

The LINK

30p

September 2018



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



Men & Women@StMichael's

Dear Friends,

One aspect of the work at St Michael's Braintree is our men's and women's work.

Men@StMichael's have a variety of events. We had a very enjoyable curry night, just after Easter, as well as a Ten Pin Bowling evening in July. A regular event for men is beer & chat at The Picture Palace, the Wetherspoons pub in Fairfield Road – the next one is on Wednesday 5th September from 8.00pm. We will also be going to Pizza Express at Freeport Leisure Village on Tuesday 6th November 7.30pm. All men are very welcome to attend any of our events.

On Saturday 22nd September at 8.30am, we will be having a Men's Breakfast at Yumy's, 8 Little Square, CM7 1UT. I will be speaking on "Changes & challenges", about my life as a police officer and minister and some of the things that have both helped me and challenged me in my faith. There will be a cooked breakfast and tickets, £6 each, will be available until Tuesday 18th September. I hope that men in the church will join us and that you will also be thinking whether there are men whom you could invite, who don't usually attend church.

Women @ St Michaels have fairly regular events and our most recent event was a Prayer Lunch just before the Summer holidays to pray for Summer Events particularly SMASH Club. Our next Prayer Lunch will be

in Church on Thursday October 18th ... just a simple lunch, a short talk, time to pray in small groups and a concluding time together.

On September 29th we will have our next Saturday School in Church House from 9.00am until 12.45pm. Grace Hopkins will be speaking and booking forms and more details will be available during the first week in September, but Bacon Rolls will be a feature! We hope that our Young St Michaels Women will join us as they did for our Anniversary Celebrations in January. Grace is also going to be our speaker at an Outreach Event on November 23rd. This evening is called Taste and See which will include Christmas Craft ideas to try and Christmas food of varying kinds to Taste and mark!

Do watch for details and sign-up sheets for these events and make sure that Women@ St Michaels know about the happenings.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel Adams & Jennifer Bailey

MISSION OF THE MONTH STAND BY ME



Child-centred care

Stand by Me is a Christian Charity that works in the Dominican Republic, Colombia, Romania, Ethiopia, India, Nepal and Burma

Our Junior Church who meet on Sunday mornings continue to sponsor and support Tsion, who lives in Ethiopia. Small change into our collection pot each Sunday morning helps to make a change in Tsion's life. We enjoy receiving her letters and updates, displayed in Church House, which remind us that we are showing our faith in Jesus through our financial giving, and the letters and cards we send to Tsion.

Stand by Me describes its works as follows:

Truly caring for each child begins with considering the needs of the child, their family, and their community.

Loving care

We get to know each child — their hopes, history, needs and dreams. We delight in our children and want the best for them. We invest our time, love and attention raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.

Strong families

Usually the best place for a child to thrive is in their family – that's why we work hard to help families stay together. In the absence of a stable family, we place children who are at risk into our loving family homes.

Great education

A great quality education is key to escaping poverty. Our education programmes equip our kids with the skills they need to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.

Access to healthcare

The health of our children is vital to their development and happiness, so we go the extra mile to make sure that they are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.

A reason for hope

It's a privilege to teach our kids of Jesus' love for them, and to demonstrate this through the quality of our care. As their desire for spiritual answers grows, we encourage them to discover a love, respect and knowledge of God for themselves.

Caring relationships

It's incredibly important to each child's sense of value and stability that they're raised by parents and teachers who care about them. Child sponsorship supports this further by giving our kids a relationship with a sponsor who loves them and helps them feel part of a wider family.

Our main types of care.

Each child is unique but like all children, the children in our care need unconditional love and acceptance. Because they come from complex backgrounds, we have developed four key care programmes to meet their individual needs.

Children's Homes

Our children's homes are just like any family home should be – comfortable, safe and filled with love. Our house parents love our kids like they are their own children, giving them all the support they need to thrive. As they grow, we equip them to become independent young adults. But even when they do grow up and leave our homes, they will always be our kids.

Schools

Our schools provide a quality education for children from our homes and the surrounding communities. Children who once had no educational opportunities are today transforming communities and achieving great things, with many graduating from university.

Care Centres

Our care centres bridge the gap for children who have families but need extra love and care. We provide children with tutoring, meals, clothes, medical care and a safe place to build relationships and have fun. We offer counselling for children with troubled backgrounds and help their parents through parenting courses and life development skills.

Family Support

We know that providing children with an education without tackling social, medical and family needs is futile. To help reduce parents' dependency on child labour, we provide families with food packs, help with rent, medical care and small business grants, enabling them to stand on their own feet and in time, live above the poverty line.

If you need more information, please visit our web site: www.standby.me or call us on 01708 442271, we'd love to talk.

To find out more about the work of Stand by Me, and to find out the latest news and prayer requests, please take a look at the 'Mission of the Month' display in Church in the welcome area.

Thank you

Andy Carter

THE STATE OF OUR FINANCES

We rely on the generosity of worshippers – regular members and visitors – to pay for all the costs associated with maintaining the church buildings, employing staff, and fulfilling our mission to the people of Braintree.

People often feel uncomfortable when asking for money, but we are not ashamed of what we do at St Michael's to further God's work. We hope you too will value it, and be prepared to support us financially.

What does it cost to run St Michael's?

About £13,000 per month to keep our Church ticking over.

Approximately 60% of that is due to the Diocese (to pay for our Vicar and assist poorer churches) and 10% of our collection goes to the charities we as a church support. This leaves us with approximately 30% to cover other costs such as our Youth work, Outreach, Emergency Maintenance, Heat & Light etc. **Unfortunately, we only receive an average of £12,000!** for which we are extremely grateful to all who give so generously.

Should we be able to cover this deficit we would need £1,000 per month, £33 per day or £10 per month from each family on our electoral roll. Should this be gift-aided this drops to £8.

I am aware that most of us find our finances stretched, but we give because we know that God has been even more generous to us. Giving isn't a membership fee; it's a response to God's unfailing generosity and grace, and to the needs of His church.

A salutary thought

The £1,000 per month mentioned only allows us to stand still and the Lord always moves us forward.

Please feel free to talk to me about this article.

Lesley Davey

SMASH ClubPolar Explorers 2018

SMASH Club was hot....but what a week!



Our week of SMASH Club was very busy, but it was very much a positive time with Jesus at the centre of each day.

Importantly, every morning began with time in the Bible, brought to us so enjoyably by Stephen. This start to every day was essential in focusing those present, as to whom we were serving. Our theme of 'Explorers' lent itself very well to the need, that God's expedition, of spreading the good news of Jesus, can be undertaken by anybody whose heart and mind has been opened to Jesus, by the power of God's Holy Spirit.



Through the week we looked at the following New Testament believers: Peter, Stephen, Philip, Paul (Saul), Timothy and Lydia. We learnt that God can and does use anyone, whatever their background and whatever

might be seen as their shortcomings, to bring Jesus into other people's lives, and into God's forever Kingdom.

We had six teams of around ten children per team, with team leaders and helpers, leading and encouraging them through a very active morning programme.



One youngster wrote, '**SMASH Club is the best place to be.**' I'll take that comment with a big smile on my face.



Team work was the key throughout the week. Most of the children when asked to comment on their teams said, "Fabulous!" "Excellent!" "Awesome!"

Plus there was the possibility to.....

Pick up a penguin?



I feel a bit of a drama coming on.

The teams' leaders, whether young or older did a magnificent job throughout the week, and we, the small organising team, thank you very much.



The refreshments team, craft team, games team and security team were so well organised and helpful.

The Sunday 10am service was a delight and our thanks to everyone involved.

The BBQ team and helpers, despite the weather, ensured a good well fed experience for everyone at the BBQ. Thank you.

