

**The LINK**

**30p**

**August 2017**



**The Parish Church of St Michael Braintree**  
**[www.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk)**

## **IMPORTANT DATE**

Please mark Wednesday 6 September in your diaries when Bishop Stephen will license Nigel to be our priest-in-Charge.  
This will take place at 7.30pm in Church.

Dear Friends

It's August and it's the holiday season. The children are off school, the sun is shining and there's a general air of relaxation and anticipation for days out or trips abroad. Now is the time to enjoy it and to explore the wonders of the natural world. Hints of the beauty, glory and majesty of God are all around us to see.

Did you know that throughout the world, there are more than 700,000 species of insects and 250,000 varieties of plants? As John Calvin, the French theologian (1509-1564) put it, "*wherever you cast your eyes, there is no spot in the universe wherein you cannot discern at least some spark of [God's] glory.*" In creation, we see the handiwork of the Designer. God made the sky blue, the grass green, and flowers of various colours and shapes. We look at beautiful and intricate flowers and we say, "To display beauty: that was the purpose of God creating flowers." God made birds to sing and trees to bear fruit. By immersion in the realm of the mundane in nature we discover untold marvels. A well-known stanza from one of William Blake's poems captured this point perfectly:

*To see a world in a grain of sand  
And a heaven in a wild flower,  
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand  
And eternity in an hour.*

I know that there is a darker side to what we have done to mar God's Paradise but let us not feel guilty in taking the opportunity to enjoy our holidays and breaks from routine in order to refresh ourselves. All too soon the harvest and then winter will be upon us before the cycle starts again with the Spring. As with all living things, the summer can be a time to just **be**. If you think of the fields, all the work has been done by now. The farmer is just waiting for the crops to ripen before the harvest. There is nothing more to do for a while.

We are no different here in St Michaels. Many of our committees, Bible Studies, Sunday School activities and so on will have taken a break. We had a very successful work day and SMASH Club in July, so the pace can slow down in August. Yes, we can (and should) enjoy time out to relax *but* we should remember that the harvest is just around the corner and we must be ready for it.

As September approaches and things change in our Church we would do well to reflect upon the urgency and privilege we have been given to win souls for Jesus. The bible declares that the harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. The harvest is at the heart of the Gospel and, as the farmer works all year round to bring it in, so should we. It was principally for this purpose that God sent to us His Son to die for our sins. We cannot relegate this assignment to a secondary status, as the whole point of Jesus's death on the cross is to give all of mankind open access to God. The scripture is clear on the will of God in this: *"Do you think that I like to see wicked people die? says the Sovereign LORD. Of course not! I want them to turn from their wicked ways and live"* **Ezk 18:23**

If God does not like to see people go on in life without repentance and a turning to Christ, why should we feel any different? We only have our lifetime to act on this. After that, the moment has been to us lost for eternity.

You may say "I have never shared my faith with anyone before". All you need to do is to follow Christ through obedience and He will, in turn, transform you into a soul winner. Remember the scripture *"follow me and I will make you fishers of men"* **Mt 4:19**

As we enjoy holidays and breaks from routine in August, and look forward to Nigel & Jo coming to us in September, may we return refreshed and ready to work wholeheartedly with them to bring in the harvest.

*Yours in Christ  
Lesley Davey*

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**  
**SAMARITAN'S PURSE**  
**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Our Church has supported Operation Christmas Child for many years by filling shoeboxes with gifts every October, giving gifts to providing fillers for boxes requiring additional contents and knitting hats, gloves scarves etc. throughout the year. The concept of sending gifts in a shoebox to needy children started over 25 years ago when the first boxes were sent to Romania. Since that time, it has snowballed and England sends nearly one million boxes each year. The boxes go around the world to needy countries with distribution arranged by local churches. Samaritan's Purse has organized this for many years as one part of their work.

Samaritan's Purse is a nonprofit, Christian organization providing church support and emergency relief and development assistance to suffering people around the world. They are meeting the physical needs of victims of war, famine, natural disaster, and disease with the aim of demonstrating God's love and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ. The aid and assistance are given without regard to the race, creed, gender, religion, or ethnicity of the beneficiaries. They particularly work in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

For further information copies of PrayerPoint are available on the Mission of the Month table. If you would like one of these regularly please let me know.

I am planning a coffee morning on Saturday October 7 from 10-12 in the small hall when there will be an opportunity to find out more about their work especially in relation to Operation Christmas Child.

*Jenny Chapman*

## CHURCH MAINTENANCE DAY IN NUMBERS

- 1 Upstairs Church House room decluttered
- 1 Very large and heavy TV recycled
- 1 Door return replaced, 1 more planned
- 2 Bookshelves removed
- 3 Smoke alarms tested
- 4 Pots of paint used
- 4 Tip runs, 3 more planned
- 5 Unsafe ladders disposed of, 3 satisfyingly cut in half
- 5 Children helping and playing
- 6 Steps painted
- 7 Tonne sacks of garden waste filled
- 8 Car park spaces painted
- 15 Adults
- 16 Sharing lunch together
- 40 Pieces of wood recycled
- 45 Cups of tea/coffee drank
- 56+ Outstanding jobs still to be completed!
- ? years of Church Magazine archived
- Millions of blades of grass cut!



