



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



General Information

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| Vicar | Rev Nigel Adams | 01376 807662 |
| | Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com | |
| | <i>(Nigel's day of rest will be on Friday this week)</i> | |
| Churchwardens | Lin Terris | 01376 322870 |
| | David Marriott | 01376 349257 |
| Honorary Curate | Rev Stephen Bailey | 01376 619347 |
| Children's and Youth Worker (part-time) | Rachel Grove Smith | 07713 566667 |
| Pastoral Assistant | Jo Adams | 01376 807662 |

Contact Margaret Kinniburgh to add items to the Notice Sheet (by noon **Thursday**) email: notices@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk. Telephone 01376 330013.

Keeping in touch

To phone, please leave a message on the church office phone (01376 321248).
St. Michael's Church website is on the following link - <http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/> (If this does not work, you might need to clear your browsing history/web cache from your browser. In most browsers this can be done using Ctrl+Shift+Del.) On this page you can see our Magazine, Notice sheets, Annual reports and other details and will be able to access our Sunday online services.

Our Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree/>

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

5th September 2021- Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

Many thanks to all who completed the **questionnaire** over the summer, about us further re-opening St Michael's in various ways. Your responses and comments have greatly assisted us. It is clear that there is a breadth of views, in respect of social distancing and other Covid precautions.

We will therefore continue to seek to provide **Covid-secure worship in church**, with the following changes:

- There will be **no need to pre-book seats** – just come to church at 10am on a Sunday. (The one exception will be **Sun 19th Sept**, for the Confirmation at 10am).
- The church will have “**zones**” – the central two blocks of seats will be unrestricted, in the sense of not being socially distanced. Other pews at the back and sides will be socially distanced, only using every other pew.
- We will continue to have entry via the **North door**, a record of who attends (for **NHS Test & Trace**), **hand sanitiser**, and to encourage the wearing of **face coverings**.
- We will be working towards **live streaming** our services from church, starting with the Confirmation service (19th Sept).
- This Sunday (5th Sept) is **Church Family Worship with the baptism of Rory Henson** and the Henson family will have the two blocks of seats near to the old font. We anticipate the service will be well attended.

Junior Church will start again in Church House from Sun 12th Sept. There will be a breakfast for Next Plus (14-18 years) from 9am and Junior Church for children aged 3-14 years from 10am.

Do please continue to respect the preferences and safety of others, as we bring in some changes. We will keep you informed as things develop.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

Church Services:

We are having services in the church building, via YouTube, by phone and on Zoom. Our forthcoming services will be:

Sunday 5th September

10.00am Church Family Worship in church, online (YouTube) and by phone

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Sunday 12th September

9.00am Next Plus (14-18s) breakfast

10.00am Junior Church (3-14 years) in Church House

10.00am Morning Worship in church, online (YouTube) and by phone

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Online

Our **pre-recorded 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**" – 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. The link for our **Zoom services and Zoom coffee** is on our weekly email – please contact Nigel if you need it.

In church

- There will be **no requirement to pre-book seats** for the services in church, other than the Confirmation on Sun 19th September at 10.00am.
- The church will have "zones" – the central two blocks of seats will be unrestricted, in the sense of not being socially distanced. Other pews at the back and sides will be socially distanced, only using every other pew. To help with social distancing, anyone attending can take a sticker saying, "**Please give me space**" and/or sheets to place on the seats next to you saying, "**Please do not sit here**".
- We are encouraging everyone to continue to wear **face coverings** in church, unless you have a medical reason or are a child under 11 years. This is mainly out of respect for the safety of others.
- We will have congregational **singing** (with face coverings).
- As we begin to socialise more, please **be respectful** of one another's space.

If you have had a **positive Covid test or Covid-19 symptoms** in the last 10 days (fever, continuous cough, loss of sense of smell or taste), please do not attend church, out of respect for others.

Coffee on Zoom: We will be having Zoom virtual coffee after church each Sunday and on the first Thursday of each month, both at 11am. Details of how to sign up will be included in the weekly email on Saturday.

Some **door keys** were found in Church House car park recently – please speak to Dave Marriott if these are yours.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Brian Hennessy, Ben and Mya Nel, Emma Wild, Katherine Cridland, Bobby McCaigue, Rev Pam Davies (severe back problems), David Harvey, Elaine Stoodley, Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul's Braintree), Alan Bass, Alison Davey

Housebound: Anne Harvey

Bereaved: the friends and family of Mrs Susan Riches (member of St Paul's and a former deanery treasurer)

Mission of the Month: ACTS Ministry in Burkina Faso works among the most vulnerable people in one of the poorest countries in the world. On the scale of poorest countries Burkina Faso is 173 out of 175. Joanna Ilboudo set up ACTS with a vision to 'bring love and hope to the orphan and the widow'. Widows and orphans are the forgotten ones. They have no voice and no means of support. They are considered outcasts due to the fear of AIDS. Widows have no opportunity for education and no hope of gaining skills necessary to support a family. Without financial means, widows and orphans are caught in a cycle of poverty, sickness and ignorance! ACTS works through food support, community health, vocational training, formal education, editions and publications, training in entrepreneurial leadership and discipleship, Human Rights and civic education and protection of the environment. With the prevalence of COVID, Burkina is fighting two wars and the government is overwhelmed. Only God's love can make lasting change in the lives of those caught in the oppression of poverty and ignorance. For more information visit the website www.actsburkina.org.

Many congratulations to Carol Ambrose on the safe arrival of Hanna-Rose on Sunday 22.8.21 – and a sister for Tiffany.

There will be a **Confirmation Service on Sun 19th Sept, 10am** at St Michael's Church with Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester. If you are interested in being Confirmed, or wish to know more, please speak with Nigel Adams or Rachel Grove Smith.

Bible Reading Group: The readings for Tuesday, 7th September will be Psalms 133-134, Acts 10:1 - Acts 18:28, Proverbs 30:1 - 30:4. If you want to join us, please let me know and I will make sure to keep you updated with the readings for each week. Dave Terris (Tel: 322870 or email: daveterris@uwclub.net)

Life Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-week course. Whoever you are, whatever you are thinking, Life Explored is a place for you to discover the greatest gift in the universe. It will be held in church on Wednesdays, starting **Wed 20th Sept, 7.30pm**. If you are planning to join us, or would like to find out more, please contact Nigel or Jo Adams via revnigeladams@gmail.com or on 01376 807662.