



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

General Information

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| 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 |

10th January 2021- First Sunday after Epiphany

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

It has been a **difficult start to 2021** in a number of respects. This past week has seen a return to a **National Lockdown**, with the new strain of coronavirus being more easily transmitted and the level of infection very high locally. Do please be **praying** for all who are affected by this, particularly those who have tested positive. This includes some within our church family, and many people in the Braintree area. Please pray as well for NHS staff, who are treating an increasing number of patients, and for all who have been bereaved – for God's comfort and strength at this time. At the same time, there is encouraging news of the **coronavirus vaccines** now being rolled out. We hope and pray that the rollout will be swift.

Sadly, given the high level of infections locally and the increased transmissibility of the new strain, we feel it is right to keep the church building closed for "**in person**" **services** for the time being. Private prayer on Wednesdays is also suspended. We will be reviewing the situation regularly and will let you know as soon as this changes. Do please join us for **services online and by phone**, as well as our **Zoom** events.

At a time like this, with an increasing number of people unwell (not just with coronavirus) and many finding the tighter restrictions hard, I find the Psalms very helpful. The Psalms speak to the soul. Psalm 42 ends like this, "**Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Saviour and my God.**" (Psalm 42:11). The Psalmist is honest with himself (his soul) and honest with God. He is downcast – disturbed. Yet he tells himself to put his hope in God. We can praise God because he is both our Saviour (sending in love Jesus to save us) and our God. Many of us are finding things hard at present. Can I encourage you to come to God in prayer each day ... to be honest with God about what makes you downcast ... and to praise the God who gives us hope, both in this life and the next.

Wishing you every blessing,

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:

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 10th January

9.45am: Children & Families Service - on YouTube

10.00am: Morning Worship - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Sunday 17th January

9.45am: Children & Families Service - on YouTube

10.00am: Morning Worship - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

6.00pm: All Age Tonight on YouTube

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.

First Priority Prayer Meeting: will be on Zoom on Tues 12th Jan, 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.

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) if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain circulation list.

For your prayers:

Unwell: [Tom St John Coleman](#), [Norman & Joyce Plastow](#), 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: the family and friends of Dorothy Pritchard (who was involved in the Pram Service).

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

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 Philippians, 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 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: this week's readings for Tuesday, 12th January are Psalm 77, Isaiah 40:1 - Isaiah 52:15, Proverbs 19:10 - 19:19. 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)