



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

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

7th February 2021- Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

As the national lockdown continues, we are continuing our **services online and by phone** – details are inside the Notice Sheet. We are also trying some **services on Zoom** over the next 3 weeks.

This evening at 6.30pm (Sun 7th) we are having a **Zoom Holy Communion**. Rev Stephen Bailey is presiding and it will last about 30 minutes, including a short Bible thought. Please join us with your own bread and wine, if you wish to. Next Sunday (14th) at 9.45am our **Children's & Families service** will be on Zoom and the following week (21st) will be Zoom **All-Age Tonight** at 6pm. The Zoom links for each of these services will be on my weekly email. Each of the Zoom services will be "live" – that is, not on catch up later.

On Sat 27th Feb, we are having a **St Michael's Men's Conference** on Zoom. Wallace Benn will be sharing some thoughts under the title, "**Peter – a Living Rockfall**" (details in the Notice Sheet). Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples, experienced some of life's highs and lows. He was "**The Rock**" on which Jesus built his church – the leader of the early church in Jerusalem. Yet he also knew the pain of failure and disappointment, most notably when he denied that he even knew Jesus, the night before Jesus died. And yet, Jesus graciously restored and forgave Peter, after Jesus had risen to life (see John 21:15-25)

In our lives, many of us will know **the pain of failure and disappointment** – times when we would love to "turn the clock back" and change what we did. Like Peter, we need to bring our failures and disappointments to Jesus ... to learn again of **his love for us and plans for our lives** ... to realise that Jesus can work through our disappointments, not just despite them. Jesus said again to Peter what he had said when they first met, "**Follow me**" (John 21:19). The call of Jesus is the same to us today, in the ups and downs of life – "Follow me".

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)

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 7th February

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

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

6.30pm Holy Communion on Zoom

Sunday 14th February

9.45am: Children & Families Service on Zoom

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.

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

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.

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.

Many congratulations to **Rev Dr Colin Fairweather**, curate at St Paul’s and known to our 8am congregation, who has been appointed as priest-in-charge of Stansted Mountfitchet, Birchanger, Farnham, Takeley and Little Canfield. Do please pray for Colin as he prepares to move.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Tom St John Coleman, Norman & Joyce Plastow, David Harvey, Elaine Stoodley, 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: CPAS is an Anglican Evangelical mission agency working in the UK and Republic of Ireland. Their mission is to help every person hear and discover the good news of Jesus Christ through the ministry of local churches. They are patrons of our Church. They help provide evangelical ministers to churches and also provide lots of courses for ministers, other leaders and PCC groups. They also run ventures and Falcons, young people’s holidays, where children attend various camps and house parties during the summer months mainly. Praise God for CPAS delivering a series of free web teaching and currently running a leadership web course entitled Leading in Uncertain Times. One of the key strategic goals over the next five years is to equip 1000 ministers and local leaders to be more effective in evangelism. A key piece of work is now underway in partnership with the Church of England and others to develop an online learning process for clergy and lay leaders to help churches see more people become disciples of Jesus. Further information on CPAS can be obtained from their website www.cpas.org.uk.

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.

Bible Reading Group: this week’s readings for Tuesday, 9th February are Psalm 81, Jeremiah 25:1 - Jeremiah 34:22, Proverbs 20:22 - 20:30. 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.