



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	<i>(Nigel's day off this week will be Monday)</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 (on furlough from 1st May 2020)	Helen Hopkins	
Treasurer	Lesley Davey	01376 326969

10th May 2020 - 4th Sunday after Easter

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

I hope you are coping with the ongoing restrictions as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

In my daily Bible reading this week, I have been reading the prophet Jeremiah, who lived through the defeat and destruction of Jerusalem. In chapter 29, Jeremiah wrote to the Jewish people who had been exiled to Babylon. I noticed two verses in particular. In Jeremiah 29:7, he tells those in exile, "Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the Lord for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Life would not have been easy for the exiles in the pagan city of Babylon, but God called them to seek the peace and prosperity of the city. We may not agree with everything the British Government does, but particularly at this time when our Government is seeking to save lives and to preserve our economy, we should be prayerfully and practically supporting them.

The other verse that I particularly noted was Jeremiah 29:11, "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." It was a promise to those people of Israel that after 70 years, they would return from exile, back to Jerusalem. It was not that life would be easy for them – life exiled in Babylon would involve much pain and suffering. But God was promising that he had good plans for them. For us today, there will be hardships, particularly for those who are unwell, bereaved, lonely or with greater home or work pressures. But God has good plans for us as well, if we trust in him – as Paul writes, "And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose." It is not a promise that things will be easy, but that good will ultimately work all things together for good.

It was great to see a good number of people at the after church Zoom coffee on Sunday at 11am. We will be doing that again this Sunday, as well as a midweek Zoom coffee morning on Thursday 14th May, 11am. Thank you to those who have already replied regarding the Zoom Life Explored course starting on Wednesday evening – please email me if you would like to join us. Don't forget the Poetry Competition – poems need to be submitted by Saturday. Details of all these are in the Notice Sheet.

With our love and prayers,

Nigel

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

Keeping in touch

Vicar's Personal Assistant

Helen Hopkins has now been placed on furlough. If you wish to contact us, please leave a message on the office phone (01376 321248 – this will be checked) or phone or email one of the team.

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/>

Worship on the Web @ St Michael's

Each Sunday there will be two online services:-

9.45am Children's & Families Service
- <http://stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/junior-church>

10am adult service - <http://stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

Sunday 10th May
'The Forgiving God'
(Psalm 103)

The adult service is also available through '**St Michael's by Phone**'. Just dial 01376 333565 you will be able to listen to the most recent Sunday online service. Both the online and phone versions of the service are available throughout the week. Phone calls will be charged at the local rate.

Coffee on Zoom: We will again be having After church coffee on Zoom (Sunday, 11am) as well as mid-week coffee morning on Zoom (Thursday 14th, 11am). Details of how to sign up will be included in Nigel Adams' weekly email on Saturday.

As part of the Children's and Families Service there is an opportunity for people from the Church Family to say an 'hello' message. If you would like to be part of this feature then do send your message to me, Rachel Grove-Smith, via WhatsApp. My phone number is 07713566667. We would love to be encouraged by seeing you.

Poetry Competition

Win £25 of **10 of Those** vouchers!

Write a poem either about the character of God or about the current situation.

You have until Saturday, 16th May 2020 to send your poems to rgrovesmith@stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk or alternatively send them to The Vicarage. This is a competition for everyone and there are three different age groups; 10 and under, 11-15 and 16+

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings are Psalms 35-36, Deuteronomy 27:1 - Joshua 4:24 and Proverbs 8:1 - 11.

If you want to join us, please let me know and I will make sure to keep you updated with the readings for each week.

Dave Terris (Tel: 322870 or email: daveterris@uwclub.net)

Life Explored course on Zoom

Life Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-week course. Whoever you are, whatever you are thinking, Life Explored is a place for you to discover the greatest gift in the universe. It will be held on Wednesdays, starting on 13th May, from 7.30pm. If you are planning to join us, or would like to find out more, please contact Nigel or Jo Adams via revnigeladams@gmail.com or on 01376 807662.

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For your prayers:

Unwell: Iris Smith, Alan Bass, Alison Davey, Elaine Stoodley

Bereaved: Elizabeth Johnson's family, Len Dove's daughter Gillian and son Graham, Jack Green and family, following the death of Joyce and Derek Chapman and family, following the death of Jenny.

Housebound: David and Ann Harvey

Mission of the Month: Langham Partnership (LP): On 17th May we are looking forward to seeing Simon Foulds on our 'Worship on the Webb'. Nigel will be talking to Simon at our morning service and then we shall hear more from Simon at 'All Age Tonight'. The growing number of churches across the world have a growing number of pastors. One such, Dr. Hann Tzuu Joey Hann, features in our on-line 'Link' for May. LP has three prongs Langham Preaching; Langham Literature and Langham Scholars. These three branches are proving invaluable in training able men and women leaders across the world. Hear more from Simon on 17th May.

Financial update: We are aware that the coronavirus outbreak has had a significant effect on some people's income. We are very grateful for all who give to God's work here at St Michael's, but if you are not able to give at present, we fully understand that.

The lockdown has affected St Michael's income in two main ways – we have closed Church House, so have no rental income. We have also ceased to receive loose offerings in the collection and the accompanying Gift Aid.

We have had reductions in utility bills and are seeking to lessen our outgoings, putting paid cleaning staff and the Vicar's PA on the Government's furlough scheme (where we can claim back 80% of their salary in due course). Given our general financial situation and the effect of the coronavirus outbreak, we anticipate an on-going shortfall in the region of £3,000 per month.

If you are able to assist in any way, please contact Lesley Davey, our Treasurer, at ldavey@stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk or 01376 326969.

Daily Hope, offers music, prayers and reflections with Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, at the end of a telephone line. The line is available 24 hours a day on **0800 804 8044**.

10 of Those is an excellent place to find and order Christian books online – see www.10ofthose.com/uk/. Please consider supporting 10 of Those (who came to St Michael's Church at Christmas) by browsing and ordering Christian books, especially if you find you have more time to read, with the current restrictions. Tel. 0330 223 3423