

The LINK

JUNE 2023



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

EVENTS IN JUNE

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all who joined us for the recent **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**. I am very grateful to all who have served, and given generously of their time over the past year, in a wide variety of ways at St Michael's. Thank you as well to those who agreed to serve as churchwardens, on Deanery Synod and on the Parochial Church Council (PCC) – details of those appointed is in the weekly Notice Sheet.

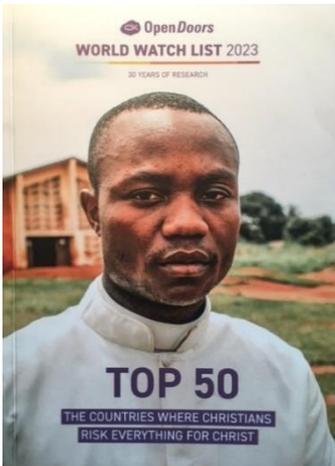
Can I also express my thanks to all who were involved in organising the **Coronation Celebration**. We had a great time together, both the families in the main hall and those viewing more quietly in the small hall. It was good to hear King Charles mirroring Jesus' words, at the beginning of the Coronation Service – "I come not to be served, but to serve".

It was good, as well, to hear the words of the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, as he gave King Charles a Bible: "**Sir, to keep you ever mindful of the law and the Gospel of God as the Rule for the whole life and government of Christian Princes, receive this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; this is the royal Law; these are the lively Oracles of God.**" It was a great reminder of the importance and living nature of God's Word to us in the Bible.

We have a number of events coming up in June:-

On Saturday 10th June, 9.30am-3.00pm, Harsha Mason will be speaking at the **Women @ St Michael's Conference Day** on the theme of "Unswerving Hope". Booking form are available from Jennifer Bailey.

On Sunday 11th June, 10am, we have our annual **Suffering Church Sunday**, when we particularly think about Christians in the persecuted church, who risk everything for Christ. We look forward to having Graham Walker with us, on behalf of Open Doors.



Do please take a copy of the **World Watch List**, which Open Doors produces each year, with the countries where Christians suffer most for their faith. North Korea sadly returns to the top spot, but you may well be surprised about some of the other countries in the Top 50.

On Sunday 11th June, 3pm, we will be having a **Bereavement Service** in church, followed by a tea in the Welcome Area. It is an opportunity for us to remember those we have loved and lost. Please sign up on the sheet at the back of church, or let Jo or me know if you plan to join us. Anyone, including visitors to the church, are most welcome to attend.

On Saturday 24th June, from 2pm, Adam & Rachel Grove Smith will be hosting a **farm walk**, which will include a tractor/trailer ride and a longer or shorter walk option. Please contact Rachel if you are interested in coming.

I hope you will be able to join us for some or all of these events.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel



MISSION OF THE MONTH



Open Doors is an international ministry serving persecuted Christians and churches worldwide. Open Doors estimate that worldwide, more than 360 million Christians face persecution and/or discrimination for their faith - which undoubtedly may translate to risk to their family, home, livelihood and even death sentence. As a Christian living in England, this figure/outlook is damning and gives an insight to the enormity of persecution being experienced by our fellow brothers and sisters in near and far away countries.

Open Doors is also famously renowned for their publication of the World Watch List. Perhaps an organisational benefit of Open Doors is that they utilise local expertise/partners and churches to support persecuted Christians. At St Michaels, we stand with our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ by supporting the work of Open Doors. I am happy to share how we do this if anyone is interested to know.

On a personal level, it feels me with sorrow when I read about the persecution being committed by Islamic militants in Nigeria - a country where I spent most of my youth. Sadly, Nigeria continues to climb up the World Watch List year after year (12th in 2020; 9th in 2021; 7th in 2022; now ranked 6th in the 2023 List). It seems that the central government is not doing enough to protect its citizens. Perhaps a recent change in the country president will bring about a much-needed change in approach. To read more about the situation in sub-Saharan Africa and other countries where it cost most to be a Christian, visit Open Doors website: <https://www.opendoorsuk.org/>

Yet it's not all gloom – when my copy of Open Doors magazine comes through the letterbox, I read stories where individuals and communities are changed (for the better) when they receive the good news of the gospel and/or see the work of God in action. To hear more about the work of Open Doors, please join us at our Suffering Church Sunday service on June 11th - where Graham Walker will be speaking and sharing the work that Open Doors does with local partners and churches.

Please be praying for Open Doors and our brothers and sisters in Christ, and if you are able, explore how you can support the work of Open Doors. God bless.

Ade Odupitan - St Michael's rep for Open Doors

A "GRAND DAY OUT" IN LONDON

From 23rd May the Jewel House in the Tower of London will be re-displaying the Crown Jewels. We shall be able to see, in a new setting, our king's crown, sceptre and orb.

