

The LINK

30p

October 2018



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



God's plans, in God's time

Dear Friends,

The Parochial Church Council (PCC) recently had an Awayday. It was the start of a process, seeking God's vision for us at St Michael's over the coming years. It caused me to reflect on what the Bible tells us of God's plans and God's timescales.

Psalm 94:11 tells us, "*The LORD knows all human plans; he knows that they are futile.*" God gives us minds, and the ability to make plans. However, plans that are merely human plans will be ultimately futile, in the sense that they will not have everlasting or eternal value.

Yet God does have good plans for us. Jeremiah wrote with a message of hope to the Jewish people, who had been taken to Babylon as exiles. "*For I know the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.'*" (Jeremiah 29:11) The Jewish people were going to have to wait for 70 years before they could return to their own land, but God gave them hope in their dark days.

Our timescales are very different to God's timescales. Peter, one of Jesus' closest disciples observed that, "*with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.*" (2 Peter 3:8). We may be eager to get things done and move forward. But God looks at things from an eternal perspective.

As we seek the way ahead over the coming years for St Michael's Church, we would appreciate your prayers, that we have a sense of God's plans and God's timing. We will let you know more about what is planned over the coming months.

Wishing you every blessing,
Nigel



We will remember them

An exhibition

Marking 100 years since the end of WW1

St Michael's Church, Braintree

Friday 9 Nov 6.00—9.00pm

Saturday 10 Nov 10am—1pm

Sunday 11 Nov Service of Remembrance 3.00

Free entry

Refreshments available



MISSION OF THE MONTH A ROCHA



A Rocha is a Christian conservation organisation founded in 1983, with a distinctive contribution to creation care.

A Rocha's work is a response to God's love for the whole creation revealed in the Bible and personally in Jesus Christ. Therefore, it is not simply an association of people with cultural heritage and shared interests in nature conservation but an organisation in which caring for God's handiwork is done out of the conviction that Christ is Lord.

A Rocha's niche as one among many Christian environmental organisations is that they put God's call to care for creation into practice in multiple local contexts worldwide. The aim in all is to be characterised by good science and good biblical theology by healthy involvement in local communities and local churches, and by being prepared to work alongside others who may not always share their beliefs.

Christians believe that God made the world. When we make something – as life-changing as giving birth or knitting a scarf – we care what happens to our creation. God cares deeply about all his creation – “every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills. I know every bird in the mountains, and the creatures of the field are mine” (Psalm 50 verse 10-11)

Studying, thankfully enjoying and caring for the world that God has so wonderfully made is an obvious way for us to show our love for God.

Ann Mahood

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!!

Samaritan's Purse - Operation Christmas Child



Samaritan's Purse is an evangelical Christian relief organisation that provides aid to suffering people throughout the world who are victims of war, famine, natural disaster, poverty and disease.

One aspect of their work is **Operation Christmas Child**. They collect and distribute filled shoeboxes to children living in poverty particularly in Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Boxes are distributed to all children regardless of background faith. Our church has been involved in this for many years. This is a practical way of showing God's love to children.

What goes in a shoebox?

Shoeboxes give children a present, probably the first they receive. They contain gifts such as a soft toy, toy, stationary, toiletries, sweets. There will be a display in church throughout October with leaflets giving details of items that can and cannot be included. Boxes are prepared for three age groups, 2-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years. Samples for these will be on display.

I'd like to help but can't fill a box

Donations of items that go into boxes are always welcome. We will make up some 'church boxes' from these. All boxes have to be checked at a warehouse to fulfil custom regulations. Some donations are used there to help fill up boxes. Monetary gifts are always welcome to aid with transport costs and other expenses. The requested transport cost per box is £5.

When does my box need to be ready?

Please can boxes and donations be in church by Sunday November 4th.

The Greatest Journey

All boxes are distributed by Samaritan's Purse workers. Where the culture allows it, and the local church is able, children receiving boxes are given the opportunity to take part in a 12-session course called The Greatest Journey if their parents or guardian consent. This enables them to find out who Jesus is, begin their own journey of faith and share it with others.

