



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

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/>

17th May 2020 - 5th Sunday after Easter - Mission Sunday

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

When the coronavirus lockdown first began, we had to treat it as a sprint, with all of us adapting quickly to a change of lifestyle for us, in a whole range of areas. At church, our services went online and on the phone, and we discovered Zoom and other ways of keeping in touch. But it is clear, from the Government's statements this week, that we must now treat the lockdown as less of a sprint and more of a long distance race. With that in mind, can I suggest three attitudes that we should have:-

Firstly, **be thankful** – *“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.”* (Psalm 136:1). Despite the many limitations and restrictions (and they are clearly worse for some than others), we have much to give thanks for – for sunshine, the NHS, friends & family, food, technology ... above all, for a God who loves us.

Secondly, **be prayerful** – *“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). Please continue to pray for our world, our Government, those on the front line in the NHS & care homes, those suffering from coronavirus, those who have been bereaved.

Lastly, **be supportive** – Jesus said, *“A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.”* (John 13:34). Thank you to all who are supporting others in various ways. Even as we struggle ourselves, please continue to be looking for ways to share God's love and care for others.

This Sunday is a **Mission Sunday**, focusing on the work of Langham Partnership. If you don't know much about Langham, please tune into our online services, both at 10am and All-Age Tonight at 6pm. Simon Foulds, from Langham Partnership will be interviewed in the morning and speaking in All-Age Tonight. Links, to find out more about their work, are inside the Notice Sheet and on the service sheets.

We are increasingly active on **Zoom video conferencing**, with virtual coffee at 11am both on Sunday and on Thursday, as well as at 7pm on Sunday, after All-Age Tonight – links will be on my weekly email. Also, Rachel Grove Smith is now sending **Daily text** with a few verses and short thought – details inside the Notice Sheet.

With our love & prayers,

Nigel

Worship on the Web @ St Michael's

The services this Sunday are:-

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>

6.00pm All Age Tonight
adult service - <http://stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

Sunday 17th May
'The Protecting God'
(Psalm 46)

All Age Tonight
with Simon Foulds from Langham Partnership
'Mary & Martha: The better choice'
(Luke 10: 38-42)

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.

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.

Daily text: Rachel Grove Smith is sending a few verses and a short thought each day by text message. If you would like to receive this, please let her know either by email (rgrovesmith@stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk) or by text (07713 566667)

Coffee on Zoom: We will be having Zoom virtual coffee both after church on Sunday at 11am and at 7.00pm, and on Thursday at 11am. Details of how to sign up will be included in Nigel Adams' weekly email on Saturday.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings are Psalm 37, Joshua 5:1 - Joshua 14:15 and Proverbs 8:12 - 8:36.

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 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.

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**.

Vicar's Personal Assistant

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For your prayers:

Unwell: Roy Demery (retired Church Army Captain), Iris Smith, Alan Bass, Alison Davey, Elaine Stoodley

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

Housebound: Roy Smart

Mission of the Month: Langham Partnership (LP): We are looking forward to seeing Simon Foulds on our 'Worship on the Webb' today. 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.

Langham Partnership: Find out more about our Mission of the Month – some useful links:

Their magazine - <https://uk.langham.org/get-involved/transform-magazine/>
Their celebration of impact - <https://uk.langham.org/celebration-of-impact/>
How to give to Langham - <https://uk.langham.org/give/>

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.

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