



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

14th March 2021- Fourth Sunday in Lent - Mothering Sunday

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 are able to move back into the church building. This Sunday is **Mothering Sunday** – we will be having a pre-recorded Family Service, available online and by phone, so will not be having a Zoom Children's & Families service this Sunday.

On this Mothering Sunday, we are reminded that Jesus himself had a human mother, **Mary**. Mary's life was a most unusual one, with dramatic highs and lows. She was engaged to Joseph and was probably only in her teens when an angel appeared and told her that she, a virgin, would bear a son named Jesus. Mary's response was one of humble obedience, "*Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.*" (Luke 1:38).

Mary experienced the hardship of travelling to Bethlehem, heavily pregnant, of Jesus birth in poor circumstances, strange visits from shepherds speaking of angels, and later of wise men from the East. We read of how "*Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart.*" (Luke 2:19). Later, Mary, probably widowed by then, saw Jesus' public ministry and was there by the Cross as Jesus died. We last read of Mary after Jesus' resurrection, as the early church is born (Acts 1:14).

Few people will experience the **extreme ups and downs** that Mary did. But for many of us, this past year has had significant highs and lows. There is much to learn from Mary's life. She displayed **humble obedience** when life wasn't going as she had hoped and expected. She perceived God's hand at work, in unexpected circumstances, and **treasured those things in her heart**.

May I encourage you, in these sometimes hard and unexpected circumstances, to look for God's hand at work and to seek to respond in humble obedience to his call on our lives. As the old hymn puts it, "*God is working his purpose out, as year succeeds to year.*"

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

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.

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 March

10.00am: Church Family Worship (Mothering Sunday) - on YouTube and by phone

11.00am: Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Sunday 21st 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 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.

Women@St Michael’s Saturday School: is on Saturday, 20th March on Zoom - 9.45am for a 10.00am start and finish at 12.30pm. 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.

Colchester Area Vocations Webinars are on Monday 12th, 19th and 26th April – each webinar starts at 7.30pm and lasts approximately 1 hour 30 minutes. The webinars explore the age-old question “What’s my calling?”. Please contact Nigel Adams if you are interested or have any questions and he will give you more details.

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: Brian Hennessey, 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.

The Kralovis - Ade Adeoye of Crosslinks writes to thank us for £525 sent to help meet the Kralovis’ financial needs. I pass on that thanks from Ade to us. It is good that folk like Ade and Helen Burns take financial concerns off Jirka and Keiras’ shoulders and enlist us in supporting them. Many thanks to those who gave. We thank God for answering prayer for funds and in thanksgiving we continue to pray for their support. It is still not too late if you want to help!

Stephen Bailey

Bible Reading Group: this week’s readings for Tuesday, 16th March are Psalm 86, Ezekiel 21:1 - Ezekiel 29:21, Proverbs 22:17 - 22:29. 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.