



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

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

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)

Our Light Party is on Saturday 31st October 2020 between 6.30pm and 7.15pm. This year we have decided to take this event online!

The Zoom party will include action songs, activities and games, a quiz, a light show and a mini talk all around the theme and is suitable for Primary School age. To book, please visit our website.

18th October 2020 - 19th Sunday after Trinity

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

Uncertain times

These are difficult times for our nation and our world, with the coronavirus outbreak still continuing. Just this week, Essex has moved to Tier 2 (High), restricting our ability to meet socially with people from other households indoors. In these uncertain times, could I suggest two things? Firstly, is there someone you could phone this week, particularly someone who might be alone or struggling, to encourage them? Secondly, let us remember that we have an unchanging God – as Rachel was reminding us of Psalm 46, in one of her daily text this week which says, “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Let us lean on our God, who is with us, and helps us in uncertain times.

Church services

Many thanks to all who have been involved in our first month of services back in church. A few people have said that they haven't wanted to take a place for our services in the church building. So far, we have had at least a few spare spaces in church each Sunday. If you would like to join us, do please book in, either online or by phone (details inside). If we do have too many people, we will ask some people to come the following week. We will be continuing with our services online as well as St Michael's by Phone for the time being.

Things happening

We have a number of events coming up, using Zoom video conferencing. These include the children's **Light Party** (Sat 31st Oct), **Women's Fairy Lights with Esther** (Fri 13th Nov), **Men's Conference** (Sat 14th Nov) and **Women's Conference** (Sat 5th Dec). Information about each event will in the Notice Sheet.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

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
- 6.00pm All-Age Tonight

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.

Private prayer: St Michael's Church will be open on:

- Wed 21st Oct. 2-3pm
- Wed 28th Oct. 6-7pm

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

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 20th October are Psalm 66, Nehemiah 1:1 - Nehemiah 10:39, Proverbs 15:12 - 15:22. 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)

Women@StMichaels an evening with Esther via Zoom on Friday, 13th November 7.30 to 9.00pm

If you have sent your email to Jennifer, Esther will be in touch with you to ensure that you have all the materials to make the Fairy Lights and log in details needed. She will also organise payment from you.

For your prayers:

Unwell: David Smith (Becky Gray's father), 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

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.

- 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.

A Good Read for Christmas: We have a happy custom in the St Michael's church family. Just before Christmas and up to Easter many of us buy a book of daily Bible readings. This seems to be a popular custom because we never seem to order enough! 'thegoodbookcompany' are offering this year a book of Bible readings about Christmas. Appropriately it is called the 'The Christmas we didn't expect' (no, it is not about the lockdown). It is by David Mathis. It has twenty-four daily Bible readings from various parts of the New Testament and it repays the thoughtful reader. It sells for £6.79 and is also available as an ebook from 'thegoodbookcompany' for £4.79. Paperback copies are available in St Michael's church, but if we run out, we can always get more.

St Michael's Men's Conference is on Sat 14th Nov, 10am-12noon, titled, "Under Pressure: being a Christian man today." It will include an interview, two talks by Travers Harpur on the life of King David, and time for discussion in groups. Please contact Nigel Adams if you have any questions or would like to join us and Nigel will send you the Zoom link.