



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/>

24th May 2020 - Sunday after Ascension Day

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

I am writing this on Ascension Day (Thursday), when we remember Jesus ascending to heaven, to be with his heavenly Father. Jesus' work on earth was completed – he had died on the cross, to pay the price for our sins, then rose to life, to show that he had victory over death. And just before he ascended, Jesus said to his disciples,

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8) Jesus promised that his followers would receive the Holy Spirit and that they would have power to share the good news of Jesus locally, nationally and world-wide. This prayer is for Ascension Day:

Almighty God, Your ascended Son has sent us into the world to preach the Good News of Your Kingdom. Inspire us by Your Spirit to fill our hearts with the fire of your love, that all who hear Your Word may be drawn to You, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Between now and Pentecost (Sun 31st May), when we celebrate the Holy Spirit coming in power, we are invited to pray, "Thy Kingdom Come". It is especially poignant this year, as we are unable to meet in our church building. But the church is the people, not the building. It's great that we can still be in touch through online services, by phone, emails, letters, through Zoom video conferencing and other ways.

Can I encourage you to pray each day, between now and Pentecost, the Ascension Day prayer above? Please pray that, despite us having to socially distance and not meet up physically as a church, that we would be outward facing – that both as individuals and as a church, we would look for opportunities to share the wonderful news of God's love, shown in Jesus, our ascended Lord.

I hope that, despite the lockdown, you have been able to enjoy some of this sunny weather.

With our love & prayers,

Nigel

Worship on the Web @ St Michael's

Each Sunday there will be two online services:-

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

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

Sunday 24th May

'The Comforting God'
(Psalm 145)

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@stmichaelsbtree.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 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 Psalms 38-39, Joshua 15:1 - Joshua 24:33 and Proverbs 9:1 - 9:6.

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**.

For your prayers:

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

Bereaved: Angela Umeh and family, following the death of her sister Caroline. 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: David and Ann Harvey

Mission of the Month: Langham Partnership (LP): On Sunday, 17th May we enjoyed seeing and hearing from Simon Foulds on our 'Worship on the Web'. The growing number of churches across the world have a growing number of pastors. One such, Dr. Hann Tzoo 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.

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@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk or 01376 326969. Many thanks to those who have already given in order to assist us.

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