

The LINK

30p

February 2019



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



Our Mission Support

There has been a long tradition, at St Michael's, of supporting a number of different missions – locally, nationally and internationally. I see this as a very important part of our role. It is good to support other Christian work prayerfully, financially and practically. Supporting other Christians is something that Paul actively encouraged the Corinthian church to do (2 Corinthians 8&9).

Over the past year or so, we have had a detailed review of our mission support, as the number of mission links had grown to a very large number. We have decided to cut down to 12 Missions of the Month, namely:

- A Rocha
- ACTS in Burkina Faso
- Barnabas Fund
- Chain Foundation
- Church Pastoral Aid Society
- Crosslinks
- Langham Partnership
- Make Jesus Known
- Open Doors
- Operation Christmas Child (also known as Samaritans Purse)
- Stand by Me
- Tearfund

The representatives of each of these Missions of the Month are being invited to form a Mission Committee, so that we can develop and increase our mission support.

We are having two mission visits shortly:

On Sunday 17th February, Jirka & Keira Kralovi will be visiting us from the Czech Republic, where they are working among students with Crosslinks. They will be interviewed, and Jirka will preach, at the 10am service. There will also be a Mission Tea, from 4.00-5.30pm in Church House, when we will have an opportunity to hear more about their work.

On Saturday 23rd March, Tim & Charissa Cooke and team (Make Jesus Known) will have an evening concert in Church House. Tim will then be preaching at the 10am service on Sunday 24th March.

It would be great if you were able to join us for some or all of these events. There is nothing quite like hearing, first hand, about what is going on, to inform us in our prayers and support for them.

One of the great strengths of the town of Braintree is that a number of Christian organisations have formed, doing specific work. Although they are not Missions of the Month, we will continue to support them, for example, by having them visit us periodically and give updates on their work. These include Braintree Street Pastors, Braintree Youth Project Charity, Christian Youth Outreach, the Foodbank and Hope House.

We will also continue our links with organisations such as the Fishermen's Mission (with Andy Malcolm visiting in December), and the Soldiers & Airmen's Scripture Readers Association (who provide the speaker on Remembrance Sunday).

I am very aware that there will be some people in the church who support other missions and missionaries, not listed above. I would encourage you to continue to do so.

I would also encourage each of us to have a few missions that we actively support and pray for.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

MISSION OF THE MONTH CROSSLINKS

JIRKA and KEIRA KRALOVI will be visiting us this month. They will be with us on Sunday 17th February.

REMEMBER THEM?

They have both been with us before. You may remember that they came as friends of Lea and Petra Williams. They are 'Mission Partners' with CROSSLINKS, working in the Czech Republic. Because St Michael's has an interest in CROSSLINKS, they have sent us the Kralovi's prayer letter regularly.

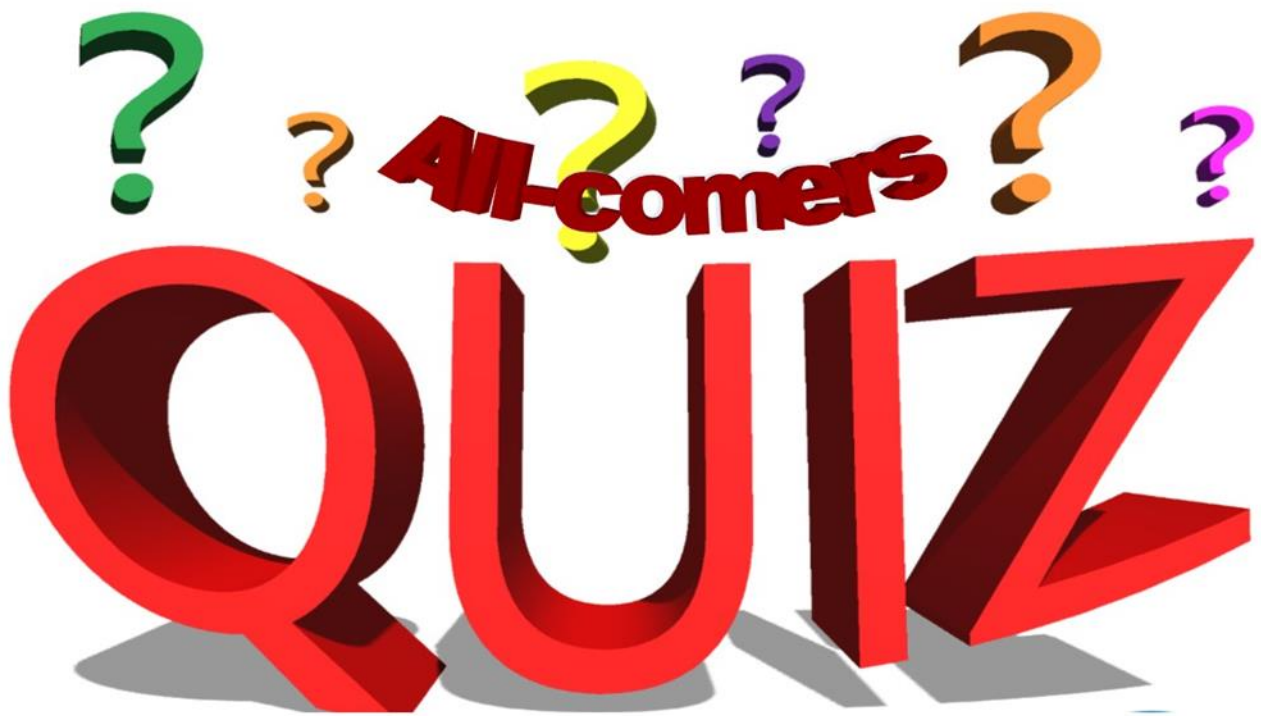
'CAN THEY COME?'

Jirka and Keira are in the UK and CROSSLINKS have asked us if we would like a visit from them. It will be good to meet them again, and hear about what they are doing. Their job is to present the Lord Jesus Christ, what he has done and his claims on our lives, to the university students in Olomouc and other cities in the Czech Republic.

OTHER MISSION PARTNERS

As well as meeting JIRKA and KEIRA on the 17th, and praying with them and for them, this is the month we shall be praying for others in the CROSSLINKS family.

Stephen Bailey.



QUIZ

All-comers

Saturday 9 February

5.45 for 6.00 pm start, finish by 9pm

St Michael's Church House

- **quizmaster Jeff Clayton**
- **make a team on the night**
- **just £5 with fish and chip supper**
- **or £4 with sausage and chips**
- **suitable for friends and family**

Tickets in advance from Sue, Jo, Lin, Jenny, Jonathan



CHRISTINGLE MAKING 2018



What a great bunch of helpers!



Everyone no matter what age got stuck into making 170 Christingles and the happiness is on the increase!



When you first see all those oranges the task seems endless, but, as one bright spark said, 'Teamwork makes the dream work.'

And that is exactly what happened. In no time at all we were taking all 170 Christingles over to church..... Job Done!
Andy the oranges man says, 'BIG thank you Team Workers'

But what is the significance of the Christingle?

Christingle means "Christ's Light" and each part of the Christingle is there to remind us of something:

- The orange represents the world.
- The four cocktail sticks and sweets remind us of God's good gifts to us.
- The candle reminds us of Jesus the light of the world.
- The red ribbon goes all round the 'world' and being the colour of blood, remind us that Jesus died, so that we can be forgiven and have a right relationship with God.

FEBRUARY DIARY

1 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

3 Sunday 5th before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am CFW – The challenge of love

6.30pm Evening Worship – “For such a time as this”

7.30pm Focus

4 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.45pm Life Explored – Church House

8.00pm Badminton

8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

5 Tuesday MARCH LINK SUBMISSION DUE

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting – Church House

6 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

8.30pm Men@StMichael’s beer and chat – Wetherspoons,
Fairfield Rd

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 4th before Lent
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship – Stewardship Sunday
6.30pm Holy Communion/meditation - Stewardship Sunday
7.30pm Focus

11 Monday
12.15pm Spotlight
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm Bell Ringing
7.45pm Life Explored – Church House
8.00pm Badminton
8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

13 Wednesday
9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
10.00am Holy Communion
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

14 Thursday
3.30pm ASK
7.00pm 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 before Lent
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship – Destruction foretold – Mission Sunday with Jirka & Keira Kralovi (Crosslinks)
6.30pm Evening Worship – The Elect One’s vindication
7.30pm Focus

18 Monday
7.30pm Bell Ringing
8.00pm Badminton

20 Wednesday

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

21 Thursday

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

22 Friday

7.30pm Flower Club

24 Sunday 2nd before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – The Coming of the Son of Man

6.30pm Evening Worship – The Elect People's rescue

7.30pm Focus

25 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

7.45pm Life Explored

8.00pm Badminton

8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

26 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

27 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

28 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.00pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