The original organising team of Emma, Ed and June, I can only say, "Fabulous!" "Excellent!" and "Awesome!"

God is good, and SMASH week was greatly blessed.

May our combined teamwork efforts have sown seeds of God's grace in hearts and minds during the SMASH Club week.

Thank you

Andy Carter

GOD IN THE TRENCHES

Jenny Chapman and Lin Terris are now gathering and preparing material for our God in the Trenches exhibition during the weekend Friday 9 to Sunday 11 November. That Sunday this year commemorates the 100 anniversary of the armistice marking the end of World War I.

If you have any WWI family stories, memorabilia, artefacts, documents, or photographs which you could loan or copy for display, please get in touch with Lin and Jenny as soon as possible.



We'll tell you more about the plans for our commemorations in October Link, but one thing we'll be doing is offering a booklet, called silence, pictured here. This is produced by www.hopetogether.org.uk and includes reflections on the war, relevant Bible verses, prayers, brief testimonies and a clear but sensitive explanation of the gospel.

Lin Terris
Jenny Chapman

WHITE HORSE TAVERN

WHT begins again on MONDAY 17th SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm in Church House. Jenny Chapman is leading our Autumn session by guiding us through Gary Williams book 'HIS LOVE ENDURES FOR EVER'. The best place to buy it is from ICM (find them via Google).

If you are interested in coming to the Tavern, please let Jenny, Lin Terris or myself know so that we can get details to you. We hope to see you on Mondays.

Stephen Bailey

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COFFEE MORNING



Saturday 27 October 10-12 noon

Small Hall, Church House

SEPTEMBER DIARY

2 Sunday	14th after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Church Family Worship – Fruits of the Kingdom
6.30pm	Evening Worship - A door opened
7.30pm	Focus
3 Monday	
7.30pm	Bell Ringing
8.00pm	Badminton
4 Tuesday	
1.15pm	Tiddlywinks
5 Wednesday	
7.45pm	Bible Reading Group – Church House
8.30pm	SuMMiT – Beer and chat – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Road
6 Thursday	
3.30pm	ASK
7.30pm	Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm	Carry on Exploring Bible Study
9 Sunday	15th after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Morning Worship - Held together in love
6.30pm	Holy Communion - The Jerusalem Council
7.30pm	Focus
10 Monday	
12.15pm	Spotlight
5.30pm	4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm	Bell Ringing
8.00pm	Badminton

11 Tuesday OCTOBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

1.15pm Tiddlywinks
8.00pm First Priority – Church House

12 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

13 Thursday

3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

14 Friday

2.00pm Bradbury House Service
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

15 Saturday

9.00am Church and Church House work party

16 Sunday 16th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion - Advice for Christian households
6.30pm Evening Worship - Going separate ways
7.30pm Focus

17 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton
8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

18 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

19 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

20 Thursday

3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study – Meeting in Church House
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

21 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

22 Saturday

8.00am Mens Breakfast at Yummy's
1.45pm Country side walk see P22

23 Sunday 17th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship - Speech seasoned with salt
6.30pm Evening Worship - A calling and fruit
7.30pm Focus

24 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton
8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

25 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

26 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

27 Thursday

3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study – Meeting in Church House
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

28 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
7.00pm Flower Club

29 Saturday

9.00am Women @ St Michael's

30 Sunday 18th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion - Returned with love

6.30pm United Service at St. Michaels Church

7.30pm Focus

FROM THE REGISTERS

<no entries>

Come and join our
**CELEBRATION OF
LIGHT**

Snack, crafts, games, Bible
story, songs and more!!

ON: Wednesday 31 October
5:30 pm to 7pm

AT: St Michael's Church House

Helpers needed, please see
Andy Carter

www.lightparty.org.uk

Scripture Union is a registered charity in England & Wales (no. 213422)

WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

September's 5-mile circular walk planned for Saturday 22nd takes in lakes, streams, woodland, fields, three churches and several other interesting buildings.

We plan to meet outside 'The Stag' pub, Duke Street, Little Easton (CM6 7JE) from 1.45 pm to set off at 2pm.



If you have any questions or you wish to share transport, then just have a word with us. All are welcome to join us on this varied and enjoyable walk.

Terry and Miriam Clark

LETTER FROM MANDY SHORT

Schools become incredibly quiet when the children are not there, especially in the summer holidays. During the first week the school is often busy with adults, sorting out their classrooms, returning stock that they had vigorously denied having and storing the vast quantity of property the children have left behind.

The second week is quieter, only Roger and his team are working. By week four I have the school all to myself.

So here I am, sorting through my cupboards and reflecting on my time at St Michael's. My how eight years have flown. When I accepted the post of Head teacher of St Michael's primary School, back in 2010, I expected to be here until I retired, but that was to be in 2024, not 2018!

I was welcomed in September 2010 by the Governing Body, with a social evening at Church House. I was amazed at how many of the Governors were there, 100% turnout. It spoke volumes about their commitment to the school and of the links the school has with its' church.

To have led St Michael's Primary has been a career highlight for me and a time of enormous personal happiness. It is a very special place and the level of love and support given to the children by staff is second to none. A unique place, offering an outstanding education. St Michael's has always offered outstanding pastoral care, but it did not always offer a standard of education that our children deserved. From the start I was blessed with key members of staff that were ready, indeed chomping at the bit, to raise the bar on the quality of teaching and learning. New staff came and step by step the work ethos of the school changed. No more elongated lunch breaks because it was Friday and the sun was shining, every minute counted and made a difference.

Although I am very proud of all we achieved in my time at St Michael's, it is not Ofsted's outstanding judgement that will be my lasting memory. As I sit in my rocking chair, basking in the sun on a tropical island, well maybe not the tropical island, my memories will be of the children: reading to me at lunchtime, making me laugh out loud on a daily basis and watching our Year 6 holding the hands of our Foundation Stage children as the school snakes it's way to St Michaels Church, every term.

Our links with St Michaels Church are strong and continue to grow. The foundation governors work tirelessly to support and challenge both myself and the staff, frequently visiting and playing an active role in the school: Ask Club and lunchtime Bible clubs reach out to all our children, as do the Easter and Christmas experiences, not to mention the weekly assemblies. The Chair of Governors, Jennifer Bailey, has been a endless source of support to the school, as she is to both myself and the Leadership team. I am confident leaving the future of our school in her hands, alongside her extremely competent board of governors.

I have so many memories of my time at St Michael's, many that make me laugh out loud. Some I will keep to myself and eventually publish to supplement my pension, others I enjoy sharing. Teacher's dressed as gorillas, French Pantomimes and being subjected to a makeover in aid of Comic Relief. My favourite memory linking the church and school is one of Graham Saville being escorted away by police at the Houses of Parliament as we went through security. Graham had used a backpack from a recent Scout trip and was found to have not one, not two, but three knives in his possession as he went through security. I was laughing so much it actually hurt. Wilbur and his friends were also laughing, and Mrs Jenkins had her head in her bag, but her shoulders were indicating that she too had lost control. Graham being the great sport that he is, enjoyed the teasing on his release and return to us. He was to accompany the school on so many trips, but that was his finest moment.

St Michael's Church plays such an important part in the life of our school, not least by praying for us on a regular basis. As the school goes through such a period of change I know you will all remember the school in your prayers and pray that it's new leader will build on all we have achieved, loving the school and all within it.

I too will pray for the school and look forward to joining you at St Michael's to worship with you from time to time.

Thank you for choosing me to lead St Michael's, it was a great privilege.

