

The LINK

30p

August 2016



The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree
www.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk

Dear Friends

Whilst the country has been reeling from the surprise of “Brexit”, St Michaels has now to deal with its own “Chexit”. (Please excuse the dreadful joke!).

As Cyril is away at the moment it has fallen on me to write the first Churchwardens letter of the interregnum. Please be assured that we will try and keep you all abreast of the situation as time goes on. At the moment there is little to report other than the current vacancy and that the first steps in the procedure, to find another vicar, will not take place until early September when the Bishop of Colchester will visit the P.C.C.

In the meantime, just a very short thought of mine to be going on with....

Over the past few days, I have been reading Acts 4 onwards where Luke describes the beginnings of the church and it occurred to me that we are somewhat in the same state of flux. Granted, St Michaels is better placed as we have two thousand years of Christian practice and faith behind us but we are still moving forward into the unknown. What we need to hang onto is the knowledge that God is the sovereign Lord of all events. No leader, army, government, church rulers or P.C.C. can stand in his way. Like the disciples we need to pray together for the Holy Spirit to guide us and we will then be confident that the right person will be found to take Charles' place.

Differences of opinion are almost inevitable amongst human beings but our spiritual unity is essential – loyalty, commitment, and love for God and his Word will surely carry us through these months.

What challenged me, in particular, when I read about the way in which the early followers lived together was how many were added to their number (Acts 5 v14). It made me wonder what

attracts people to St Michaels and I realised that although it is easy to be drawn to a church because of its services, good speakers, facilities and fellowship that is not what makes people stay and declare for Christ. People were attracted to the early church because they saw God's power at work in lives. The generosity, sincerity, honesty and unity of the members shone out. This, surely, is what we should be copying.

Finally, Cyril and I wish to thank you all for your wonderful support so far.

Yours in Jesus,

Lesley Davey

CHARLES AND HARSHA'S CAKE



"I thank my God in all my remembrance of you. always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this. that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." (Phil 1:3-6)

MASON'S FAREWELL LUNCH

First of all, congratulations to Helen Bartlett-Rawlings, Philip and her excellent team of caterers, servers, and organisers on a wonderful buffet lunch for 160 people. No one went away hungry or thirsty! The organisation was done with precision and went like clockwork. Thanks for all their hard work.

We were blessed with lovely weather, which was a great help, enabling the garden to be used and enjoyed.

After the formality of the cutting of the celebratory cake beautifully made by Janet Bamforth, Stephen delivered the farewell talk. In his own inimitable way, with humour and poignancy, he thanked both Charles and Harsha. Their response, after spending 15 years with us, was inevitably emotional, thanking all who had helped him in his ministry at St Michaels.

They were both delighted and moved with the gifts of garden furniture and a beautiful radio controlled mantle clock presented to them on behalf of the parish by Lesley Davey, who had skilfully organised and helped to choose them in spite of problems with the garden furniture company causing confusion over the correct address to where it was to be delivered.

The whole day went so very well and one which, I am sure, the Mason's will always remember with fondness. We pray that they both settle and are happy in their new and very different environment. We will all miss them in our own way.

Audrey Walford

LADIES GROUP

June saw our annual Summer Meal. It was organised on a 'bring and share' basis. The members enjoyed various salads, quiches and savoury snacks, along with a choice of desserts and a summer punch. We followed the meal with the traditional tea, coffee or chocolate.

Our new year starts on 13 September when Sister Anne-Marie from Braintree convent will be 'On a Mission'

Helen Kemp



WHITE HORSE TAVERN aka GOOD BOOK COLLEGE

Thomas Cranmer, our reforming Archbishop of Canterbury and composer of most of our Book of Common Prayer, used to meet with others in the White Horse Tavern in Cambridge.

Good news from Germany

They met to discuss the ideas of Martin Luther that were coming across from what we now call Germany. They gathered in the White Horse Tavern. Their discussions turned England upside down, and we still benefit from them today. We 'Monday-nighters' want to follow in their illustrious foot-steps.

Our Monday night group has come to the end of the Good Book College course and GBC are not renewing it for church groups. They have another project in mind.

'The Breeze of the Centuries'

We still want to meet and gather course material from various sources, and we are going to call ourselves 'The White Horse Tavern'. (Think Thomas Cranmer and not the musical comedy!) Please look out for our Autumn course, 'The Breeze of the Centuries'.

