

The LINK

30p

October 2019



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



Confirmation

Dear Friends,

During September, we have the Right Revd Rod Thomas, Bishop of Maidstone, coming to conduct a Confirmation service at St Michael's.

But what is Confirmation? It is a service where the candidates are confirming (agreeing with) the promises that were made for them, by their parents and godparents, when they were baptised as infants (or that they made themselves as adults). These include turning away from sin (wrongdoing) and turning towards Jesus as Saviour.

The Bishop says some significant things to each of the candidates, addressing them by name and saying:

“God has called you by name and made you his own. Confirm, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit.”

The Bishop then asks them some potentially challenging questions, for example,

“Will you persevere in resisting evil and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?”

The answer isn't “Yes” or “I'll try my best”. The answer is, “With the help of God, I will.” I find this answer both realistic and helpful. In different ways, we all struggle to resist evil and do what is right at times. But if we trust in God, we are promised that the Holy Spirit will come and live in us. We resist evil only with the help of God, not in our own

strength alone. I find it a useful prayer to make my own, as I seek to serve God: “With the help of God, I will.”

Would you consider supporting our Confirmation candidates in two ways? The first is to pray for them, as they publicly declare their faith.

The second is to join us for the Confirmation service – it is on Sunday 22nd September at 10am.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

MISSION OF THE MONTH OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



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

Last year the UK sent 511,200 shoebox gifts to children in 11 countries across Eastern Europe, Africa, Central Asia and the Middle East. Of these 100 went from our church. Can we make it more this year?

What goes in a shoebox?

Shoeboxes are packed with gifts such as a soft toy, toy, stationary, toiletries, hat, jewelry. For most children this will be the first present they have received. 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.

Please note: ***from this year we are unable to send toothpaste and sweets.***

The requested transport cost per box is £5.

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. Donations are used there to help fill up some boxes. Monetary gifts are always welcome to aid with transport costs and other expenses.

When does my box need to be ready?

Although the advertised dates are later please can boxes and donations be in church by Sunday November 3rd.

The Greatest Journey

All boxes are distributed by Samaritan's Purse workers linking with local churches. 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 Saturday November 2nd 10-12 noon

Proceeds from this will help with transport costs for the 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. Also to those who have already given me items to go in boxes.

For further information please contact

Jenny Chapman (01376 326030);

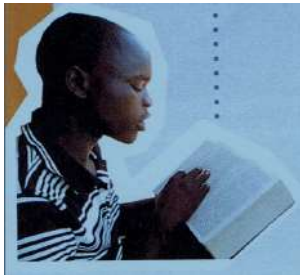
Sue Marriott (01376 349257)

CAN YOU HELP SPONSOR A PASTOR'S TRAINING?



Sangpierre is pastor in The Gambia. He has no pastor's salary so he supports his family by juggling farming with ministry duties. He and his church would be benefit if he had some training in knowing and handling the Bible.

Narciso leads a church in rural Argentina. Like Sangpierre, his church cannot afford to employ him full-time. Again, as a pastor, he and his church would benefit if he could have some training.



Uganda is the home of **Gabriel**. He would like to be a trained pastor. So his fellow local Christians are helping to finance him to get his O-levels and set him on the path to go to Bible college.

CROSSLINKS are asking many churches in the UK to help these men with their training. They have included us.

Here's how we thought we might go about it raising some funds for them. Why not come to 64, Bridport Way at

- 10.30am on Wednesday 16th October for coffee
- Or 10.30am on Saturday 19th October for coffee
- Or 3.00pm for afternoon tea on Thursday 24th October?

It would be good to see you for your own sake, and if you would like to make a contribution at one of those events, like your presence, that would be most welcome.

Stephen & Jennifer Bailey.

JOHN HOWARD 1726-1790

A philanthropist dedicated to prison reform and public health improvement.

Born in 1726 the son of a wealthy upholsterer in Hackney, he was educated in Dissenting circles. His wife was a churchwoman and he attended the parish church with her. In 1742 he inherited wealth and moved to a large estate in Bedfordshire.

In 1773 he became High Sheriff of Bedford. One of his duties was to oversee the county gaol, and he was horrified by conditions there, and visited numerous prisons and hospitals in England, where he found that conditions were just as bad.

His first step was to secure official salaries for gaolers, who hitherto had relied on extorting fees from prisoners for their food, bedding and even their release. This led to 2 parliamentary acts, one abolishing gaolers' fees and one enforcing better conditions to improve prisoners' health.

He then embarked on extensive visits to prisons abroad, oblivious of the dangers of travel and disease, which he financed himself. He made 7 major journeys all over Europe (80,000 kms).

He died in 1790, in the Ukraine, contracting typhoid while visiting a Russian military prison.

His writings included "The state of prisons in England and Wales", which led to the reform act, and "An account of the principal lazarettos in Europe".