FROM THE REGISTERS

No entries

Verse of the Year 2019

*Come to me, all who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

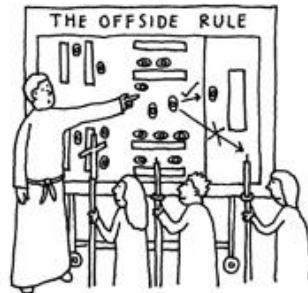
A LITTLE HUMOUR

FOOTBALL

LESSONS THE CHURCH COULD LEARN



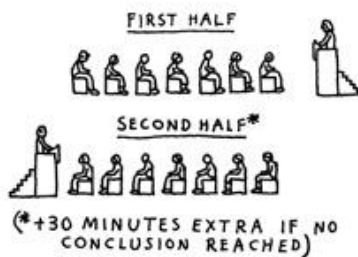
TRY TO AVOID OWN GOALS



IT IS IMPORTANT TO EXPLAIN THE REGULATIONS



IT IS ACCEPTABLE TO EXAGGERATE INJURIES



CHANGING ENDS AT HALF TIME ADDS VARIETY



PUNDITS DON'T ALWAYS KNOW WHAT THEY ARE TALKING ABOUT



CHANTING



TRAVELLING GREAT DISTANCES



WEARING THE KIT



STICKER ALBUMS

IT IS GOOD TO DEMONSTRATE ENTHUSIASM

CartoonChurch.com

DIARY OF A NEW CHURCHWARDEN

I must admit as I write this, I wonder what my last contribution to the magazine was. Time has flown and Christmas has been and gone. So here are a few interesting dates from the last month.

8th December – Posting Christmas cards

Having compiled the 2500 Christmas cards and 2000 Christmas flyers, it was time to post some. This year we delivered to a number of the new estates near the church, by the station, the whole Goldinghams estate and most of Mill Park drive, as well as around the town, Acorn Avenue and Clare Road estates. This was a good walk for a number of us. It definitely helped me keep fit that weekend.

18th December – St Michael's school service.

I have been fortunate over the last few years to be able to support the school at its large services every Christmas. As a father of a child attending it has been an incredible experience to feel the church full, standing room only full and to hear the voices of the children singing. Its on evenings like this you can really feel the Spirit at work.

24th December – Midnight service

So, this is the first time I have ever done midnight at St. Michael's, and it was again a pleasant experience. To see so many visitors and regulars through the doors for the service is encouraging. The amazing part was the number of people that I saw next morning (albeit a bit sleepy) at the 10am service.

5th January – Church and Church housework party.

Though few attended we made good our time and achieved a lot of good things. We checked all the alarms and emergency lights in both buildings. This is now becoming a regular check to make our building safer for us all to meet in. We used the 4m cleaning pole to dust the top of the main hall. Next time more volunteers will be needed as I want to get back to the garden!

Dave Marriott

BELFRY BULLETIN

Before Christmas two of our members had a near “Jack and Jill” nursery rhyme experience. Bradley and Ellie went up the dry ski slope to do some snowboarding, Bradley came down with a broken hand, but Ellie came down quite smoothly. Bradley is now ringing I handed.

We had some very good ringing over the Christmas period using our full range of methods.

Ringling for the Carol service on Sunday 16th December members of the congregation commented on how lovely it was to hear the bells ringing for the service, it made it feel “more Christmassy”.

On Monday 17th we rang before and after St. Michael’s School carol service.

Sunday 23rd was normal Sunday service ringing.

For Midnight Communion on 24th we had 30mins good ringing to announce the service.

Lin Ould, Richard Ould, Gareth Davies, Phil Kelly, Debbie Hill, Bradley Hill [hand in plaster], Maurice Downs and Peter Smith for 35mins before the 10am service on Christmas Day. After ringing we opened a box of chocolates a present from Queenie Brown our friend and an ex ringer at St. Michael’s. Thank you, Queenie.

Ben Kipling from Trowbridge, visiting his family, joined us to ring for 3 of the Christmas services.

EACR Northern District held the Annual meeting on Saturday 5th January. Bradley Hill, our Guild Master, was elected as District Deputy Master. Congratulations Bradley.

Peter Smith