DONE & DUSTED

The Crown Jewels will be back in their place. Coronation robes back in moth-balls. Because the trappings of monarchy are back in their homes, that doesn't mean Monarchy is put to one side and forgotten.

THE DAILY ROUTINE

King Charles has to sign bills of Parliament into new laws. King and Prime Minister will meet each other regularly. Ambassadors from other nations have to be received. Other heads of state welcomed. Honours given out. New hospitals opened and 'walkabouts' undertaken.

LOW KEY CORONATION

Aware of the cost-of-living crisis, King Charles wished to keep down the cost of his coronation. Another King had a low key Coronation. The Lord Jesus ascended in to heaven in the sight of only 11 people. There were no fanfares to send him off. The powers-that-be knew nothing of this ascension into heaven.

CORONATION ROBES

Yet they put on him a purple robe at his trial mocking his claim to be royalty. Standing before Pilate, this humiliated King said to the man judging him in Caesar's place 'you would have no power over me at all unless it had been given to you from above'. (John 19:11).

Now he reigns in splendour, not as 'constitutional monarch'. But as supreme Lord. He now grants kings and governments their power and they can't run their nations without him. The war in the Ukraine, illnesses, poverty, hunger and suffering are in his hands. We are all under his command.

THE CORONATION AND THE NEW CAROLINGIAN AGE

King Charles carried an orb with a cross on top. It speaks of King Jesus who rules as the one who died on the cross (the Lamb of God). Now he reigns – the Lion. May King Charles reign be marked by service as shown by the one who came 'not to be served, but to serve'.

THE FINAL CORONATION

In his good time when our Lord Jesus calls warlords to account, when all the pain and sorrow of this world are finally brought to an end and destroyed, when Isaiah's vision of peace, happiness and prosperity (Isaiah 25) comes, then will come the great coronation of King Jesus.

Believing Christians hold on to the fact that King Jesus reigns. No kind of power is beyond his control. One day we must all give account to King Jesus. Then his certain intention that peace, plenty and love should replace the wrong and pain of our times will begin.

Stephen Bailey

FARMING SEASONS



After a super wet April, the month of May has turned out to be super dry, too dry, and now we need rain, and little is forecast at the time of writing. Our wheat and barley crops are now growing at full steam and are rapidly using the water reserves in the topsoil. Signs of stress are beginning to show in the crops on the poorer soils and soon the ears of wheat will be on display. On the other hand I am sure the dry weather is welcome for the farmers in Northern Ireland, who have harvested a great first crop of silage. The change of weather highlights how unpredictable farming can be as only a month ago we were concerned about over lush crops, and now we are worried about stressed crops and the prospect of drought conditions!

On Saturday the 24th June at 2pm Rachel and myself will be hosting a farm walk and we would love to see you there. Walking will be optional and hopefully there will be a trailer ride too, as well as some vintage film taken by my grandad on the farm, which dates back to the late 1940s. Also there will be machinery on display both new and old. If you are interested in coming please email Rachel – rgrovesmith@stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk



Harvest is fast approaching and it's the time of year to make sure the equipment is ready for when the time comes to go. The main piece of machinery is of course the combine, and this will soon be having a detailed service which normally takes over a week to carry out. This will include checking all the

belts and bearings and a careful inspection of the wiring to see if any unwelcome mice have been busy over the winter. We usually start the combine every couple of weeks throughout the year so nothing sits still for too long.

Adam Grove-Smith

BADGERING CAN BE A GOOD THING!

“The conies are but a feeble folk, yet make they their houses in the rocks.” (Proverbs 30:26)

Just a few days ago, my wife and I led a tour group in Ein Gedi, where David cut a piece of Saul's cloak in one of the caves. One of the native species of the region are "conies" or rock badgers.

These little creatures which resemble guinea pigs in the West make their homes in rocks and in the sides of mountains - only venturing away from their rocky homes in the quest for food. While the badger stays within his home of rocks, he is safe from his natural predators. He stays close to home because he realizes his limitations. Badgers recognize that they do not have the strength within themselves - their strength lies in the rocks they call home.

So it should be for us as believers. We, too, must recognize our limitations! We need to be aware that like the conies, we are feeble folk! If we venture too far away from our Rock, Jesus - we will become vulnerable, easy prey! But if we stay within the shelter of our Rock, we can rest in the security He provides!

The winds and storms of this world can shake us up a bit -- but they don't sway the Rock! Let's make sure our homes are built in the safest place there is. Let's build on the Rock.

