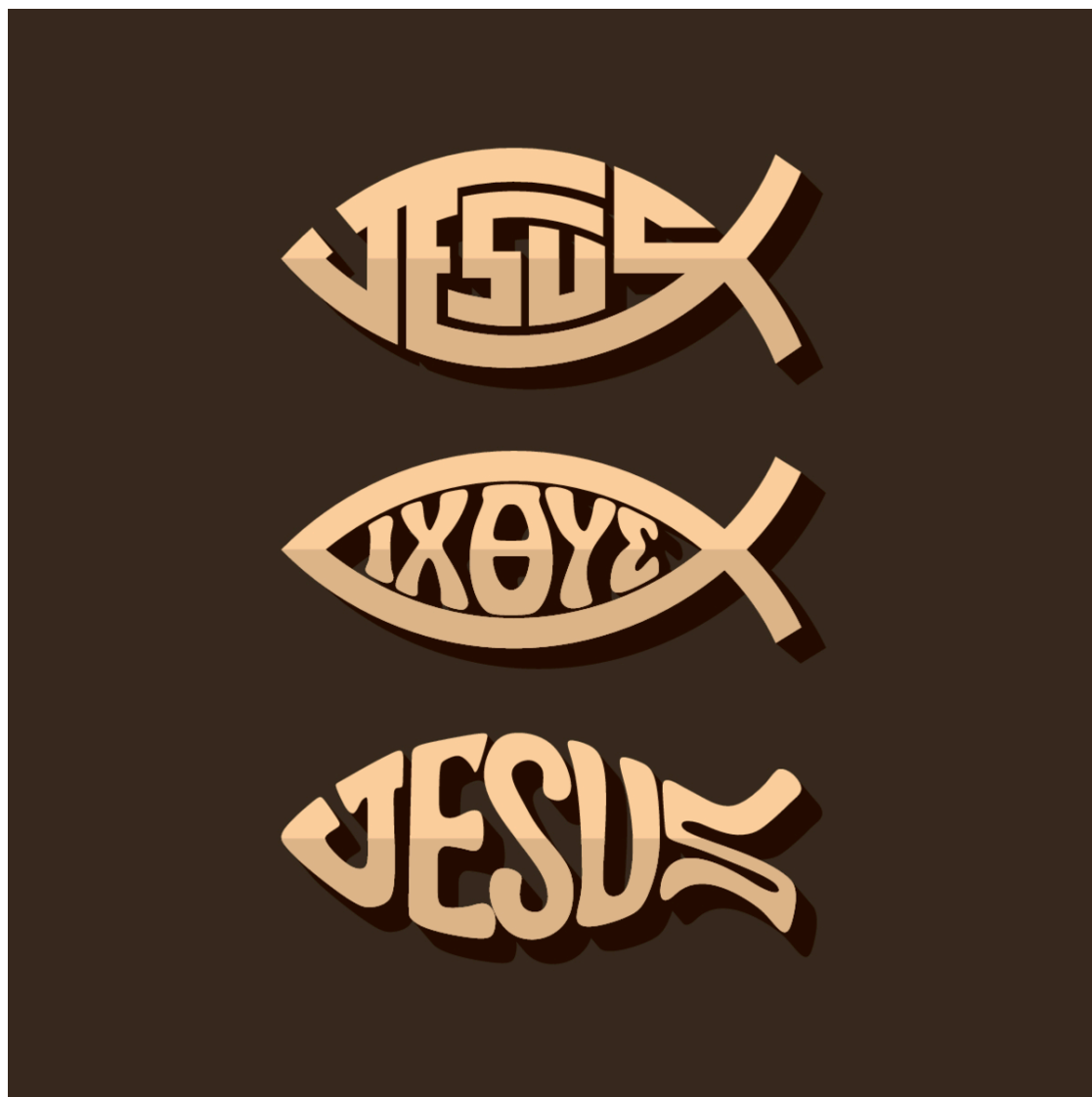


The LINK

30p

August 2019



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

THE SPORTS QUIZ

WHAT

Multimedia Sports Quiz
with Ploughman's Supper
and Apple crumble!

WHERE

St Michaels Church House
St Michaels Lane, CM7 1EY

WHEN

Saturday, 5th October
5:45pm for 6 o'clock start

CONTACT

Church House Office
01376 321248
vicarspa@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk
or Jenny, Jo, Sue or Lin
in Church

TICKETS:

Adults £5
16s and under: £3





Summer services

Dear Friends,

During August, we will be having all-age worship in our 10am services. Our first Sunday (4th) will be our annual SMASH Club service, celebrating the children's holiday club the previous week, titled, "Team builders" – about being part of Jesus' team.

In the following three Sundays, we will be looking at some of the parables that Jesus told. Jesus chose to give much of his teaching (to adults as well as children) by telling parables – short stories that had a much deeper meaning. I have heard them called "earthly stories with a heavenly meaning". We will be looking at three parables.

Firstly, the House on the Rock (Matthew 7:21-29). Jesus contrasted two house builders, one who built his house on the rock and the other who built his house on the sand. Of course, the one built on rock stood firm, but when the floods and wind came, the one built on the sand fell. It is a challenge to all of us. Are we building our lives on Jesus' words (the rock) or on something else?

The second is two parables about finding lost things (Luke 15:3-10). Jesus told about a shepherd who left 99 sheep in order to go and find his one lost sheep. And a woman who had lost a coin and searched carefully until she found it. They are pictures of God. In a way, we are all lost without God. Yet, in love, God seeks us out – he wants to have a personal relationship with each of us.

The third parable is perhaps the most challenging for many of us – the parable of the unforgiving servant (Matthew 18:21-35). It is a story of a servant who owed a fortune to a king. The king called him in and asked for the debt to be repaid. The servant begged for mercy and the king “forgave him the debt”. But this servant then went out and found a fellow servant, who owed him a relatively small amount of money. His fellow servant also begged for mercy, but he refused. When the king found out what had happened, he called in the unforgiving servant and put him in jail until all his debt was paid.

The parable of the unforgiving servant is clear reference to God’s forgiveness of us – our huge debt of sin, that God chooses to forgive, if we ask him to. But it is also a call, and warning, for us to forgive others when they wrong us. This is one of the most challenging, yet releasing, areas of the Christian life. Receiving God’s free forgiveness is wonderful. But learning to forgive others frees us from bitterness and anger that can hurt us deeply.

I hope you might be able to join us this month as we hear again some of Jesus simple, yet life-changing, words.

Wishing you every blessing this summer-time,

Nigel

MISSION OF THE MONTH CHAIN FOUNDATION

For those that don't know much about Chain Foundation we have had links since Revd. Bernard Davies was at St. Michaels.

The foundation was setup to deal with the high number of children who were left orphaned in Uganda and to assist with the health and education of others in the area. Today the Chain Foundation have a Home for Children, farms which help make produce to keep the foundation self sufficient and schools for all ages and abilities including the blind. Here is some recent news from Stone who is our link at the Chain Foundation.

Health:

In the last couple of months Chain were able to get immunisations for the girls aged 10 and above for Cervical Cancer, children in the chain home were dewormed by a nurse and Continuous sensitisations regarding hygiene, sanitation and behaviour change sessions were conducted to prevent children from contracting diseases.

Chain Home:

The children who are in the Chain home all take part in home chores, They are taught how to wash their clothes, cleaning the compound and the dormitories, the older ones are taught farming skills. They are taught how to peel some food among other activities. All this is intended to make them learn responsibilities during childhood and thus becoming respectable and responsible citizens in their communities.

Vocation:

The vocational School has student who are older learning trade skills of hairdressing, tailoring, shoe making, catering and welding.

The Chain Farm continues to prosper, there is now an animal farm and an agriculture farm, all providing produce for the young people that Chain Foundation look after.

Construction:

The underground spring well is being constructed. The motive is to ensure full time availability of water irrespective of the dry seasons, or failure of the pumps to work during electricity blackouts. This will be a manual manned underground spring well.

