

The LINK

30p

December 2017



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



A CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Dear Friends,

I love Christmas. I really enjoy the giving and receiving of presents. I particularly enjoy getting together with family and spending quality time with them, perhaps playing some board games together.

I enjoy the traditional Christmas food – perhaps a bit too much! – yes, even the brussels sprouts! I like the Christmas decorations and Christmas lights. I love seeing young children, excited by the magic of Christmas.

I also love hearing again, the Christmas story. The good news foretold by the prophets.

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given ... he shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” (Isaiah 9:6)

The great news that God himself was coming into the world in the person of his Son, Jesus. He was coming to teach us and inspire us, but vitally to save us from our sins – to offer us eternal life, life in all its fullness – a right relationship with God.

There's something else I particularly like about Christmas – that some people who don't usually come to church, still like to come at Christmas. In our increasingly secularised society, this is something we should encourage. It gives an opportunity to share the good news that came into the world in the shape of a small helpless baby.

So, my Christmas challenge to you is this. If you don't usually go to church, please come along to one of our Christmas services. Enjoy singing some of the lovely Christmas carols, hearing the story of that first Christmas, the story of Jesus, the baby who brings light into our sometimes dark world.

And, if you are a church member, my Christmas challenge to you is to think about at least one person you could invite to a Christmas service. Perhaps a member of your family, a friend or neighbour, that they might hear a message of hope. The message of Jesus, who can alone transform our lives.

May God bless you this Christmas time,

Nigel

MISSION OF THE MONTH

THE ROYAL NATIONAL MISSION TO DEEP SEA FISHERMEN

Like all charities, fund raising is becoming more difficult. Jack & I have been doing this for the Fishermen's mission for many years with boxes and door to door collection, etc. We gave travel talks to about 40 clubs over a very wide area, most are now defunct because all the Chairmen, Treasurers, Programme secretaries can't be replaced, because people now do not want jobs – they just want entertaining.

Added to that, we no longer travel the world, but the mission is still there, with all their needs mostly now, men fishing from smaller boats, often alone, not forgetting widows and children etc. Andy is coming to us, as always on the 3 December, which we all look forward to, so we hope he will receive a bountiful gift from us, to support the wonderful work of the mission, to relieve the hardship and worry so many suffer.

Joyce Green

OUR LIGHT PARTY 31 OCTOBER 2017



Well Matthew is ready to go, and once we got started it was action all the way. A busy and fun time as we all mixed together.

Easy peasy for some.



180.....no!



Gone
fishing.... but
didn't catch
much!

Feel your
way.... but
what is it?



Look Mum... no hands!



Anything you can do I can do....?

Roll up! Roll up! For something like ten
pin bowling?





Some crafty business taking place... full of concentration.

The finished product.... looking cool for a candle.



Katie Bartlett-Rawlings wrote this:

I thought that the Light Party was a great way for the younger and older members of the church to come together. I also thought it was fun that the adults joined in with the games as well as the children. Emma, Ed, June and Andy put together a great night for everyone to enjoy.

The games included throwing balls into a bucket, bowling, darts, fishing for cards, doughnuts on a string, feeling and guessing what was in the box, and crafts making stained glass candles and a 'Leaning' lighthouse using marshmallows and biscuits. (Katie)

One of the highlights for me was our time of singing 'My Lighthouse' by Rend Collective highlighting Our need to trust Jesus through the 'rough seas and darkness' which are the issues we sometimes are struggling with in life. Just a few lines from the song;

In my wrestling and in my doubts,
In my failures You won't walk out
Your great love will lead me through
You are the peace in my troubled sea
You are the peace in my troubled sea
My lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
My Lighthouse, my lighthouse
Shining in the darkness, I will follow You
Safe to shore. Safe to shore. (with a few Oh Oh Oh's
along the way)

Big thanks to June, Emma and Ed who are tremendous encouragers and always great support.

Thank you to all who came along to make this evening a church family affair. We did have one family who are not churchgoers whom I was pleased witnessed a positive time. Heard Stephen's talk, heard the powerful singing and saw people of all ages having fun together.

Who needs Halloween?

Andy Carter



WOMEN @ST MICHAELS CELEBRATE 10 YEARS WITH US

We will be celebrating our 10th Anniversary of Women @ St Michaels on Saturday 27 January 2018 in Church House from 9.00 with Coffee and Danish Pastries with an official start at 9.30 and conclude at 3.30.

