

The LINK digital

June 2022



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

QUEEN'S PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS

Dear Friends,

I hope you will be able to join us for some of the Jubilee Weekend celebrations at St Michael's. Please see the details on the following page and consider inviting someone to join you.

It will be great to get together, as we celebrate the Queen's remarkable achievement of her 70 year reign.

The Queen has increasingly referred to her Christian faith in her Christmas Day broadcasts. In 2016, she spoke of Jesus' example:

"Jesus Christ lived obscurely for most of his life and never travelled far. He was maligned and rejected by many, though he had done no wrong. And yet, billions of people now follow his teaching and find in him the guiding light for their lives. I am one of them because Christ's example helps me see the value to doing small things with great love, whoever does them and whatever they themselves believe."

That faith has clearly sustained her, through 70 years of duty and service, and as she has faced both national and personal difficulties and challenges. It is a reminder, for all of us, that Jesus is both an example and a strength for us in good times and bad.

I hope you will be able to enjoy something of the Jubilee Weekend.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel



PLATINUM JUBILEE
Celebration of Faith & Service

70



**Queen's Jubilee
Celebrations at
St Michael's Braintree**

Friday 3rd June

2.30-5.00pm in St Michael's Church grounds

**Cream teas, activities for adults & children, music,
church open for tours – memorabilia & memories exhibition.
Victoria Sponge Cake Competition (judging at 4.30pm)**

Sunday 5th June

9.00am Royal Breakfast! (All welcome)

**10am Outdoor All-Age Service of Thanksgiving
(bring a chair if possible)**

**6pm refreshments for 6.30pm Songs of Praise
(in church)**

**Do come and enjoy!
Bring your friends – everyone welcome**

MISSION OF THE MONTH BARNABAS FUND

Barnabas Fund is an organisation who supports the persecuted church, mainly in Muslim dominated countries.

They started a new outreach to fight hunger: **You share it. We ship it.**

We are asked to commit to putting together a monthly food box of dry food items (we will tell you which items we currently need). You could do this as an individual, a family, a Sunday School class, a Bible Study group or any other group.

Don't worry if you cannot fill a box to the top each month. Just give what you can. They will send a *food.gives* Starter Pack containing everything you need to get started.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.food.gives/gb/>

"You see that people are justified by what they do and not by faith alone." (James 2:24)

I have been supporting Barnabas for a number of years.

Peter Schaad - St Michael's rep for Barnabas Fund

THE VIRTUE OF A CASSETTE

If you don't know what a cassette is, ask your grandparents! They are made of strong plastic and form a little box about 10cm long, 6.5cm wide and 1cm thick.

They contain a spool of thin recording tape. They were very popular in the 1980s. We still have a box of them, but they are not widely used nowadays, as music is now available on YouTube.

MISTAKEN LABEL

However, one caught my attention; it was labelled... 'Exam Piece'. Thinking that it must be a recording of music which someone in the family was using to listen to practise for a piano exam, I played it. Instead of piano music, I recognised 'ABBA'. (If you don't know them, again ask your grandparents!)

The point about these old cassettes is that you could erase them and record something new. Whoever recorded ABBA had not rubbed out the old title and put in the new!

A GIFT

I was recently given a book of prayers by Christians from the past as well as the present. The book includes prayers of praise and thanksgiving. It has imaginative intercessions and prayers of confession, which are coupled (often) with a statement of forgiveness.

HELPFUL PSALM

In these prayers of confession, Psalm 103 kept popping up.

Here are the popular words that seem to be a helpful favourite to those who put together a prayer to help them ask for God's forgiveness.

*As far as the east is from the west,
So far does he remove our transgressions from us.
(Psalm 103:12).*

The prayers of confession in my new book impressed on me how often truly great Christians, both modern and ancient, feel their need to confess to their heavenly Father. I think that is a sign that the Lord Jesus is renewing them by his Holy Spirit.

ERASING THE CASSETTE

I suppose that if someone was trying to describe God's forgiveness in the age of the cassette, they might say, he erases the past. He cleans the tape. They are lost, no more to be remembered. There is no record of them.

However, I think you have to go a long way to beat how our forgiveness is described in Psalm 103!

Stephen Bailey

FARMING SEASON

May has brought us some much needed rain which is good news for the crops in our part of the world and now things are beginning to look better although there is still a long way to go before harvest. June is always a key month to determine whether it will be good wheat harvest. My grandad used to say 'a dripping June keeps all things in tune', although many of you might not think this is so great! All of the liquid fertilizer has now been applied and we are currently spraying the crops for foliar diseases with fungicides. The purpose of this is to keep the plant free from diseases so the leaves will be larger and greener allowing more photosynthesis and potential grain development.

At the beginning of May, on the first bank holiday weekend, we went as a family to Bible by the Beach in Eastbourne. After over two years, with many large gatherings being cancelled, it was really good to return to events such as these. The weekend comprises of services, varying group talks which you can select, and lots of children's work and activities with over 300 children attending as well. There was a great vibe about the place and many people appeared pleased to get back to normal. We met Nigel and Jo there as well, who were there with their family.



The BIG news on the farm for May is that on Saturday 21st Cherry, our red Labrador, delivered her puppies so her field walking duties will be on hold for a while. We now have ten puppies, five black, three red and two golden should anyone know a good home for one? So far Cherry has been a brilliant mum, as handling this amount of pups would be a challenge for any bitch. Watching the whole process closely has reminded me again of how miraculous nature is and how

precious new born life can be.

Looking forward to June we will start to make preparations for harvest which will involve servicing the combine and getting our cultivation implements ready to go. This is now probably one of my favourite times of the year as the fields and countryside are all starting to look their best and the longer evenings give us more time to appreciate our gardens and the beautiful countryside around us. We will all be looking forward to the Queens Platinum Jubilee celebrations with the bank holiday coming soon. As our longest serving monarch it is likely to be some time, if ever, that this achievement happens again. I can still remember giving the Queen a little posy of flowers at her Silver Jubilee Celebrations, which must be one of my earliest memories.



Adam Grove Smith

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR JENNIFER CHAPMAN



I and my family are holding a memorial service for Jenny at 2 pm on Monday, the 11th of July 2022, at St Michael's Church followed by refreshments in Church House.

We extend a warm welcome to all church members and friends who may wish to remember and celebrate her life to come along to this service and occasion.

Please put the date in your diary, and I look forward to seeing you all there.

Derek Chapman

A TEST OF CHARACTER

“The integrity of the upright shall guide them: but the perverseness of transgressors shall destroy them.” (Proverbs 11:3)

Bobby Jones was one of the greatest golfers to ever compete, uniquely known for winning the "Grand Slam" of golf winning all four major tournaments in the U.S. and Britain in a single year. In 1925, early in his career, having reached the final playoff in the U.S. Open, at a certain point in the match, Jones was setting up to strike his ball which was in the rough just off the fairway. His iron accidentally touched the ball. He immediately became angry with himself, turned to the marshals, and called a penalty on himself.

But the marshals had not seen the ball move, so they left the decision to Jones, whether to invoke the penalty -- a two-stroke penalty. Bobby called the penalty on himself, not knowing that he would lose the tournament by a single stroke.

When praised for his honesty, he replied, "You may as well praise a man for not robbing a bank!" Jones may have lost the tournament, but his character was legendary and today the United States Golf Association's award for sportsmanship is known as the "Bobby Jones Award."

It's been said, "Character is what you do when nobody is watching. Character is how you treat people who can do absolutely nothing for you. Character is how you react when the pressure is on. Character is deciding beforehand that you are going to do the right thing."

Every day we're faced with decisions -- many of which are made when no one is watching, at least no one we can see. But let's

purpose in our hearts to do the right thing -- because character truly counts. We may not see the dividends immediately -- but be assured that God is keeping track of our decisions, and He will make good on every one!

Supplied from "Worthy Brief" by Peter Schaad

70 YEARS AGO – THE LIFE OF OUR CHURCH

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

PARISH NOTES

The Bible Studies on Wednesday evenings at 7.30 are being quite well attended, but we long to see many more gathering to study God's Word each week. Please note that the *first* Bible Study of June will be on Tuesday, June 3rd instead of Wednesday, but will then revert to Wednesday evenings.

The Rev. Churchman's Institution as vicar of St Peter's, Harold Wood will take place on Friday, June 20TH at 7.30p.m. A bus will be going from Braintree, and all who wish to book a seat should inform the vicar or wardens immediately.

The ordination of Mr. Martin will take place in Chelmsford Cathedral at 10.30a.m. on Trinity Sunday, June 8th. Your prayer for him at this time is earnestly requested, that he may be conscious of being sent forth to the work of the Ministry by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

The Rev. Hartley Brook is in hospital at present, and you are asked to remember him constantly in your prayers.

Our offerings on Whit Sunday will be devoted to the support of Our Own Missionaries, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Crow. The weekly offering promise will be allocated to this purpose, together with any further monies offered. They are now living in Braintree for the remainder of their furlow. Their address is Marshall's Cottage, London Road, which is reached by Marshall's Lane.

The Primary Sunday Schools' treat will be a picnic for the “under eights” at Collops Farm, Stebbing (by kind permission of Mr Chopping) on June 21st. We are sorry that mothers cannot be included this year. Children's tickets will be 6d. each for those whose names have been on the register since May 4th.

Grateful acknowledgment is made to “L. Parsons” for a gift sent as a memorial.

The publication of the July magazine will be on Thursday, June 26th. Any matter for inclusion should reach the vicar by June 15th.

UNNAMED

BELFRY BULLETIN

WHAT A SURPRISE WE HAD AT OUR PRACTICE NIGHT ON MONDAY 16TH MAY. WE HAD JUST FINISHED A PIECE OF RINGING WHEN THE DOOR OPENS AND IN COMES Debbie Hill who had warned us she was running late. Then the surprise as in comes Bradley, what a lovely surprise that was, just 3 weeks after his accident. It is great to have you back with us Bradley.

Ringling is progressing well with Lin Ould mastering Cambridge Surprise Minor and Stedman Doubles. Ellis Whitehouse ready for a QP of Stedman Doubles and a regular conductor of Plain Minor and Doubles methods, Richard Ould getting comfortable ringling the Tenor behind, trebling to Doubles and inside to Plain Bob Doubles after his knee operation and Rosie Gray ringling rounds and simple call changes unaided.

The broken stay on the 4th bell was removed by Simon and Kieran Ward on Friday 29th April in preparation for a new one to be installed.

On Saturday 30th April a Quarter Peal of 1260 changes in 47mins of Grandsire Caters was rung. The footnote describes the reason.

[Rung for Tower Captain Bradley Hill wishing him a speedy recovery and in celebration of Bradley's dedication to Braintree Tower and EACR Northern District](#)

The ringers were...*1, Peter Smith, 2 Peter Chapman, 3 Debbie Hill, 4 Jim Green, 5 David Newton, 6 Vicki Elliott, 7 Simon Ward[c], 8 John Elliott.*

A new stay kindly made by John Elliott was fitted to the 4th by Simon and Kieran Ward on Friday 6th May.

We were hosts to the Northern Districts monthly Advanced practice on Saturday 21st May with 10 members attending and 8 methods were rung, 1Doubles, 1 Surprise Minor, 2 Triples, 2 Major, 1 Caters and 1 Royal. A very successful evening.

AWAY FROM THE TOWER

Debbie and Peter were very pleased to be asked to ring in a Quarter Peal at Great Bardfield to celebrate the Diamond wedding anniversary of Peter and Marian Wood both life members of the Essex Association.



The Northern District held its striking competition on Saturday 30th April at Great Easton. Debbie and Peter joined 4 ringers from Wethersfield to form a band and help win the Trophy.

Here are pictures of the Trophy and the winner's certificate.



Debbie and Peter felt honoured to be in the band to ring a QP to celebrate the life of Hazel Joy Threadgold, daughter of Roy and Cherry Threadgold ringers at Wethersfield and of Boydells Farm.

Peter was in the band that rang for the Black Notley Flower Festival evening service.

Peter rang a QP with some friends at Henham on Friday 20th May.

Debbie spent the weekend of 21/22nd May in Bristol and when there she usually rings on Sunday morning it was reported, I cannot say by whom other than it was her son, that she did not ring on 22nd as she did not get up in time!!!

Peter Smith

COFFEE & CHAT WITH ROGER COOKE



Third Monday coffee and conversation

Five of us met on the third Monday of May and had a good chat.

I shall be in Quandrants cafe on **20th June** at **10.30am** so if you'd like to join me you'd be very welcome!

Looking forward to seeing you.

Roger Cooke

QuizPage

Hello again and welcome to the second instalment of *QuizPage*! This is your monthly mélange of teatime teasers to test your wits and skills.

Hopefully you enjoyed Countdown last month (missed it? – head back to the May edition!) and now for June, here's a trivia quiz themed loosely on "kings" and "queens" as a nod to the Platinum Jubilee.

We have ten questions plus a bonus game, and those of you familiar with Jeff's online *QuizNight* every so often will recognise how this is set out. Question 1 is worth one point, question 2 offers you two points and so on, as they become harder or more involved (or both), up to question 10 worth ten points. Our bonus at the end will boost your score by up to another 15 points.

Ready? Good luck, we begin with a general knowledge question for one point...

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1. In which world-famous rock group was Freddie Mercury the lead vocalist and Brian May the guitarist?
 2. The 1980 horror film "The Shining" is based on a 1977 novel by which author? (one point for the forename, one point for the surname).
 3. Which English civil engineer, born in 1806, is associated with the Great Western Railway and the Clifton Suspension Bridge? (a point for each part of the name).

4. Queen Elizabeth II became monarch in 1952. But who was on the throne in the years ending “52” before that? For four points, join up the correct names to the correct years...

1552
1652
1752
1852

George II
Victoria
Edward VI
There was no monarch!

5. This is a multiple choice question worth five points. Only one answer is correct, but if you’re not sure which is right, you can cover as many options as you like with a share of the marks (e.g. 3-0-1-1, or 1-1-2-1, or 0-5-0-0 etc).

What is the chemical symbol for platinum?

Pl	
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Pm	
----	--

Pn	
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Pt	
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6. Written by Agatha Christie, which play opened in the West End in 1952, after having originally been named “Three Blind Mice”?

7. What is the principal colour on the wingspan of a monarch butterfly?

8. “Only By The Night” was a 2008 album released by which band?

9. Pearly kings and queens have been established in London since the late 19th century and their traditions pass through families to this day. Greater London is made up of 32 boroughs, so for nine points, can you name nine of them? As an added twist, they start with 14 different letters of the alphabet, so please think of different answers beginning with different letters.

B		C	
E		G	
H		I	
K		L	
M		N	
R		S	
T		W	

10. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, “king bee” is an outdated, historic term for a “queen bee”. For ten points, is that true or false?

Bonus: The Queen has four children, eight grandchildren and twelve great-grandchildren. For an extra 15 points, can you name any 15 of them? First names will suffice – kudos for surnames, titles etc. No in-laws, please.

Turn to pages 26-27 for the answers and the scoring.

Jeff Clayton

JUNE DIARY

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

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

2 Thursday

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

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

3 Friday

2.30pm Queen's Platinum Jubilee Celebration

5 Sunday

9:00am Royal Breakfast (All welcome)

10:00am Outdoor All-Age Service of Thanksgiving

6.00pm Refreshments

6.30pm Songs of Praise

6 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

7 Tuesday

8:00pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

8 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

9 Thursday

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

12 Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship

13 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

14 Tuesday

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

15 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

16 Thursday

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

19 Sunday

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship

6.30pm All-Age Tonight

20 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

21 Tuesday

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

22 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

23 Thursday

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

26 Sunday

8.00am Holy Communion

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship: Suffering Church Sunday

27 Monday (LINK SUBMISSION DUE)

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

28 Tuesday

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

29 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

30 Thursday

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

QuizPage

Answers (maximum 55 points):

1. Queen; 2. Stephen King; 3. Isambard Kingdom Brunel.

4. 1552 – Edward VI; 1652 – no monarch (interregnum between Charles I and Charles II); 1752 – George II; 1852 – Victoria. 5. Pt; 6. The Mousetrap.

7. Orange – named after Prince William of Orange, of Dutch heritage, and known latterly in England as King William III (reigned 1689-1702). 8. Kings of Leon.

9. Barking & Dagenham; Barnet; Bexley; Brent; Bromley; Camden; City of London; Croydon; Ealing; Enfield; Greenwich; Hackney; Hammersmith & Fulham; Harrow; Haringey; Havering; Hillingdon; Hounslow; Islington; Kensington & Chelsea; Kingston; Lambeth; Lewisham; Merton; Newham; Redbridge; Richmond; Southwark; Sutton; Tower Hamlets; Waltham Forest; Wandsworth; Westminster.

10. This is true! Happily, this is not a tale of an extinct species, but instead it shows how our language has evolved with our understanding of the roles played by male and female bees.

Bonus (maximum 15 points; answers in alphabetical order):

Children (4): Andrew, Anne, Charles, Edward.

Grandchildren (8): Beatrice, Eugenie, Harry, James, Louise, Peter, William, Zara.

Great-grandchildren (12): Archie Harrison, August Philip, Charlotte, George, Isla, Lena Elizabeth, Lilibet Diana, Louis, Lucas Philip, Mia Grace, Savannah, Sienna Elizabeth.

As befits a Platinum Jubilee, the maximum score is **70 points**.

How did you do?

Looking ahead to July, our next *QuizPage* will be based on the 1980s/90s TV show **Chain Letters** – take a word, change a letter, do it again, and you've got a chain!

So keep well, stay safe and see you next time.