



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662 <i>(Nigel's day off will be Thursday)</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/>

12th July 2020 - 5th Sunday after Trinity

Update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) met this week and had a lengthy discussion about the possibility of re-opening the church. It is a tricky decision. There is a lot of Government and Church of England guidance and advice. Because of the coronavirus outbreak, churches need to make a number of significant changes – no handshakes or hugs, no singing, no shouting, social distancing, short services, no refreshments, bubbles of people 2 metres apart. In order to be socially distanced, we could only get a maximum of 23 “bubbles” of people into St Michael's church building. The Church of England advice is that those who are over 70 or clinically vulnerable are advised to stay at home as much as possible. This would be a very different kind of service to the pre-lockdown experience.

The PCC agreed to explore the possibility of opening the church building for some church services and/or private prayer, from September at the earliest. We will be sending a questionnaire out to church members (by email or hard copy) in order to get a better idea of peoples' feelings about us starting to open the church building. It would be most helpful if you are able to complete and return the questionnaires by Sun 26th July. The PCC plan to meet again at the end of July to speak further about this and I will keep you updated.

Whatever we do regarding the church building, we will be continuing with Worship on the Web and St Michael's by Phone for the time being.

Wishing you every blessing,

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>

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

Sunday 12th July

'The Spirit living in us'
(Romans 8: 5-11)

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 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.

First Priority Prayer Meeting on

Zoom: Tuesday, 14th July 8.00 - 9.00pm. Nigel will be sending the link if you would like to join the monthly Prayer Meeting.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings are Psalm 50, 2 Samuel 13:1 - 2 Samuel 21:22, Proverbs 11:1 - 11:11.

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)

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.

Keswick Convention: This normally takes place over 3 weeks, in the Lake District, with outstanding speakers and worship. Due to the coronavirus, the normal convention will not be happening. However this year there will be the Virtually Keswick Convention, so more people can access it online. If you have internet access, you can tune in from Mon 27th to Fri 31st July via this link - <https://vk.keswickministries.org/>. You can either watch it live, or later on catch up.

For your prayers:

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

Housebound: Roy Smart

Bereaved: Sam & Lexi Allen following the death of Sam's Grandad

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