



# ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



**23rd August 2020 - 11th Sunday after Trinity**

## Update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

As mentioned at the beginning of August, we are working on opening St Michael's Church building for private prayer from Wed 9th Sept and for limited services from Sun 20th Sept. As we continue with our plans to make the church as COVID-safe as possible, we would be interested to know who might be willing to help with opening the church building on Sunday morning or Wednesdays (alternating between 2-3pm and 6-7pm). If you might be able to help, or would like more details about this, please contact me or Lin & Dave, the churchwardens.

I hope that your summer has been going well. Whether you have been or are going away, having a "staycation" or just being at home, I hope you are able to have some rest and refreshment over the summer.

I hope as well that you have been able to join us for our Family Services during August, either online or through St Michael's by Phone. Many thanks to all who have been involved in our summer services.

Over the summer, we have been reflecting on some of Jesus' parables. In our SMASH Club leaders' sessions, Stephen Bailey based his thoughts on the three linked parables in Luke chapter 15 – the lost sheep, the lost coin and the lost son (or prodigal son). The three parables emphasise the same point. Something has been lost (a sheep, a coin or a son) – each is later found, giving great joy to the finder.

All three parables speak of how we are each, in a sense, lost – how our sin, our wrongdoing, spoils our relationship with God. Yet, in a wonderful sense, God seeks us out – he looks for those who are lost. The Parable of the Lost Son has the most moving picture of God the Father. It's a picture of a loving father, waiting for his wasteful and sinful son – looking out for the son, running to him and embracing him. It's a picture of God's love for each of us. No matter what we have done, God wants to welcome us back to a relationship with him. I hope you will know the joy and hope that this brings, today.

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](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/>

**Worship on the Web @ St Michael's**

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

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

**Sunday 23rd August**

'Unexpected guests'  
(Matthew 22: 2-14)

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 the weekly email on Saturday.

**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)

**Bible Reading Group:** this week's readings for Tuesday, 25th August are Psalm 58, 2 Kings 20:1 - 1 Chronicles 3:24, Proverbs 12:22 - 12:28.

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))

**Care for the Family** is a Christian charity, which aims to promote strong family life and to help those who face family difficulties. They provide support for parents, marriages and those who have been bereaved. Their website has numerous links to articles, podcasts and even some online courses and they also provide some COVID-19 support and can be accessed via [www.careforthefamily.org.uk](http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk).

**For your prayers:**

**Unwell:** Stuart Holdsworth, Richard Richardson, Norma Huxter, Elaine Stoodley, Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul's Braintree), Alan Bass, Alison Davey

**Housebound:** David and Ann Harvey

**Bereaved:** The family and friends of Roy Smart who died peacefully on Sunday morning (9th August). Roy Demery (retired Church Army Captain) died recently. Please pray for Pat and their family at this sad time, but rejoice that he is with the Lord. If anyone would like to be in touch with Pat & family, please contact Norma Huxter, who has contact details.

**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](http://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**.