Home Visits:

Home visits were conducted in Katoogo, Nsambwe and Namubiru villages with the objective of discussing the health and sanitation issues of the households, talking about the academic performance of the children, sensitizing the community members and sharing more about income generating activities that can help families and vulnerable children

Devotions:

The children utilize devotions that are held every evening to know more about Jesus' love and also strengthen their covenant with God. They also use it as an opportunity to thank God for their lives, the sponsors, aunts and uncles, families and other great things that the Lord has granted them in life.

Chain Foundation Uganda is grateful to all the people who support the ministry, financially, spiritually and any other kind of support.

David Huxter

ALL AGE TONIGHT

One of the Church aims for the year was the introduction of a new service in the evening for the whole church. Here are a few highlights from All-Age-Tonight services so far:

Pre-service cake!

Service themes of:

James & John: "Me first!"

The Judges Cycle

Who do you follow?

Who do you trust?

Cake!

Activities including:

Jigsaws

Foot prayers

Paper Aeroplanes

Videos of sports people

Survey: how do you spend your time?

Shared bible reading

Cake!

Special highlights include:

Roger preaching from the pews live on the big screen

Averaging 50-60 people of all ages together in worship

About 50-minute services

After service cake!

(Yes we do like the cake, tea, coffee and being together)

The **next All Age Tonight** will be on **15th September**, why not come along and see what happens? Or better still, bring a friend or two.

This service is ideal if you have been out during the day, for example with a child playing football, or visiting relatives. Finish the day in great fellowship.

Dave Marriott

WILLIAM BOOTH

On the last evening of the White Horse Tavern, before our summer break, we presented our research on some of the reformers of Victorian Society. We thought this might be of interest to others so this is the first in the series.



William Booth
in about 1862

William Booth (1829 – 1912) was an English Methodist preacher who founded The Salvation Army. The Christian movement is known for being one of the largest distributors of humanitarian aid.

William was born in Nottingham. When his family descended into poverty, William had to stop his education and was apprenticed at the age of 13 to a pawn broker. William became a Christian when he was 15. He trained himself in writing and in speech, becoming a local preacher and an evangelist. In the 1840s he and a friend used to preach to the poor and the sinners of Nottingham.

His pawn broking apprenticeship ended in 1848 and he was then unemployed. He moved to London and took to evangelising in the streets. In 1851, he joined the 'Reformers' (the Methodist Reform Church) and in 1855 he married Catherine Mumford . By 1865, William and his wife had opened 'The Christian Revival Society' in the East End of London, which held regular evening meetings to share the repentance that he believed Christian salvation could bring both the poor and marginalised. Outposts were established throughout the city, attracting converts, but the Christian mission remained was one of the five hundred charitable groups working in London's East End. William practiced various types of social work himself, such as opening "Food for the Million" (soup kitchens).

Renamed 'the Salvation Army', it was modelled after the military, with its own flag and music, (often with Christian words to popular and folkloric tunes sung in the pubs). The Booths, and the other soldiers in "God's Army" would wear the army's own uniform, 'putting on the armour,' for meetings and ministry work. He became the "General" and

his other ministers were given appropriate ranks as "officers". Other members became "soldiers". During his lifetime, William established Army work in 58 countries and colonies, travelling extensively and holding, 'salvation meetings'. He regularly published a magazine and was the author of a number of books; he also composed several songs.

His book 'In Darkest England and the Way Out' became a best-seller in 1890, it set the foundation for the army's modern social welfare approach. It compared what was considered 'civilised' England with 'Darkest Africa'. William suggested that the quality of life in London, and across England, after the Industrial Revolution, was not better off than those in the underdeveloped world. He proposed a strategy to apply the Christian Gospel and work ethic to the problems. The book speaks of abolishing vice and poverty by establishing homes for the homeless, farm communities where the urban poor can be trained in agriculture; training centres for prospective emigrants; homes for fallen women and released prisoners; aid for the poor; and help for drunkards. He also lays down schemes for poor men's lawyers, banks, clinics, industrial schools and even a seaside resort. He said that if the state fails to meet its social obligations it will be the task of each Christian to step into the breach. However, William was not departing from his spiritual convictions to set up a socialist community, his ultimate aim was to get people "saved."

