



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

14th February 2021- Last Sunday after Epiphany

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

We are continuing, in the national lockdown, with our **services online and by phone** – details are inside this Notice Sheet. We had our first **Zoom Holy Communion** last Sunday – thank you to all who joined us and to Stephen for leading. This Sunday we have our **Children's & Families Service** on Zoom at 9.45am and next week **All-Age Tonight** is on Zoom from 6pm. The Zoom links will be on my weekly email, but do please contact me if you need the links. Our online services are available later on catch-up, but for the Zoom services you do need to be there "live" at the times shown.

We are continuing our series on the Sermon on the Mount. This Sunday, we get to the passage where Jesus says, **"Do not be anxious"** (Matthew 6:25). This may seem a strange thing to say. In these coronavirus times, there is much that could make us anxious and cause us to worry. Things are hard for many of us, with pressures on health, finances, lack of social contact and sad bereavements, to name but a few.

Jesus told us not to be anxious from a unique standpoint. He had given up the glories of heaven to live a human life. He memorably said of his life that **"Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head."** (Luke 9:58). Jesus lived his life by faith ... by trusting his heavenly Father. He calls us to do the same. To trust in a heavenly Father who gives us what we need ... not everything we might like, but what we really need. Please join us for our services to hear more – but, if you are feeling anxious, do bring it to God in prayer. That's how we can know the peace that he alone can give. Peace with God and the inner peace of God.

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 14th February

9.45am: Children & Families Service on Zoom

10.00am: Morning Worship - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Sunday 21st February

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 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.

Can you help the Kralovis please? Jirka and Keira are having a hard time in two ways. Jochabed, Simeon, Barnabas and Anezka are, like our own youngsters, locked-down and their schools are closed. Home schooling is putting great demands on the family as you can well imagine. Jirka is preparing evangelistic stuff on zoom for non-Christian students as well as material for those training as church leaders in the Czech Republic. In addition, they are helping with a major part in the ministry to their local church. Please will you pray for them and the pressure they are under which we can well understand.

Please also can you pray about a shortfall in their salary. Those at ‘Crosslinks’, who seek to organise their financial support, say that they need this year £15,000 to make up their salary. As you can imagine this is vital. So please can you ask our heavenly Father also to move his people to help in this matter? Perhaps even in these demanding times you may like to consider helping them financially.

Stephen Bailey

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: Lorraine Hollis (fractured ankle), Jennie Roughan (ex-Chairwoman of The Hut (BYPC) who is seriously ill with cancer), 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, 16th February are Psalm 82, Jeremiah 35:1 - Jeremiah 48:47, Proverbs 21:1 - 21:8. 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.