



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com	
	(Nigel's day off will be Monday)	
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

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

17th January 2021- Second Sunday after Epiphany

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

At this **difficult time for our nation and our world**, I would encourage you to continue to pray for all affected by coronavirus, in any way, and all involved in the vital roll-out of the vaccines.

For the time being, we will continue with our services both **online and by phone**. Please also consider joining us for some of our **Zoom events** – as well as after church coffee each Sunday, we have both the 321 and Discipleship Explored courses starting soon, and our 5:15 Quiz on Sat 6th Feb. Details are inside the Notice Sheet.

Mark 4:35-41 recounts how Jesus **calmed a storm**. Jesus and his disciples were in a boat, when a great storm arose – the waves were breaking into the boat. The disciples were clearly terrified, and woke Jesus up. Jesus rebuked the wind and said, "Peace! Be still!" Incredibly, miraculously, the wind ceased and there was a great calm. The disciples' response was great fear and they said, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

For many of us, this season of life is **a bit like a storm**. We are buffeted by a number of unexpected things beyond our control – illness, restrictions on our freedoms, isolation, bereavement. Let me quote Glen Scrivener, "*Have you been brought to the end of yourself? Don't waste that experience. In storms you have a unique opportunity to know Jesus. Knowing Jesus can really begin when we are at our wits end.*"

I hope and pray that we will be increasingly able to lean on Jesus, and to know the calm that he brings, in whatever storms we are facing now.

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 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

Sunday 24th January

9.45am: Children & Families Service - on YouTube

10.00am: Morning Worship - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: 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.

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.

Christian Vision for Men “Big Takeaway”: includes four short talks by a team of speakers – available live on YouTube on **Tues 19th Jan, 7.30pm**. See www.cvm.org.uk/events for details.

Five : Fifteen Virtual Quiz
We will be hosting another online quiz night on **Sat 6th Feb, 6.45-9.00pm on Zoom**. The title refers to 5 rounds and 15 questions, with Quizmaster Jeff Clayton. Form yourself into teams of 2-6 players – conferring by phone or messenger is allowed. Do please invite guests to this quiz. To register, or for more details, please email Nigel Adams at revnigeladams@gmail.com.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Tom St John Coleman, Norman & Joyce Plastow, 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: Family & friends of Rev Robert & Elizabeth Burden (All Saints Cressing) who both died on Wed 13th Jan. 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 let Nigel Adams know, by Sun 31st Jan, if you will be joining us, as we need to order sufficient course booklets.**

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 terris@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, 19th January are Psalm 78, Isaiah 53:1 - Isaiah 66:25, Proverbs 19:20 - 19:29. 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)