



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com	
	<i>(Nigel's day of rest will be on Saturday 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

12th September 2021- Fifteenth Sunday after Trinity

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

As we begin the new academic year, there are a number of things happening at St Michael's. Next Sunday (19th) the Bishop of Colchester will be with us for a **Confirmation Service**. Please note that there is **now no need to pre-book seats for the Confirmation Service** – this is a change from what I said last week. Do please join us at 10am in church, if you can, to support Anne-Marie and Alexandra Aung, Lucky Harris-Leighton and Noah Marsh as they make this public proclamation of their faith.

We will be starting to **re-open Church House**, over the coming weeks, both for church groups and for outside hirers, subject to Covid-secure risk assessments. Please note particularly:

- **Our children's & youth work** is restarting this Sunday (12th) with a 9am breakfast for Next Plus (14-18s) and 10am Junior Church (3-14s)
- **White Horse Tavern & the Bible Reading Group** on Monday & Tuesday evenings respectively

Further details are inside this Notice Sheet.

We also have our **First Priority Prayer Meeting this Tuesday** (14th) 8-9pm on Zoom – do please join us as there is much to pray about, including Afghanistan, the on-going pandemic and God's work at home and abroad.

Our Life Explored course is starting in church on Wed 22nd Sept from 7.30pm – more details inside the Notice Sheet.

Do please pray for our nation and our world. Despite the difficult times we face, we rejoice that we have a God who is loving and powerful and gives us hope. ***"May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."*** (Romans 15:13)

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 12th September

9.00am Next Plus (14-18s) breakfast

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

10.00am Morning Worship with the Baptism of Madison Frances in church, online (YouTube) and by phone

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Sunday 19th September

9.45am Junior Church in Church House

10.00am Confirmation Service with Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester – please note that there is now no need to pre-book seats for the Confirmation Service. The Confirmation will also be “live streamed”, as well as being in church.

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

6.30pm All-Age Tonight on Zoom

Online

Our **pre-recorded YouTube services** can be accessed via the Worship tab on the St Michael's Church website (or though 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.
- 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.

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 Adam & Alex Sullivan on the safe arrival of Lowri Matilda on 4th September – and a sister for Gwilym.

White Horse Tavern begins again on **Monday, 13th September** at 7.30pm meeting in the Small Hall in Church House. We will be studying the Apostle Paul's letter to the Galatians.

First Priority Prayer Meeting: will be on Zoom on Tues 14th September, 8-9pm. There is much to pray about, for our nation, our world, and for churches. Sign up details are in the weekly email, or contact Nigel on revnigeladams@gmail.com.

Bible Reading Group: The readings for Tuesday, 14th September will be Psalms 135, Acts 19:1 - Acts 28:31, Proverbs 30:5 - 30:6. 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 22nd 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.