

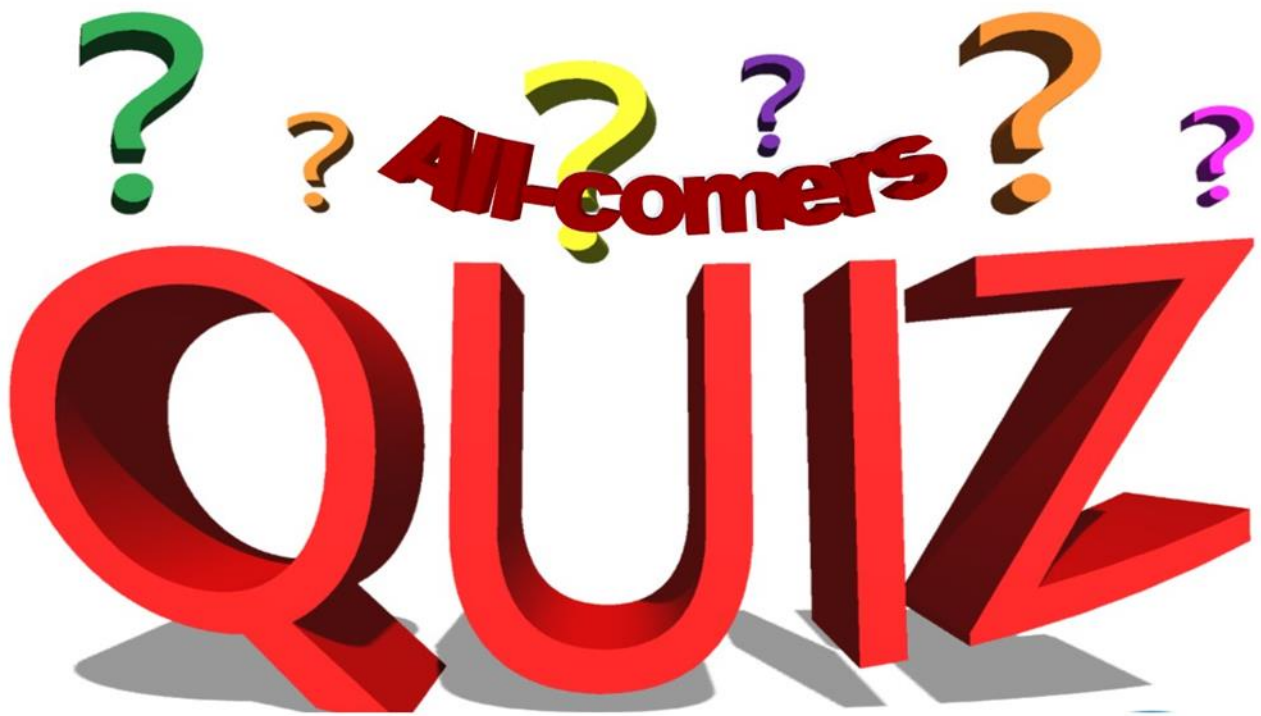
The LINK

30p

January 2019



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



QUIZ

All-comers

Saturday 9 February

5.45 for 6.00 pm start, finish by 9pm

St Michael's Church House

- **quizmaster Jeff Clayton**
- **make a team on the night**
- **just £5 with fish and chip supper**
- **or £4 with sausage and chips**
- **suitable for friends and family**

Tickets in advance from Sue, Jo, Lin, Jenny, Jonathan





Dear Friends,

Each year at St Michael's, we have a particular Verse of the Year. This year, it is some words of Jesus,

“Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.” (Matthew 11:28)

It's a promise for each of us. Life can be hard – sometimes very hard. It can leave us feeling weary and burdened. Jesus promises that if we bring our burdens to him, he will give us rest.

This isn't escapism. Jesus isn't promising that we will have a trouble-free life, because he goes on to say,

“Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy and my burden is light.” (Matthew 11:29-30)

Jesus offers us “rest for our souls” – a deep sense of fulfilment and peace, in him. Is that something you know for yourself?

If you want to find out more about Jesus' offer of peace, you would be very welcome to join us for Life Explored, 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 run on Mondays, 7.45-9.00pm in Church House, starting on 21st January. Please speak to me or to Jo if you would like to find out more, or would like to join us.

May I wish you a very happy New Year,
Nigel

WHITE HORSE TAVERN

Here are the titles and dates for our next session.

14th January - 11th February: Paul : a Decade of Energy

Led by Ade Odupitan

- **14th Jan** The influence of Stephen on Paul
- **21st Jan** In Asia: the Message for Antioch
- **28th Jan** In Europe: The Gospel in Philippi; the Pressure in Thessalonica
- **4th Feb** In 'Intellectual' Athens; in 'Wise Corinth'
- **11th Feb** The Counterfeit Mission

As a help, we shall be using John Pollock's *'The Apostle: the Life of Paul'*

25th February - 25th March: The Holy Spirit

Led by Phil Bartlett-Rawlings

- **25th Feb** Who is he? Why does He matter?
- **4th Mar** The Holy Spirit and new birth
- **11th Mar** The Holy Spirit and the Christian's growth.
- **18th Mar** The Holy Spirit, the Christian & special gifts.
- **25th Mar** Uniting us with Christ.

