

The LINK

digital edition

January 2021



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



Looking forward with hope

Dear Friends,

This past year has been a tough one for many of us, for a variety of reasons. Some have suffered ill health, some bereavement, some have faced redundancy and all of us have had to cope with restrictions on our lives, due to coronavirus.

As we approach this New Year, we may look forward with some hope. Scientists and medical staff know much more about COVID-19 and how we can treat it. And, of course, there is the hope that the rollout of the vaccines brings – a hope that the restrictions and limitations will come to an end. We may also be hopeful, because we finally have a trade deal with the European Union. These are all reasons to have hope.

The Bible says much about hope. I have heard it described as “faith in the future tense”. Having hope, in a Biblical sense, is not about trusting in human ingenuity, whether medical breakthroughs or trade deals. Biblical hope is not a matter of summoning up an optimistic outlook on life – a belief that this year will be better than the year that has just gone.

Biblical hope depends on the one in whom we hope. Hebrews 10:23 puts it well,

“Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”

As we prepare for this New Year, let us find our hope in the living God. The God who sent his Son, out of love for us, that first Christmas. The unchanging God, in whom we can have joy in this life and a sure and certain hope in the life to come.

Wishing you every blessing for 2021,

Nigel



*Let the peace of Christ
rule in your hearts.
Colossians 3:15*

MISSION OF THE MONTH CROSSLINKS

This is our 'Mission of the Month'. It is a co-operative organisation. Churches and missions from India to South America, from southern Africa to northern Europe (Sweden and Latvia) call on 'Crosslinks' for help to cope with growing churches.

GROWING CHURCHES

In a way that is beyond our experience, the church in the Two Thirds World is growing. About 1/3rd of 'Crosslinks' workers are involved in training emerging church leaders.

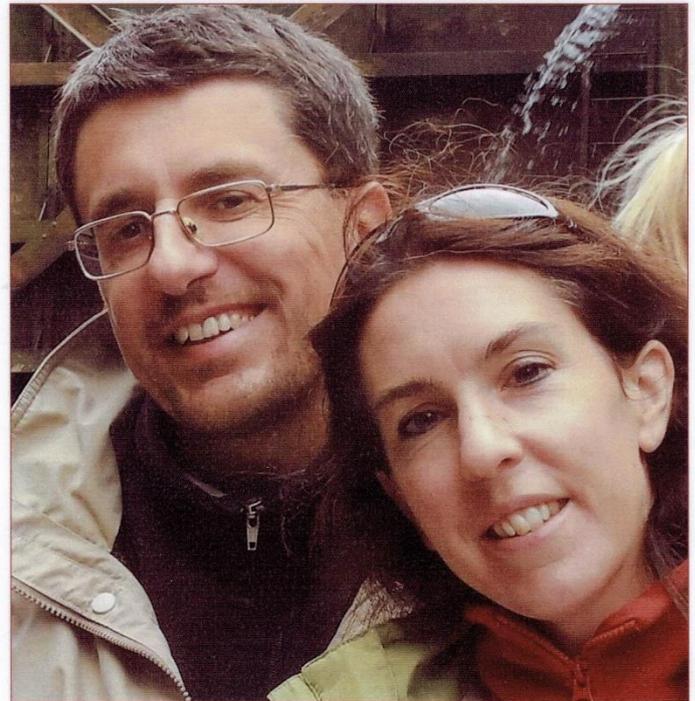
EUROPE.

Now once so called Christian Europe is, a 'mission field' as we used to say. So today's missionary husband and wife may work in south London or Italy or Belgium. This is another aspect of 'Crosslinks' activity. It seeks to support those who see a strategic need beyond their churches.

