



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

23rd May 2021- Day of Pentecost

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

General Information

Vicar	Rev Nigel Adams	01376 807662
	Email: revnigeladams@gmail.com	
	(Nigel's day off will be Thursday)	
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

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: <https://www.facebook.com/stmichaelschurchbraintree/>

We are delighted to be hosting a Christian Institute presentation on **Wed 30th June, 7.30pm on Zoom**. They will be speaking about some of the moral issues facing us today, including gender ideology, the sanctity of human life, as well as the work of their Legal Defence Fund. Please note the date in your diary – we will give more details in due course.

There will be a **Confirmation Service on Sun 19th Sept, 10am** at St Michael's Church with Rt Revd Roger Morris, Bishop of Colchester. If you are interested in being Confirmed, or wish to know more, please speak with Nigel Adams or Rachel Grove Smith.

Dear Friends,

We are continuing our services **in church, online, by phone and on Zoom**. We are also doing some new things at our "in person" services. We will be ending each of our services in church by going outside to sing the last song together (weather dependent). We will also be having a monthly Communion service in church (bread only), starting this Sunday. Do please join us, if you feel able to – details of how to pre-book a seat are inside the Notice Sheet.

This Sunday is **Pentecost**, when we remember how the Holy Spirit came. Towards the end of Jesus' earthly ministry, he told his disciples, **"And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever"** (John 14:16). Some weeks later, on the Day of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit came, with tongues of fire (Acts 2). It was the birth of the early church. The indwelling Holy Spirit gave the disciples a new boldness and power to share the good news of Jesus. On that first Pentecost, Peter preached in Jerusalem and 3,000 people were saved and baptised.

If we trust in Jesus, we can know that the Holy Spirit lives in us. He helps us and even prays for us – **"The Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words."** (Romans 8:26).

If we do feel weak, and many of us do in these strange times we are living through, let us **thank God for sending the Holy Spirit**, to live in us, to help us hour by hour, and to pray with us and for us. Let us not just pray for ourselves, but for those who are in particular need of our prayers – in Israel & Gaza, in India, for those who are unwell and those who mourn.

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel

Church services:

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

Online

Sunday 23rd May

9.45am Children's & Families Service on Zoom

10.00am Morning Worship online (YouTube) and by phone

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Sunday 30th May

9.45am Children's & Families Service on Zoom

10.00am Morning Worship online (YouTube) and by phone

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

Our pre-recorded 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 adult service is also available through "St Michael's by Phone" – 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. The link for our Zoom services is on Nigel Adams' weekly email – please contact Nigel if you need it.

In church

Sunday 23rd May

10.00am Holy Communion (bread only) - **please book in advance**

Sunday 30th May

10.00am Morning Worship - **please book in advance**

You will need to book your seat for the services by midnight on the Thursday before – either via the St Michael's website (Worship tab) or by leaving a message on the church office answerphone (01376 321248). You will be contacted on Friday if you have a seat – please only attend if you have been told you have a pre-booked seat.

If you are coming into church, you will need to comply with the following:

1. That you have not had COVID-19 symptoms in the last 10 days (fever, continuous cough, loss of sense of smell or taste)
2. That you are fit to attend the church, in line with government guidance on shielding and isolating
3. That you agree to maintain a 2 metre social distance from others and to wear a face covering in church, unless exempt

Coffee on Zoom: We will be having Zoom virtual coffee after church each Sunday and on the first Thursday of each month, both at 11am. Details of how to sign up will be included in the weekly email on Saturday.

Christian Youth Outreach Schools Mentor – CYO are advertising for a Schools Mentor, a paid role of 12 hours per week, typically mentoring secondary school pupils in a 1:1 setting, starting in September 2021. For details, please contact Matt Ager at matt@cyoweb.org.uk.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Rev Pam Davies (severe back problems), David Harvey, Elaine Stoodley, Rev Norman Thorp (former curate of St Paul's Braintree), Alan Bass, Alison Davey

Housebound: Anne Harvey; **Ron Smith** has now moved to a care home near to his family in Malvern. Do please be praying for Ron, as he settles in, and contact Jo Adams if you would like to have Ron's address.

Bereaved: Margaret St John-Coleman and family following the death of Tom on Friday 14th May. Tom was our 'Reader Emeritus' and will be much missed.

Mission of the Month: A Rocha was founded in 1983 in Portugal by Peter and Miranda Harris. 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. A Rocha UK is based in London, and has a site called Wolf Fields. A second site, nearer to home for us, is at Foxearth Meadows near Sudbury. This site is managed primarily for dragonflies and damselflies. Church demonstration day at Foxearth this year is Saturday 10th July. If you would like to attend, please contact uk@arocha.org and they will send you more details.

You will have seen in world news that the pandemic situation in India is extremely serious. A Rocha India is based in Bangalore which is one of the worst affected cities. Please uphold A Rocha India in your prayers: for all the team based at the centre in Bannerghatta and specifically for our board chair and his family, who have been very ill with Covid 19.

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting will be on **Tues 25th May** from 7.30pm on Zoom. It will be possible to join us on Zoom either by video conferencing or by phone.

- We will have **elections** for 2 churchwardens and 4 Parochial Church Council members.
- You should have received information about the annual meeting either by email or as a hard copy. If you have not received this information, or have any questions, please contact Rev Nigel Adams.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 25th May are Psalms 102 & 103, Matthew 13:1 - Matthew 19:30, Proverbs 26:1 - 26:12. 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)