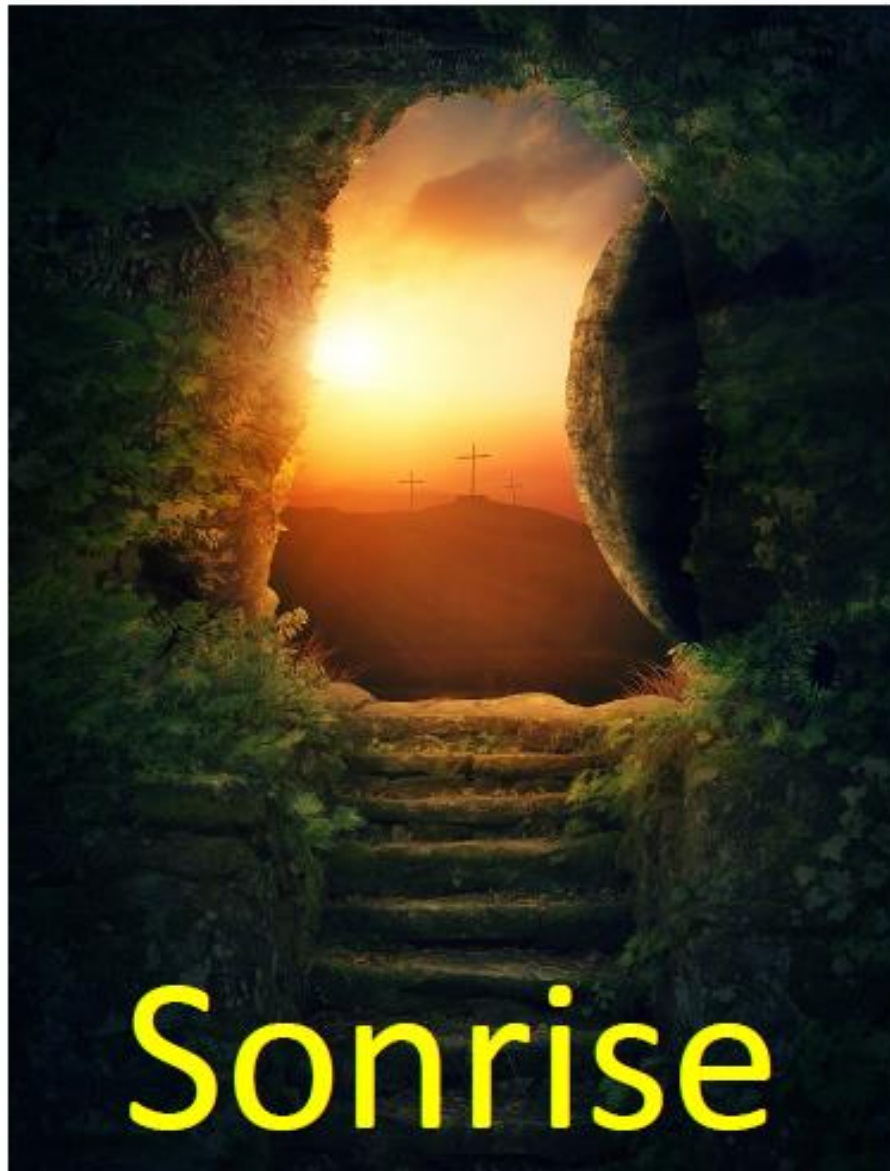


**The LINK**

**30p**

**April 2019**



**Sonrise**

**The Parish Church of  
St Michael Braintree  
[www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)**

# **Easter services**

*Everyone is most welcome to join us*

**Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> April – Maundy Thursday**

8.00pm Holy Communion

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April – Good Friday**

9.45am United Service

followed by a Walk of

Witness to George Yard

3.00pm An Hour by the Cross

**Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April – Easter Day**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Family Communion

6.30pm Evening Service



## Standing firm

Dear Friends,

Do you ever find yourself struggling to do what is right? You want to do what you know is right, but end up doing what is wrong.

If this is your experience, you are in good company. The apostle Paul described his struggle like this, *“For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.”* (Romans 7:19)

We should not be surprised if we struggle with temptation. Even Jesus was tempted. We are now in Lent, the period of the church’s year when we recall Jesus’ temptations. Before Jesus began his public ministry, he was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where he did not eat for 40 days (Luke 4:1-13).

Starving hungry, Jesus faced Satan’s temptations – temptations regarding food, power and security. Each time, Jesus answered the devil from the Bible. Jesus stood firm in the face of the most demanding of temptations.

