



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com	
	<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
Treasurer	Lesley Davey	01376 326969

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

20th September 2020 - 15th Sunday after Trinity

Update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

In the Bible, particular places were of great spiritual significance to God's people. The Old Testament speaks of the Tabernacle – a tent where Moses met with God, as the people of Israel travelled from Egypt to the Promised Land.

Later, the Temple was hugely significant for the people. At the Temple, animal sacrifices were made, to remind the people that sin is serious. This pointed forward to Jesus' sacrifice of himself, for our sins – a sacrifice that was made "once, for all".

As we return to the church building, for both services and private prayer, I hope it will be of spiritual help to many of us. It's not that there is a particular "magic" thing about being in church, because we can meet with God anywhere at any time. But there can be something special about being in God's house with God's people.

In the New Testament, we are told about the Holy Spirit who indwells us and goes with us. At one point, Paul speaks of our bodies being a temple of the Holy Spirit. And we are told to "draw near to God and he will draw near to you." (James 4:8)

So whether you feel able to join us in church, or worship with us online, I hope you will sense God's presence and God's blessing.

With our love and prayers,

Nigel

Contact Margaret Kinniburgh to add items to the Notice Sheet (by noon **Thursday**) email: notices@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk. Telephone 01376 330013.

Keeping in touch

To phone, please leave a message on the church office phone (01376 321248).

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/>

Church services

We are having services both online (and by phone) and in the church building. Today's services will be:

Online:

9.45am Children's & Families Service

10.00am Adult Service, with Bishop Rod Thomas, "Weeds & wheat" (Matthew 13:24-43)

6.00pm All-Age Tonight: Jesus & Nicodemus

All these services can be accessed via the Worship tab on the St Michael's Church website. The latest adult service is also available through "St Michael's by Phone" – just dial 01376 333565 (phone calls charged at the local rate). Both the online and phone versions of the service are available throughout the week.

In church

10.00am a shortened service of Morning Worship. The first Sunday of each month will be a Family Service (with priority for families with children or young people) and other weeks will be adult services. You will need to book your seat for the services by midnight on Thursday – either via the St Michael's website (Worship tab) or by leaving a message on the church office answerphone (01376 321248). You will be contacted on Friday if you have a seat – **please only attend if you have been told you have a pre-booked seat.**

If you are coming into church, for a service or private prayer, 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

Coffee on Zoom: We will be having Zoom virtual coffee after church each Sunday and on the first Thursday of each month, both at 11am. Details of how to sign up will be included in the weekly email on Saturday.

Private prayer

St Michael's Church will be open on:

- Wed 23rd Sept. 2-3pm
- Wed 30th Sept. 6-7pm

No need to book – you can stay for as long or short as you wish.

Vicar's Personal Assistant: Helen Hopkins is standing down as our Vicar's PA. We thank Helen for what she has done in the role and wish her well for the future.

Christianity Explored is an informal 8 week course, which explores who Jesus is, why he came and what it means to follow him. Everyone welcome – whether you consider yourself a Christian or just want to find out more. We will be running it on Zoom from Wed 23rd Sept, 7.30pm. Please contact Nigel or Jo Adams to book on to the course or if you have any questions. We will send you the Zoom link and the course handbook.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Cynthia Daniels' son-in-law Paul, 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: Stuart Holdsworth and family following the death of his mother, Barbara. The family and friends of Roy Smart.

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.

For all in education: With schools back, please pray for pupils, parents, staff and governors, especially those in new schools. Please pray also for those in their final year at school, considering possible universities, without being able to visit them.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 22nd September are Psalm 62, 2 Chronicles 1:1 - 2 Chronicles 13:22, Proverbs 14:1 - 14:12.

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:

Five : Fifteen Virtual Quiz

We will be hosting a new online quiz night on Sat 3rd Oct, 6.45-9.00pm on Zoom. The title refers to 5 rounds and 15 questions, with Quizmaster Jeff Clayton. Form yourself into teams of 2-6 players – conferring by phone or messenger is allowed. To register, or for more details, please email Nigel Adams at revnigeladams@gmail.com.

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)