The Howard Association was formed in his memory in 1866, and merged in 1921 with the Penal Reform League to become the Howard League for Penal Reform, which nowadays concerns itself with many aspects of the criminal justice system. Its stated aim is: less crime, safer communities and fewer people in prison.

Barbara Wells

WORLD WAR 2 MEMORIES

Helen Kemp has written her memories of her father's life during the war.

'My father was amongst many who were called up. He did not say a lot about his time in the army, but I do know that he was sent to a camp for basic training and then to North Africa. He was lucky enough not to ever encounter front line action. The unit then moved to Italy and upwards through Europe towards Germany. I do remember him saying that they were so far back behind the lines that they didn't know V.E. had been declared until a few days later!

He was one of many in his generation who never took a driving test, but was told to get into a lorry and drive it over rocky terrain on a hillside. He continued to drive army lorries during the war and this qualified him to drive on British roads!'

Thank you to everyone who has given us memories and family stories of life during the 2nd World War. We will be very glad to receive more memories, memorabilia and artefacts for the exhibition to be held around Remembrance Day in November.

Jenny Chapman, Lin Terris



coffee with cops

Your chance to get to know your Local Community Policing Team over a coffee. Ask questions, voice concerns – tell us how we can help you.

Location:

St Michaels Church, Braintree, CM7 1EY

Date / Time:

Saturday 26th October 2019 10am to 12pm



HARVEST FESTIVAL COLLECTION

For our harvest Festival this year we will be supporting the Braintree Area Foodbank with their Harvest Festival Collections. The Foodbank has over 80 agencies that give food vouchers to those in immediate need. We then support them with an emergency food parcel that lasts three to four days. It is our aim to help and support all those in poverty by providing a food parcel for those in crisis across the Braintree District. Since 1st April this year we have fed 1,970 people, 859 of those being children, that is 300 more than the same period last year. This equates to 17,730 meals, averaging 3,546 meals provided per month, to those in need. The most wonderful thing would be that all Foodbanks could close their doors because everyone had sufficient resources to support themselves, but in this time of such uncertainty we cannot see that happening. Anything you are able to give will be much appreciated by those who receive it.

The Foodbank would like to thank you in advance for any donation you give.

God bless

Helen Hopkins

Quiz Night

Wednesday 30th October 2019

7pm for 7.30pm start

at Rayne Village Hall

3 Gore Rd, Rayne, Braintree CM77 8TX

Raffle

Prize for the winning team

Bring your own drinks, nibbles & glasses

£5 per person (max eight per table)

Call 01376 330694 to book your group a table or

Email: info@braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

www.braintreearea.foodbank.org.uk

Thank you so much for your support. Our clients are very grateful. We have again seen much increased levels of need this year. Our warehouse stocks are not as low as at this time last year. However, last winter saw unprecedented levels of need and we gave out more food than we had ever distributed.

We urgently need:

- Instant Mash (Drum or Packet)
- 1lt Long Life Fruit Juice
- Tinned Spaghetti
- Sponge Puddings
- Sugar (500g packs please if possible)



Needed to maintain stocks:

- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Cold Meats—Ham, Corned Beef, Spam
- Tinned Fruit
- Long Life Milk
- Tea Bags (40s or 80s)
- Tinned Tomatoes
- Tinned Rice Pudding
- Deodorant
- Washing Power/Liquid

Due to the generosity of our community, at present we do not need: Toothpaste, Tinned Hot Meat, Baked Beans, Tinned Potatoes, Packs of Pasta.

*** Please note: We often ask for small packs**—Larger packs do not fit in our boxes and make it difficult for our clients to carry home. Also, we are unable (for hygiene reasons) to split large size or catering packs.

PLEASE NOTE: We are grateful for your donations to the Braintree Area foodbank. However, we can only accept donations of freshly-bought, unopened and undamaged goods which are still well within their "use by" date (no less than 6 months). We cannot use items which do not meet these requirements, and the donation is wasted. Thank you.

OCTOBER DIARY

Full details of venues and contacts on Practical Information pages

1 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

2 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

3 Thursday

10.00am Coffee@StMichael's

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study – Check with Jennifer Bailey

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

4 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

5 Saturday

5.45pm Christians in Sport quiz

6 Sunday 16th after Trinity

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Church Family Worship: Harvest: Weeds amongst the Wheat

6.30pm Evening Worship – The Lord is my light and my salvation

7.30pm Focus

7 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

8 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting – Church House

9 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

- 8.30pm Men@StMichael's beer and chat – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Rd
- 10 Thursday**
- 3.30pm ASK
- 12-2.00pm Ladies Autumn Prayer Lunch
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study – Check with Jennifer Bailey
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 11 Friday**
- 2.00pm Bradbury House Service
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 13 Sunday 17th after Trinity**
- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Morning Worship - Mission Fayre: “Go and make disciples of all nations...”
- 6.30pm Holy Communion - Mission Fayre: “Go and make disciples of all nations...”
- 7.30pm Focus
- 14 Monday**
- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House
- 15 Tuesday NOVEMBER LINK SUBMISSION DUE**
- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
- 16 Wednesday**
- 9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study
- 17 Thursday**
- 3.30pm ASK
- 7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study – Check with Jennifer Bailey
- 8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 18 Friday**
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 19 Saturday**
- 8.00am Mens' Breakfast

1.45pm	Countryside Walk
20 Sunday	18th after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion - Human wisdom versus the Spirit's wisdom
6.30pm	All-Age-Tonight – Peter – cracking under pressure. When do we feel the heat?
7.30pm	Focus
21 Monday	
5.30pm	4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm	Bell Ringing
8.00pm	White Horse Tavern – Church House
23 Wednesday	
5.30pm	4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
8.00pm	Lifebuilder Bible Study
24 Thursday	
3.30pm	ASK
7.30pm	Rose Hill Bible Study – Check with Jennifer Bailey
8.00pm	Carry on Exploring Bible Study
25 Friday	
5.30pm	4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
7.30pm	Flower Club
26 Saturday	
9.00am	Church and Church House work party
27 Sunday	Last after Trinity
8.00am	Holy Communion
10.00am	Holy Communion – Baby food and favourites?!
6.30pm	Evening Worship – Paul opposes Peter
7.30pm	Focus
28 Monday	
5.30pm	4th Braintree Beavers
7.30pm	Bell Ringing
8.00pm	White Horse Tavern – Church House
30 Wednesday	
8.00pm	Lifebuilder Bible Study
31 Thursday	

6.30pm	Light Party – Church House
7.30pm	Rose Hill Bible Study – Check with Jennifer Bailey
8.00pm	Carry on Exploring Bible Study

FROM THE REGISTERS

Church and Church House Working Party

Saturday 26 October from 9:00am

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

Jobs planned include:

Church:

- Gutter clearing and checking
- Emergency light testing

Church House & Garden:

- Clearing out cupboards
- Fencing – en garde?
- Cleaning and dusting
- Decorating corridors
- Emergency light testing
- Moving sofa's round

Church House:

- Supporting the team with Tea/Coffee
- Lunch catering



SHOEBOXES

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



COFFEE MORNING

**Saturday November 2nd
10-12 noon**

**St Michael's Church House
Small Hall**



THE SPORTS QUIZ

WHAT

Multimedia Sports Quiz
with Ploughman's Supper
and Apple crumble!

WHERE

St Michaels Church House
St Michaels Lane, CM7 1EY

WHEN

Saturday, 5th October
5:45pm for 6 o'clock start

CONTACT

Church House Office
01376 321248
vicarspa@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk
or Jenny, Jo, Sue or Lin
in Church

TICKETS:

Adults £5
16s and under: £3



Beloved

An evening with Esther Thorpe



/// An inspiring story of finding beauty in the places you might least expect

/// An origami masterclass

/// FRIDAY 29th NOVEMBER 2019

/// 7–9.30pm

/// St. Michael's School Hall

origami
est

BELFRY BULLETIN

BELL RESTORATION UPDATE

The start of the project is almost upon us as on Monday 21st October Whites of Appleton as the main contractors will begin the work to take out the bells and transport them to their works. Local firm Lodges will be responsible for work on the bell frame and ringing chamber which is due to start on Monday 28th October.

In the Welcome Area next to the pigeonholes there is a box for any donations you may like to give, with a brief history of the bells and the way the project came about and has progressed.

To help raise money for the project we are planning a Quiz Night on Saturday 30th November in Church House and would be glad to see teams from St. Michael's taking part.

Looking further ahead we are planning a trip to Whites to see our bells and have a tour of the works to get some idea of the processes that our bells are going through. If you would like to go on this trip there is a sign-up sheet with the donation box in the Welcome Area

Please pray for the smooth running of this part of the project.
Thank You.

FROM THE LOG BOOK

We have had visits from past St. Michael's ringers. Jenny and Mike Hastings, now from York but ringers from at St. Michael's some 40 years ago paid us a visit to ring for Sunday morning service on 11th August. Then a week later we were joined by David and Laura Childs from Bulth Wells, and Tom Childs from Worcester, they only left some 14 years ago.

A Quarter Peal of 1260 changes of Stedman Doubles was rung on Monday 26th August in 43mins, Gareth Bennett 1, Ellie Gray 2, Debbie Hill 3, Vicki Elliott 4, Bradley Hill [c]5, Ellis Whitehouse 6.

Ist in the variation 2, Ist as conductor in the variation 5.

To celebrate Stevie Miller completing her cancer treatment and ringing the bell as she left hospital.

On Saturday we attempted a QP of Plain Bob Major, not successful. We will do it.

Peter Smith