Supplied from “The Worthy Brief” by Peter Schaad

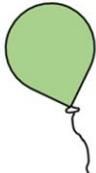


St Michaels C of E Primary School

Summer




Fete






Friday
16th June
5-9pm



**Bouncy Castles, BBQ,
Refreshments,
Stalls and more...**

Free Admission

No Dogs allowed

COFFEE CHAT WITH ROGER COOKE



Third Monday coffee and conversation

I shall be in the Quadrant cafe on **Monday 19th June** at 10.30am so if you'd like to join me you'd be very welcome!

Looking forward to seeing you.

Roger Cooke

BELFRY BULLETIN

We were very pleased to join with bell ringers from all over the world to “RING for the KING” when nearly all church bells were rung to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

On Friday 5th May we rang 1260 changes in 39mins of Buxton Bob Minor, 1 Lin Ould, 2 Jim Green, 3 Peter Smith, 4 Ellis Whitehouse, 5 Bradley Hill, 6 Debbie Hill [c]. 1st in method 4 and 6 and as conductor 6, and then on the morning of the Coronation day, Saturday 6th May 2023, 1260 changes of Plain Bob Minor in 46mins 1 Peter Smith, 2 Lin Ould, Clare Gray, 4 Debbie Hill, 5 Simon Ward, 6 Bradley Hill [c] featuring Kings and with no internal rounds.

After this, we were joined by Rosie Gray, daughter of Clare and granddaughter of Lin, for general ringing to include Kings and Queens. Peter Smith rang for Queen Elizabeth II Coronation and now for King Charles Coronation.

We were the hosts for the District Advanced Practice on Saturday 20th May, with a very poor turnout of just 6 ringers we decided to ring a Quarter Peal, in 47mins consisting of 1440 changes of Cambridge Surprise Minor 1 Lin Ould, 2 Debbie Hill, 3 Jim Green, 4 Peter Smith, 5 Bradley Hill, 6 Simon Ward [c] with this ringing we sent 90th Birthday congratulations to Ernie Andrews Tower Captain at Black Notley.

AWAY FROM THE TOWER

29th April Peter Smith rang in a Quarter Peal at Northill, Beds. To wish the Rev Frank Coleman a long and happy retirement after 23 years as Vicar at Northill, and also for King Charles III Coronation.

2nd May Debbie Hill, Bradley Hill and Peter Smith rang at Witham for the visit of the Bishop of Chelmsford, Rt Rev Dr Guli Francis-Dehqani, to Licence Rev Howard Schaar and his installation by Ven Ruth Patton.

For King Charles coronation, Jodie Hill rang 2 QP's with the Bristol University Guild. Peter Smith rang a 720 at Stisted, a QP at Kelvedon and general ringing at Wethersfield, Finchingfield and Black Notley. Debbie Hill rang a QP at Halstead. Debbie Hill and Bradley Hill rang a Handbell QP in their kitchen.

14th May Peter Smith rang a QP at Kelvedon for Bell Sunday.

Debbie Hill and Bradley Hill rang a Handbell QP in memory Vic Turner who was responsible for the installation of the 8 bells at Toppesfield.

Peter Smith

JUNE DIARY

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

1 Thursday

10:00am – 12noon Coffee@StMichael’s (in church)

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

3 Saturday

10:00am Work Party: Small Hall redecoration exploration

4 Sunday

9.00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Church Family Worship

4:00pm Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

6:30pm Evening Worship

5 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

6 Tuesday

1:45 – 2:45pm Tiddlywinks

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

7 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point

8 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

10 Saturday

9:30am – 3:00pm Women@St Michael's Conference Day;
Speaker: Harsha Mason

11 Sunday

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship: Suffering Church Sunday, Open Doors

3:00pm Bereavement Service (in Church)

6:30pm Holy Communion

12 Monday

10:30am Coffee Chat with Roger Cooke @Quadrant

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

13 Tuesday

1:45 – 2:45pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm First Priority Prayer Meeting (small hall)

14 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point

15 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

16 Friday

5:00 – 9:00pm St Michaels School Summer Fete

18 Sunday

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

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

10:00am Holy Communion

6:30pm All-Age Tonight

19 Monday

10:30am Coffee Chat with Roger Cooke @Quadrant

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

20 Tuesday

1:45 - 2:45pm Tiddlywinks

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

21 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point

22 Thursday

2:00pm Oasis@StMichaels: informal bereavement support group (Small Hall)

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

24 Saturday

2:00pm Farm Walk (@Adam & Rachel's Farm)

25 Sunday

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship

6:30pm Holy Communion

26 Monday (LINK SUBMISSION DUE)

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

27 Tuesday

10:00am Living Without Worry (Church House)

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

28 Wednesday

10:00am Meeting Point

29 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill