



# ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



**31st May 2020 - Pentecost**

## 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](mailto: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/>

## An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

I am very conscious that, as the weeks of the lockdown become many months, this is a really hard time for many people. It is particularly hard for those who have been bereaved, but also for those who are unwell (whether due to coronavirus or other reasons). For many, the pace of life has changed – for some it is a busier time and for others, life has become very quiet and at times isolated. Work has become more difficult for many, for example, those working in the NHS and care sector, as well as many others, seeking to socially distance and keep themselves and others safe. Many are having to make tricky decisions, including staff at St Michael's School, as plans are put in place for the partial return to school of certain year groups from 1st June.

I am reminded of our 2019 Verse of the Year, where Jesus said, *"Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."* (Matthew 11:28) It is a promise, not just for the original disciples, but for us as well – a promise that we can bring to Jesus the things that wear us down and the burdens we carry. When we choose to bring them to Jesus, rather than carry them ourselves, we can know Jesus' rest – rest for our souls.

How does Jesus give us rest? Part of the answer is in what we will be celebrating this Sunday – Pentecost, when we remember how the Holy Spirit came to the first disciples (Acts chapter 2). Jesus had recently ascended to be with his Father and as the disciples gathered together, the Holy Spirit came, with a sound like mighty rushing wind and tongues of fire rested on each of them. It gave the early Christians boldness and power to speak of Jesus, who had risen from death. It was not just life-changing but changed the world.

That same Holy Spirit wants to fill each of us – to give us strength in whatever our situation, to bring us comfort in our struggles and to give us boldness to speak of Jesus. Let us pray with Christians around the world, "Come, Holy Spirit, come."

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 31st May**

'The Spirit of God'  
(John 14: 15-31)

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.

### **Our First Priority Prayer Meeting** will

be on Zoom on Tues 2nd June, 8-9pm. Sign up details are in Nigel Adams' weekly email, or contact Nigel on [revnigeladams@gmail.com](mailto:revnigeladams@gmail.com).

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.

**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 40-41, Judges 1:1 - Judges 10:18 and Proverbs 9:7 - 9:9.

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](mailto:daveterris@uwclub.net))

**CYO Electronic Update:** would you like to be kept informed of the latest news from CYO? If you haven't heard of them, they are Christian Youth Outreach working in Braintree District with over 10,000 school age children and over 30 schools in the Braintree and Halstead District. They are still working even during this time and also still need your prayers.

Please email Louisa Fisk if you would like to be kept in the loop of all things CYO and she will add you to her mailing list and send out the latest email from CYO with the newsletter. Louisa's email address is: [louisa.fisk@gmail.com](mailto:louisa.fisk@gmail.com)

**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**.

**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](mailto:rgrovesmith@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)) or by text (07713 566667)

### **For your prayers:**

**Unwell:** Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul's Braintree), 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:** Roy Smart

**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](mailto:ldavey@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk) or 01376 326969. Many thanks to those who have already given in order to assist us.

### **Poetry Competition Winners are:**

Under 10s: Betty Whitlock  
11 - 15s: Rachel Huxter  
16+ Valerie Wise

Thank you to all those who took part.