



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com	
	<i>(Nigel's day off will be Friday)</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

11th October 2020 - 18th Sunday after Trinity

A message from Rev Stephen Bailey

Dear Friends,

LONG BEFORE CRICKET

Before cricket took over the word 'wicket' it referred to a narrow gate made of wattle usually in a stone wall. The idea was to prevent sheep and cattle getting through the gap in the wall into the next field. But they were simple enough for humans to manage. They were not wide but narrow.

THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATE

John Bunyan of 'Pilgrims Progress' fame tells how his hero in the story is directed by 'Evangelist' to set out for the 'wicket gate'. Christian, the hero of the story, sets out to find the narrow gate (I wonder where he got that picture from!) and on the other side is a cross. Christian is carrying a heavy load on his back. This pictures the weight of his guilt and condemnation. Christian looks at the cross and the weighty pack on his back is rolled away. I love the way Bunyan tells how we may find the way to the Celestial City. We only come by Jesus Christ who died for us.

AS EVER

I am glad that an 'Evangelist' pointed me to the wicket gate helping me to find the Lord Jesus Christ who died for me. I find I still need the peace and assurance that lies on the other side of the wicket gate.

Stephen Bailey

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/>

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)

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 and Families Service

10.00am Adult Service

All these services 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 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, 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.

First Priority Prayer Meeting:

will be on Zoom on Tues 13th Oct, 8-9pm. There is much to pray about, for our nation, our world, and for churches. Sign up details are in the 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, 13th October are Psalm 65, Ezra 1:1 - Ezra 10:44, Proverbs 15:1 - 15:11. 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)

Private prayer

St Michael's Church will not be open on:

- Wed 14th Oct. (no private prayer)
- but will be open again on:
 - Wed 21st Oct. 2-3pm

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.

Do not miss signing up to make Fairy Lights with Esther via Zoom. On Friday November 13th 7.30 to 9.00pm

Jennifer needs e-mail addresses by **Tuesday, 13th October** (email jennifer.bailey42@tiscali.co.uk) so that Esther can be in touch with you to ensure that you have all the materials and log in details needed. She will organise payment from each of you. The cost is £25 and everything will be delivered to your door. Have you thought of inviting a friend to join you for the evening ... maybe someone who does not have access to Zoom or just so that you are not alone!!