



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

General Information

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

Helpers wanted:

1. **Help with services** – as we further open up our church services, we will need more people to assist with welcoming, operating the sound desk and supporting the live streamed services. This will be for the 8am, 10am & 6.30pm services, on a rota basis.
2. **The LINK magazine** – would you consider editing, or co-editing our monthly magazine?
3. **Hall Bookings Secretary** – as we re-open Church House for both church groups and outside hirers, we will need someone to oversee our hall bookings.

If you want to know more about any of these roles, or are able to assist, please speak to **Dave Marriott** or **Lin Terris**, our churchwardens.

17th October 2021- Twentieth Sunday after Trinity

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

We are starting to introduce more services in church. This Sunday (17th) we will be having **All-Age Tonight in church** again – this is our youth-friendly evening service, but is all-age, so is good for adults as well. Do please join us if you are able to. We will be continuing our series on Jesus' "I am" sayings in John's Gospel and will be thinking about "Jesus, The Light of the World". This is also the theme for our **Light Party** on Fri 29th Oct – details are inside the Notice Sheet.

The theme of light and darkness is repeated throughout the Bible. In creation, God said, **"Let there be light and there was light"** (Genesis 1:3). Light is vital to sustain life on planet earth. Darkness is used to describe the impact of sin and light to describe God's goodness, shining into our world. Looking forward to Jesus, Isaiah prophesied that **"The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light."** (Isaiah 9:2). On Sunday evening, we will be reflecting on Jesus' light – **"The light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it"** (John 1:5).

This resonates with us, because life can sometimes seem very dark, particularly when we feel, for a variety of reasons, sad or down. Jesus came to bring light into our dark world. He came to show, in human form, what God's love and goodness look like. As Jesus' light shines into our lives, there is a call for us to shine as lights, for God's glory, not ours – **"In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."** (Matthew 5:16)

This week, however you are feeling, may you know Jesus' light, shining in your life – and may your light shine into others' lives, reflecting the Light of the World.

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 17th October

9.00am Next Plus (14-18s) breakfast

10.00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10.00am Holy Communion in church

10.00am Morning Worship online (YouTube) and by phone

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

6.30pm All-Age Tonight in church

Sunday 24th October

9.00am Next Plus (14-18s) breakfast

10.00am Junior Church (3-14s)

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.
- 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.

Andy Malcolm: Fishermen's Mission Visit: After CFW on Sunday, 7th November we are planning a Fish and Chip lunch with Andy Malcolm in church house. Details are available in church. Janet Bamforth and Chris Hart will be taking orders and payment will be by cash before 31st October. All are welcome.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Lee Evans, Brian Hennessey, 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,

Housebound: Anne Harvey

Bereaved: The family and friends of Em Wild and Ling, Victoria, Lisha & Rishon Lingesh following the death of Ling's mother.

Mission of the Month: Operation Christmas Child (OCC): is part of the evangelical Christian relief organisation, **Samaritan's Purse**. Annually they provide filled shoebox gifts to children living in some of the poorest sectors of the world as a practical way of showing God's love to children. Our church has been actively involved in OCC for many years. This year we can collect shoebox gifts from the congregation again. Shoebox gifts can contain items that are considered essential such as toiletries, hat, scarf, gloves and school supplies, and fun items e.g. toys, soft toys and creative activities. There are some empty shoeboxes you can take away to fill, with labels to indicate who it is for or go online to see the latest packing advice and to make a £5 donation to cover transport costs. Please return your completed shoebox gifts to church by **Sunday 14th November**. Alternatively, you can pack a shoebox online. This year we have set up a St. Michaels church web page for our online shoebox donations. Please help us reach our target of 30 online shoeboxes! <https://shoebonline.samaritans-purse.org.uk/goal-pages/7730e605> More information can be found in the LINK magazine and online. Any queries to Sue Marriott. Operation Christmas Child (samaritans-purse.org.uk)

Our Light Party will be on Fri 29th Oct, 6.00-7.30pm in Church House, for children of primary school age. The party will include games and activities, songs and sharing a mini book titled 'Jesus is the Light?' At the end of the party all the children attending will be given their own copy of this book. Please apply online through the St Michael's Church Website.

Bible Reading Group: The readings for Tuesday, 19th October will be Psalms 141-142, Galatians 1:1 - Ephesians 6:24, Proverbs 30:18-19. 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)

Parking Permits: From 1st November you will need a new parking permit if you are using church house car park for other than church business. Parking permits will be valid until the end of 2022 and charged at £20 per permit. Permits will only be issued to members on the electoral roll. Application forms can be found in church and need to be returned with payment to Philip Bartlett-Rawlings.