

General Information

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
Treasurer	Lesley Davey	01376 326969

Contact Margaret Kinniburgh to add items to the Notice Sheet (by noon **Thursday**) email: notices@stmichaelsbtreetree.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://stmichaelsbtreetree.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/>

PAT testing – would anyone be able to assist with “PAT testing” (testing of electrical appliances, etc) at church and Church House? Instruction and training could be given. If you might be able to assist, or wish to know more, please contact **Dave Marriott** or **Lin Terris**, our churchwardens.



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



www.stmichaelsbtreetree.co.uk

21st November 2021- Christ the King

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

Next Sunday is the start of **Advent**. The word literally means “Coming”, a season when we look back to Jesus’ coming to earth that first Christmas and also look forward to Jesus’ promised Second Coming. It is good if we use the time to prepare ourselves for the real meaning of Christmas.

At St Michael's, we are doing a number of things to help prepare for Christmas. On each of the Thursday evenings in December (2nd, 9th, 16th & 23rd), we are having groups for children & young people in Church House. **Advent Club** (for primary school aged children) will be from 6-7pm each Thursday and will include games, a story and craft. **Advent Club Night** (for secondary school age) is from 7.30-9.00pm and will include board games, table tennis, origami and festive food. Booking will be via the Church website.

We are also advertising a book called, “**Finding hope under Bethlehem skies**” by Robin Ham (£2.99). Tucked away in the Bible, hundreds of years before Mary, Joseph and the birth of Jesus, is the story of a girl called Ruth. It's a story that rings true to our world, a story of sadness and tears, even of death, but also a story of where hope can be found in the darkest places. A story that points us forward to the promise of a king. “Finding Hope Under Bethlehem Skies” takes us on an Advent journey through 25 daily reflections.

As we prepare for Christmas, in many practical ways, may I encourage you to take the opportunity to prepare your heart to receive the greatest gift – as the angel said to Joseph, “**You shall call his name Jesus, for he will save his people from their sins.**” (Matthew 1:21)

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

Church Services:

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

Sunday 21st November

9.00am Next Plus (14-18s) breakfast

10.00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10.00am Holy Communion

6.30pm All-Age Tonight - in church

Sunday 28th November

8.00am Holy Communion in church

9.00am Next Plus (14-18s) breakfast

10.00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10.00am Morning Worship

The 10.00am services will be recorded and uploaded later to YouTube and “St Michael’s by Phone”. Some of our services are now being **video recorded**, using a camera on a pillar, and uploaded to YouTube. Please note that those sitting in the front three rows, in the centre, may be on the video recording.

Online

Our **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**” currently updated on a Tuesday – 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.

In church

- There will be **no requirement to pre-book seats** for church services.
- The church is set out in “**zones**” – the central blocks of seats are unrestricted, in the sense of not being socially distanced. Other pews are 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.

We are looking to reintroduce our **refreshments after church** on Sundays. Please contact Ann Mahood if you would be willing to go on the rota for this. Either text or phone Ann on 07952 911672.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Jack Green, David and Norman Huxter, Richard Ould, David Hart, Michelle Adams, Laura Brooks, Cyril Bamforth’s sister, Maureen, 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: Jenny & family, following the death of Alan Syder (a former member of St Michael’s)

Mission of the Month: Barnabas Fund is an organisation who supports the persecuted church, mainly in Muslim dominated countries. They have felt under attack over the last few years which they shouldn’t be surprised about when they are working in so many different countries and helping huge numbers of persecuted brothers and sisters all over the world from helping brick workers to fully repay their debts to the owners and helping with schools in a number of countries. Their work is very diverse and God be praised for His faithfulness towards them despite criticism and accusations, most of which are unfounded. They continue to serve the persecuted church and the needs are growing monthly with resources stretched like never before. Overheads are the lowest in the sector at below 12% of income and they continue to ensure that every pound they receive is used efficiently and effectively.

Message from Andy Malcolm of the Fishermen’s Mission: “*Just a quick update to say a huge thank you for the magnificent £1,171.94 raised for the Fishermen’s Mission at St Michael’s. That is truly and amazing amount and we are deeply blessed by the Godly generosity of such wonderful people. Suffice to say you’ve blessed our socks off!*”

Bible Reading Group: The readings for Tuesday, 23rd November will be Psalms 148-149, 1 John 1:1 - Revelation 5:17, Proverbs 31:1-9. 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)

We will be having a **Gift Day** next Sunday (28th) towards essential work needed on our church creche room. Details are on the Gift Day leaflet.

Men’s Christmas Cracker! on Sat 11th Dec, 10am-12.30pm, in church – a Christmas-themed morning, with light refreshments, an opportunity to worship and to reflect on why Jesus came.