



# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)

## 21st March 2021- Fifth Sunday in Lent

### An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

Our services are online, by phone and on Zoom this Sunday. The **10am service** is our **Tearfund Mission Sunday** with a visiting speaker. We also have a **9.45am Zoom Children's & Families Service** and **All-Age Tonight on Zoom** at the slightly later time of 6.30pm. I hope you will be able to join us for at least one of these.

I was reminded this week of the words of **Hebrews 12:1-2**: *"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy that was set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God."*

The words are a reminder that the Christian life is **a marathon not a sprint**. Like any marathon runner, it is vital to avoid carrying any unnecessary baggage. We need to *"throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles"*.

The secret of running the race well is to **"fix our eyes on Jesus"**. He alone endured the horror and pain of the cross ... took on himself the shame of our sin ... and, risen to life and ascended to heaven, received his just reward at God's right hand.

Jesus is both **our saviour**, dying to give us life, and **our ultimate example**, modelling for us the only ever perfect human life. In our day-to-day struggles, we need to fix our eyes on Jesus. We can do this by learning from his Word, the Bible ... by spending time talking with him in prayer ... and being quick to turn to him, whenever we are finding things hard.

*"Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."* (Hebrews 12:3)

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 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**

#### Sunday 28th March - Palm Sunday

**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.

If you would like to give to the work of **Tearfund** (the focus of our Mission Sunday), you can do so either via their website ([www.tearfund.org](http://www.tearfund.org)) or through Miriam Clark (01376 341331).

**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.

There will be a **Confirmation Service on Sun 19th Sept, 10am at St Michael's Church** with Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester. If you are interested in being Confirmed, or wish to know more, please speak with Nigel Adams or Rachel Grove Smith.

### For your prayers:

**Unwell:** Rev Pam Davies (severe back problems), 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, 23rd March are Psalm 87, Ezekiel 30:1 - Ezekiel 39:29, Proverbs 23:1 - 23:18. 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](mailto: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](mailto:joannamaryadams@gmail.com)) if you would like to be added to the Prayer Chain circulation list.

**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.