Our reference book this session is *'Know the Truth'*. Bruce Milne.

There will be a 'one off' session on 29th April when we shall consider Rebecca Stott's eye-opening book *'In The Days of Rain'*

Stephen Bailey

**What would bring you happiness?
What would bring you fulfilment?
What would bring you peace?**



Life Explored is an informal and relaxed seven-week course. It's for anyone who wants to find contentment and happiness in life. You don't need to know anything about the Bible, and you won't be asked to pray or sing. You can ask any question you like, or you can just sit and listen.

Whoever you are, whatever you are thinking, Life Explored is a place for you to discover the greatest gift in the universe.

On Mondays, 7.45-9.00pm in St Michael's Church House, Braintree, starting on 21st January. The evenings will start with light refreshments.

If you'd like to come or find out more, please contact Nigel & Jo Adams

SLEEPOUT

4th Braintree Scout Group held a BIG sleep out in aid of the charity CHESS, who support homeless people across Essex.

Over the weekend of 24/25 November, more than 100 Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and leaders spent time learning about the issue of homelessness, what they can do to support those in need and made cardboard shelters to sleep in overnight - outside!

It was a chilly evening, but they all rose to the challenge and raised sponsorship money by completing it. In total, the group has raised £3,850 for CHESS - an amazing and outstanding total!

All the young earned their Community Impact Staged badges by participating in the weekend and have learnt key life skills along the way!



A WALK FOR THE NEW YEAR

Why not join us for a winter walk in the countryside on Saturday 19th January? We thought we would repeat last year's walk for the New Year as it was enjoyed by all who came....not least the delicious lunch on reaching Felsted!



Meet at the start of the Flich Way adjoining Braintree Railway Station car park from 10.15am to set off at 10.30. Walk to Rayne Station where you may wish to enjoy a cup of coffee before returning to Braintree on foot or by bus.

Alternatively, continue with us along the Flich Way to Felsted where you may like to stop at the Tea Room or the pub for a drink or some lunch. If non-walking friends or family members join us for refreshment in Felsted you may well be offered a lift home rather than catch the bus!

We would value your company should you choose to join us for either the shorter or longer walk.

Terry and Miriam Clark

New Year, New Start

Church and Church House Working Party

Saturday 5 January from 9:00am



Please let Dave Marriott know if you want to make that difference.

Jobs planned potentially include:

Church:

- Clearing out cupboard
- Tidy and recycling of out of date material
- Making space for the new year
- Emergency light tests
- De-limescaling all kettles
- Post-Christmas clear up



Church House & Garden:

- De-limescaling all kettles
- Clearing out cupboards
- Transportation of rubbish
- Outhouse tidy/stock check
- New hinge on courtyard door
- Spreading out mulch over the side bank
- Signage improvements
- New noticeboard in office
- Emergency light and alarm tests
- Ensuring paths are clear of leaves and moss
- Start preparation for next set of decorating



Church House:

- Supporting the team with Tea/Coffee
- Lunch catering

JANUARY DIARY

2 Wednesday

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

3 Thursday

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

5 Saturday

9.00am Church and Church House work party

6 Sunday **1st of Epiphany**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am CFW – The words from my mouth?

6.30pm Evening Worship – Come to me all who are weary and burdened

7.30pm Focus

7 Monday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

8 Tuesday **JANUARY LINK SUBMISSION DUE**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm First Priority – Church House

9 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

10.00am Holy Communion

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

8.30pm Men@StMichael's beer and chat – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Rd

10 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

11 Friday

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

13 Sunday 2nd of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – Come to me all who are weary and burdened

6.30pm Holy Communion/meditation - The Lord is my Shepherd

7.30pm Focus

14 Monday

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

15 Tuesday FEBRUARY LINK SUBMISSION DUE

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

16 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House

8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

17 Thursday

3.30pm ASK

7.00pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

18 Friday

2.00pm Bradbury House Service

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

19 Saturday

10.15am Walk from Rayne Station

20 Sunday 3rd of Epiphany

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Holy Communion – A den of robbers

6.30pm Evening Worship – The Emperor's Clothes

7.30pm Focus

21 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.45pm Life Explored
- 8.00pm Badminton
- 8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

22 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

23 Wednesday

- 9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House
- 8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

24 Thursday

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

25 Friday

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
- 7.30pm Flower Club

27 Sunday 4th of Epiphany

- 8.00am Holy Communion
- 10.00am Morning Worship – The stone the builders rejected ...
- 6.30pm Evening Worship – The Enemy's Hatred
- 7.30pm Focus

28 Monday

- 12.15pm Spotlight
- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers
- 7.30pm Bell Ringing
- 7.45pm Life Explored
- 8.00pm Badminton
- 8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

29 Tuesday

- 1.15pm Tiddlywinks

30 Wednesday

9.45am Meeting Point Bible Study
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study

31 Thursday

3.30pm ASK
7.00pm Rose Hill Bible Study
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

FROM THE REGISTERS

No entries

Verse of the Year 2019

*Come to me, all who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest.*

Matthew 11.28

SHOEBOXES (OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD)

A very big thank you to all those who contributed in any way to this year's collection. I was delighted to deliver 100 boxes and many bags of fillers to the Halstead Warehouse. As there was no Chelmsford Warehouse we went there and were made very welcome. The shoeboxes from there were going to Iraq and Belarus. In addition, a total of £304.51 was given as a result of the coffee morning and other donations.

Thank you very much. There will be many happy children benefiting from these gifts.

Jenny Chapman

BELFRY BULLETIN

November is the Essex Association of Change ringers Northern District Quarter Peal Month when members try to ring as many QP's in as many Towers as possible. We are trying our best at St. Michael's. Before the 6.30pm service of Evening Worship Sunday 4th November we rang 1260 changes, consisting of 240 changes each of All Saints, St. Simons, St. Martins, Grandsire Doubles and 300 of Plain Bob Doubles :- Gareth Davies 1, Ellie Gray 2, Debbie Hill [c] 3, Peter Smith[c] 4, Bradley Hill [c] 5, Maurice Downs 6. Most methods, 5, for Gareth, Ellie, Debbie, Ellis and Bradley this QP was jointly conducted by Debbie, Peter and Bradley. For EACR Quarter Peal Month.

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 11-11-2018

This year is the 100th anniversary of the ending of the 1st World War. To celebrate and give thanks we rang 3 times.

At 9.30am, for 10am Morning Worship we rang All Saints and Grandsire Doubles for 30mins.

Bell ringers throughout the country were asked to ring as many bells in as many towers as was possible at 12.30pm and the ringing community made a wonderful response. We rang Rounds and Call Changes, Grandsire and All Saints Doubles ringing for 30mins were:- Bradley Hill, Debbie Hill, Phil Kelly, Gareth Davies, Ellis Whitehouse, Peter Smith and Pamela Ayling who has learnt to ring under the Ringing Remembers initiative which was to teach 1,400 new ringers in honour of the 1,400 ringers who died in WWI. In all about 2,700 have learnt, a great effort and a fine tribute to those ringers who lost their lives.

Kath Downs 1, Ellie Gray 2, Debbie Hill 3, Ellis Whitehouse 4, Peter Smith 5, Bradley Hill [c] 6, rang 540 changes St. Clements Bob Minor and Bradley Tolloed the Tenor bell prior to the 3pm Civic Service of remembrance.

On Monday 12th November we rang a Quarter Peal in Celebration of the 100th anniversary of the ending of the 1914-1918 war. 1320 changes St. Clements Bob Minor in 48mins. Gareth Davies 1, Ellie Gray 2, Debbie Hill 3, Ellis Whitehouse 4, Peter Smith 5, Bradley Hill [c] 6. This was 1st in method for Ellie, Ellis, Bradley and as conductor for Bradley who's glasses flew across the ringing room after about 15mins [we don't know how or why, and he's not saying] Happy Birthday for the 11th Ellie. For EACR Northern District QP Month.

Each month the Essex Association Northern District hold an advanced practice night to further the abilities of the District ringing. We host these practices at St Michael's and on November 17th 11 members attended of which 4 were from our Guild. Seven different methods were rung on 6-7-8 and 10 bells which produced some very good ringing and was very productive.

For Evening Worship on Sunday 18th November 4 of our Guild were joined by 6 others from the Association to ring 1260 changes of Plain Bob Royal in 46mins, Ellie Gray 1, Debbie Hill 2, Peter Smith 3, Heather Semken 4, Kath Downs 5, Bradley Hill 6, Gareth Bennett 7, David Hengeli 8, John Taylor 9, Maurice Downs [c] 10. Congratulations to Elli for ringing her first QP on 10 bells and Gareth Bennett his 1st of Royal. Rung in celebration of Debbie's Dad and Bradley's Grandad's 90th birthday and for EACR Northern District Quarter Peal month.

Prior to Evening Worship on Sunday 25th November, we failed in an attempted QP of Stedman doubles which we will try again. To ring to Service time Ellis Whitehouse conducted 420 changes of Plain Bob Doubles. Well done Ellis.

During November and early part of December we have had some very good service and practice ringing often ringing all 10 bells with many different methods being rung. Very pleasing.

Our proposed overhaul of the bells is going along steadily with quotes for the work being acquired and grants being pursued. The DAC is to consider our Faculty application at its next meeting. It is hoped to have a small display about the bells at the museum in the near future.

Peter Smith