



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

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.

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

25th October 2020 - 20th Sunday after Trinity

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

I hope that those who have half-term holidays will be having a well-deserved break. Just to remind you of two things happening this week. On Tuesday, from 7.30pm, we are having our **Annual Parochial Church Council** and on Saturday, 6.30-7.15pm there is the children's **Light Party** – both are on Zoom.

As part of our services back in the church building, we often read a Psalm together and this Sunday it is Psalm 121. It is one of the Songs of Ascents and they are believed to have been said by pilgrims, as they made their way to Jerusalem. One imagines them arriving at Jerusalem, looking at the hills surrounding the city and saying,

1 I lift up my eyes to the hills.

From where does my help come?

2 My help comes from the Lord,

who made heaven and earth.

It is a Psalm of trust in God, who helps us and “keeps us”. It speaks of how God watches over us in times of danger, how God never slumbers or sleeps, and provides shade (protection for us). And it ends with the reassurance that God will keep us, for all eternity.

8 The Lord will keep

your going out and your coming in

from this time forth and for evermore.

In these difficult times, with coronavirus infections rising and many challenges, let us remember that, if we are trusting in Jesus, God is keeping us, watching over us, in this world and the next.

With our love & prayers,

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

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 28th Oct. 6-7pm
- Wed 4th Nov. 2-3pm

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

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 27th October are Psalm 67, Nehemiah 11:1 - Esther 10:3, Proverbs 15:23 - 15:33. 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: Tom St John Coleman, 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. If you have not received this information, or have any questions, please contact Rev Nigel Adams.

Bible Study on Zoom: Cyril Bamforth is hoping to set up an evening Bible Study group on Zoom. If you are interested in joining could you please email him at cyrilbbamforth@gmail.com suggesting an evening convenient to you.

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.