JIRKA & KEIRA KRALOVI

One such couple are Jirka and Keira Kralovi. Olomouc is a town in the Czech Republic and is the Kralovis' home. It is a university town. And it is with students that Jirka and Keira meet seeking to introduce them to a living faith in Jesus Christ. We hear from them regularly and this month we will be praying for them as we remember 'Crosslinks'

WE ARE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH



Jirka and Keira Královi
in the Czech Republic

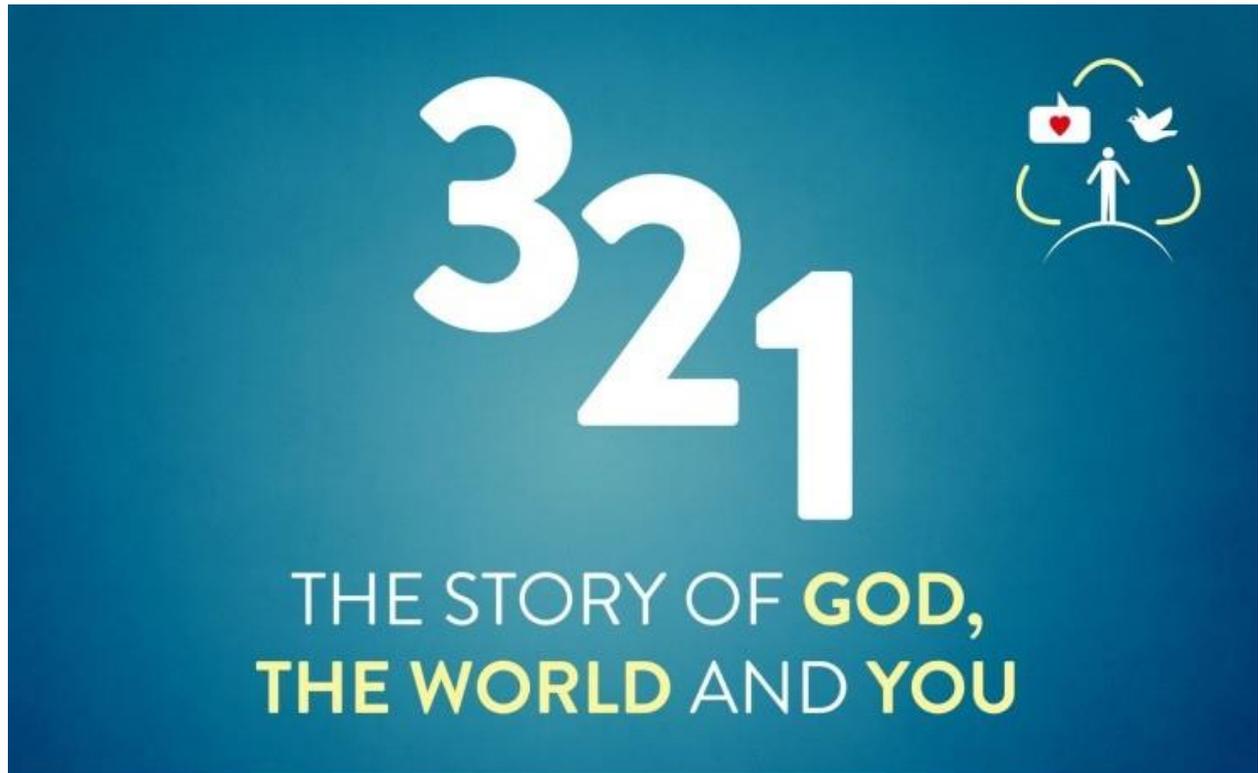


*'I always pray with joy
because of your partnership
in the Gospel...'
Philippians 1:4-5*

WWW.CROSSLINKS.ORG

Stephen Bailey

321 COURSE



3 2 1 COURSE

321 is an opportunity to explore the big issues in life: God, the world and ourselves. Perhaps you're already familiar with Christian beliefs or maybe they are completely new to you. Whatever the case, this is a fresh telling of the Christian story that assumes no prior knowledge.

It lasts just three weeks and is held on Wednesdays, from 7.30pm on Zoom, starting on 20th January.

If you'd like to join us or find out more, please contact Nigel & Jo Adams (01376 807662). Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com

DISCIPLESHIP EXPLORED COURSE



Discipleship Explored helps followers of Jesus rejoice in the confidence, unity, righteousness and love which are theirs in him. It is based on Paul's letter to the Philippians and has excellent video talks to accompany each session.

We will be running the course over eight Wednesdays, from 7.30pm on Zoom, starting on 10th February.

We intend it to be a whole church course and will be giving more information about it over the coming weeks.

