

# The LINK

hardcopy

July 2022



The Parish Church of  
St Michael Braintree  
[www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)

## SUMMER @ ST MICHAEL'S

Dear Friends,

In the six weeks of the school holidays, we will be having 10am family services focusing on some “Friends of Jesus”.

- On Sun 24<sup>th</sup> July, we will look at a generous boy, whose gift to Jesus led to **the Feeding of the 5,000**, and will be thinking about how we can give what we have.
- On Sun 31<sup>st</sup> July, we learn from **Martha & Mary's** time with Jesus, and how listening to Jesus is more important than being busy.
- On Sun 7<sup>th</sup> Aug, we reflect on **Jesus' calling of Levi** – that Jesus didn't come to call righteous people, but sinners.
- On Sun 14<sup>th</sup> Aug, we consider “**doubting Thomas**”, who believed because he saw Jesus.
- On Sun 21<sup>st</sup> Aug, we have the Kralovi family (Crosslinks missionaries) with us and learn about **Andrew**, the disciple who told others about Jesus. (This will be followed by a fish & chip lunch in Church House and an opportunity to hear more about Jirka & Keira's work in the Czech Republic).
- And on Sun 28<sup>th</sup> Aug, we learn from the example of **James & John** what true greatness looks like.

We learn that **Jesus had a wide range of friends** and others that he related to – young & old, men & women, “respectable” & less respected, faithful & those struggling with their faith. Jesus consistently acted in **love and kindness** to everyone he met. He accepted people as they were, but he didn't leave them as they were.

My hope and prayer is that, as we reflect on the loving kindness of Jesus, shown to many people, we might both grow in our love for him and learn from his loving example.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel



## **MISSION OF THE MONTH** **LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP**

### **'GOD IS GOOD'. 'ALL OF THE TIME'**

We used to hear this greeting in Kenya. You would say to me, 'God is good'. My response to you is 'All of the time'.

On Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2013 at least 4 gunmen attacked shoppers in Nairobi's Westgate shopping centre. It was reported that 71 people were killed.

Yet God is still good. Here is a genuine example of his goodness.

### **DR GLADYS MWITI**

Having studied for her doctorate, Gladys returned to Nairobi launching 'OASIS AFRICA COUNSELLING CENTRE'. This was set up in her community because of the suffering she observed. She, as a Christian, set out to help victims of the 13<sup>th</sup> September tragedy.

### **RWANDA**

Her work was soon extended. She has been helping folk deeply scarred by the Rwanda genocide. Today, it is said of her that she is a global authority on trauma counselling.

### **HER OWN WORDS**

This is what Gladys says about why she does this work. 'For me, my theme in life is to know Christ and make him known'

### **LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP**

Here then is a convinced Christian lady, selected by her church because of her ability and sent to study and train under LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP (LP). Now she is using her skills and knowledge of Jesus to heal in a traumatised world.

**'GOD IS GOOD'. 'ALL OF THE TIME'**

Gladys and the work of LANGHAM PARTNERSHIP show that God is still good to his troubled world. His goodness often takes time. Gladys had to leave her home to study so that she could help. LP had to provide for her training. Now in East Africa and globally others are rejoicing in God for the Christian Gladys' of this world and for the kind of things LP does.

**MISSION OF THE MONTH**

In July we shall be praying for Langham Partnership. It is good to thank God for Christians like Gladys with God given ability who have been trained to help folk in deep sadness in a Christian way.

*Stephen Bailey - St Michael's rep for Langham Partnership*

## FARMING SEASON

I hope everybody has been enjoying the summer weather. Unfortunately for us farmers it has been too dry and although the sunshine is welcome the dry conditions mean the ears of grain will not reach their full potential and the plant will begin to die off early. No significant rainfall is forecast in the coming week, however with Wimbledon starting hopefully some heavy downpours might appear! In parts of France the barley harvest will have already started and many countries in Europe are normally ahead of us. My Dad used to remind me how big our planet is by saying that somewhere in the world everyday there is a harvest! The wheat harvest is looking like it will be marginally early depending on how hot and dry the weather gets in July, so we could be harvesting by the end of the month.

The war in Ukraine and Covid pandemic continue to have implications for our industry. Food commodity price continue to remain near record levels however they have now fallen off their highs with the expectation of a reasonable harvest in Europe. Global supply chains are still struggling from the pandemic and waiting times for spare parts and new machines have become a problem for some farmers. This is nothing compared to the problems some Ukrainian farmers face, who have had their farms raided by Russian troops with their equipment and grain taken and their land nationalized by the Russian state.

I hope these man made disasters, including climate change, will remind all of us what a precious and delicate world we live in and when we (mankind) are irresponsible and selfish ultimately the biggest losers will be us and future generations. Despite our constant mistakes nature has a wonderful ability to keep regenerating and giving which is something we can always thank God for.



