

# **The LINK** digital edition

## **February 2021**



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



## **Doing old things in new ways!**

Dear Friends,

With the continued National Lockdown, due to the coronavirus pandemic, we are still part of Christ's church, here in Braintree. We continue to meet, albeit online, through "St Michael's by Phone", via Zoom video conferencing and in other ways.

As the lockdown continues, we will be doing some new things – or to be more accurate, some old things in new ways.

As well as continuing with our services online and by phone we will be having some services live on Zoom. In February, these will be:

- **Holy Communion on Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6.30pm** – this will last around 30 minutes and will include an informal breaking of bread and a short Bible thought – be at home, with your own bread and wine, if you wish to.
- **Children's & Families Service – Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Feb, 9.45am** – this will be instead of the pre-recorded YouTube Children's & Families Service.
- **All-Age Tonight – Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Feb, 6pm** – continuing our series on the "I am" sayings of Jesus in John's Gospel.

We will be using **Discipleship Explored** as our Lent Course, on Wednesdays from 10<sup>th</sup> Feb, starting at 7.30pm on Zoom.

We will also be having another **5:15 Quiz** on Zoom on **Sat 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, 6.45pm for a 7pm start**. And on **Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feb, 10.00am-12.30pm**, we have our Men's Conference. We very much look forward to Wallace Benn leading two Bible studies about how Peter coped with failure and suffering, titled, "**Peter – a Living Rockfall**".

The **Zoom links for the services** will be in my weekly email. For other events, please let me know you'd like to join us and I will send you the Zoom link. For all of these Zoom events, you can join us via a computer, tablet, smart phone, etc. – if you haven't got access to one of those, you can still join us by landline.

I hope and pray that as we meet together, albeit via technology, it will encourage us all in our walk with the Lord. As Paul said, "**Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.**" (Romans 12:12)

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

## **MISSION OF THE MONTH**

### **CPAS**

CPAS is an Anglican Evangelical mission agency working in the UK and Republic of Ireland.

Their mission is to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ through the ministry of local churches.

They are patrons of our church. They help provide evangelical ministers to churches and also provide lots of courses for ministers, other leaders and PCC groups. They also run ventures and Falcons young people's holidays where up to 4000 children attend various camps and house parties during the summer months mainly.

This year of course was particularly difficult as venues had been booked but, in the end, had to be cancelled. However, CPAS provided an online holiday for the children sending out to them 'Falcons-in-a-box' which included all sorts of activities and the holidays were conducted online. They are currently considering next year's ventures and Falcons and would value prayer in guidance.

Praise God for the success of virtual ventures and thank him for his provision of ideas, technology, energy, and enthusiasm in the midst of challenging circumstances. Pray that the children who received a falcon-in-a-box would continue to remember the generosity, kindness and teaching they received on Falcon holidays in the past.

Praise God also for the hard work and adaptability of the hundreds of volunteer leaders who dreamt up virtual games, lead Bible studies from afar, sent exciting post and built a sense of Christian community.

Praise God also for CPAS delivering a series of free web teaching series and is currently running a leadership web course entitled Leading in Uncertain Times.

They have also been doing virtual learning as well as in person sessions with social distancing, to clergy, ordinands, and MA students on a range of topics including leadership and mission.

One of the key strategic goals over the next five years is to equip 1000 ministers and focal leaders to lead and be more effective in evangelism.

A key piece of work is now underway in partnership with the Church of England and others to develop an online learning process for clergy and lay leaders to help churches see more people become disciples of Jesus. Further information on CPAS can be obtained from their website [www.cpas.org.uk](http://www.cpas.org.uk)

*Derek Chapman*  
*(Re-printed from December 2020 Magazine)*

## 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 10<sup>th</sup> February.

It is a whole church course. If you'd like to join us or find out more, please contact Nigel & Jo Adams (01376 807662). Email: [revnigeladams@gmail.com](mailto:revnigeladams@gmail.com)



## **WORKING FROM HOME**

Gone is the boring cold journey to Liverpool Street. The daily hassle on the A12 is just an unpleasant dream. Tiredness is fading fast – no early mornings - and commuters are feeling fitter. Time can be spent in the daylight for exercise instead of walking in the tunnel from one platform to another in the Underground.

### **DOWNSIDE?**

Your friends have turned a bedroom into an office, which they paid for! Lighting and heating are another bill his companies doesn't necessarily meet!

She settles down to work in front of his screen, but the kids are in lockdown. If their all-day music isn't getting on her and his nerves, then perhaps their demands for help with on-line lesson interrupts their day just at a crucial point.

And of course, they miss the camaraderie of the office and that Friday night drink with office friends after work. It's not quite the same on zoom!

### **'BUT HE'S DIFFERENT!'**

Rob works with a colleague who is a Muslim. He hasn't seen him for almost a year now. Rob and his friend worked well together. In office breaks, he and Rob have showed each other pictures of their respective families and children. Rob's friend has heartaches which he has told Rob about. They are both concerned about how their children are doing at school, but Rob's friend has a son who is severely disabled. Rob's understands this a little because his sister's daughter is facing endless trips to hospital.

When Rob gets home at night, he sees rioting Muslims in Paris. Yet those whose faces who appear on the screen and their chanting don't seem to fit in with Rob's colleague at work.

'That's Islam for you', says Rob's brother, Eric. 'That's what your mate is like'.

'No', says Rob. 'He is different'. In fact, Rob could put it another way: 'we both have a lot in common'

## FORGET FRIENDS

Social contact is good for Rob. It breaks down his prejudices and stereotypes because he meets a colleague who doesn't fit the standard image. But the longer lock-down goes on and social contacts diminish, old prejudices may easily re-emerge.

'ALL JOCK TAMSON'S BAIRNS'.

Mrs T famously said that you need wealth to be a good Samaritan. That's as may be, on the other hand it may not! But social contact is of the essence. The more we know others, we may begin to understand that 'we are all Jock Tamson's bairns' as they say north of the border. We face the same heartaches and worries. We are all the same human clay. And at the same time, we are all human beings loved by God with all dark sides and mess that God loves to sort out.

## THE MAN WHO SELF ISOLATED

You can't say that Jonah (the prophet in the Old Testament) was full of love for the Assyrians. At the end of his book, we find him choosing voluntary self-isolation. When Jonah was by himself waiting to see the destruction of his enemies, the LORD GOD spoke to him. *'Should not I pity Nineveh, that great city, in which there are more than 120,000 persons who do not know their right hand from their left, and also much cattle?'* (Jonah 4:11).

We might be locked away from others, which debilitates us, but we can never be locked away from the Lord God who knows all the people that are on earth.

*Stephen Bailey*

## MEALS

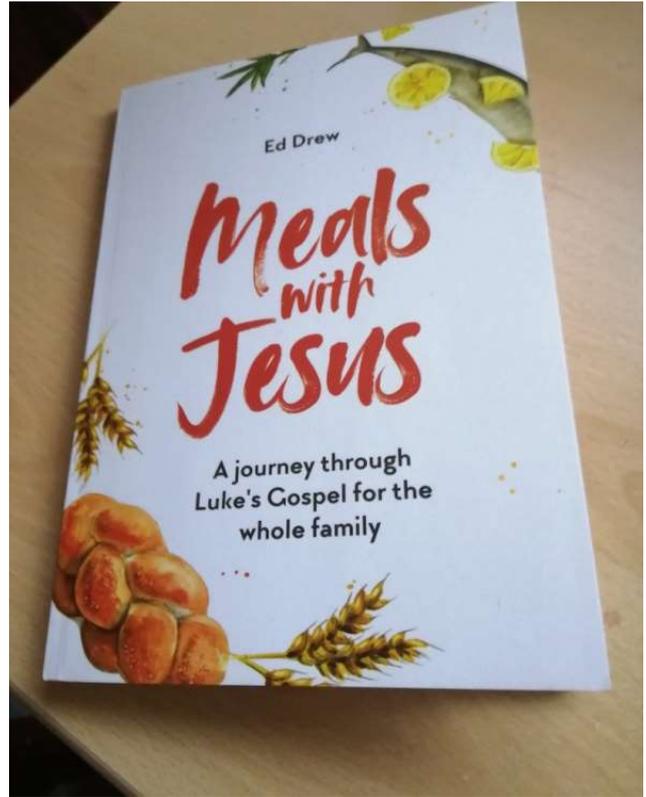
The Church Family Worship theme this year: MEALS !

Rose Hill Home Group Spring Theme: Meals in Luke's Gospel

### AND NOW

A book hot off the press for families!

**Ed Drew: Meals with Jesus: A journey through Luke's Gospel for the whole family.**



- For some of you reading this, you will be familiar with the idea of reading the Bible and Praying together as a family at a mealtime...this book will be brilliant for you.
- Some of you maybe will be 'rolling your eyes' and thinking that there is enough to cope with at mealtimes without adding this book in!!  
...but this book would be ideal for a family get together with a hot chocolate or a treat. Even try this as a special treat in the week!
- Some of you maybe thinking we have never done anything like this before but would like to, so this book would be a perfect starting place for you...

It really is for the whole family...the book says the session will be 10 minutes!

You will read about a meal that Jesus is at...then there are:

Activities, suggested questions for every age group from 3 to teens, Think and Pray time, Time to Chat and a real bonus there is 'Something more for the adults!' (Rose Hill Home group will recognise some of the thoughts!)

I have copies at £5.50 so if you message me on Facebook or text me on 07779563465 I will arrange for one to be delivered.

*Jennifer Bailey*

## **GOD'S INVITATION**

*Translated by Peter Schaad from the Daily Verses he gets through a Swiss Evangelical Organization called 'Closer to you'.*

### Lamentations 1:12-22

The Lord spoke to the servant: Go out to paths and on the barriers. and ask them to come in, so that my house will be full. LUKE 14:23

### **GOD'S INVITATION**

Our world is full of lonely people. In the towns lots of people live close to each other but hardly know their neighbours on the same floor. Each one lives by him or herself and his or her interests – he or she is very lonely.

Especially on a public holiday the being alone is a burden. Many shops and inns are closed. Where should one go if the loneliness is no longer bearable?

If you are part of these people, then I have good news for you: Someone is waiting for you! It is GOD our Heavenly Father Himself. He would like you to contact Him and get to know Him as your FATHER in Heaven.

With a story Jesus has once explained this invitation: A man organized a large dinner and had invited many. But the invited guests did not want to come. The he gave his servant the task to go out onto the streets and to invite all lonely and homeless he could find to come for His large dinner. How much He wished that his house would be full with guests.

Exactly in this fashion GOD invites all people through the gospel of grace to come to Him, as they are, in repentance and faith. He would like to accept them as His children and offer them an eternal home in Heaven.

Would you like to accept this heartfelt invitation and become a happy child of GOD?

*Supplied by Peter Schaad*

## **FEBRUARY DIARY**

[www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk](http://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

### **2 Tuesday**

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

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

### **3 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7:30pm 321 course

### **4 Thursday**

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

### **6 Saturday**

6.45pm 5:15 Quiz on Zoom

### **7 Sunday**

10:00am Worship on the Web – Church Family Worship

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

6.30pm Holy Communion on Zoom

### **9 Tuesday**

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

8 - 9pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

### **10 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7:30pm Discipleship Explored on Zoom

## **14 Sunday**

9:45am Children's and Families Service – Live on Zoom

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

## **16 Tuesday**

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

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

## **17 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7:30pm Discipleship Explored on Zoom

## **21 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 – Live on Zoom

## **23 Tuesday MARCH LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

2:00pm Bible reading group on Conferoo

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

## **24 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point on Zoom

7:30pm Discipleship Explored on Zoom

## **27 Saturday**

10:00am St Michael's Men's Conference “**Peter – a Living Rockfall**”  
on Zoom

## **28 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”