



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



6th September 2020 - 13th Sunday after Trinity

Update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

I am pleased to say that we will be opening the church building for private prayer on Wednesday 9th September, 2-3pm. We plan to open for an hour each Wednesday, alternating between 2-3pm and 6-7pm slots. There's no need to book a place – just turn up at any point between 2-3pm and stay for as much of the hour as you wish to. Do bring a Bible or another book, if that will help you pray.

There are some requirements, to keep you and everyone else safe. Entry will be via the north door (the town side, with wheelchair access) and exit via the south door. There will be hand sanitiser available, on arrival and exit, and marked places to sit. We will take your name and phone number, and keep them for 21 days, in case they are needed for NHS track & trace. You will need to comply with the following:

1. That you have not had COVID-19 symptoms in the last 14 days (fever, continuous cough, loss of sense of smell or taste)
2. That you are fit to attend the church, in line with government guidance on shielding and isolating
3. That you agree to maintain a 2 metre social distance from others and to wear a face covering in church, unless exempt.

Prayer is a special gift, as we can speak to God personally and we have a God who hears and answers prayer. Paul wrote, *"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."* (Philippians 4:6-7) God hears us wherever we are, but I am conscious that for some of us it can be easier for us to focus on God in a special place. That might be a particular place in your home or garden, or in a church.

We will be telling you more, in due course, about plans to open the church for services from Sunday 20th Sept.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

General Information

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| 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 returned from furlough, but this will be her last week as Vicar's Personal Assistant. Please leave a message on the office phone (01378 321248) or on 07545 437477.

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

From September there will be two online services each Sunday:-

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 6th September

'Working together for good'
(Romans 8: 28-30)

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 the weekly email on Saturday.

Our First Priority Prayer Meeting

will be on Zoom on Tues 8th Sept, 8-9pm. There is much to pray about, for our nation, our world, and for churches, as many of us begin to open our church buildings. Sign up details are in Nigel Adams' weekly email, or contact Nigel on revnigeladams@gmail.com. Do please join us, if you are able to.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 8th September are Psalm 60, 1 Chronicles 10:1 - 1 Chronicles 20:8, Proverbs 13:9 - 13:16.

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)

World War remembrance boards:

these have sadly deteriorated, to the extent that some of the details are not now readable. We are planning to get them professionally restored (hopefully in time for Remembrance Sunday). The work will cost £1,500 – if anyone would like to contribute towards the cost of restoration, please contact Lesley Davey, our Treasurer.

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.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Mya Nel, Jeff Wise, Stuart Holdsworth, 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 whose funeral will be Wed. 9th Sept., 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: TEARFUND is a Christian charity called to follow Jesus wherever the need is greatest. It works tirelessly to help communities around the world escape the very worst effects of poverty and disaster. They work in over 50 countries alongside local churches and other locally-based organizations to bring whole-person transformation. A massive 92% of people killed or affected by disasters are in poor countries. Tearfund helps communities find long-term solutions to hunger, drought and the lack of opportunity and esteem that keeps them trapped in poverty. By showing people the skills they have at their fingertips, Tearfund helps to unlock their God-given potential... with lifelong results. When communities are empowered to overcome poverty, that's precisely what they'll do. Tearfund's church-based partners help people access the material things they need to survive. But they don't stop there. They offer spiritual hope through God loving the whole person. The impact and implications of COVID-19 within the setting of poor communities has been massive. As the pandemic slows down in the UK, across the world it is accelerating. Millions of lives are at stake as coronavirus hits refugee camps and war-torn countries like Yemen, Syria, and South Sudan. Our prayers are urgently needed and Tearfund's extensive website www.tearfund.org shows helpful prayer pointers together with background information, not only in respect of coronavirus but on all of Tearfund's work worldwide as they seek to follow Jesus where the need is greatest.

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