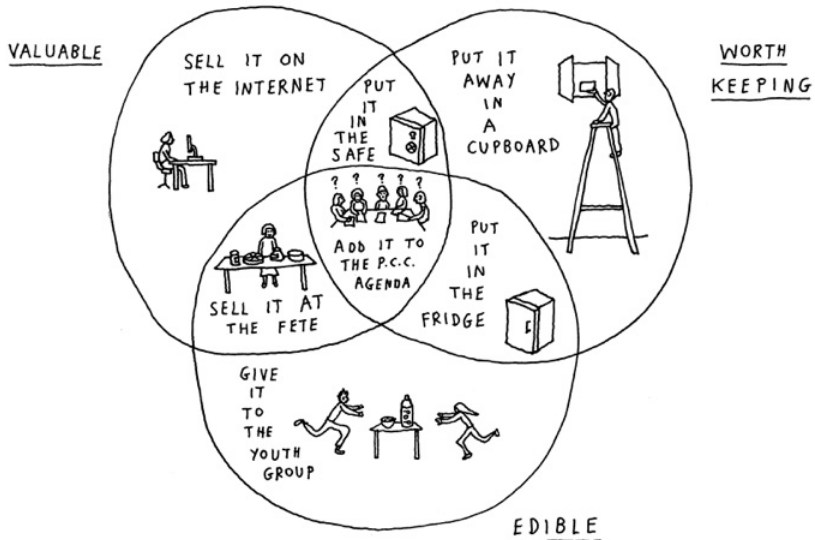
70 Days until Church / Church House works party (Mid Sept?)

**Coming August – Vicarage works party – date to be confirmed!**



# TIDYING

ADVICE FOR CHURCH WORK PARTIES



CartoonChurch.com

## REMINDER: NOTE TO BOX HOLDERS

Due to the change in the £1 coin.  
Please hand over your boxes well before  
the 16 October deadline and from now  
on ensure that only the new coins are  
saved.  
(See July Magazine for full article)



## **BRAINTREE MALE VOICE CHOIR**

### **Are you male? Do you enjoy singing?**

Why not join the Braintree Male Voice Choir?

Singing is good for you (doctors have proved that) and singing together even better (psychologists have shown that).

The choir sing a variety of songs from opera (like Wagner's Pilgrim's Chorus) to songs from the shows (like Rhythm of Life) and pop songs (like Rag Doll).

The new term starts in September. Rehearsals are for two hours in Braintree on Wednesday evenings.

Do I have to be able to read music? No

Do I have to have an audition? No

Will I have to sing alone? No.

The songs for each concert are available on CDs or posted online so that members can download them and practise at home

**So, what's stopping you?**

Contact choir secretary Ian Whiteside on 01376 321908 for details, or go to the choir's website, [braintreemvc.com](http://braintreemvc.com) and fill in the contact form



## AUGUST DIARY

### **2 Wednesday**

10.30am Funeral of Mary Hales

### **4 Friday**

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

### **6 Sunday Transfiguration**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Olivia Maxwell-Coote

10.00am Morning Worship – It's finished! – Roger Cooke

6.30pm Evening Worship – What is the cost of prayer? – Canon John Turton

### **7 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

### **9 Wednesday**

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer chat – Weatherspoons,  
Fairfield Road

### **11 Friday**

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

### **13 Sunday 9th after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Sarah Hayward

10.00am Morning Worship – True revival – Roger Cooke

6.30pm Holy Communion – The Spirit intercedes on our behalf – Revd Stephen Bazlinton