If you'd like to join us or find out more, please contact Nigel & Jo Adams (01376 807662). Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com

OUR CITIZENSHIP IS IN THE HEAVENS.

Phil. 3:20

Who comes to Heaven?

Shortly before the start of the Second World War Benito Mussolini decreed that it was forbidden for Italians to emigrate to the USA.

At that time two Italians, born in Italy, who had been living for some time in the USA, were in Italy. One was a well-known banker who spoke English perfectly and who had first class connections. The other one had become a farmer in the USA. He only spoke a little bit of English and did not know much about the American way of life.

Both tried hard to get permission for a fast return to the USA. But only one was allowed to go. It was – against all expectations – the farmer. He was an American citizen. Because of this the decree from the dictator did not apply to him. The banker had remained Italian citizen. His protests, his wealth, his ability to speak English perfectly and his relations had no influence whatsoever.

Similarly, this applies to the question who will go to Heaven. You can lead an honest, apparently Christlike life, have excellent relations to believers and even know Biblical language perfectly. But all this does not give you any right to go to Heaven. Human beings become “Citizen” of heaven by being born again – turning to God and having complete Faith in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Something I read on one of the daily Bible verses I get through a Swiss Evangelical Organization called ‘Closer to you’

Supplied by Peter Schaad

CHURCH FAMILY WORSHIP 2021

CFW promises to be very exciting in 2021.

The Bible has many significant events associated with meals right from Creation to a New Heaven and a New Earth... think how many you can list.

Every first Sunday in the month throughout 2021 we will look at a significant meal and see what it has to teach us and inspire us in our walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.

So try not ever to miss CFW every first Sunday.

We will introduce the year on Sunday January 3rd 2021 with the title: **'God brings a Menu'**

A programme for the year will be available in January.

This is not all... we envisage that later in the year there will be a lifting of some restrictions... so ready for this we are planning some CFW events alongside significant Biblical events including maybe a Picnic in the Park, A breakfast but probably not on a Beach! Hospitality events and hopefully a Fish and Chip Lunch with Andy Malcolm in November and end the year with a Christmas Dinner!

So much to look forward to! Make sure that you do not miss out...

An Activity for you!

Have a go at the Word Search. This will give you some clues about the events we will be learning about and as you find the words ... have a think ... Whereabouts in the Bible do the words lead you to!!!