Our theme for the day is 'JOURNEY' and we are going to look at some Psalms for Pilgrim People...

Our Speaker will be Liz Jackson from Jesmond Parish Church, Newcastle upon Tyne who was our Speaker at the first Conference Day ten years ago.

The cost for the day will be £8.50 and bookings will be taken from the 10 December.

Lots is planned for the day...a Diocesan Bookstall, Interviews, Discussions, Talks, a celebration cake, refreshments and of course lunch and goody bags ...you only need to bring yourself! ...oh, and there will be time to simply be together to talk...

(Continued on next page)

A NEW CELEBRATION



As part of our Celebrations on this day we are planning something quite new which is for all our 'Young Women'... This is for you if you are at Secondary School. We have a special person coming to spend the day with you ...Ruth Ellam from St John's Colchester and she is planning activities especially for you... Your day will cost £3.50...so if you are a 'young woman' at Secondary school this is for you... look out for more information and booking forms. We can promise you an exciting day.



CHRISTMAS PRAYER LUNCH

We have a Women's Christmas Prayer Lunch on Tuesday 5 December in Church from 12.30 – 2.00. So, do sign up at the back of the Church.



Ten Years ago, we highlighted our aim using words from Psalm 63 verse 1 which say:

**O God, you are my God;
earnestly I seek you; my soul
thirsts for you.**

This has been our desire over the past ten years with all our events so may it be so for the next ten.

**See you all in Church House on
Saturday 27 January 2018**

Jennifer Bailey

Christmas

Services



Sunday 17 December

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight *

Saturday 23 December

4.00pm Crib and Christingle Service *

Christmas Eve

11.15pm Midnight Communion

Christmas Day

8.00am Holy Communion with Hymns

10.00am Family Service *

*refreshments served afterwards

Light of
the world



DECEMBER DIARY

1 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

3 Sunday Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Church Family Worship – Deep Sea Fishermen

6.30pm Evening Worship – Do what?!

7.30pm Focus

4 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

8.00pm Badminton

5 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

7.00pm Ladies Meet and Sweet – Church House

6 Wednesday

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

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

7 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

8 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

10 Sunday 2nd of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – A glimpse of glory

6.30pm Holy Communion – The Holy Spirit poured out

7.30pm Focus

11 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

12 Tuesday January LINK SUBMISSION DUE

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm First Priority

13 Wednesday

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts

7.25pm Elders Meeting – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

14 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

15 Friday

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

17 Sunday 3rd of Advent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – Nothing is impossible with God

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

7.30pm Focus

18 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

19 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

20 Wednesday

9:45am Meeting Point Bible Study

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

21 Thursday

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

23 Saturday

4.00pm Crib and Christingle

24 Sunday Christmas Eve

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Family Communion – Humble obedience

11.15pm Midnight Communion

25 Monday Christmas Day
8.00am Holy Communion with Hymns
10.00am Morning Worship – A boy is born

29 Friday
7.30pm Flower Club

31 Sunday 1st after Christmas
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship – Glory to God!
6.30pm United Service - No service at St. Michaels

FROM THE REGISTERS

Funerals

26 September Audrey Dove
7 November Ray Partridge
23 November Frankie Winning

COMING SOON TO A VENUE NEAR YOU

You may or may not remember my Bible reading challenge of a few months ago, since, a few people have expressed interest in reading the Bible aloud together, so, I am hoping to start a Bible reading group in Jan. I haven't confirmed a day/venue as yet, but I wanted to 'get the message out' about this as soon as possible.

I hope to start at 7:45pm with refreshments with the intention of starting reading at 8:00, intending to finish by 9:30pm (after reading 3 Psalms, about 15 chapters from the Old Testament, 5 chapters from the New Testament and some verses from Proverbs). At that rate, we should complete the reading in about 50 weeks, so we should finish just before Christmas 2018.

Although, it would be great if people are willing to share the reading aloud, there will be no pressure on anyone if they prefer to just listen. We will plan to read about 10 verses each in turn, from a 'real', printed Bible. If you miss the first meeting, (or any others as we go along) please don't feel that you cannot join us, we would be happy to see you at any time during the year.