### **14 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

### **15 Tuesday September LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

### **18 Friday**

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

### **20 Sunday 10th after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Beth

10.00am Holy Communion – True repentance – Cyril Bamforth

6.30pm Evening Worship – The prayer of faith – Jennifer Bailey

**21 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

**23 Wednesday**

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

**25 Friday**

6.30pm Parish Surgery – Church House

7.30pm Flower Club

**27 Sunday 11th after Trinity**

8.00am Holy Communion – Revd Keith Holloway

10.00am Morning Worship – The final reforms – Roger Cooke

6.30pm Evening Worship - Pray constantly & consistently – Revd Arthur Rose

**28 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

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**FROM THE REGISTERS**

**No entries**

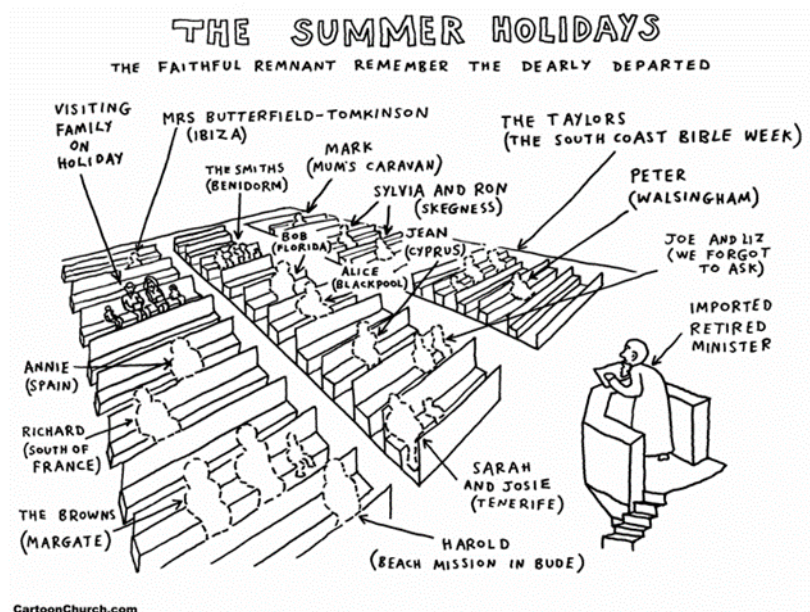
## LADIES GROUP

June saw us enjoying a light- hearted quiz compiled by one of our members. We answered questions on Music, Literature, Sports, Science and Food and Drink.

July will unfortunately be our final meeting. Numbers have been falling and many existing committee members felt that they had “done their bit”. As it will be fifty years since Young Wives (as we were then known) started we felt that this would be an appropriate time to finish.

*Helen Kemp*

## A LITTLE HUMOUR



## VERSE OF THE YEAR

This month I have a little space in the magazine so I thought a little challenge on the verse of the year.....

U W V K I X M O Q S P P S C W  
C N A T P P B R T Q J R R L R  
Q A D Y R X H R B J I O T Y X  
G P Y E S A A L I T U G C E J  
I T O D R I E J A V J I L A D  
C J R P G S Y H A S O K V C Z  
X O C H V C T K Y F I B L K Q  
L J T D Y E A A U I D X S N X  
T S U R T S S O N A P G N O N  
E J Z F C H N W J D P F C W L  
L E A N L T P K Z N I Q X L F  
E B S W C A Q C M X I N S E Q  
Y Z U Q K P T G H Q L F G D J  
S R O Q H G F R P F U T Y G O  
T Z D T L Q H Z O W C G X E O

ACKNOWLEDGE HEART LEAN LORD PATHS  
STRAIGHT TRUST UNDERSTANDING WAYS

Proverbs 3:5-6 "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight."

## **BELFRY BULLETIN**

It is pleasing to see the improvement we are making as a group: in the wider range of methods that we are ringing; whilst attaining a higher standard of performance; both for the service ringing and on practice nights.

We were hosts to the EACR Northern District's Advanced Practice night on Saturday 17 June when, the test piece of St. Martins Bob Triples for the EACR 8 bell striking competition was practiced amongst other methods.

Thank you to Link Editor, Dave Marriott, for including in last month's edition the informative yet humorous cartoons [if you missed them they are towards the back and worth a look]. They may encourage you to come and see what bell ringing is all about and try it, we would be very pleased to see you. We practice on most Monday evenings and usually get started by 7.45pm.

News from another item in July's link, the Districts 6 bell striking competition. On Saturday 8 July, the County finals were held at Colne Engaine with Braintree and Kelvedon coming a very creditable 7<sup>th</sup> place. For the 8 bells competition, each of the 6 EACR Districts enters a band to ring a piece specified by the Association Master. This year the event took place on the difficult bells at Earls Colne. With one of our Guild members in the team, our Northern District came a close second to the winners from the South-East District.

*Peter Smith*

## GARDENING TIPS

August is the month of holidays, heat, and harvest.

Maybe visit a garden, forest, or park. I find this is great opportunity to relax and think of how someone else has looked after their space or how nature has claimed the space for itself. Local personal favourites to visit include the RHS Hyde Hall, Bressingham and Marks Hall gardens. Further afield Pecorama, Greenwich Park and Ventnor Botanic gardens are great to visit and gardens I find relaxing and interesting.


In the heat, keep watering where appropriate. Fruit still needs water to set and form, grass needs some water to keep growing (but is fairly hardy), flowers need water to avoid wilting. Avoid burning plants with some shade or think about moving the pots before going away for a few days to somewhere darker. Remember as a gardener to put on the sun block, slip on a hat or stay in the shade so that you do not get too hot when enjoying yourself outside.






Harvest the vegetables and fruit as it becomes ripe. Beans, tomatoes, and salad should be a regular on your plate. Fresh bouquets of roses and other flowers should entertain the tables and bring colour into the house.

*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)	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

## MIDWEEK SERVICES

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

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

St. Michaels Church is in:

St Michaels Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY