



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



2nd August 2020 - 8th Sunday after Trinity

Update from Rev Nigel Adams

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/>

Dear Friends,

We've had a great SMASH Club week, our children's holiday club, with time together on Zoom and lots of great things to enjoy. Many thanks to Rachel and the team, who organised and ran it, and thank you to all the children who came and joined in and shared their craft and other things. We are very much looking forward to our online SMASH Club service on Sunday morning.

Thank you as well to all who completed the questionnaire about re-opening church and other things. I am very grateful to Dave Marriott for organising the questionnaire for us. It was really helpful to have so many responses. It was clear, from the responses, that some people were strongly in favour of re-opening the church building for services and/or private prayer and others were strongly against this. A very common comment was one of gratitude in relation to a range of things, including Worship on the Web, St Michael's by Phone, Zoom virtual coffee, email and hard copy updates, phone calls and daily texts. There were requests that some or all of these things continue long term.

The Parochial Church Council met on Thursday and we have decided on the way ahead. As previously mentioned, we will be continuing with our online services for the time being. Over the summer, we will be combining our two services into a Family Service, looking at some of Jesus' parables. It will be launched at 10am each Sunday, but is available as catch-up later, both online or by phone.

We plan to re-open the church for Morning Worship from Sunday 20th September. It will be an in-church version of the the adult online service. The coronavirus outbreak means that we need to comply with Government and Church of England guidance and advice. We will be restricted to a maximum of 23 "bubbles" of people to maintain social distancing of 2 metres, and there can be no handshakes or hugs, no singing, no crèche and face coverings must be worn. Due to the restricted numbers, it will be necessary to book a place beforehand. We do want to get back into church for services, but it is vital that we do so in a way that seeks to keep everyone safe. In due course, we will look at whether we can reintroduce Holy Communion, but initially we will have services of Morning Worship. I will do everything I can to make it as enjoyable and engaging as we can, but it will be very different to our experience of services before the lockdown.

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We also agreed that we would open the church building for private prayer each Wednesday, starting on Wednesday 9th September from 2-3pm. We will alternate weekly between an afternoon slot and an early evening slot for private prayer. The choice of timing is deliberate, to allow a 72 hour coronavirus quarantine period for the church building between Sunday services and Wednesday private prayer.

We will be giving more information over the summer about the services and private prayer, including how to book places for them. Do please be praying as we make these changes, both for wisdom and for safety for all.

At this time, where many of us are still finding things tough, may I remind you of a comforting verse from 1 Peter 5:7, *"Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you."* In our struggles and anxiety, we can always take our worries and concerns to God, who cares and loves us enough to send his Son to live and die for us.

Wishing you every blessing,
Nigel

Worship on the Web @ St Michael's

Each Sunday throughout August there will be a Family Service:-

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

Sunday 2nd August SMASH Club Service

The Family 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.

SMASH Holiday Club online Family service today, following a great week with songs, games, puppets, quizzes, fun craft, Bible study time and some drama. Details of all the activities which have taken place are available from the link on the Home Page of our website www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 4th August are Psalm 55, 1 Kings 13:1 - 1 Kings 21:29, Proverbs 12:1 - 12:7.

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: [Roy Smart](#), [Barbara Townrow](#), 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: David and Ann Harvey

Mission of the Month: ACTS in Burkina Faso works among the most vulnerable people in one of the poorest countries in the world. On the scale of poorest countries Burkina Faso is 173 out of 175. Joanna Ilboudo set up ACTS, having 'love and hope for mother and child'. Widows and orphans are the forgotten ones. They have no voice and no means of support. They are considered outcasts due to the fear of AIDS. Widows have no opportunity for education and no hope of gaining skills necessary to support a family. Without financial means, widows and orphans are caught in a cycle of poverty, sickness and ignorance. ACTS works to provide maternal care and child health; educating rural poor children in formal and vocational education, training for widows in micro-enterprise and literacy. ACTS feeds 850 orphans each day. Organises evangelical campaigns, trains new disciples, pastors and has brought 1000 people to salvation. Trains Christian writers and promotes and publishes Christian literature and works in community development bringing spiritual, economic, social and physical relief. For more information please visit their website www.actsburkina.org. Only God's love can make lasting change in the lives of men, women, boys and girls caught in the oppression of poverty and ignorance.

Christian Radio & TV

Why not listen to Premier Christian Radio (Freeview channel 725 or on the internet) or watch Clayton TV (available on the internet) for some great teaching and worship?

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)