



# 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 Tuesday)</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

## 3rd January 2021- Second Sunday of Christmas

### An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

May I wish you a **Happy New Year**, in these strange times we are living in. We begin this New Year, as we ended the last one, in Tier 4, with considerable restrictions on us. We also feel that, at present, it is sadly right and safest for us not to have services or private prayer in person, in St Michael's church or in Church House. We will be having online (YouTube) services, St Michael's by Phone as well as virtual coffee and other events on Zoom. We hope you will be able to join us for some of these over the coming weeks.

We still need to remember the message of Christmas - **Comfort and Joy**. Comfort, as God gives us strength to face each day, and joy, as we remember that God sent Jesus into the world out of love - that he sent Jesus to save us.

I would also encourage you to look ahead to this coming year, with our Verse of the Year in mind - **"Let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts."** (Colossians 3:15) I very much hope and pray that you will know God's peace - both peace with God (the peace of a right relationship with him) and the peace of God (that inner sense of peace that God gives us, even in troubled times). I will be speaking on Colossians chapter 3 next Sunday, as we consider in more depth the gift of peace that God offers.

Can I say huge thanks to all who have **supported one another** during the past year - it is much appreciated. Do please think about whether there are any ways that you can support others (quite possibly by phoning them), as many will be finding the restrictions and limitations hard.

Wishing you God's peace and blessing for the New Year,

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/>

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 for Christmas and New Year

Please note that we are not having any "in person" services at present, but will have online (YouTube) services, as well as "St Michael's by Phone" and on Zoom.

### Sunday 3rd January

**10am: Church Family Worship** - on YouTube and by phone

**11am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom**

### Sunday 10th January

**9.45am: Children & Families Service** - on YouTube

**10am: Morning Worship** - on YouTube and by phone

**11am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom**

The online (YouTube) services can be accessed via the Worship tab on the St Michael's Church website. The services are also available through "St Michael's by Phone" – just dial 01376 333565 (phone calls are charged at the local rate). The online services are available at any time after they are launched and phone versions of the services are available until the next phone service is uploaded.

**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.

**Gift Day:** many thanks for all the generous gifts in response to our day of Gifts and Thanksgiving. The total is now £17,000 - we are very grateful to God and to all who have given.

**Car parking permits:** due to the on-going restrictions, the 2020 car parking permits for the church car park will still be valid for the time being. We will let you know when a new one is required.

**Coffee@Home:** please join Nigel & Jo Adams on Zoom, on Thurs 7th Jan from 11am for our monthly coffee & chat. For the Zoom link, either see the Saturday email or contact Nigel or Jo.

**Our Email Prayer Chain** gives occasional updates on pastoral and other urgent matters for prayer. Please send your email address to Jo Adams ([joannamaryadams@gmail.com](mailto:joannamaryadams@gmail.com)) if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain circulation list.

## For your prayers:

**Unwell:** [Robin Sewell](#), David Harvey, Elaine Stoodley, David Smith (Becky Gray's father), Ron Smith, Cynthia Daniels' son-in-law Paul, Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul's Braintree), Alan Bass, Alison Davey

**Housebound:** Ann Harvey

**Bereaved:** Elaine Stoodley and family, following the death of her brother David.

**Mission of the Month: Crosslinks** - From Chile to Latvia; from Cape Town to Dulwich, 'Crosslinks' works in partnership with local churches. New converts are turning to Jesus Christ and new congregations are springing up. The numbers of new Christians is often outstripping the resources of churches to teach them about their new found faith. About a third of 'Crosslinks' workers are in training roles and involved in evangelism, with young people, children and school teaching. Others are telling people about Jesus Christ and gathering new believers into new churches

**The Kralovis** - St Michael's have a link with Jirka & Keira living in Olomouc in the Czech Republic. They seek to evangelise students, equipping them for Christian service after they graduate. They have a hard job because the countries of Europe, like the UK, are amongst the most secular on the planet.

**3, 2, 1** is an opportunity to explore the big issues in life: God, the world and ourselves. Perhaps you're already familiar with Christian beliefs or maybe they are completely new to you. Whatever the case, this is a fresh telling of the Christian story that assumes no prior knowledge. It lasts just three weeks and is held on **Wednesdays, from 7.30pm on Zoom, starting on 20th January**. If you'd like to join us or find out more, please contact Nigel & Jo Adams (01376 807662) or by email: [revnigeladams@gmail.com](mailto:revnigeladams@gmail.com)

**Discipleship Explored:** we will be running this as a whole church course during Lent, on Zoom, on Wednesday evenings, starting on Wed 10th Feb, 7.30pm. This 8 week course, based on Philipians, has some excellent video talks and helps followers of Jesus to rejoice in God's love. Please note the date in your diary - more details will follow.

**Our Monthly prayer cycle** helps us to pray for one another, and for God's work both at St Michael's and beyond. Lin Terris will be updating this shortly. If you would like be included for prayer, please let Lin know by Sunday, 17th Jan either via [lterris@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk](mailto:lterris@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk) or by phone. Also, if you were on last year's prayer cycle and would like to come off it, please let Lin know.

**Bible Reading Group:** We will be having a break over the Christmas period, but 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))