Revd Stephen Bailey

'THE BREEZE OF THE CENTURIES'

Michael Reeve

At 'White Horse Tavern' beginning on 19 September at 7.30pm we are planning to investigate some great Christian teachers with the help of the 'Breeze of the Centuries' by Michael Reeve. If you wish to come along to White Horse Tavern, have a word with Stephen Bailey, Jenny Chapman or Lin Terris.

Teachers who paid a price

He was flogged and then beheaded for his Christian Faith in about AD 165. He is known to us as Justin Martyr. He endeavoured to explain the Christian faith to the Roman world of his day, describing what Christians believe. He could be a real help to 21st Century Christians.

Martyr

Did this bishop die in a persecution by a Roman emperor, Septimius Severus, around A.D. 202? He came up with the idea called 'Recapitulation'. That means that Jesus Christ is the second Adam, and our restoration in Christ means we will enjoy far greater glory than Adam ever knew. May be he has something encouraging to give the church of our times. Who is he? --- Irenaeus!

'Against the world'

Could you stand against the world because it was vital to your present and eternal well-being to enjoy believing that Jesus is truly God and became a genuine human? Athanasius, who lived roughly 1700 years ago, was said 'to stand against the world'. His teaching is an encouraging tonic even for our generation.

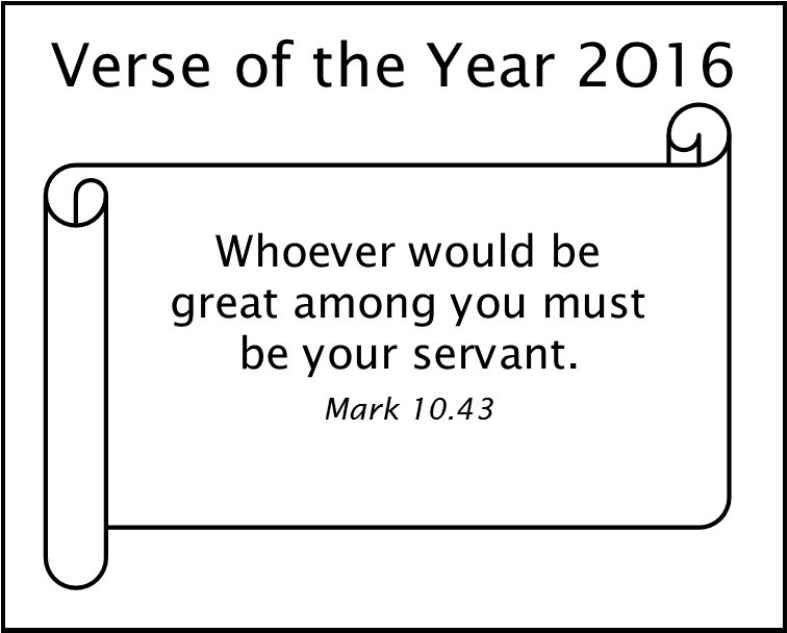
What shall we say of.....

.....Augustine, Anselm and Aquinas? These Christians may help us reflect on nourishing Christian doctrines that we have left to one side in our modern church. They may say things that we disagree with, but they still have good things to teach.

Meet them at The White Horse Tavern in September.

Revd Stephen Bailey

Verse of the Year 2016



Whoever would be
great among you must
be your servant.

Mark 10.43

THANK YOU FROM THE MASONS

Dear Friends at St Michaels

The wonderful send-off you gave us on 3 July is something we shall always remember. We were delighted that so many of you were able to come to the delicious farewell lunch prepared by Helen and her team, not to mention Janet's cake, and we were greatly touched by Stephen's and Lesley's kind words.

We have been overwhelmed too by the generosity of your gifts! The radio-controlled mantel clock will soon be gracing our open fireplace once we've done enough unpacking to remove the risk of accidents! And the garden furniture arrived this morning. Here's a picture of us enjoying our first cup of tea sitting at our circular rattan table, complete with 8 chairs and cushions, glass top, lazy Susan, adjustable parasol, and a cover which goes over the whole table and all the chairs – not to mention a separate cover for the parasol. It's a terrific present, which will remind us of your love and kindness for many years to come.



Thank you also to those of you who have sent cards, letters and gifts, both before and since our departure. They really do mean a lot to us.

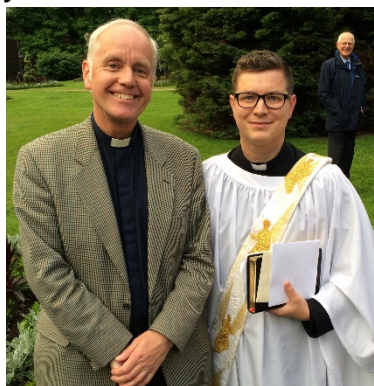
Since leaving Braintree we have had a week away with some of our family, so are still knee-deep in boxes, but we trust that eventually some kind of order will emerge from the chaos. I had a meeting with my new Churchwardens and PCC Secretary this morning, who told me that they had already heard of a number of you planning to come to my Licensing on 23 August. We look forward to seeing you then.

With our prayers, good wishes, and thanks once again,

Charles and Harsha

REVEREND LEA WILLIAMS

Lea's two year training at Ripon College Cuddesdon culminated in his ordination service at Chelmsford Cathedral on Saturday 25 June. There was an international feel to the service with



dignitaries from the link diocese of Karlstad, including Bishop Esbjörn Hagberg and his chaplain Åse Lindberg, participating. It was lovely to see so many of Lea's friends and family who came to support him. Lea will be serving his curacy at St Mary's Great Dunmow. Lea, Petra and the children are thrilled to be back in north Essex; it will certainly be

easier for them to meet up with their friends from St Michaels. We were delighted that they were able to join us at our farewell.

Harsha Mason

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED, COMING SOON

Joel Wicks and Lin Terris will be running a Christianity Explored Course on Tuesdays from 4 October at 7pm. This will be a great chance for anyone to informally discover what being a Christian is really all about.

We have a couple of key roles for which we need to organise help now.

1. Each session starts with a hot meal. Would you be able to provide a simple meal in church house for participants for one or more of the 7 sessions - a main course, or sweet or both? Alternatively prepare something at home and bring it in a warm bag or heat it up at church house. We'll let you know numbers as people sign up.
2. We also want to offer babysitting to allow young parents to come. You would need a current DBS check from St Michaels but if you haven't one we can arrange that for you.

If you can help, please contact Joel or Lin as soon as you can.



AUGUST DIARY

1 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

3 Wednesday

8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road

4 Thursday

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

5 Friday

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7 Sunday 8th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – (tbc)

10.00am Morning Worship – Jesus rejected... apostles sent – Revd Stephen Bailey

5.15pm Evening Prayer – Jesus Chapel – Jennifer Bailey

6.30pm Evening Worship – Prattling on – Arthur Rowe

7.30pm Focus

8 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

10 Wednesday

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road

8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer, chat and curry – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Road

11 Thursday

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

12 Friday

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

14 Sunday 9th after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Stephen Bailey
10.00am Morning Worship – The death of John the Baptist
– Roger Cooke
6.30pm Holy Communion – Shopping around –
Can. John Turton/Revd Stephen Bailey (cel)
7.30pm Focus
8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

15 Monday

- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton

16 Tuesday SEPTEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

17 Wednesday

- 8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder,
Notley Road

18 Thursday

- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with
Lin first)

19 Friday

- 6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

21 Sunday 10th after Trinity

- 8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward
10.00am Morning Holy Communion - The feeding of the
5000 – Archdeacon of Stansted Robin King
6.30pm Evening Worship – Falling down –
Revd Stephen Bailey
7.30pm Focus

22 Monday

- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton

24 Wednesday

- 7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House
8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road,

25 Thursday

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study (please check with Lin first)

26 Friday

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7.30pm Flower Club

28 Sunday 11th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion – Tom St John-Coleman / (tbc)

10.00am Morning Worship – Walking on water... further healings – Harry Boreham

6.30pm Evening Worship – Turning back – Cyril Bamforth

7.30pm Focus

8.00pm Prayer Meeting – Jesus Chapel

29 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

31 Wednesday

8.00pm Bible Study Groups: Lifebuilder, Notley Road,

FROM THE REGISTERS**Baptisms**

3 July Beaux-Blue and Shae-Amelia Colbron



Parish Surgery

St. Michael's Church office will be open to discuss parochial matters such as:

- baptismal requests
- marriage requests
- prayer needs
- spiritual support and guidance

Fridays 6:30 to 7:30pm

St. Michael's Church House Office
St Michael's Rd
Braintree CM7 1EY
01376 321248

www.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk
[@stmichaelschurchbraintree](https://twitter.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree)

BELFRY BULLETIN

For us in the belfry July has been the month of goodbyes. At the beginning of the month it was Charles and towards the end it was Queenie Brown.

After 15 years as Vicar here at St Michael's Revd. Charles Mason conducted his final services on Sunday 3 July 2016. Following his final service, evening worship at 6.30pm, we rang a Quarter Peal 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles in 44 mins. Representing all past and present members of the St Michael's Braintree Guild of Ringers were Gareth Davies 1, Lin Ould 2, Ellis Whitehouse 3, Peter Smith 4, Bradley Hill 5, Richard Ould 6, Debbie Hill non-ringing conductor.

With this Quarter Peal the Guild would like to thank Charles for his 15 years of support, advice and guidance. I cannot remember a Guild AGM that he did not attend and where his advice has not been invaluable. He has guided and supported us in overcoming problems with our ringing times so we do not upset the neighbours. This Quarter Peal is also to wish Charles and Harsha every happiness and our very best wishes for the future. **THANK YOU.**

On Sunday 17 July Queenie Brown, our longest serving Guild member, announced that she had decided to retire from ringing. At our practice night on Monday 18 our Guild Master Bradley Hill thanked Queenie for her years of support and dedication and for the help she has given to all ringers over the years. Debbie Hill added her thanks to Queenie and produced a cake for us all to share. Queenie finished her ringing with a very good Touch of St. Simon's Bob Doubles. **THANK YOU.**

I have found this a difficult Bulletin to write, and try to put into words my thoughts of two people I greatly admire.

Peter Smith

HAVE YOU A PASSION FOR OUTREACH?

The Evangelism Strategy group forms a key part of St Michael's response to Jesus' command 'Go and Make Disciples'. Our aim is to organise events and activities that:

- Give us all opportunities to invite others to things that bring them into closer contact with the Church family
- Open out our Church to the wider community
- Are creative and sensitive in introducing people to the gospel message and prompting them to think about faith.

Now with a couple of the group leaving, we are looking for new members. We need people who have ideas, can organise, will help practically behind the scenes, or talk to people. You don't have to have all these skills and don't need to come to every event. The key qualification is belief that the gospel isn't just for the existing congregation, but to share.

Is this you? Do you think you might be able to contribute? If so discuss with one of us.

We meet a few times a year, for instance organising the Summer Festival and the celebration of The Queen's 90th birthday and faith, and coming up are a tea for people new to the church, a film afternoon, opening the church to people coming into town for the Christmas lights switch-on, and much more. None of this would be possible without the support of lots of you, welcoming people, providing refreshments, lending exhibits, inviting, etc.

Thank you!

The evangelism Strategy Group, (Lin Terris, Joel Wicks, Sue Marriott, Jenny Chapman, Jonathan Wicks)

GARDENING TIPS

August is the time to enjoy fruits of the labour that has gone in earlier in the year. For me this includes the harvest of lovely fresh tomatoes, beans and chillies! Yes; the chilli plants are now producing lots of flowers and fruit.

I expect to pick the chillies and allow some of them to dry out. Leaving them on the side of the kitchen in a dry place enables them to be stored ready for cooking any time of the year. Simply take the dried chilli, cut up gently and add to sauce. It really works wonders when put simply with a tin of chopped tomatoes, and a dash of balsamic vinegar. (Great on pasta)

Tomatoes this year will be a blend of black, yellow, red, large and small, having this mix then really allows a salad to look colourful and a variety on the taste buds. I tend not to store them in the refrigerator if possible, as a tomato at room temperature has more flavour than its chilled cousin. Below is an example they could look like. Hopefully mine will be similar.



During this month, remember to continue to water plants if you are not there, and not to let them dry out. Warmth and heat can kill plants really quickly so make sure greenhouses don't get too hot.


August is the time where the children are at home and as a result the garden may take an extra stress. Therefore, look after the lawn by moving toys around so that one area does not particularly suffer. Be prepared to water spaces vacated by goal areas, covered by tents. Where grass has been compressed by pools and other heavy items, it is good to aerate, and feed so it can recover.









August days give you the chance to enjoy early morning and breakfast in the garden before the sun gets too strong and evenings after the heat of the day. So make the most of them and get out.

Dave Marriott


PATTERN OF SUNDAY SERVICES

The Book of Common Prayer is used for the services marked 
Common Worship is used for all other services

Sunday in the month	8.00 am	10.00 am with crèche	6.30pm
FIRST	 Holy Communion	Church Family Worship (all-age)	5.15 pm Evening Prayer  6.30 pm Evening Worship
SECOND	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
THIRD	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	Evening Worship
FOURTH	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
FIFTH	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	United Service

The above is subject to change at festivals
Please check Diary section for exact details

MIDWEEK SERVICES

 Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Wednesday of the month **(except August)** at 10.00am in the Jesus Chapel.

There is normally a celebration of Holy Communion on the evening of Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday, and on the afternoon of Ascension Day. Please check Diary section.