Coffee Morning

There will be a coffee morning in the Small Hall, Church House on Saturday October 27 from 10-12 noon. This will give further opportunity to find out about this valuable work. Proceeds will help with transport costs for boxes we make up with church donations of items.

Thank you

A big thank you to all those who have been knitting and making hats, gloves, scarves, bags etc: throughout the year to go in boxes. Also to those who have already given me items to go in boxes.

Need further information

Please contact:

Jenny Chapman

Sue Marriott

Jill Jackson



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD COFFEE MORNING



Saturday 27 October 10-12 noon
Small Hall, Church House



A HYMN JAM

Saturday 27 October,
10.30 – 12 noon, in Church



Who is it for? All beginners, learners and players of any instrument, including your voice, and of any age are welcome.

What will we do? We'll play and sing songs with simple chords and melodies, and make a joyful noise to the Lord, as tunefully as we can.

A great chance to experiment, make music with others, learn new songs, have fun!

Any questions please contact Jonathan Wicks.



If you are coming to the coffee morning, you are welcome to join us to listen to what we've created, at 11.45.

THE LINK MAGAZINE

Do you want a great November 2018 magazine?

Could you spend some time using your creative flair?

I am looking for a someone to take over editing the magazine or at least share the task of editing it. This is to give me space to lead and develop some of the projects coming up in my role as Church Warden (and being in full time work).

I am happy to work with someone to produce November's magazine during half term, to share how it has been created and developed for the last 3 years and provide the templates, cartoons and my articles.

If you would like to give it a go, come talk to me or drop me an email.

This would look great on a CV for anyone that is wanting to develop their skills and give you great space to create.

Dave Marriott

Come and join our
**CELEBRATION OF
LIGHT**

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

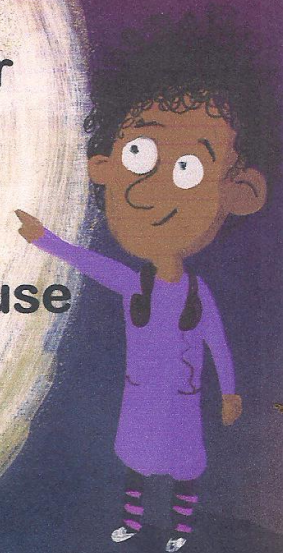
ON: Wednesday 31 October
5:30 pm to 7pm

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)



OCTOBER DIARY

1 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton

2 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

3 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Christianity Explained – Church House
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

4 Thursday

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

7 Sunday 18th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Church Family Worship – Harvest: More and yet empty,
so celebrate and share
6.30pm Evening Worship - Praising in prison
7.30pm Focus

8 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton

9 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks
8.00pm First Priority – Church House

10 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
10.00am Holy Communion
6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Christianity Explained – Church House
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House
8.30pm SuMMiT – Beer and chat – Wetherspoons,
Fairfield Road

11 Thursday

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

14 Sunday 19th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship - Lessons learned in the fires of failure
6.30pm Holy Communion - God is our refuge and strength
7.30pm Focus

15 Monday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton

16 Tuesday NOVEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE

17 Wednesday

6.30pm 4th Braintree Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Christianity Explained – Church House
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

18 Thursday

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

19 Friday

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

20 Saturday

9.00am Church and Church House work party

21 Sunday 20th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion - The road to true greatness

6.30pm Evening Worship - Receiving the word with eagerness

7.30pm Focus

22 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

24 Wednesday

7.30pm Christianity Explained – Church House

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

25 Thursday

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study – Meeting in Church House

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

26 Friday

7.30pm Flower Club

27 Saturday

10.00am OCC Coffee morning – Church House

10.30am A Hymn Jam - Church

28 Sunday 21st after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship - For us or against us?

6.30pm Evening Worship - Leaving and returning

7.30pm Focus

29 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

30 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

31 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

5.30pm Light Party – Church House

7.30pm Christianity Explained – Church House

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

FROM THE REGISTERS

Thanksgivings

26 Aug Amelie Bream

 Lizzie Wicks

Baptisms

2nd Sep Tiffany Ambrose

 Roman Lamb



Church and Church House Working Party The Winter Preparation

Saturday 20th October from 9:00am

Please let Dave Marriott know if you want to make that difference.

Jobs planned potentially include:

Church:

Gutters cleaning/checking
Clearing out cupboards

Church House & Garden:

Gutters cleaning/checking
Clearing out cupboards
Transportation of rubbish
Outhouse tidy/stock check
Lots of pruning/gardening
Recycling broken chairs
Spreading out mulch over the side bank
Start preparation for next set of decorating

Church House:

Supporting the team with Tea/Coffee
Lunch catering



2019 Work party dates – book them out now

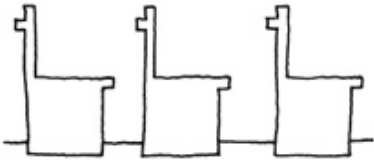
- **5th January**
- **23rd February**
- **6th April**
- **18th May**
- **6th July**
- **(tbc) August**
- **14th September**

(9:00am – 5:00pm unless otherwise advertised)

A LITTLE HUMOUR

REORDERING YOUR CHURCH

HOW TO DO IT WITHOUT ANYONE NOTICING



DO EVERYTHING AT A TIME
WHEN NO ONE WILL BE AROUND

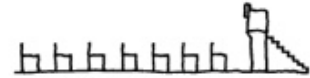


KEEP PEOPLE AWAY

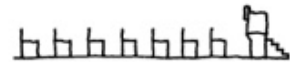
WEEK
1



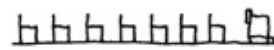
WEEK
2



WEEK
3



WEEK
4



CARRY OUT THE WORK GRADUALLY



DISGUISE ALL EQUIPMENT



FOAM
PADDING

MODIFY TOOLS TO REDUCE NOISE



GRIND PEWS INTO SAWDUST
AND RELEASE SURREPTITIOUSLY

CartoonChurch.com

DIARY OF A NEW CHURCH WARDEN

6th August

A trip to Edinburgh with Sue was great (the kids were away). During our time up there, I ended up in a church for the fringe in their community hall listening to a Michael Bubble cover band, visited the chapels in Edinburgh Castle, and the Cornerstone centre and St. Johns on Princes Street. It was lovely architecture and building put to real practical and loving use. St. Johns had the most beautiful lighting and presence. So, I end up never off duty.

18th August

Work party day was quiet. In fact, the quietest that I have had. That said we still did loads. As a small team we achieved a lot that we are proud of and been complimented on. So, when you sit next in the small rooms in Church House, remember those that support the building. We were definitely 'up on the roof'. (or more precisely in the gutters)

29TH August

A day of trades people and meetings. Having set out at 7.45am to let the first one into Church house to start the 5 year inspection survey, I then met with a lighting expert (Church House lights), following staff meeting I then met with a Carpet supplier and finally finished at Standing committee where we appointed a new fire alarm for church house. There was though the curious point of another tradesman turning up in his van to look around, a roofer, however he should have been at Bradbury house. This is showing that we are making changes and looking to really improve the state of our buildings.

3rd September

I returned to fulltime work. Now I seek many helpers, a new magazine editor, people to show round contractors, and doers of tasks.

Dave Marriott

BELFRY BULLETIN

Events in the Belfry have taken their usual pattern of late with the regular Service ringing and practice nights.

With members still taking holidays we were unable to muster a band on August Bank Holiday Sunday sorry. Debbie was enjoying the sights of Italy, Lin and Richard were sampling the delights of France, Ellie and Bradley in East Anglia and Peter even went to Wales to visit the ex-pats.

It is very pleasing to see and hear the efforts of practice nights bearing fruit as we are ringing a wider range of methods to a very good standard for Services.

For Services two years ago, we would ring rounds and call changes, simple conductor led changes.

Last year we added the method Plain Bob Doubles.

This year we have progressed to Grandsire Doubles, St. Martins and St. Simons Bob Doubles, Plain Bob Minor and Plain Bob Triples. Very Heartening.

Peter Smith