

The LINK

30p

March 2019



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

Sunday | 7th March
6.30pm

All-Age Tonight

“Who do you
trust?”





New things happening

Dear Friends,

You may recall that in the autumn, the Parochial Church Council met and agreed a vision, for where we believe God is taking St Michael's Church over the coming months and years. We identified some short, medium and long term priorities and some of the short term things are starting to happen now.

We will be having **Coffee@StMichael's** on the first Thursday of each month, starting on **Thursday 7th March, 10am-12noon** in the church. All are welcome to join us for some nice refreshments and good company. This is for anyone who is around in the day, so please invite others to join us.

We have noticed that the attendance at our monthly midweek Communion has shrunk in size. We have therefore decided to make them occasional, rather than monthly. In March, there will be a Communion service on **Wednesday 6th March** (Ash Wednesday), at the later time of **11am** (due to the school service), but we will not have the regular Communion on the second Wednesday of each month.

On **Sunday 17th March** we will have our first **All-Age Tonight**, a service which is youth-friendly (secondary school age and older), though people of all ages will be very welcome. We will be looking at some **Unlikely Heroes** and starting with the question, "Who do you trust?" Look out for more details in the notice sheet and please plan to come along, even if you don't normally attend at 6.30pm.

In addition to Coffee@StMichael's and All-Age Tonight, we are moving forward in a number of other areas, including work on our online presence (especially our website and Facebook group), holding termly seeker's courses (Life Explored this term) and improving our welcome at church.

As we seek to grow the work at St Michael's, please pray that God would be at work. God graciously chooses to act in our world through us, but things of lasting, eternal value only come from him. We have a wonderful, loving and faithful God.

"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."
(Lamentations 3:22-23)

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

WORLD WARS

Following on from our World War I exhibition last November we are in the process of presenting copies of the displays in folders. These give insight into the lives of people at the time.

We would now like to record the memories of those who lived or served during WW2 or can recount stories from relatives. Please let us have these, and any pictures you have, so that others can benefit from your experiences.

If anyone has served in other conflicts and would like to give us information on these that would be greatly appreciated.

This year is the 80th anniversary of the start of World War 2 and the 75th anniversary of D-Day so there will be much in the news again.

Jenny Chapman, Lin Terris

MISSION OF THE MONTH MAKE JESUS KNOWN (MJK)

MJK is the operating name for St Michael's old boy Tim Cooke's evangelistic work in this country and abroad. Recent European trips have been to Slovakia (quite responsive to the gospel), the Czech Republic (unresponsive, largely atheist) and the Ukraine (very open to the gospel). In each place as in the UK the pattern is to work in schools through lessons and assemblies using music lessons on self-esteem or drug education as a means of engaging the youngsters and to end the week with an evangelistic concert inside or outside the school.

In February after a week in Coventry where some 80 plus came to the concert and 50 made a response a follow up session will be held to create a discipleship group this week. Starting tomorrow (Feb 12th) Tim and co are in a Christian ethos school in Solihull where they will do a concert at the end of each day.

To encourage and support those coming to faith in schools Tim has developed an on-line resource called Faith Gang intended to turn converts into disciples. The newly appointed Faith Gang coordinator hopes that exhibiting at the YEC Conference (Youth Evangelism Conference) will lead more churches and Youth Groups to use this programme.

In early March Tim will be preparing material for the Apps and videos for Tim's Thought for the day on YouTube and Facebook (600 hits so far) and getting ready for the Roadshow at St Michael's on **Saturday March 23rd, 7pm in Church House**, to which all are welcome. The week after they hope to be in Becket Quays school in Brentwood doing a mission.

The I Truth App which is available as a free download continues to be a valuable resource for new and longer standing Christians and those seeking. One example was used as a loop during our WWI exhibition. New segments demand a lot of time and money and MJK was very pleased to get a grant to employ an IT Truth App worker to further explore the use of this social media means of spreading the gospel.

The week from 8th April the team will be in Slovakia doing follow up from the mission last October and working in schools in a town they have not been to before.

Longer term the team hope to be taking missions in Serbia Croatia Macedonia and Kosovo.

Back home please pray that discussions about working with the Police taking lessons followed up by a concert in schools in Oldham and North Wales on violence from a Christian perspective bear good fruit. If it comes off it would be a way of getting the gospel into many schools where there is no Christian message.



**MAKE
JESUS
KNOWN**

ROADSHOW

SATURDAY 23RD MARCH
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BRAINTREE, 7PM

GET YOUR FREE TICKETS ONLINE
WWW.MAKEJESUSKNOWN.COM/ROADSHOW

Roger Cooke

WALK IN THE COUNTRYSIDE

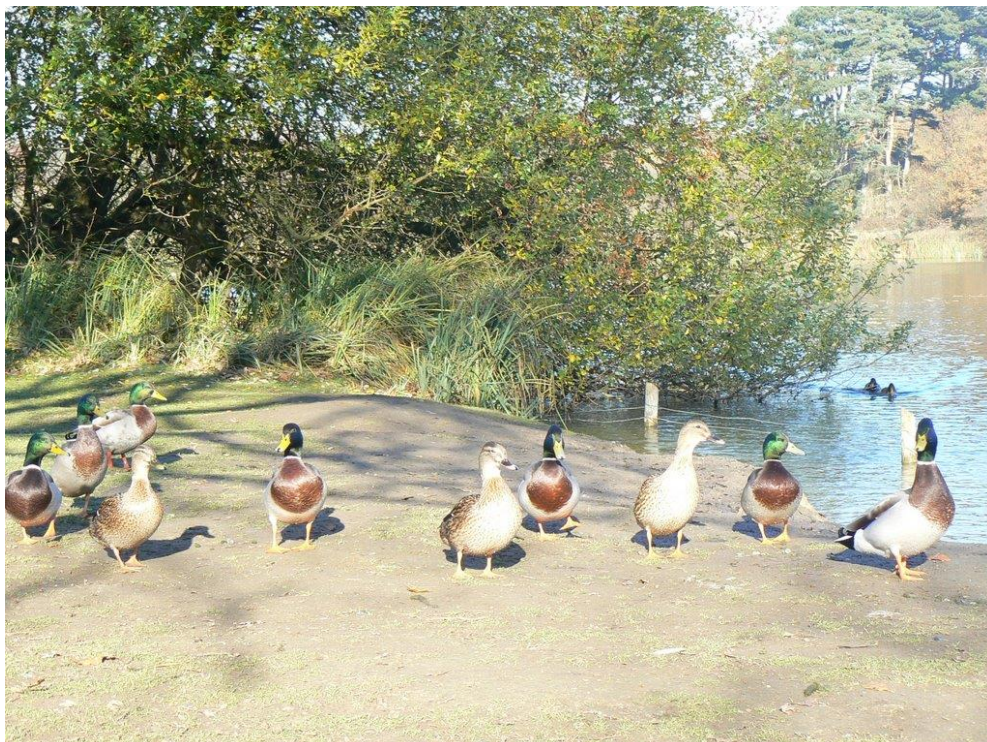
What a pleasure it has been to have other folk joining us for our Saturday afternoon circular walks in the countryside!

During 2019 we are repeating some of the walks we have done over the past few years. Perhaps you would like to join us again or come for the first time. You are very welcome!

Our next 5.5 mile walk on Saturday 23rd March will start from the National Trust car park on the lane signposted to Bush End and Hatfield Forest from BI256 at Takeley. We plan to meet from 12.45 to set off at 2pm. The walk takes us along the Harcamlow Way to join the Flich Way along the edge of Hatfield Forest before entering it. The remainder of the route is across the grassy plains, by the lake and through the woodlands of the forest.

If you have any questions or you wish to share transport just have a word with us.

Terry and Miriam Clark





*Everyone
Welcome*

10am-12noon

Coffee@StMichael's

**Come and join
us on the
First Thursday
of the month in
St Michael's Church**

MARCH DIARY

1 Friday

10.00am Women's World Day of Prayer at St Paul's Church
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

2 Saturday

9.00am Women@St Michael's Saturday School

3 Sunday **Sunday before Lent**

8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Church Family Worship – Doubt – Faith – Action!
6.30pm Evening Worship – An altar to the unknown god
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

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

6 Wednesday – Ash Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
11.00am Holy Communion
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

10.00am Coffee@St.Michael's
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 1st of Lent
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship - Standing firm in the face of temptation
6.30pm Holy Communion/meditation - Let your glory be over all the earth
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

12 Tuesday APRIL LINK SUBMISSION DUE
1.15pm Tiddlywinks
8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting – Church House

13 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

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 2nd of Lent
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion - Plotting, anointing and betrayal
6.30pm All Age Tonight – Who do you trust?
7.30pm Focus

18 Monday

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

19 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

20 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

21 Thursday

- 3.30pm ASK
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 8.00pm Women@StMichael's meal at the White Hart

22 Friday

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

23 Saturday

- 7.00pm Make Jesus Known concert in Church House

24 Sunday 3rd of Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Morning Worship – “Do this in remembrance of me”
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – Paul in Corinth
- 7.30pm Focus

25 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 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

29 Friday

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm Flower Club

31 Sunday 4th of Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Church Family Worship – Mothering Sunday
6.30pm United Service at Cornerstone Church, focusing on the work of Christian Youth Outreach (CYO)

7.30pm Focus

FROM THE REGISTERS

3rd February Baptisms of Adam & Frank Gray

Scripture
Union

TEAM BUILDERS

A SCRIPTURE UNION HOLIDAY CLUB PROGRAMME



ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH

SMASH CLUB

29TH JULY - 2ND AUGUST 2019

DIARY OF A NEW CHURCHWARDEN

20th January

This Sunday service went well, and afterwards David Huxter and I turned on the new remote presentation machine we have in the sound desk. This will allow Nigel and others to control the screen from the front. Now to get it fully connected and everyone ready to use.

29th January

Fabric meetings are one of those that I in a small way enjoy. Whilst we often get down in the amount of work that we need to do to maintain the church and church house, we often find that we get actions in motion that cause change. This meeting we discussed the priorities from a building perspective that we need to carry out. Given the list of urgent things to do I am optimistic that this year we can make big inroads into updating the church buildings with our legacy for future generations. I will be looking for help (financially and time) to enable us to deliver the changes we need to keep the buildings safe and practical for worship.

9th February

The day the wind blew, and we noticed the fence along the lane in church house had fallen. The plan for the approaching work party Saturday took another change. This time it will be clearing a fence ready for removal and replacement.

10th February

The rain fell and again I was moving buckets around the church ahead of the services. The theme of stewardship was one that I felt apt for that day. We need to look after what the Lord has given us.

Dave Marriott

BELFRY BULLETIN

Recently we have had ringing visitors from Witham, Kelvedon, Coggeshall and Boreham to our practice nights. It is a pleasure to welcome ringers from other towers and help with their and our progress to better and wider method ringing.

We were also hosts to two groups of visitors.

On Wednesday 16th January The West Anglian Guild [WAGS] were the visitors to ring 1 1/2hrs in the morning of their AGM. WAGS members enjoyed the ringing and were pleased we had a programme of work planned for the bells. At their AGM they gave a grant of £500 on completion of the work. At the meeting St. Michael's was thanked for hosting the event.

The Northern District of the Essex Association came along on the evening of Saturday 19th January for a well-attended Advance Practice, another enjoyable session.

Prior to the 6.30pm service of Evening Worship on Sunday 20th January we rang a Quarter Peal

1320 changes Plain Bob Minor in 47mins

Gareth Davies 1, Ellie Gray 2, Lin Ould 3, Debbie Hill 4,
Ellis Whitehouse 5, Peter Smith 6, Bradley Hill [c] from the side

This ringing is dedicated to the memory of Fay Ellen Waud, Ellie's Nanna who passed away on 2-1-19 and to celebrate the 80th birthday of Fay's husband, Barry Waud, on 17-1-19.

Barry was in the tower to listen to, watch and record the ringing, with many family and friends listening outside.

Peter Smith