



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.

31st January 2021- Fourth Sunday after Epiphany An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

Do please continue to pray for our nation and our world, as we battle against this horrible **coronavirus**. This week saw the UK reach the sad milestone of 100,000 coronavirus death. **Please be praying** for all who are gravely ill, for those treating them, for comfort for those who have been bereaved and for a special measure of wisdom for our government, public health advisors and others making key decisions. It is good to hear of an increasing number of people having one of the vaccines. This gives us hope, but our real hope is in the living God, in whom our lives rest.

During this period of national lockdown, and not meeting in church, we continue with our **services online and by phone**. We are having an increasing number of events on Zoom. Please let me know if you would like to join us for our **Quiz** on Saturday (6th Feb) or **Discipleship Explored** (starting on Wed 10th Feb). Do please join us for **Zoom coffee** if you are able to, both on Sunday and on Thursday this week, both at 11am. Details in the Notice Sheet and on my weekly email.

Next Sunday (7th Feb), we will be having our first Zoom Holy Communion. Rev Stephen Bailey will be presiding at this informal breaking of bread. It will last about 30 minutes and will include a short Bible thought. You are welcome to bring your own bread and wine, if you wish to. The Zoom link will be on my weekly email and it will only be available "live" (that is, not on catch up later).

In these difficult times, I have been encouraged by Psalm 147:11, "**The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.**" It speaks of how the perfect God **takes delight** in us, despite our limitations and imperfections – like a parent, looking lovingly at their toddler, playing on the floor. When it speaks of those who **fear him**, it doesn't refer to the cringing fear one might have felt for a school bully – it refers to a proper sense of awe that we should have for the all-powerful, loving, creator God. Our hope should be in God's **unfailing love** – because his love for us never fails, never gives out, in this world and the next. "**The Lord delights in those who fear him, who put their hope in his unfailing love.**" I hope and pray that you will know God's loving delight in you, and be left in awe of our great God.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

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)

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.

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 31st January

9.45am: Children & Families Service - on YouTube

10.00am: Morning Worship - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Sunday 7th February

10.00am: Church Family Worship - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

6.30pm Holy Communion 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. Please join Nigel & Jo Adams on Zoom, on Thurs 4th Feb from 11am for our monthly coffee & chat. For the Zoom link, either see the Saturday email or contact Nigel or Jo.

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 TODAY, if you will be joining us, as we need to order sufficient course booklets.**

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. For more details, or to register **by Wed 3rd Feb**, please email Nigel Adams at revnigeladams@gmail.com.

New Zoom services: we will be running some of our services on Zoom during February. To join us, follow the Zoom links that will be circulated in Nigel’s weekly email. To be part of these services, you will need to log in at the times shown:
Sun 7th Feb, 6.30pm – Holy Communion (30 minutes)
Sun 14th Feb, 9.45am – Children’s & Families service
Sun 21st Feb, 6pm – All-Age Tonight

For your prayers:

Unwell: Sarah, Alan & Gill Bass’ daughter-in-law, (unwell with COVID), Tom St John Coleman, Norman & Joyce Plastow, David Harvey, Elaine Stoodley, David Smith (Becky Gray’s father), Ron Smith, Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul’s Braintree), Alan Bass, Alison Davey

Housebound: Ann Harvey

Bereaved: Pam Mayes & family, following the death of Pam’s brother-in-law. 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.

Our Lent Book: ‘Hope in the Face of Suffering’ by Jeremy Marshall.

Jeremy offers what he has learnt from his experience of living with incurable cancer. He focuses on the hope found in Jesus Christ. The book consists of 20 daily Bible readings. The cost is £3.95 and is available from Stephen Bailey from 2nd February.

Bible Reading Group: this week’s readings for Tuesday, 2nd February are Psalm 80, Jeremiah 12:1 - Jeremiah 24:10, Proverbs 20:12 - 20:21. 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)

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.

St Michael’s Men’s Conference is on Sat 27th Feb, 10.00am - 12.30pm, titled, “Peter – a Living Rockfall.” It will include an interview, Bible studies led by Wallace Benn about how Peter dealt with both failure and suffering, 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.