



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

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.

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

21st February 2021- First Sunday in Lent

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

We are continuing with our **Morning Worship services online and by phone** for the time being and will let you know when this changes. This Sunday (21st Feb) we are having **All-Age Tonight on Zoom**, from 6pm. All-Age Tonight is youth friendly, but is for adults as well. We will be thinking about how Jesus was there before creation – as he said, **“Before Abraham was even born, I am.”**

This Sunday's **Children's & Families service** will be at 9.45am on YouTube. In future, starting on **Sun 28th Feb**, our Children's & Families services will be on Zoom from 9.45am. The Zoom links for our services will be on my weekly email. Our online services are available later, on catch-up, but for our Zoom services, you do need to be there “live” at the time shown.

We are now in **the season of Lent**, which takes us up to Easter. It is a time when we recall how Jesus went into the wilderness for 40 days and 40 nights and fasted. Lent is a time for us to consider giving something up (fasting from food, television, etc) or taking up something new (for example, spending more time alone with God or reading a devotional book).

Lent started on **Ash Wednesday**, with a **Collect** (a special prayer) that we are invited to use throughout Lent. It's a great prayer of confession, humbly acknowledging our wrongdoing and receiving God's forgiveness, bought for us by Jesus. Like any good medicine, it is to be “taken daily”! Here is it ...

Almighty and everlasting God, you hate nothing that you have made and forgive the sins of all those who are penitent: create and make in us new and contrite hearts that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may receive from you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. Amen

May I invite you to pray it, and rejoice in God's mercy and forgiveness for you.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

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 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

Sunday 28th 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.

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), 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.

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, 23rd February are Psalm 83, Jeremiah 49:1 - Lamentations 3:66, Proverbs 21:9 - 21:19. 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)

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.