At the end of each evening, I won't be rushing away, but will be happy to discuss any issues brought up by the evening's readings. I'm not a Bible expert, but I know a few people who are, so if I can't answer your question, I'll try to find someone who can.

The other part of my challenge was to encourage private reading of the entire Bible, so I thought that I should give you an update on my progress. Currently, my reading program is one chapter a day (it will take me about 3 years to read the whole Bible at this rate), I'm on day 116, but I'm 19 days behind, as I said in the previous article, continuing to read and think about what you've read is more important than the time taken, but I am trying to catch up by reading 3 chapters a day. So far, I've read Genesis, Matthew, most of Ezra and 14 Psalms.

Dave Terris

JESUS' GLOBAL CHURCH

There are ever so many denominations about and many believe their ways are the right ways. The only right way is to belong to the Church of the Lord Jesus.

The Lord did not give any instructions for Christians to meet in a church building. The Church is the people, not the building. Our Lord transcends all national boundaries, languages, customs, and cultures. The Church is truly global. No specific group of people or nation holds a special position in God's eternal plan of salvation. The true Church is independent of national, racial and cultural boundaries and is exclusively dependent on her head, the Lord Jesus Christ.

For example, God did not give any preference to Turkey even though that was the physical location of the seven churches mentioned in the book of Revelation. Nor did He give any special recognition to Greece even though it was the Greek language that contributed to the preservation of the oldest available manuscripts of the New Testament.

We who are believers in the Lord Jesus are members of His Church. It makes no difference where we worship as long as we always put the Lord Jesus first.

Peter Schaad

A WALK FOR THE NEW YEAR

Why not join us for a post-Christmas walk in the countryside on Saturday 6th January?

Meet at the start of the Flitch Way adjoining Braintree Railway Station car park from 10am to set off at 10.15. Walk to Rayne Station where you may wish to enjoy a cup of coffee before returning to Braintree on foot or by bus.



Alternatively, continue with us along the Flitch Way to Felsted where you may like to stop at the Tea Room or the pub for a drink or some lunch. If non-walking friends or family members join us for refreshment in Felsted you may well be offered a lift home rather than catch the bus!

We would value your company should you choose to join us for either the shorter or longer walk.

Terry and Miriam Clark

SOME NOTES ON THE ST MICHAELS PARISH REGISTERS

In 1893 a Robert H. Brown of Romford began compiling a transcript of births, marriages and deaths of St Michaels Parish for the then vicar Rev J W Kenworthy, he finished the following January. This was very similar to Mr Phillimore's scheme to copy county by county parish registers for all births marriages and deaths. Phillimore says that marriage entries are the most important part of any register to check the missing links in pedigrees. At the same time, they are also the most difficult to discover, owing to the uncertainty of their whereabouts. If anything is known about a family then one usually has a rough idea where to look for baptisms or burials, this does not apply to marriages. We are very lucky in this country as we had a central registration system from a very early time in 1837. Therefore, since computerisation the first 180 years of any genealogical research is available at the click of a mouse, then it gets more difficult as you have to research parish by parish. My maternal grandfather came from Zurich and all records for that city are held by the university but there I could find nothing, and they told me I would have to search all the churches in the city to find anything. My grandfather only died in 1908 so I have not even tried as we only think he came from Zurich!

These records are a very valuable resource for anyone researching their ancestors whether from this country the Commonwealth or America and so by law they have to be lodged in the local records office which in our case is fortunately Chelmsford. I have been compiling a list of churchwardens and have at the same time made some observations on these tomes. The records run from 1660 to 1812. An act called Roses Act said that after 1813 these records had to be available in printed books. The first thing that hits you when looking through these books is the local dialect. Before 1775 or so there was no standardised

spelling and you simply spelled how you thought it sounded. So, if you came from somewhere that had a strong accent you may spell slightly differently. This is very clear to someone who has done Pitman shorthand, you will naturally know that he was a northerner. The first thing I decided to do after I retired was to read Chaucer's Canterbury Tales. I was fortunate to have a copy that had modern English on one page and 1400 English on the other. I looked at the first page and thought "I can never read this". However, once I got started and took my mind round the phonetics it got easier.