During its early years The Salvation Army faced a great deal of opposition, especially from those in the alcohol-selling industry who were concerned that their activities would persuade the poorer classes to stop drinking. The army's motto 'Blood & Fire', which had deep theological meaning representing the saving 'blood of Jesus' and the sanctifying 'fire of the Holy Spirit', was erroneously thought to mean the blood of sinners and the fire of hell. The Church of England was at first also extremely hostile to the activities of Booth and The Salvation Army. The philanthropist, politician, and evangelist Lord Shaftesbury even went so far as to describe Booth as the "Anti-Christ". One of the main complaints against Booth was his 'elevation of women to man's status', women were allowed to hold office and to preach. D. L. Moody would not support him because he felt there was a threat to the local church.

But no one could deny his compassion for the sufferings of his fellow man. In his later years, he was received by kings, emperors and presidents, who were among his ardent admirers. Even the media began to use his title of 'General' with reverence. William was 83 years old when he died. William's funeral service was held at London's Olympia where 40,000 people attended, including Queen Mary. The next day, as William's funeral procession moved off 10,000 uniformed Salvationists fell in behind; forty Salvation Army bands played. He was buried with his wife in the main London burial ground for 19th century non-conformist ministers and tutors, the non-denominational, Abney Park Cemetery, in Stoke Newington.

Information compiled by Lin Terris

BIBLE READING GROUP

There has been enough interest to start a new Bible Reading Group starting in the autumn. Deliberation on the best day and time to meet is still underway, the current proposal is for a daytime, early or mid week meeting. If you would like to join us, please get in touch, either see me in church or put a note in my pigeon hole, and perhaps you can help us decide which day to meet.

We plan to meet for about an hour and a half, every week; we start with refreshments, then spend an hour of that time taking turns reading aloud. From previous experience, it has proved to be enjoyable and not onerous. Our expectation would be to take approximately 2 years to read all the way through the Bible.

Dave Terris

AUGUST DIARY

1 Thursday

10.00am Coffee@StMichael's

10.00am SMASH CLUB

2 Friday

10.00am SMASH CLUB

4 Sunday 7th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am SMASH Club service

12.15pm SMASH Club Barbeque

6.30pm Evening Worship: Magic arts

7.30pm Focus

5 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

7 Wednesday

8.30pm Men@StMichael's beer and chat – Wetherspoons,
Fairfield Rd

11 Sunday 8th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am All Age Worship: Firm Foundations

6.30pm Holy Communion - Meditation: A riot at Ephesus

7.30pm Focus

12 Monday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

13 Tuesday SEPTEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting – Church House

18 Sunday	9th after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	All Age Worship: The lost is found
6.30pm	Evening worship: Wake up!
7.30pm	Focus
22 Monday	
7.30pm	Bell Ringing
8.00pm	Badminton
23 Friday	
2.00pm	Bradbury House Service
25 Sunday	10th after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	All Age Worship: How many times shall I forgive?
6.30pm	Evening Worship: A tearful farewell
7.30pm	Focus
26 Monday	
7.30pm	Bell Ringing
8.00pm	Badminton
30 Friday	
7.30pm	Flower Club

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

7th July Tanya & Victoria Raven and Lottie Vaughan-Raven

BELFRY BULLETIN

Annual weekend away

This year we were off to Worcestershire based at Old Hollow Malvern. The itinerary was put together by Tom Childs, the accommodation was sourced by David Childs with catering left in the very capable hands of Laura Childs and Lin Ould.

We started to arrive at old hollow late afternoon on Friday 21st June with everyone in by mid evening. After settling in to our allotted rooms we enjoyed an excellent meal provided by Laura and Lin, and the fun commenced.

Saturday started with a leisurely breakfast before our days ringing at 6 churches south of Worcester.

We started our ring with the 6 bells of St. Mary Madresfield with Ellis organising the ringing. The church was built in 1870 after one about a mile away fell down.

Our next tower at Powick housed a heavy ring of 6 bells which we handled very well. As I was running the ringing, I was unable to find any snippets about the church.

Bradley was in charge for the anti-clockwise 15cwt 8 at Kempsey. We were ringing here prior to the church fete which seemed to be a happy event. I am sure they appreciated our efforts

And so, to lunch at seven stoke which we all agreed was very enjoyable.

From lunch we proceeded to another ring of 8 at up to upon seven with a tenor of 11cwt about the same as St. Michaels. With David in charge we rang double Norwich court bob major which is becoming a favourite of ours. It was toms turn to be ringing master at Hanley castles lumpy 6. He rightly decided to stick to doubles methods. That was a wise decision as the tenor was difficult to ring.

So onto our last tower of the day, a pretty light 6 at Hanley Swan. With Debbie in charge we rang a variety of methods finishing the days ringing with plain bob doubles with a ladies back end.

After a very enjoyable day ringing it was back to old hollow for what is now our traditional cheese and port evening.

After we had showered and spruced ourselves up we assembled at the dining room table where many different cheeses were laid out, very tasty they were too as was the conversations and as diverse as the cheeses. It was bedtime, well for some of us!!

Up on Sunday 23rd for an early breakfast as we needed to be packed, the chalet cleaned and away from Old Hollow by 8-40am to be in time to join the Worcester cathedral ringers for service ringing. We were having a walk round Worcester ringing day.

Worcester cathedral has 16 bells hung in a 1869 oak frame with a 48cwt tenor the 16 bells allow for 6 different configuration of bells the main one being the 48cwt 12. The access to the top of the tower, which was completed in 1374, there are 235 steps. On the way up you pass the teaching centre, the ringing room, the belfry housing the bells and so to the top of the tower with the wonderful views of Worcester and surrounding area.

We had the pleasure of ringing the 12 bells for the 10.30am service before visiting the top of the tower, the belfry and teaching centre. A very inspiring visit.

With the early start we had time for coffee before our next tower. Someone had a toasted tea cake. We then strolled to our next tower At St Martins in the Cornmarkets 6cwt 10 everyone had a ring then a band stated an attempted quarter peal that unfortunately failed, but we had rung for the service.

It was now time for lunch and a stroll through another part of the city, to another enjoyable meal.

It was time to make our way to the last ring of the weekend, 12 at all saints. Here we rang a variety of methods. this was a nice way to finish the ringing as we rang the 12 bells well.

Now another walk back to our cars for our thank you and goodbyes. For some of us this gets more emotional each time. Our thanks to

Laura, Lin, Tom and David for their input into another wonderful weekend of ringers' camaraderie and Christian love.

Peter Smith

The information printed relating to Worcester Cathedral is by kind permission of the Worcester Cathedral Guild of Ringers and Mark Regan Ringing Master

DIARY OF A CHURCH WARDEN

4th July

I arranged for the all of the fire extinguishers and the fire alarm of Church House to receive their annual servicing. This is one of the requirements of our insurance and is good practice at keeping the buildings safe for all users.

I walked around two suppliers with regards to replacing the lights in Church House and the Church. Those in the Church House need to be done to replace the ones that failed rather spectacularly last year and to improve the lighting in some of the rooms to make them easier to use. The ones in the church we looked at as well and I am awaiting some quotes back for various options on lighting the building.


6th July





This work party was quiet, and several individuals were missed due to other commitments. That said we carried on with our clearing out, decorating and repairing. The corridors in church house are slowly getting there, though another couple of hands would have seen a lot more achieved. Next work party is targeted to be the 14th September, and the aim is to complete one fencing project and the corridors. The fellowship is so much better when there are many people there!

August workdays – If anyone is free to spend either some of the 15th or 16th of August with a paint brush, please let me know as I would like to complete the current painting works and get the noticeboards re-fitted ahead of September, and a few minor jobs upstairs too!

Dave Marriott

PATTERN OF SUNDAY SERVICES AUGUST ONLY

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	All-Age worship	Holy Communion
THIRD	 Holy Communion	All-Age worship	Evening Worship
FOURTH	 Holy Communion	All-Age worship	Evening Worship

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE: AUGUST ONLY

First Sunday: 10am **Church Family Worship**
Every Sunday: 10.00am All-Age worship
7.30pm in Church House **Focus** (13-18s)

**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.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk