

The LINK

30p

February 2020



The Parish Church of
St Michael Braintree
www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk



Changed lives

Dear Friends,

One book that had a profound effect on me as a teenager was “The Cross and the Switchblade”. It is the true story of David Wilkerson, a country pastor in the United States in the 1950s.

He felt a strong calling from God to go to New York to share the good news of Jesus with teenage gang members. At the time, there were numerous street gangs. The gang members were heavily into drugs and involved in violent fights, robberies and murders.

David Wilkerson showed huge faith and courage in going, and God worked in amazing ways. I would highly recommend “The Cross and the Switchblade”, if you haven’t read it yet.

David Wilkerson and his team managed to buy a building in New York, called the Teen Challenge Centre, where gang members could go on a residential programme to come off their drug and alcohol dependence.

Teen Challenge UK is a Christian charity and has a number of centres around the country to help people who have developed life controlling problems, especially drug and alcohol addictions.

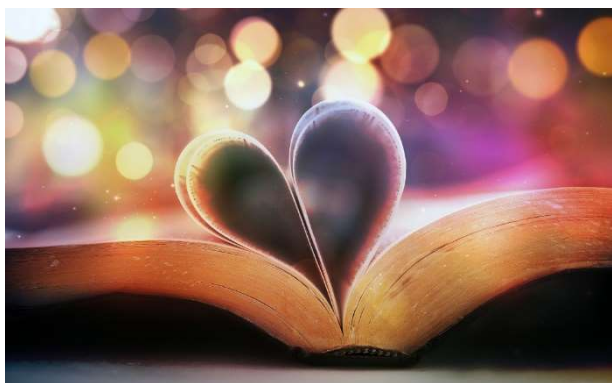
I am delighted that we will be having a Teen Challenge Team from Ilford in London coming to our 10am service on Sunday 9th February. They will be taking most of the service and will be showing a video of the work, singing, speaking and sharing testimonies about how Jesus has helped them with drug and alcohol addiction.

It will be suitable for young people from Year 6 upwards – we will have our usual Junior Church for younger children.

Whether or not you are a regular 10am service attender, can I encourage you to join us on Sunday 9th February to hear about how God has been changing lives? Also, is there anyone you could invite to join us on 9th February? It is a Sunday not to be missed!

Wishing you every blessing,
Nigel

Verse of the Year 2020



*For where your treasure is, there your heart will
be also.*

Matthew 6.21

MISSION OF THE MONTH CROSSLINKS

NEWS FROM OUR MISSION PARTNERS

Jirka and Keira Kralovi have had a busy summer and autumn.

- They went to two summer camps for young people to teach the Christian faith.
- In Olomouc (a university city in the east Czech Republic) they work with students. This autumn, 16 people signed up for the Czech version of 'Christianity Explored'. (It gets everywhere! That can't be bad!)
- A church in Olomouc is allowing the use of their premises to the group students that Jirka has gathered.
- Remembering how secularism has taken over the countries of Europe, it is good to hear the Kralovis report that students are coming to Bible studies. Jirka is keen that they should learn about Jesus Christ and all that he has done for us.
- The Kralovi family organised a weekend away in November as part of their programme of teaching the Bible to their students.
- On top of all this, Jirka is teaching future Czech church leaders at the Czech Bible Institute.

FAMILY

- Simeon, who we met when they came to visit us, broke his leg in two places. He has spent a lot of time in hospital and rehabilitation and has made real progress.

POINTS TO PRAY FOR

- Please pray for the students that Jirka and Keira meet that they will come to know Jesus Christ.
- Remember Christian young people who are in a tiny minority in the Czech Republic that they will grow in their Christian faith and not fall away.
- For Jirka: please pray for his vital role in evangelising students as well as teaching them about Jesus Christ. Also please pray for his role in training future Czech church leaders at the Czech Bible Institute.
- For Keira: Pray for her as she welcomes students and at the same time runs a home and looks after her family. Thank God for Simeon's recovery.

Supplied by Stephen Bailey



Saturday 29th February
Church House
6.30pm-9.00pm

Tickets: £1 for adults; 50 pence for those 6-18 years old
Includes and drinks & cakes

THANK YOU



Thank you for the cards I received in December and reading the comments made me quite emotional.

Being involved in Children's and Youth work in church, took me seriously out of my comfort zone, and into quite a roller coaster ride, but it has been a positive and thoroughly worthwhile honour to serve, and to serve with and alongside, some lovely young people.

When I started my role some 16 years ago, I did not see every young person grow in their faith in Jesus, but I remember John Nobbs advising me by saying,

'You are here to Sow the seeds of Jesus Andy. You may not see anyone come to faith, just let God do the work.' Wise words indeed, which helped me stop being too hard on myself.

Working with young people is a work of 'heart' and through this I have grown in faith and understood God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit more clearly and thoroughly and personally than possibly, many sermons would have done. This has been another plus that grew out of all the varied preparation involved in this essential work at St Michael's Church.

Never an easy ride, as I have shed tears often as I struggled through at times, but it has been the best of times, because we have been blessed, and are still blessed with young people here in church.....remember that they are the church of today as well.

They are a great encouragement to us all.

C T Studd wrote a poem and below is just one verse that speaks volumes;

'Give me Father, a purpose deep,
In joy or sorrow Thy word to keep;
Faithful and true what e'er the strife,
Pleasing Thee in my daily life;
Only one life, 'twill soon be past,
Only what's done for Christ will last.'

I echo that truth.

Thank you for the holiday gift, and I can now choose a break that is not during school holiday times. In 1972 I went to the Lake District with a group of pupils from the school where I was teaching, and I thought,

'Wow! I'm coming back!'

Well, better late than never I guess, and it looks like 2020 is the time.

Thank you
God's Blessings are all in Jesus
Andy Carter

HELLO

Hello, I am Rachel Grove Smith and I am delighted to be the new Children's and Youth Worker here at St. Michael's.

I have a real heart for children and young people. In this broken and damaged world children and young people need to know the Good News about Jesus. I long for every child to hear the Gospel clearly explained to them.

My background is in teaching primary school age pupils and I have been an Assistant Head Teacher. I am married to Adam and we have two children and a Labrador puppy. At the weekends we like walking together in the countryside.

I love family holidays! Our favourite destinations are the Suffolk coast and Keswick for the Convention. We also really enjoyed going to 'Bible by the Beach' in Eastbourne for the first time in 2019 and are looking forward to returning again this year! I love reading and always have a book on the go.

As a family we have been attending church in Felsted where I have been involved in children's work.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you all and to getting fully involved here at St. Michael's.

Rachel Grove Smith



FEBRUARY DIARY

- 2 Sunday Presentation of Christ**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Church Family Worship – Hidden Treasure
6.30pm Evening Worship – Bear one another’s burdens
7.30pm Focus
- 3 Monday**
12.15pm Spotlight
- 4 Tuesday**
1.15pm Tiddlywinks
2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall
- 5 Wednesday**
9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
7.45pm Discipleship Explored
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study
8.30pm Men@StMichael’s beer and chat – Wetherspoons,
Fairfield Rd
- 6 Thursday**
10am-12pm Coffee at St Michaels 10-12 noon
3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study
- 8 Saturday**
9.00am Women@St Michael’s conference day
- 9 Sunday 3rd before Lent**
8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Morning Worship - Teen Challenge Team –
changed lives
6.30pm Holy Communion - Boast in the cross alone
7.30pm Focus
- 10 Monday**
12.15pm Spotlight

11 Tuesday MARCH LINK SUBMISSION DUE

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks
2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall
8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting – Church House

12 Wednesday

- 9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
7.45pm Discipleship Explored
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

13 Thursday

- 3.30pm ASK
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

15 Saturday

- 9.00am Church and Church House - work party (to be confirmed)

16 Sunday 2nd before Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion
10.00am Holy Communion – Good news for everyone
6.30pm All Age Tonight – Jesus & the devil:
Courage in the face of pure evil
7.30pm Focus

17 Monday

Church House - Main Hall closed for works

18 Tuesday

- Church House - Main Hall closed for works
2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

19 Wednesday

- Church House - Main Hall closed for works
9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
7.45pm Discipleship Explored
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

20 Thursday

- Church House - Main Hall closed for works
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

21 Friday

Church House - Main Hall closed for works

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

23 Sunday Sunday before Lent

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – Telling others

6.30pm Evening Worship – Preparing the way

7.30pm Focus

24 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

25 Tuesday

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

2.00pm Bible reading – Church House Small hall

26 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

7.45pm Discipleship Explored

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

27 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

28 Friday

7.30pm Flower Club

29 Saturday

6.30pm Beetle Drive in Church House

FROM THE REGISTERS

No entries

**WOMEN @ ST MICHAEL'S CONFERENCE DAY
FEBRUARY 8TH 2020**

“But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and forever! Amen” 2 Peter 2:18.

Rachel Menon will give two talks on 2 Peter. Peter's desire for all Christians whatever century they live in, is - don't stand still GROW! Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Peter also urges us - live *now* with eyes fixed on *eternity*, because we will receive a rich welcome, the biggest and best hug of all time and for all time, from Jesus Christ himself.

She is looking forward to meeting us all in 2020!

Booking Forms in by Sunday 2nd February!

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Our local service, prepared by the women of Zimbabwe, will be held on

**Friday 6th March, 2020
At GREAT NOTLEY CHURCH at 10.30am**

(It is suggested that those intending to use public transport catch the 9.40am - 9a bus service from the bus park to Great Notley)

Barbara Wells
(Committee representative for St. Michael's)

BELFRY BULLETIN

BELL RESORATION UPDATE

The work on the bells is progressing steadily. On Wednesday 8th January 2 engineers from White's paid a visit to the bell chamber to take measurements of the bell frame to ascertain how the new headstocks will fit into the existing layout.

Fund raising is slowly edging towards the target, to this end you can help us in Tesco's with the community project fund by taking the blue tokens at the checkout and voting for the Bell Project at the Bags of Help position. This can be done in all Braintree's main stores and at Tesco Local.

THANK YOU.

AUTUMN OUTING

This was on Saturday 14th September 2019 based around Hertford. I have checked my records and find I have omitted to report on this annual event. I hope my notes jog my memory of what I recall was a very enjoyable day.

We started our day on the 6cwt 6 bells at St. John the Baptist Great Amwell. Here we rang 6 methods. My notes tell me that when preparing to ring Stedman Double I forgot that I was the conductor and so to the other ringers surprise the method did not get started very quickly.

Onto St. Andrews Hertford. Here we rang and coped well with the 15cwt 8 ringing 5 Triples and Major methods. When we got back to our cars we were over the time limit, but our Deputy Master, Debbie Hill, fluttered her eyelids at the Traffic Warden and he let us off.

It was then St. Mary the Virgin Ware with 8 bell and a 21cwt tenor, here we rang 6 methods. These bells are housed in a 78ft tower with a 30ft spire built between 1372 and 1377. In 1552 there were 5 bells which were augmented to a ring of 8 in the 1730's.

And so to lunch

We had two churches to visit in the afternoon.


The first St. John the Baptist Widford with it's 7cwt 6. We rang a mixture of the morning methods with Double Court Bob Minor as the standout method. There is an ongoing project to teach a new band of ringers here. The present church was built in the 12th century with evidence of a church in the 10th century.






Our final tower was housed in the church of St. Andrew Much Hadham with a 9cwt ring of 8. My notes tell me we rang Cambridge Surprise Major and Double Norwich Court Bob Major, two of our favourites. This has been a church shared by the Church of England and the Roman Catholic Church since the 1980's.

It had been a very happy and enjoyable occasion and our thanks go to Bradley and Debbie Hill for making all the arrangements. It went like clockwork.

Peter Smith

PATTERN OF SUNDAY SERVICES

The Book of Common Prayer is used for the services marked 
Common Worship is used for all other services

Sunday in the month	8.00 am	10.00 am with crèche	6.30pm
FIRST	 Holy Communion	Church Family Worship (all-age)	Evening Worship
SECOND	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Holy Communion
THIRD	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	All-Age Tonight
FOURTH	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
FIFTH	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	United Service

FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:

First Sunday: 10am **Church Family Worship**

Third Sunday: 6.30pm **All-Age Tonight**

Other Sundays: 10am in Church House:

Followers (3-5s), **Adventurers** (5-10s) & **Next** (10-13s)

Every Sunday: 7.30pm in Church House **Focus** (13-18s)

Tuesdays: 1.15pm in Church House – **Tiddlywinks** for pre-school children & parents/carers

**The above is subject to change at festivals
Please check Diary section for exact details**

St. Michael's Church is located in:

St Michael's Road, Braintree, Essex, CM7 1EY

Facebook: [stmichaelschurchbraintree](https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree)

Web: www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk