



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



General Information

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

7th March 2021- Third Sunday in Lent

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

We continue to have services both **online and by phone** and will keep you updated when we move back into church for "in person" services. Details of our services are in the Notice Sheet, including live Zoom services this Sunday – **9.45am for our Children's & Families Service** and **6.30pm for our Zoom Holy Communion**.

First Priority, our monthly prayer meeting, will also be on Zoom on Tues 9th March, 8-9pm. Please join us if you are able to, as there is much to pray for, particularly as most children return to school and decisions are made about opening up a number of areas, including our churches.

The game Othello has the description, "**A moment to learn, a lifetime to master.**" That is so true of prayer. We can come to our loving heavenly Father anytime, anywhere and speak with him. Yet there is much for us to learn about the gift of prayer.

Jesus said much about prayer, giving his disciples the Lord's Prayer, as a simple outline of prayer. He also modelled it in his own life – "*Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.*" (Mark 1:35). Last week, Jennifer was reminding us of Jesus' call to "Ask, Seek and Knock" (Matthew 7:7-11)

May I encourage you to use the wonderful gift of prayer that we have ... the opportunity to speak with our loving, Father God ... both corporately and privately. God delights to hear our prayers, more than we wish to pray them. And he is a God who hears and answers prayer.

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 7th March

9.45am: Children & Families Service on Zoom

10.00am: Morning Worship - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

6.30pm Holy Communion on Zoom

Sunday 14th March

10.00am: Church Family Worship (Mothering Sunday) - 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.

First Priority Prayer Meeting: will be on Zoom on Tues 9th March, 8-9pm. There is much to pray about, for our nation, our world, and for churches. Sign up details are in the weekly email, or contact Nigel on revnigeladams@gmail.com. Do please join us, if you are able to.

Women@St Michael's Saturday School: is on Saturday, 20th March 10.00-12.00 noon on Zoom. Our speaker is Lindsay Benn on the theme of 'Women of Faith'. If you would like to take part, please let Jennifer know and she will send you the link. Email: jennifer.bailey42@tiscali.co.uk.

The Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) will be held on **Tues 25th May from 7.30pm** on Zoom. Please note the date in your diary.

For your prayers:

Unwell: David Birch's parents & sister (with Covid), 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

Mission of the Month: Tearfund is a Christian charity called to follow Jesus where the need is greatest. It works tirelessly to help communities around the world escape the very worst effects of poverty and disaster. They work in over 50 countries alongside local Christians to bring whole-person transformation. Not only does Tearfund offer emergency aid when disaster strikes, they stay to ensure communities develop. Their church-based partners help people access the material things they need to survive but they also offer spiritual hope through God, loving the whole person. Churches both at home and abroad are mobilised to speak out for righteousness and justice on behalf of the poor.

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.

Thank you to those who have responded to the request to help meet the Kralovis' financial needs. (See 21st February notice sheet). I have sent your gifts to 'Crosslinks'. If you are still thinking of helping, and there is still some way to go, then I am very happy to receive gifts and send them on to 'Crosslinks'. It is still not too late! *Stephen Bailey*

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 9th March are Psalm 85, Ezekiel 12:1 - Ezekiel 20:49, Proverbs 22:1 - 22:16. 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.