



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

8th May 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

Last weekend, we had the privilege of being at Bible by the Beach (BBTB) in Eastbourne. (It's by the beach, not on the beach!). It is based in the Congress Theatre and includes uplifting times of worship, excellent Bible teaching (Christopher Ash on Psalms), very helpful seminars and activities for children & young people. I would commend BBTB to you – it is always on the early May bank holiday weekend. Please speak to Jo or me, or to the Grove Smiths if you want to know more.

I went to a really helpful pair of seminars on “Facing and resisting temptation” by John Stevens, in which he unpacked what the Bible tells us about temptation. Temptation itself is not a sin – even Jesus was tempted. It is giving in to temptation which is sin. Temptation is to be expected, due to our sinful nature and Satan’s work.

But we can resist temptation – Paul says, **“No temptation has overtaken you except what is common to mankind. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can endure it.”** (1 Corinthians 10:13)

And if we do fall, God will forgive us, if we come to him in repentance. **“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.”** (1 John 1:9)

What a great God we have, who helps us when tempted and sent his Son to deal with our sin.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

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@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: www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree/

YouTube services and 'St Michael's by Phone': we have not been able to upload either the video or phone services in recent weeks. We will let everyone know when they are being uploaded again. Our apologies for this.

If you are new to St Michael's, welcome! If you would like someone to contact you, please leave your details in the collection box by the door.

Name(s)

Address

Telephone

Email

Church Services:

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

Sunday, 8th May

8.00am Holy Communion - *"Nightmare at the Palace"* (Daniel 2)

9.00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10.00am Junior Church

10.00am Morning Worship - *"Nightmare at the Palace"* (Daniel 2)

Sunday, 15th May

9.00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10.00am Junior Church

10.00am Morning Worship with presentation from Christians against Poverty

- *"The sheep and the goats"* (Matthew 25: 31-46)

6.00pm Refreshments (before All-Age Tonight)

6.30pm All-Age Tonight - *"Manage your anger"* (Matthew 5: 21-26)

Video recording in church

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

In church

- **Legal requirements** for most Covid restrictions have now been dropped and replaced with guidance and advice. Government guidelines recommend **face coverings** in enclosed or crowded places, particularly where you come into contact with people you don't normally meet. We therefore encourage the wearing of face coverings in church, unless you are exempt, including when singing.
- There is **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"**.
- Government guidance says, **"Social distancing** in a place of worship is now a personal choice. People are encouraged to respect other attendees and those working who may wish to adopt a more cautious approach."
- If you have had a recent **positive Covid test , Covid-19 symptoms or feel unwell**, please do not attend church, out of respect for others.

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.

Jubilee Weekend Memorabilia and Write Ups of when I saw the Queen: could we have write ups of experiences and memorabilia by Sunday, 15th May please? Could you sign the list at the back of the church to say that you are contributing. Any queries to Jennifer or Lin.

For your prayers:

Unwell: David Huxter (senior), Malcolm Timms, Norma Huxter, Dennis Buston, Lionel Clark, Richard Hunte (Naj McCaigue's father), Cyril Bamforth's sister Maureen, Lee Evans, Katherine Cridland, Rev Pam Davies, David Harvey, Elaine Stoodley, Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul's Braintree), Alan Bass

Housebound: Anne Harvey

Bereaved: Please pray for the family and friends of Roger Twaites (St Michael's School Site Manager) who died recently. Please continue to pray for Najette, Harrison & Teagan McCaigue, family and friends, following the death of Bobby.

Mission of the Month: A Rocha was founded in 1983 in Portugal. This Christian environment organisation is now operating world wide in both conservation and education. Every day we are hearing on media about climate change and the urgency of the problems facing us as humans.

As Christians we have a vital role to play in taking care of planet earth: God created the universe and put man to take care of it. When he had done this, he looked at all he had created and he was pleased with it. Two good websites to get information - arocha.org for exciting updates on their work around the world; also includes links to podcasts exploring themes of conservation and hope and arocha.org.uk covering UK activities including eco church award scheme.

White Horse Tavern: will be on Monday, 9th May 7.30pm in Church House.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting: will be on **Tuesday, 24th May** from **7.30pm in church.**

If you are not on our Electoral Roll (which allows you to vote at the Annual Meeting) you can join by completing a form by today, **Sunday, 8th May.** We will have **elections** for 2 Churchwardens and 4 Parochial Church Council members - nomination forms will be at the back of the church and should be returned to Jennifer Bailey by **Sunday, 8th May.** You should be receiving information about the Annual Meeting either by email or as a hard copy. If you do not receive this information, or have any questions, please contact Rev Nigel Adams.

Hope Explored is a new 3 week course, about the person and work of Jesus and the hope that can be found in him. We will be running it on **Mondays 9th, 16th & 23rd May from 7.30pm on Zoom.** It has some excellent talks by Rico Tice, as well as time for discussion and looks at the importance of hope, peace and purpose in our lives. Please speak to Nigel or Jo Adams if you have any questions or would like to join us for it.

Living Out is holding an event in **Colchester on Saturday, 14th May** - described as follows: *"...will offer a positive biblical vision and practical steps forward as we seek to model both grace and truth in our Christ-like love for all those who experience same-sex attraction. For this event in Colchester we are also spending one of the sessions thinking through questions around transgender."* Free of charge - book here: www.livingout.org/events/16/colchester-living-out-course.

