



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



Today

29th March 2020 - 5th Sunday of Lent

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

What a week it has been! I guess that none of us could have predicted how rapidly and how quickly things would change. We now find ourselves instructed by the Government not to go out of our homes apart from for a small number of very limited purposes.

As a direct result of this, the Church of England nationally has been told by our Archbishops to close all our churches. On Tuesday evening, I had the sad duty of putting notices up on the church, officially closing St Michael's church for the time being. The notice includes some words of Jesus,

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength." ... "Love your neighbour as yourself." There is no commandment greater than these." (Mark 12:30-31)

A key reason for closing our churches is to give a loving example to the whole community, because staying away from each other, to prevent the spread of coronavirus, is a loving thing to do right now. Please seek to find other ways as well, to show love to those around us. Phoning people is a great way to stay in touch with each other and to show we care. As well, do please pray for one another. For those who have the technology, videoing calls are a good way to be in touch. We are having two video conference staff meetings this week and, though we are each in our own homes, there is a sense that we are meeting together as we speak about what we can do as a church, and read the Bible and pray together.

Do please pray particularly for Jack Green and Derek Chapman and their families, following the sudden and unexpected deaths of Joyce and Jenny. We trust that Joyce and Jenny are with their heavenly Father. However, their families' hard and sad time is made much more difficult with the coronavirus, so your prayers would be especially appreciated.

Please seek to stay safe, and do keep in touch. Some ideas for keeping in touch, including our Sunday "Worship on the Web" services, are inside the notice sheet.

Wishing you every blessing at this difficult time,

Nigel

General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	<i>(Nigel's day off this week will be Friday)</i>	
Churchwardens	Lin Terris	01376 322870
	David Marriott	01376 349257
Honorary Curate	Rev Stephen Bailey	01376 619347
Children's and Youth Worker (part-time)	Rachel Grove Smith	07713 566667
Pastoral Assistant	Jo Adams	01376 807662
Vicar's Personal Assistant (Office hours: Mon - Thurs 9.00am - 1.00pm)	Helen Hopkins	07545 437477
Treasurer	Lesley Davey	01376 326969

- Contact Margaret Kinniburgh to add items to the Notice Sheet (by noon **Thursday**) email: notices@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk. Telephone 01376 330013.

Worship on the Web @ St Michael's

Instead of our Sunday services, we will have, on our website each Sunday, things to help you worship at home. There are two services: an adult one and a children's & families one. We will be continuing our new series on the character of God, this week thinking about the Holy God – that whilst we do wrong things, God is holy, yet still loves us. There will be a variety of items, including worship songs, book review, Bible readings, prayers, a sermon as well as a service and activities for children & families – don't miss Rachel and her puppets! Thank you to all who joined us and gave us feedback last Sunday. It can be accessed via the link on the Home page of the St Michael's Braintree website.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings are Psalms 23 to 25, Numbers 2 to 9, Proverbs 5:14 to 5:23. As we are not currently meeting, I would like to repeat part of this week's readings:

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." Numbers 6 vv24 - 26.

Dave Terris

Christian Radio & TV

Why not listen to Premier Christian Radio (Freeview channel 725 or on the internet) or watch Clayton TV (available on the internet) for some great teaching and worship?

Groups & activities

All of our groups that meet face-to-face will stop for the time being. This includes our children's & youth groups, Home Groups, Coffee @ StMichael's, Men's & Women's groups, Talking Jesus, PCC and PCC sub-groups, First Priority prayer meeting, countryside walks and all other groups. We are also having to postpone our Food for Thought Weekend.

Wherever possible, we will be looking for innovative ways of providing support and will be letting you know more about this over the coming weeks.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Iris Smith, Elizabeth Johnson, Alan Bass, Ron Smith, Alison Davey, Elaine Stoodley

Bereaved: Jack Green and family, following the death of Joyce on Friday, 20th March and Derek Chapman and family, following the death of Jenny on Saturday, 21st March.

Housebound: Roy Smart

Mission of the Month: Church Pastoral Aid Society (CPAS) are patrons of our church along with 700 other evangelical churches. Their mission is to help everyone in this country to hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ. They provide courses to develop leaders, training for clergy and lay leaders, helping in times of vacancy, and resourcing 1000's of leaders (PCC's included) to be more effective. They give over 4,500 8 to 18 year olds, the fun, faith, and friendship on camps and houseparties.

Keeping in touch

We will be sending out email updates from time to time. If you didn't receive one from Nigel this week, and would like to be added to the circulation list, please send us your email address – to admin@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk.

Church Office: Helen Hopkins, the Vicar's Personal Assistant, is still working, but not in the church office. She can be contacted 9am-1pm Mon-Thurs on 07545 437477 or email: vicarspa@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk.

St. Michael's Church website is on the following link - <http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/> (If this does not work, you might need to clear your browsing history/web cache from your browser. In most browsers this can be done using Ctrl+Shift+Del.) On this page you can see our Magazine, Notice sheets, Annual reports and other details and will be able to access our Sunday online services.

Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree/>.

Make Jesus Known

Tim & Charissa Cooke and team have a helpful website and an iPhone app (iTruth) – they are putting on daily thoughts and other useful material. It can be accessed via <https://makejesusknown.com/itruthapp#/>