

The LINK digital

April 2022



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

SACRIFICE

Dear Friends,

The situation in Ukraine, since Russia's invasion, has been one of deep sadness. It has brought into our homes the pictures of war. What has been different for our generation is the immediacy of the reporting – seeing day by day the damage, destruction, injuries and deaths. It shows us, if we needed to see it, the horror, waste and futility of war. Do please continue to pray that a lasting peace can be found.

There was something else, near the beginning of the invasion, that moved me. It was the reporting of families fleeing west, to Poland and the other adjoining countries. As they arrived at the border, many of the Ukrainian men said goodbye to their wives and children ... they then travelled back into Ukraine (men with and without military experience) to take up arms to defend their country. One can only imagine what might have been in their minds as they said their goodbyes. Many people show great sacrifice in times of war – men & women, combatants & civilians, those on both sides of the conflict.

Easter reminds us of the greatest sacrifice ever made. In a sense, it is a sacrifice made in time of war ... God's war against sin and death. It is about a Father sending his Son into battle ... to fight on our behalf against a cunning and ruthless enemy, Satan. It's a battle that we know Jesus won for us. His death paid the price for our sin ... when we say sorry to God, he is able to forgive us completely. And Jesus' rising to life again, on that first Easter Day, gives us the sure and certain hope of eternity with God ... the heavenly hope.

That's what we remember at Easter. We have a lot happening this Easter, including SMASH Club for primary school aged children.

(See details on the next page). Do please join us for some of our services and events – and think if there is a friend, family member or neighbour that you could invite as well.

“He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay.” (Matthew 28:6)

Wishing you every blessing this Easter time,

Nigel



Easter at St Michael's

All services and events are in St Michael's Church, unless shown otherwise

Everyone is most welcome to join us

Mon 11th to Wed 13th April – SMASH Holiday Club

In Church House for Primary School aged children

(Sign up form on the St Michael's Church website Home Page)

Thurs 14th April – Maundy Thursday

8.00pm Holy Communion

Fri 15th April – Good Friday

9.30am United Service at Christ Church Braintree

followed by a Walk of Witness
and short service in George Yard

3.00pm An Hour by the Cross

Sun 17th April – Easter Day

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Easter Family Praise

6.30pm Holy Communion

MISSION OF THE MONTH

CHAIN FOUNDATION

Our links with Chain Foundation as a Church go right back to its beginning. Archbishop Livingstone from Uganda came to St. Michaels in 1999 for our 800th anniversary. This was when we first got to know him and he told us then that he had noticed a real need for children in Uganda who were being orphaned.

In 2001, the Chain Foundation Uganda orphanage was started by retired Archbishop Livingstone Nkoyoyo in response to the needs of local orphans, former street children, abandoned children, and the disabled.

The foundation is home to more than 100 orphans and other vulnerable children, including over 40 blind students.

The Chain Home provides a loving, Christian environment to meet the children's physical, educational, medical, and spiritual needs. The foundation also assists many at-risk or disabled children who live in nearby communities, and provides community education programmes.

The Chain Foundation is located in Mukono, 20 kilometers from the capital city of Kampala.

The School at the Chain Foundation opened in February 2009. It is the first school of its kind in Uganda, integrating blind and sighted children. This model school currently serves over 300 students from the orphanage and from nearby villages. The library at the school has an expansive selection of books, including Braille books for the blind students.

Archbishop Livingstone's nephew Stone is currently one of the main managers at Chain Foundation and has visited St. Michaels on a number of occasions.

Chain Foundation has grown over the years, when my parents visited about 7-8 years ago there was a real need for fresh fruit and veg as it was expensive and the children didn't get very much very often.

Now though, the Chain Foundation have their own farms with animals and plenty of fruit and veg being worked on by the staff, the children and young people learning a trade.

Young people from the surrounding villages learn trade skills including farming, welding, tailoring, shoe making and hairdressing.

All of the work is done against a backdrop of the Chain Foundation sharing the love of Jesus through daily devotionals and their care for the whole area.

David Huxter

ROAD REPAIRS: EASTER REPAIRS

The Coggeshall Road is to be re-surfaced. Each night from March 21st to 31st the road will be closed for repair.

You might say that Easter means that each believing Christian is under repair.

'STAFFORDSHIRE BILL'

William Thomas* was also known as 'Staffordshire Bill'. From his pony and cart he sold fish in 1920s Aberavon in South Wales. More often than not the pony pulled the cart home at the end of the day with Staffordshire Bill lying drunk among the unsold fish at the bottom of the cart.

3 ATTEMPTS

Most Sundays he was among the last to leave the local working men's club with his foul mouth and what was called 'low moral standards', more often than not, drunk. But just before the club closed one Sunday he heard some men talking about a visit one of them had made to hear the new local pastor. 'I was there last Sunday night and the preacher said nobody was hopeless'.

That struck home to Staffordshire Bill and he made up his mind to go to hear the new preacher, Martyn Lloyd Jones.

He set out twice, but it was not until the third Sunday that he had the courage to go through the door into the Chapel.

DRUNKENESS 'REPAIRED'

That Sunday night he heard about the new life Jesus Christ gives. He turned to Jesus Christ and found the life of the risen Lord Jesus was able to break his drink problem. He was a new man.

ONE PROBLEM REMAINED

The risen Lord Jesus enabled him to master his drink issue. But one old power remained: he couldn't master his foul mouth. He was in despair. And one day after swearing and verbally abusing his wife, he called on the risen Lord Jesus to set him free. The risen Lord Jesus did so. He gave him power to master his rotten speech.

THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST

We often speak about the Christian as someone who, having turned to Jesus Christ, and so enjoys the risen life of the Lord Jesus to remake them.

The Apostle Paul writes about the resurrection of Jesus Christ as something that happens to every believing Christian. Have a look at Romans 6:4. Colossians 2:12 & 3:9-11.

William Thomas's experience of being set free from things like the rotting shame of being often drunk among the dead fish and a bad mouth, has been the experience of many Christians since the first resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, and since the 1920s.

AGAIN & AGAIN

Whilst many believing Christians have found the living Lord Jesus able to free them from rotten habits, others have found the old powers in us don't quit so easily. So every day they have had to

call on risen Lord Jesus to kill the old powers and enable them to walk in his ways. When the old powers have triumphed, they've gone back to the Lord Jesus who died, asking for his forgiveness and his resurrection life to get them going again.

Easter says that the living Lord Jesus Christ can and does set us free from those powers within us which drag us away from God.

**The account of the Staffordshire Bill's conversion can be found in Iain Murray's, 'D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones: the First Forty Years' (p222-3, 243-4)*

Stephen Bailey

BE STRONG IN THE LORD

“Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.” (Ephesians 6:10)

Historian Shelby Foote tells of a soldier who was wounded at the battle of Shiloh during the American Civil War and was ordered to go to the rear. The fighting was fierce and within minutes he returned to his commanding officer. "Captain, give me a gun!" he shouted. "This fight ain't got any rear!"

In Ephesians, Paul describes the armour that we should put on daily. Have you ever noticed that every part of the body is covered except for one? The back! The Lord didn't want us to run away and turn our back toward our enemy - it would leave us vulnerable, with no armour to protect us against his attack! And just as a dog would when he senses fear, if we run from the enemy, he will relentlessly chase us until we are broken. But if we take courage and stand strong in the power of God's might, then the battle will be the Lord's... and He has already won the victory!

The battle is raging and "this fight ain't got any rear!" It's time to take up our armour and face the enemy head-on! Don't worry about tomorrow's battles - tomorrow battles may never come. There's no turning back - it's time to press through and press on - and claim His victory today! For today, He's given you the power to be victorious, so boldly walk in it!

Provided by Peter Schaad from the "Worthy Brief"

THE QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE



The Queen's Platinum Jubilee 2022

We are planning to have a display in St Michael's Church of memorabilia relating to the Queen's life so if you have items tucked away that you would be happy to loan to us for the weekend of June 3rd - 6th maybe you could let us know. We will take good care of them and they will not be left unattended.

AND MAYBE GET WRITING!

We know that many people have memories of actually seeing the Queen during her long reign... someone I know was in London for her wedding ... someone else was in London for the funeral of Winston Churchill and saw her there ... others I know have visited the palace for awards ... maybe memories of Street Parties ... so whatever memory you have could you write it up and e mail it to:

[*jennifer.bailey42@tiscali.co.uk*](mailto:jennifer.bailey42@tiscali.co.uk)

We will display these memories in Church and later if there is enough produce a booklet.



St Michael's Church Braintree

Queen's Platinum Jubilee Weekend
Thursday June 2nd – Sunday June 5th 2022

Friday June 3rd

2.30pm – 5.30pm: Garden Party with Cream Teas
in Church Grounds.

Activities for Children with prizes.

**Church Open with a display of Memorabilia and written
memories on display of 'When I met the Queen.'**

Sunday June 5th

9:00am Royal Breakfast in Church House

10:00am Church Family Worship: Open Air Service:
Speaker Roger Cooke.

Celebration Refreshments afterwards.

6.00pm Songs of Praise with Refreshments.

**Watch for sign up lists to volunteer to help with planning and
begin writing your memories ready for display.**

Jennifer Bailey

70 YEARS AGO – THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

*Excerpts from the Parish Magazine of St Michaels and St Pauls,
April 1952*

THE CHALLENGE OF THE WORD OF GOD

It has been said, “Bread is not baked for analysis, but consumption”. It is important to know the Word of God, but more important to obey it.

We are faced with a personal challenge

When I read the Bible it must challenge ME first.

James 1:22-25

Be ye doers of the Word.

2 Timothy 3:16

Scripture is profitable for ... reproof ...

correction.

We are challenged with our need of Salvation

2 Timothy 3:15

The Word reveals the Way of Salvation

1 Peter 1:23

Being born again by the Word of God

We are challenged by Absolute Truth

Psalms 51:6

Thought, attitude, motive.

John 8: 32,40

Facing Truth means making a moral

decision

We are challenged with a Sword that cuts

Ephesians 6:17

Speaks of the Word of God as the Sword

of the Spirit

Hebrews 4:12 *Even wrong intentions revealed*

We are challenged by a high standard of obedience

John 14:15

If ye love me keep my commandments

Acts 5:29

Loyalty inspires obedience

We are challenged with a clear-cut standard of Separation

Romans 12:2 *Be not conformed to this world, but be ye transformed*

John 2:15 *If any man love the World, the love of the Father is not in him*

We are challenged to Fellowship

True Christian Fellowship is costly to Pride and Self.
Acts 2:42,43 and 4:32,33

We are challenged, finally, to Evangelise

Mark 16:15,16 & Acts 1:8

God holds us responsible, not for results, but for faithfulness in presenting the Gospel to others Ezekiel 33:8,9

Provided by Lesley Davey

BELFRY BULLETIN

My apologies to Bradley Hill for omitting to report in last month's Bulletin that the Quarter Peal rung on 6th February was his 50th as conductor 75th . well done Bradley.

We welcomed Richard Ould back to service ringing, following his knee operation, on Sunday 20th March, it is great to have you back Richard.

The Essex Association of Change Ringers have a Young Ringers group that take part in striking competitions and have practices in the county's towers. It was good to welcome a group of 14 drawn from 4 different church's to St Michael's on Saturday 26th March to practice for the Ringing World National youth contest to be held at Exeter on 2nd July. With our best wishes.

Rosie Gray is progressing nicely and can now ring a bell on her own and has managed to toll all of our ten bells. With a little help from Bradley she rang the 2nd bell to rounds with nine other ringers in rounds on ten.

AWAY FROM THE TOWER

Bradley Hill spent a few days in Bristol with sister Jodie and rang at Radcliff practice night. Mum Debbie joined them and they rang for morning service at Bristol Cathedral and then made the short walk to Christchurch to ring for the service there passing a tea shop on the way. Well not passing as they popped in for slice of cake.

Peter was in a band drawn from The Golden Oldies to ring a Quarter Peal at Fulbourn.

Bradley went snowboarding and skiing and thankfully came back in one piece with nothing in plaster. PHEW

On Saturday 12th March Bradley organised a day's ringing Debbie, Jodie, Bradley and Peter went to ring 5 Quarter Peals in a day. Debbie, Bradley and Peter rang in all 5 with Jodie ringing in 4. During the Day Bradley rang his 175th QP and his 150th with Debbie. This was Debbie's Birthday treat.

Bradley was invited to ring at Writtle with the Essex Association's 10 bell striking competition band. Well done Bradley.

Down in Bristol Jodie rang a QP with the Bristol University Guild. Another Bradley QP day was 19th March when Debbie rang in 4, Bradley rang in 4, Peter rang in 4, Lin rang in 1 and Ellis rang in 1.

And another Bradley QP day Saturday 26th March, this time Debbie was in 5, Bradley was in 5 as was Peter. Another enjoyable day.

Peter Smith

APRIL DIARY

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

We have services every Sunday at 10am in St Michael's Church and at 8am (Holy Communion) and 6.30pm (Holy Communion or All-Age Tonight) generally fortnightly. Apart from when it is a family service in church there is Junior Church (3-14 years) in Church House (our church halls).

Our YouTube services can be accessed via the Worship tab on the St Michael's Church website (or through the "St Michael's – Worship on the Web" YouTube channel). The latest service is also available through "St Michael's by Phone" currently updated on a Tuesday – just dial 01376 333565 (phone calls charged at the local rate). Both the online and phone versions of the service are available throughout the week

3 Sunday

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Morning Worship

6.30pm Holy Communion

4 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home on Zoom (with Nigel & Jo Adams)

10 Sunday (Stewardship Sunday)

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Holy Communion

6.30pm All-Age Tonight

11 Monday

9:30am – 12.30pm SMASH Holiday Club

7:30pm Bell Ringing

12 Tuesday

9:30am – 12.30pm SMASH Holiday Club

8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting on Zoom

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

13 Wednesday

9:30am – 12.30pm SMASH Holiday Club

14 Thursday (Maundy Thursday)

8:00pm Holy Communion

15 Friday (Good Friday)

9:30am United Service at Christ Church Braintree followed by a
Walk of Witness and short service in George Yard

3.00pm An Hour by the Cross

17 Sunday (Easter Day)

8:00am Holy Communion

10:00am Easter Family Praise

6.30pm Holy Communion

18 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

19 Tuesday

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

21 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (Church House)

24 Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Morning Worship

25 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm Living Christianity "Question Box" on Zoom

26 Tuesday

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

27 Wednesday (LINK SUBMISSION DUE)

10.00am Meeting Point

28 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (Church House)