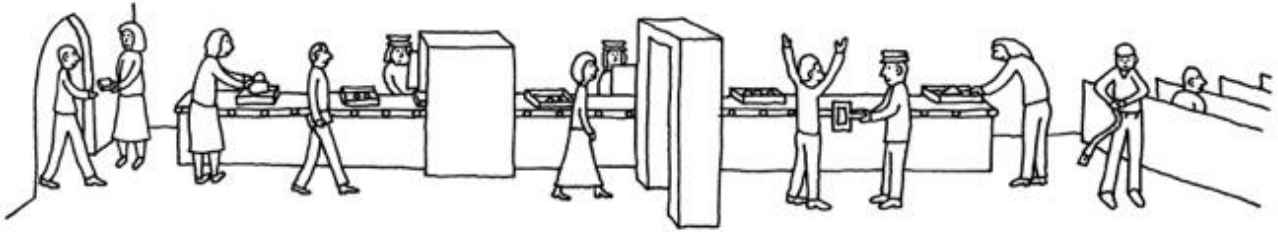
I was welcomed

Mandy Short

A LITTLE HUMOUR

SECURITY

YOU WILL NEED TO GO THROUGH SECURITY PROCEDURES WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR THE SERVICE



OUR OFFICERS ARE CHECKING FOR THE FOLLOWING:



TAMBOURINES



MEMBERSHIP
CARDS
FROM
RIVAL
DENOMINATIONS



NON-PEW
BIBLES



SCRIPTS
FOR
INTERJECTING
DURING
SERMON



UNAUTHORISED
CUSHIONS



INSUFFICIENT
CONTRIBUTION
TO COLLECTION

CartoonChurch.com

DIARY OF A NEW CHURCH WARDEN

17th July

This PCC meeting would be a busy one for me. I had a lot of things on the list from the fabric committee to discuss. I am now PCC vice-chair. The crazy thing about this meeting is that being a father too, I had an awards ceremony in Southend for William that evening. Hence the odd text as I was driving back, “am I going to make it?” and then a lot of fast talking to everyone when I arrived.

23rd July

As part of the planning and assessment agreed at the PCC, I started to look at the lighting in the Church and Church House with a view to bringing it up to date with full working light fixtures. Church House is straight forward as there is little you can do there, however the Church could bring several options. Whilst this will lead to a lot of work and impact on the funds of the church, it will help make both buildings ones suitable for our needs. So, watch this space over the coming developments.

29th July

SMASH club service and BBQ. This is always an interesting challenge for those looking after the church. Have I got enough magazines for visitors? What unexpected thing will happen? When do you close it? When should I get everyone across the road? Will I be able to escape? Or more importantly is the BBQ ready for me?

This year I managed to get across the road possibly at the optimum time having greeted, tidied and locked up. The food and atmosphere were great, I wonder if it was because we had to eat inside? (God sending the rain so we had to gather inside and to refresh the garden)

Dave Marriott

BELFRY BULLETIN

At our AGM, having received a report on the state of the bells and fittings from the Essex Association's Technical Advisor, we agreed to work being carried out on the bells. We are now in the process of getting quotes to carry out the work. We are also looking for organisations and individuals from whom we can get grants and donations to fund the project. We will keep you informed of our progress.

When we were discussing how to improve the comfort in the ringing room one hot evening it was asked, thinking of cold winter evenings, what was the reason for the dreadful draft from the door when Phil said "well the door is open" !!!!

Recently we have attempted 2 Quarter Peals. Prior to the Smash Club Service on Sunday 29th July we attempted to ring Plain Bob Minor, and again we failed, this was the 3rd time but we will succeed. On Sunday 5th August before the service of Evening Worship we got to within 5mins of the end of Grandsire Doubles and it went wrong. Oh dear.

On our practice night Monday 30th July we were pleased to welcome Jodie Hill and her friend Lucas Quance from Las Vegas. Jodie rang rounds and call changes on the 10 bells and Lucas rang hand stroke and back stroke for the first time.

On a personal note I would like to thank the Guild Members for the gift I received recently. On behalf of the Guild, Debbie Hill presented me with a beautiful Peal Board detailing the Peal rung for my birthday in June. It will take pride of place in my Lounge. Thank you all so very much.

Peter Smith