On a brighter note the puppies our dog Cherry had are all doing well and are now almost completely weaned. They have indeed brought fun and excitement to certain members of our household and many visitors, but I think Rachel and myself will be pleased to see them go to their new homes in a few weeks time. Ten puppies have been a lot to handle and although some breeders may have been pleased I would have preferred about five! This is not something we will put Cherry through again either. They often say that a litter is

good for the dog however I'm not convinced she would agree with that. The good news is Cherry has now fully recovered from the ordeal but I think she would like a bit more attention and less to the puppies.

Sadly last year our Combine driver left the farm so this year we will be training a new driver for harvest. We are not at the stage yet where combines can drive themselves which is a good thing because the combine driver can really get a good insight into which parts of the field are performing as the yield meter estimates the real time crop yield as the machine moves along. I find this particularly fascinating so it's a good job the combine

can steer itself! At the moment we have the combine in the yard checking everything from the belts to the bearings so nothing should go wrong when the time comes to get going. After we do start harvest we will hoping for a nice warm, dry and sunny period so this will be a time when we can all be enjoying good weather together!



*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

## **DON'T LOOK DOWN!**

***“O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvellous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.” (Psalm 98:1)***

Years ago, a young sailor went to sea for the first time. Not long after setting sail his ship encountered a heavy storm and the sailor was commanded to go aloft and trim the sails. About three-quarters of the way up, the young sailor made the mistake of looking down. The roll of the ship combined with the tossing of the waves made for a frightening experience. The young man started to lose his balance. At that moment, an older sailor underneath him shouted, "Look up, son! Look up!" The young sailor did as he said -- he looked up, and regained his balance.

Similarly, when our focus is on the circumstances that we face, the waves of life, we can easily lose our balance and our direction. But when we change our focus and simply "look up", our internal spiritual compass fixed on the Lord will restore our stability, and enable us to finish the assignments we've been given and get to the top!

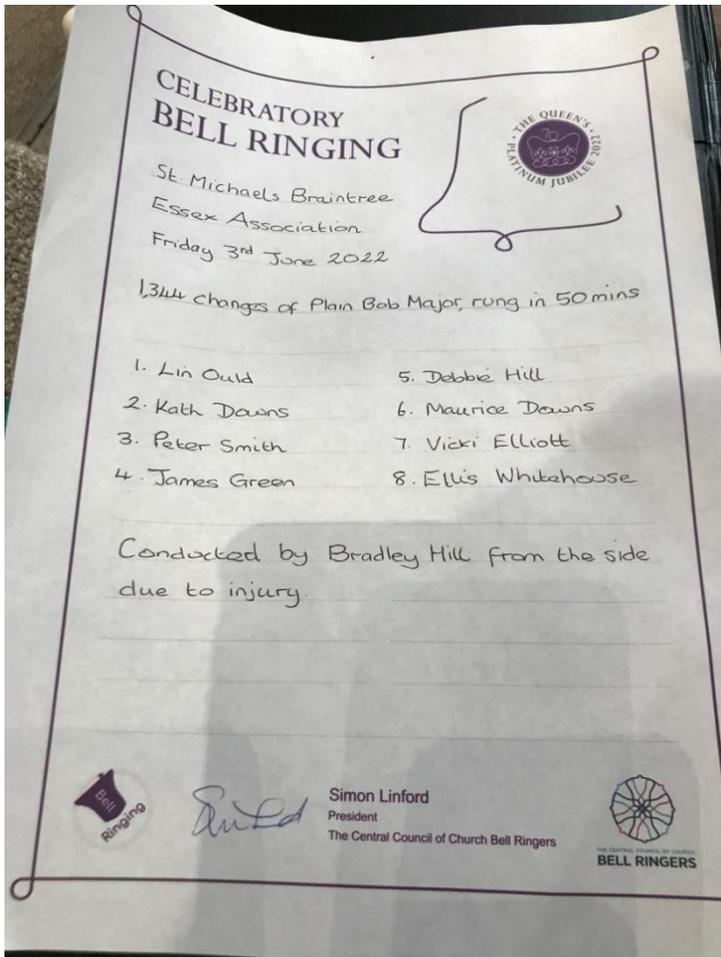
Are you feeling unstable today? Look up! The Lord will steady you. Heaven is your goal and God will provide the power and direction to bring you safely there!

*Supplied by Peter Schaad from "The Worthy Brief"*

# BELFRY BULLETIN

Lately holidays have interrupted our regular ringing pattern and we apologise for not ringing for some services.

As a prelude to the St. Michael's Church Garden Party on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022 to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee we were very pleased to ring a very nice Quarter Peal of 1340 changes in 50mins of Plain Bob Major. Bradley Hill conducted from the side with ringers 1 Lin Ould, 2 Kath Downs, 3 Peter Smith, 4 James Green, 5 Debbie Hill, 6 Maurice Downs, 7 Vicki Elliott, 8 Ellis Whitehouse.



This is a picture of the certificate from the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers recording this performance.

Judging by the comments made to us at the Garden Party our ringing was very well received and we thank you for your kind comments.

I hope like me you found the occasion a very enjoyable and interesting afternoon of celebration. The cream tea was delicious, or “Yummy” as my Granddaughter would say.

CAN WE FIND AN EXCUSE OR MAYBE A REASON TO DO IT AGAIN NEXT YEAR!?

Thank you to all those who worked so hard to make this such a success.

On Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022 we rang a Quarter Peal of Plain Bob Doubles in 42 mins. This was Jodie Hill's 1<sup>st</sup> QP on an inside bell at her 1<sup>st</sup> attempt, congratulations Jodie. 1 James Green, 2 Jodie Hill, 3 Debbie Hill [c], 4 David Newton, 5 Simon Ward, 6 Peter Smith. This QP was to celebrate Bradley Hill's 28<sup>th</sup> and Peter Smith's 84<sup>th</sup> birthdays. Someone [Debbie] has written in our Log Book that Bradley is 1/3 of Peters age OR Peter is 3 times older than Bradley!! 😊😊

Before the 10am Morning Worship on 19<sup>th</sup> June we rang another QP this time 240 changes of Plain Bob Double, 240 of St. Simons 240 of Grandsire, 240 of St Martins and 300 changes of Plain bob doubles to finish 1 Jodie Hill, 2 James Green[c], 3 Debbie Hill[c], 4 Peter Smith[c], 5 Simon Ward[c], 6 Maurice Downs. Bradley called the final 300 changes from the side.

AWAY FROM THE TOWER

Peter rang a QP of Plain Bob Minor at Kelvedon on 28<sup>th</sup> March and then on 29<sup>th</sup> for morning communion at Black Notley. On 3<sup>rd</sup> June Jodie Hill rang with the University of Bristol Society to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, and on 4<sup>th</sup> June, again with UBS, her longest length QP of 2880 changes of Plain Bob Minor.

*Peter Smith*

## COFFEE & CHAT WITH ROGER COOKE



Third Monday coffee and conversation

Group of us met again on the third Monday in June and had a good chat.

I shall be in Quandrants cafe on **18th July** at **10.30am** so if you'd like to join me you'd be very welcome!

Looking forward to seeing you.

*Roger Cooke*



Hello and welcome again to *QuizPage*! They say the proof of the pudding is in the eating, so every month we whip up a fresh selection of tempting puzzles for you to sink your teeth into, and hopefully, victory tastes sweet and isn't too sticky.

For July, we're back to word games with a revival of a 1980s/90s game show called **Chain Letters**. We give you a word, then you change one letter to produce another word, and change another letter to give another word, or add a letter where you see "+". It's a simple concept, there might be more than one possible answer in each row, but beware the dead ends!

There are six grids, of varying difficulty, building up to the SuperChain where we'll want a sequence of 10 changes between the first word and the last word.



## JULY DIARY

[www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)

Our YouTube services can be accessed through the “St Michael’s – Worship on the Web” YouTube channel and are generally updated during the week after the Sunday service

### **3 Sunday**

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

10:00am Church Family Worship followed by a BBQ

6.30pm Holy Communion

### **4 Monday**

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

### **5 Tuesday**

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

### **6 Wednesday**

10.00am Meeting Point

### **7 Thursday**

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

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

7:30pm Summer Club Night (Church House)

### **10 Sunday**

8:00am Holy Communion

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship

## **11 Monday**

- 2:00pm Memorial Service for Jenny Chapman followed by refreshment @Church House
- 7:30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

## **12 Tuesday**

- 8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth
- 8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting (on Zoom)

## **13 Wednesday**

- 10.00am Meeting Point followed by a picnic

## **14 Thursday**

- 7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (Church House)
- 7:30pm Summer Club Night (Church House)

## **17 Sunday**

- 9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)
- 10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)
- 10:00am Morning Worship
- 6.30pm All-Age Tonight

## **18 Monday**

- 10.30am Coffee and Chat with Roger Cooke @Quadrant
- 7:30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

## **19 Tuesday**

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

## **21 Thursday**

- 7:30pm Summer Club Night (Church House)

## **24 Sunday**

8.00am Holy Communion

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

10:00am Family Service

## **25 Monday**

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7.30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

## **26 Tuesday (LINK SUBMISSION DUE)**

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

## **31 Sunday**

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

10:00am Family Service

6.30pm Holy Communion

# QuizPage

## Solutions

A. CHOMP, CHUMP, CLUMP, SLUMP, STUMP, STOMP.

B. SHORT, SHIRT, SHIRE, SPIRE, SPARE, SPADE, SLADE, BLADE.

C. LOVES, LIVES, HIVES, CHIVES, CHIMES, CHIMED.

D. HISSSED, MISSED, MASSED, MASHED, CASHED, CASHEW.

E. RECIPE, RECITE, RESITE, RESPITE, DESPITE, DESPISE.

F. APE, CAPE, CAPER, CAMPER, SCAMPER.

**SuperChain:** DAWN, DOWN, MOWN, MOWS, MEWS, NEWS, NESS, BESS, BEST, BUST, DUST, DUSK.

Looking ahead to August, our next *QuizPage* will be based on another 1980s/90s TV show, **Crosswits**, combining crosswords and general knowledge. So, keep well, stay safe and we'll see you next time.

*Jeff Clayton*