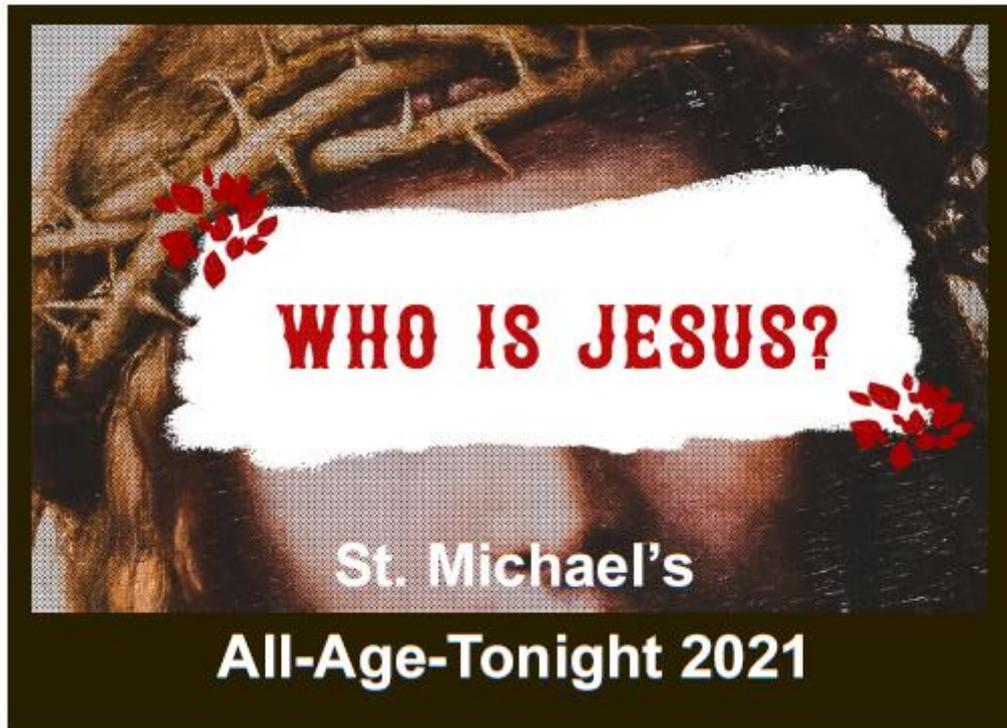
ENJOY

Jennifer Bailey

MEALS IN THE BIBLE

f m n o f f g u u h p a s s o v e r q u
 d m y e k f i q w z k k q j q q u h p x
 d p a j o y o f i b m n p h l l r g x q
 d g y n t r b d l b r e a k f a s t l u
 i c m v h a w h l h h a r v e s t j p a
 o e l w j v g h t j k s v r z t t x p i
 b l r c u e h e r l m k w v h q b g o l
 l e x v t n a a e a a g b q c s b t j s
 v b l a f s g v e f w s k r g k g b e b
 p r f b a h n e s m v k t a e q h a s k
 f a h r a j h n v l a e x s m a r g u a
 f t x a k t o w z f w n y g u o d r s b
 t i v h z a c c h e u s n l z p s n i e
 j o c a m b v k h a q v i a z m p e v d
 i n a m a q s o g l f z q j j z a e s k
 h s k n t o b c r e a t i o n k f f r o
 l z y x e u u z d l j o b b r e a d p s
 u n l x a z c k i x n t d w k g f o d t
 x p h s x y f i s h k u p q m c i y a n
 y j v i k b v f e o z q l h d p f f j m

celebrations	last supper	breakfast	Zaccheus
Passover	creation	harvest	Abraham
heaven	ravens	quails	bread
manna	Moses	trees	bread
joy	fish	tea	Jesus



Sundays at 6.00pm On St.Michael's Youtube Channel

Jan 17	The Bread of Life
Feb 21	Before Abraham was, I am
Mar 21	The Sheep Gate
Apr 18	The Resurrection and the Life
May 16	The Good Shepherd
Jun 20	The Way, the Truth and the Life
Jul 18	The Son of God
Sep 19	The True Vine
Oct 17	The Light of the World
Nov 21	The Saviour of the World

Normally the 3rd Sunday of the month, come and join our informal
interactive evening service
targeting those aged from 10 to 100!

BUILDINGS UPDATE



Last month I wrote saying how progress had been taking place in the Church and Church House with regards to renovation and upkeep.

This month I have the nice and shiny re-varnished Church House Stage floor to show you as complete. (Thanks to Dave and Jon Terris). In addition to this work, Church House was all set out ready to run services for families before our current level of lockdown hit.

Alas, this month with the weather setting in, we have seen the Creche Roof again leaking and part of the Church House fence by the houses fall down. Support in the way of prayer, offers of help to organise and financial donations, would be highly appreciated.

Thanks, does go to those helping to keep the buildings in good shape, though the occasional checking of gutters, rubbish pickup around church house, monitoring the heating, responding to roof alarm call outs. (Yes, the weather triggers them too). This preventative maintenance makes a massive difference in reducing costs and wear-tear.

Dave Marriott

JANUARY DIARY

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

Online services are launched on Sundays as follows:

9.45am Children's & Families service

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/junior-church>

10.00am – Adult services & monthly Family Service

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

6.00pm – All-Age Tonight

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

The services are available at these times, or to watch or listen to after those times, on catch-up

3 Sunday

10:00am Worship on the Web – Family Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

5 Tuesday

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

6 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

7 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Monthly Zoom Coffee morning” with Nigel & Jo Adams

10 Sunday

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children's and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

12 Tuesday

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

8 - 9pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

13 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

17 Sunday

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

6:00pm All Age Tonight on the Web

19 Tuesday FEBRUARY LINK SUBMISSION DUE

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

20 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7:30pm 321 course on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

24 Sunday

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

26 Tuesday

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

27 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7:30pm 321 course on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

31 Sunday

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”