As we face temptation, God gives us the Bible to help us. There are promises that God will help us,

*“God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.”* (1 Corinthians 10:13)

Also, promises that God will forgive us,

*“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)*

God can make these promises to us because Jesus stood firm in the face of temptation. He chose to take the path of the Cross. That’s what we remember solemnly on Good Friday, that Jesus died in our place, to pay the price for our sins. But we remember it joyfully on Easter Day, as we then recall that Jesus rose from death and gives us the hope of eternal life – life forever with God, where there is no more pain or suffering.

I hope you will be able to join us for at least one of our services over the Easter period, to reflect on what Jesus has done for us. And do please think and pray if there is someone you could invite to church this Easter.

May God bless you this Easter time,

Nigel

## MISSION OF THE MONTH THE BARNABAS FUND

What helps make Barnabas Fund distinctive in how it supports Christians who are being persecuted?



We work by:

- Directing our aid only to Christians, although its benefits may not be exclusive to them ("As we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, **especially to those who belong to the family of believers.**" Galatians 6:10, emphasis added)
- Aiming the majority of our aid at Christians living in Muslim environments
- Channelling money **from** Christians **through** Christians **to** Christians
- Channelling money through existing structures in the countries where funds are sent (e.g. local churches or Christian organisations)
- Using the money to fund projects which have been developed by local Christians in their own communities, countries or regions
- Considering any request, however small
- Acting as equal partners with the persecuted Church, whose leaders often help shape our overall direction
- Acting on behalf of the persecuted Church, to be their voice - making their needs known to Christians around the world and the injustice of their persecution known to governments and international bodies

We seek to:

- meet both practical and spiritual needs
- encourage, strengthen and enable the existing local Church and Christian communities - so they can maintain their presence and witness rather than setting up our own structures or sending out missionaries
- tackle persecution at its root by making known the aspects of the Islamic faith and other ideologies that result in injustice and oppression of Christians and others
- inform and enable Christians in the West to respond to the growing challenge of Islam to Church, society and mission in their own countries

- facilitate global intercession for the persecuted Church by providing comprehensive prayer material



We believe:

- we are called to address both religious and secular ideologies that deny full religious liberty to Christian minorities - while continuing to show God's love to all people
- in the clear Biblical teaching that Christians should treat all people of all faiths with love and compassion, even those who seek to persecute them
- in the power of prayer to change peoples lives and situations, either through grace to endure or through deliverance from suffering

*"Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."*

Matthew 25:40

## **LENT LUNCHES**

Every Wednesday

6<sup>th</sup> March – 17<sup>th</sup> April  
12 – 1.15pm

**BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Coggeshall Road

Adults - £3  
Children - £1

All proceeds to:  
Hope House Braintree          J's Hospice

## DIARY OF A NEW CHURCHWARDEN

23rd February

Church and church house working party went well apart from I managed to forget to include it in the magazine. The carpet cleaning and plant tidying up progressed well, especially with the head start Jonathan had made to the work. It was one of those days where we could sit outside for lunch and it felt good to share each other's company making a difference.

24th February

I have been for some time working with a few others on the Church's Facebook page. It is wonderful to see that our page is followed and liked by several of our ex-congregation, so I can see interactions from all over the world. The testing of scheduled posts really helped raise the profile of several events, hopefully this will continue, and we will get more people to see the way to the Lord.

28th February

This evening saw a meeting to plan a church service that was decidedly different. For once I was there not just as warden and someone interested in making a service happen, but as a father with my youngest. It was the planning session of the All-Age Tonight service for March, the first of many to come. It was great to see everyone together (especially the youngsters) plan such a service. The result, well it was a service to remember, everything from Abraham, Cake, Blindfolds and music that is still going round my head (like a light in a lighthouse...), and mostly the feeling that the Spirit was at work in the church.

16th March

I spend the Saturday evening doing something constructive. With the brief from Nigel, by the end of the evening we had finalised the Easter cards and posters for the publicity of the services. Within a week these were in Church House ready for distribution.

If anybody would like to help produce publicity either for social media, print or poster please let me know.

