



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



5th July 2020 - 4th Sunday after Trinity

Update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends

Opening church

We have recently received some lengthy guidance and advice from both the Government and Church of England about the possibility of opening churches for services. What is very clear is that, even if churches are opened, the services will be very different to what we were used to before the lockdown.

The decision about whether to open for services is being left to each church to decide, taking into account the local situation. I will be meeting, via Zoom video conferencing, with the Parochial Church Council next week to speak about this and will keep you updated.

Sunday services

We will be continuing with our online services (and St Michael's by Phone) for the time being, whether or not we also meet in the church building.

Our extended series on the character of God has now finished and we will be looking at Romans chapter 8, arguably the greatest chapter in the Bible. It speaks so powerfully about what God has done for us in Jesus. It starts with the great promise that *"there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus"* (v.1). The chapter includes the reassurance that *"all things work together for good"* for those who love God (v.28) – not that life will be easy, but that God is working things together for good – hugely reassuring words, at a time of coronavirus pandemic. The chapter ends with the wonderful assurance that nothing can separate us from the love of God (vs.38-39). There is so much in the chapter that we will be spending six weeks digging into the amazing truths it contains.

On Sun 2nd August we will have our SMASH Club service, at the end of our virtual children's holiday club week. During August, we will be having family services, each one looking at a different parable that Jesus told.

We hope that you can join us online or by phone, Sunday by Sunday.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662 <i>(Nigel's day off 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/>

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>

10.00am adult service
- <http://stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

Sunday 5th July

'True Freedom'
(Romans 8: 1-4)

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.

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 Psalm 49, 2 Samuel 1:1 - 2 Samuel 12:31, Proverbs 10:23 - 10:32.

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)

For your prayers:

Unwell: Richard Richardson, Norma Huxter, Elaine Stoodley, David Harvey, Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul's Braintree), Roy Demery (retired Church Army Captain), Iris Smith, Alan Bass, Alison Davey

Housebound: David and Ann Harvey

Mission of the Month: Chain Foundation: was set up to deal with the high number of children who were left orphaned in Uganda and to assist with the health and education of others in the area. Today, the Chain Foundation have a Home for Children, farms which help make produce to keep the foundation self-sufficient and schools for all ages and abilities including the blind. The children utilize devotions that are held every evening to know more about Jesus' love and also strengthen their covenant with God. At Chain the Covid situation has been manageable, they have been able to move on with God's grace and the children are well. They have been able to use the lockdown time to grow more food. The children and some staff who were at Chain full time have done a good job. They resumed work slowly and public transport has been allowed but with a lot of restrictions which has again made it inaccessible.

Poetry Competition Booklet

In the Spring, we had a poetry competition, in which church members were invited to write a poem about the character of God or about the current situation. There were so many great poems that we have put them together in a booklet. Nigel Adams circulated the booklet to those we have contact details for, either by email or hard copy. If you haven't yet had a copy, and would like one, please contact Nigel and he would be very happy to send one to you.

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@stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk) or by text (07713 566667)