Our records start at 1660 which was historically a very unfortunate decade for this country. There is a note by the writer "That ye registering of all marriages from the 7th April 1666 to the 4th June 1677 is wholly omitted through a wretched carelessness". The fact was after The Great Plague there was probably no-one left to write anything down. Braintree had the plague equal to London when between half and a third of the population died. It is thought that our plague came from Colchester, despite trestles being erected at all entrances to the town to keep people out. It is said that the fields were not worked for ten years because there was no-one to work them. Of course, the next thing to happen was an increase in wages for agricultural workers.

As it was so long ago I do not think we can fully appreciate how bad things were as we have nothing to compare. It was certainly worse than both world wars all at once. However, the register does provide a small insight, Herismon (which was perhaps Harrison) and Martha Huckaby lost 4 children in 14 days, 2 sons and 2 daughters. This was the end of September 1665 and on 4th October Herismon died. On the 9th another daughter died. Also on the 18th March before this another daughter was also lost. This means Martha lost seven of her most immediate family in the one year. How does anyone recover from something like that? What happened to Martha the records do not tell; my guess is that she

probably died in the 11 years after the plague when the records were not kept. You immediately think of the trials of Job but this and worse must have happened all through our country and the continent during this time. If you really want to see what the plague was like in a village then go to Eyam in Derbyshire, there the plague is mapped out throughout the town with the names and dates of the victims on the houses. The Rev Mompesson quarantined the town until it was all over.

Another name that comes up is Kellogg, the famous American cereal manufacturer whose antecedents came from Braintree. There is a blue plaque at the junction of Kenworthy Rd and Notley Rd. Martin Keloge was a church warden in 1678 and perhaps was from the same family. This is possible because they started manufacturing in 1906. However, the cereal was invented by John Harvey Kellogg in 1894 as a food that he thought would be healthy for the patients of Battle creek Sanitorium in Michigan U.S.A. where he was superintendent.

Rod Davey

BELFRY BULLETIN

Of late we have had some interesting and good service and practice ringing and have used the Northern District of the Essex Association of Change Ringers Quarter Peal Month to celebrate some significant events.

Prior to Church Family Worship on Sunday 5 November we rang 1260 changes of Plain Bob Doubles in 44mins. With this Quarter Peal we extend our welcome to Nigel and Jo Adams to St. Michael's and wish them a happy and successful stay with us. Lin Ould 1, Ellie Gray 2, Debbie Hill 3, Peter Smit 4, Bradley Hill [c], 5 Gareth Davies 6. This was the 1st QP ringing an inside bell for Ellie Gray a big milestone in her ringing life. For Evening Worship

we again rang 1260 of Plain Bob Doubles Gareth Davies 1, Lin Ould 2, Debbie Hill [c] 3, Maurice Downs 4, Peter Smith 5, Richard Ould 6, this was to celebrate Lin and Richard Ould's 45th wedding anniversary and was rung in 45mins!! Our congratulations Lin and Richard.

After practice on 6-11-17 Bradley and Gareth put on the muffles in preparation for ringing on Remembrance Weekend.

Remembrance Day Saturday 11 November 2017 Richard Ould and Peter Smith Tolded the Tenor for 5mins before and 5mins after the 2mins Silence at 11am. Whilst observing the silence they noticed the ringing chamber clock recording 11th hour 11th day 11th month 11°C temperature!!

For Morning Worship on Remembrance Sunday 12 November 2017, we rang 50mins of half muffled St. Simons and St. Martins Bob Doubles. Before the Civic Service of Remembrance, a District Band rang 1296 half muffled changed of Cambridge Surprise Minor in 45mins Vicky LeFevre 1, Annemarrie Adams 2, Pat Cresshull 3, Peter Smith 4, Roy Threadgold 5, Ian Cresshull [c] 6. WE WILL REMEMBER THEM.

After practice on 13 November Phil Kelly and Debbie Hill changed the rope on the Tenor and took off the muffles, it was a cold job well done.

After morning ringing on 12 November, we wished our Guild Master, Bradley Hill, a safe journey and an enjoyable 6-week trip to South Africa. We will try and keep up the good work while he is away.

Peter Smith

CHRISTMAS FUN

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

angels
 Christmas
 donkey
 innkeeper
 Jesus
 Joseph manger
 king Mary
 nativity
 salvation
 sheep
 shepherds
 star
 wisemen



St. Michaels Church is located in:
St Michaels Lane, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY