



# ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



## General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	Email: <a href="mailto:revnigeladams@gmail.com">revnigeladams@gmail.com</a>	
	<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](http://www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)

**4th October 2020 - 17th Sunday after Trinity  
Harvest**

## Update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

This Sunday is our annual Harvest celebration. It will also be the first of our monthly Family Services in church, as well as online and through St Michael's by Phone – see inside the Notice Sheet for more details.

At Harvest, we give thanks to God for all that he gives us. It is an ancient tradition, when the community would gather together, after the fields had been harvested, and give thanks to God for his provision of food, to see them through another winter and another year.

We will be saying, in our services in church and online, Psalm 136, a great Psalm of thanks. It begins, "Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good" then has the refrain that everyone joins in with, "*His love endures for ever.*" Every verse finishes with the same words, "*His love endures for ever.*" The Psalm could be considered to be unnecessarily repetitive. But I believe it is for a reason.

The coronavirus pandemic has been very hard for many people, for a variety of reasons. These include sickness, bereavement, isolation, redundancy, change, financial hardship – the list could go on. Yet, despite it all, we would do well to remember to be thankful – thankful for all that God does give, not least the food on our tables. And thankful above all that we are truly loved by an amazing creator and sustainer.

"Give thanks to the Lord of lords: *His love endures for ever.*" (Psalm 136:3)

Wishing you every blessing at Harvest time,

Nigel

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

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/>

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)

### Church services

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

#### Online:

**10.00am** Church Family Worship - Harvest

The service can be accessed via the Worship tab on the St Michael's Church website. The 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 Church Family 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, 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

**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.

**Harvest Family Service:** This year we are collecting harvest items for the Foodbank. They are currently in need of: cereal bars, chocolate bars such as KitKats and Penguins (small packs), jam, sponge pudding, mash potato, tinned snacks and meals, sugar, deodorant and washing detergent (in gel form). Please bring any items to the service which we will then pass on to the Foodbank.

**Bible Reading Group:** this week's readings for Tuesday, 6th October are Psalm 64, 2 Chronicles 27:1 - 2 Chronicles 36:23, Proverbs 14:25 - 14:35. 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))

#### Private prayer

St Michael's Church will be open on

- Wed 7th Oct. 2-3pm
- Wed 14th Oct. (no private prayer)

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

#### For your prayers:

**Unwell:** Ron Smith, Cynthia Daniels' son-in-law Paul, 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: Samaritan's Purse** - Operation Christmas Child is a branch of Samaritan's Purse, an evangelical Christian relief organisation that provides aid to suffering people throughout the world who are victims of war, famine, natural disaster, poverty, and disease. In a response to COVID-19 Samaritan's Purse's 'This is Love' initiative is leveraging the disaster relief supply chain to equip the good work of UK churches and charities with PPE as they strive to meet the practical needs of the most disadvantaged in their communities, under the ever-present risk of the coronavirus. To find out more follow the link. <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/this-is-love/> This year, due to the pandemic, we feel it is not possible for the church to collect shoeboxes. There are two ways in which you can still send a shoebox: (1) Online choosing either a pre-packaged shoebox or one where you choose the items and add your own customisation. (These cost £20 per box and include the cost of the items and shipping). <https://shooboxonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/> or (2) You can still fill a shoebox yourself. National collection week is 9th – 16th November. One of the local collection points is Roland James estate agents in the High Street Braintree. Other local collection points more convenient to you can be found at <https://www.samaritans-purse.org.uk/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child/find-your-drop-off-location/>

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting:** will be on Tues 27th Oct from 7.30pm on Zoom. It will be possible to join us on Zoom either by video conferencing or by phone.

- If you are not on our Electoral Roll (which allows you to vote at the annual meeting), you can join by completing a form by **Sun 11th Oct.**
- We will have elections for 2 churchwardens, 3 Deanery Synod representatives, and 4 Parochial Church Council members – nomination forms should be returned to Jennifer Bailey by **Sun 18th Oct.**
- You should have received information about the annual meeting either by email or as a hard copy. If you have not received this information, or have any questions, please contact Rev Nigel Adams.

**Women@St Michaels: Friday, 13th November** an event not to be missed from the comfort of your home via Zoom! Esther is going to be with us from 7-30-9.00pm and we are going to make FAIRY LIGHTS together. The cost will be £25.00 and everything will be delivered to your door ready for the evening ahead. For those who would like to join us, Jennifer needs your e-mail address, by **Tuesday, 13th October**. Jennifer's email address is: [jennifer.bailey42@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:jennifer.bailey42@tiscali.co.uk).