*Dave Marriott*

**In concert**

# **St Michaels band with Jonathan Wicks**

**Saturday 11 May**

**7.30 to 9.00 pm**

**St Michael's Church**

**Braintree**



**Free Entry**

**Refreshments**

**Collection for Christian Aid**



## APRIL DIARY

### 1 Monday

- 10.00am John Ray Juniors' Easter Service  
12.15pm Spotlight  
5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers  
7.30pm Bell Ringing  
8.00pm Badminton  
8.00pm White Horse Tavern – Church House

### 2 Tuesday

- 12noon Women@StMichael's prayer lunch  
1.15pm Tiddlywinks  
7.30pm Men@StMichael's meal at the Green Dragon

### 3 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  
8.30pm Men@StMichael's beer and chat – Wetherspoons, Fairfield Rd

### 4 Thursday

- 10.00am Coffee@St.Michael's  
3.30pm ASK  
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study  
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

### 5 Friday

- 5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

### 6 Saturday

- 9.00am Church and Church House work party  
10.00am Concert rehearsal - Church

### 7 Sunday

#### 5th of Lent

- 8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Morning Worship – I do not know this man  
6.30pm Evening Worship – Magic arts  
7.30pm Focus

### 8 Monday

7.30pm Bell Ringing  
8.00pm Badminton  
**9 Tuesday MAY LINK SUBMISSION DUE**  
8.00pm First Priority prayer meeting – Church House  
**10 Wednesday**  
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House  
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study  
**11 Thursday**  
7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study  
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study  
**14 Sunday Palm Sunday**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Morning Worship - The Triumphal Entry  
6.30pm Holy Communion/meditation - Your steadfast love is better than life  
7.30pm Focus  
**15 Monday**  
7.30pm Bell Ringing  
8.00pm Badminton  
**16 Tuesday**  
10.00am Concert rehearsal - Church  
**17 Wednesday**  
7.45pm Bible Reading Group – Church House  
8.00pm Lifebuilder Bible Study  
**18 Maundy Thursday**  
7.00pm Rose Hill Bible Study  
8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study  
8.00pm Holy Communion  
**19 Good Friday**  
9.45am United Service at St. Michael's followed by "Walk of Witness"  
2.00pm Bradbury House Service  
3.00pm An Hour by the Cross  
**21 Sunday Easter Day**  
8.00am Holy Communion  
10.00am Family Communion - He is Risen!

6.30pm Evening Worship – on the road to Emmaus

**22 Monday**

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

**23 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

**24 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

**25 Thursday**

3.30pm ASK

7.30pm Rose Hill Bible Study

8.00pm Carry on Exploring Bible Study

**26 Friday**

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers, Cubs & Scouts

7.30pm Flower Club

**28 Sunday 2nd of Easter**

8.00am Holy Communion

10.00am Morning Worship – Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed

6.30pm Evening Worship – True friendship

7.30pm Focus

**29 Monday**

12.15pm Spotlight

5.30pm 4th Braintree Beavers

7.30pm Bell Ringing

8.00pm Badminton

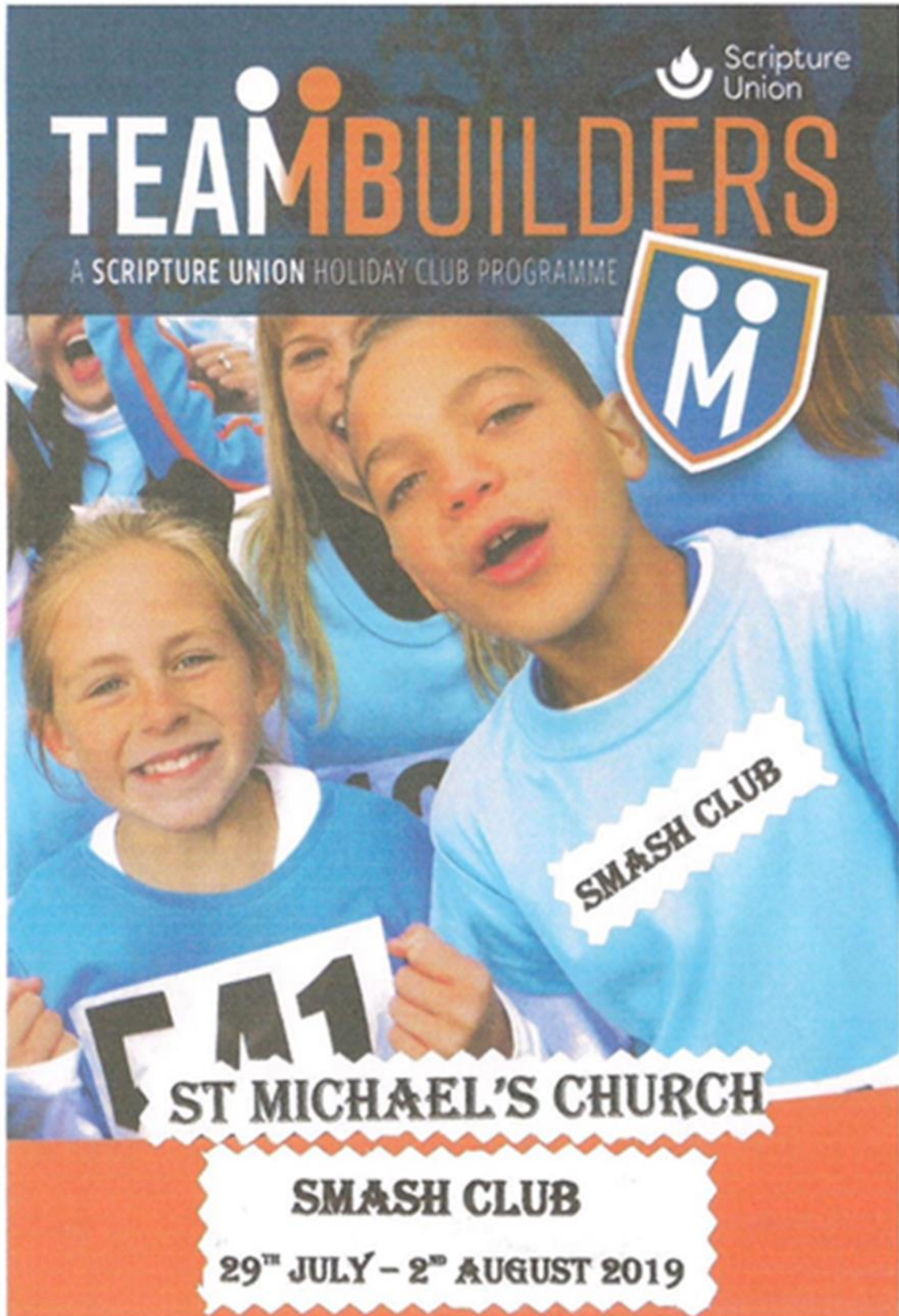
7.45pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (refreshments from 7.15pm)

**30 Tuesday**

1.15pm Tiddlywinks

# FROM THE REGISTERS

3rd March Baptism of Grace Chloe Allen



# Church and Church House Working Party

**Saturday 6 April** from 9:00am

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

## Jobs planned include:

### Church:

- Gutters cleaning
- Clearing out cupboards
- Oiling the Vestry door
- Emergency light test



### Church House & Garden:

- Clearing out cupboards
- Transportation of rubbish to recycling
- Fencing
- Cleaning and dusting
- Jet wash footpaths?
- Repainting benches
- New signage



### Church House:

- Supporting the team with Tea/Coffee
- Lunch catering



# **BELFRY BULLETIN**

## **GUILD AGM**

The AGM was held on Monday 18th March in Church house  
Our guild Master Bradley Hill welcomed our vicar Revd. Nigel Adams, Churchwarden Dave Marriot and members to the meeting and invited Nigel to open the meeting with a prayer.

The idea was to get through the usual business as quickly as possible to leave plenty of time to discuss the Bells Restoration Project.

Apologies were received, the last AGM minutes, matters arising and Officers reports were accepted. The Masters report emphasised the progress Guild had made both collectively and individually.

As all the Officers were willing to carry on they were elected on bloc. Master Bradley Hill, Deputy Master Debbie Hill, Secretary Lin Ould, Treasurer Richard Ould, Steeple Keeper Bradley Hill and Deputy Steeple Keeper Phil Kelly.

Our weekend away this year is to Worcester on 21st-22nd and 23rd of June, with a day out later in the year hopefully to the Wisbech area. As a weekday ringing meeting went off without complaint it was felt that we could allow weekday ringing in a controlled manner.

The bells Restoration Project was discussed at length. An inspection had been carried out with the recommendation that all 10 bells be taken out retuned, refurbished with all the working parts renewed as required. The metal bell frame will be repainted against rust.

A programme of work to take place in the ringing chamber. Plaster, where needed, and paint the walls. Replace the carpet, seating, cupboards and door Installation of a simulator on all 10 bells with a possible camera feed to the main body of the church.

With the required approval it is hoped that the project will be finished in the 2nd quarter of 2020


To accomplish all this necessary work, quotes have been received which come to the estimated cost of £75,000 - £80,000. The possibility of raising this money was discussed and will be included in a forth coming Belfry Bulletin.

Revd. Nigel Adams complimented Bradley Hill on the very succinct, easy to follow and detailed report and commended all his efforts to date. Nigel brought a very encouraging and productive AGM to a close with a prayer.

*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	Evening Worship
FOURTH	 Holy Communion	Morning Worship	Evening Worship
FIFTH	 Holy Communion	Holy Communion	United Service

### FOR CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE:

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

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](http://www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk)