



ST MICHAEL'S BRAINTREE



General Information

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

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/>

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

30th May 2021- First Sunday after Pentecost

An update from Rev Nigel Adams

Dear Friends,

Our services continue **in church, online, by phone and on Zoom**. Do please consider joining us for one of our services in the church building, particularly if you haven't managed to join us yet. It has been really good to sing our last song together outside. Details of our services are inside this Notice Sheet, including how to pre-book a seat in church.

We are continuing our series on the life of Peter and have come to the passage in Mark 8 where Peter is the first of the disciples to say who Jesus is – the Christ, that is, the promised Messiah. After that, Jesus says some hard things for the disciples to hear. He foretells his death and resurrection.

Then Jesus says to both the crowds and his disciples, ***“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”*** (Mark 8:34). These are hard words for us to hear today. Yes, it is true that God loves us, longs to forgive us, sent his Son to die for us, gives us eternal life and much besides. God does so much for us – we are forgiven and saved because of Jesus' work, not our own.

But having done all that for us, Jesus calls us to **deny ourselves, take up our cross and follow him**. Tim Keller, an American pastor, has written a small book with the title, **“The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness – the path to true Christian joy.”** Because it is when we take our eyes off ourselves, our needs and preferences, and focus instead on Jesus' love and plans for us, that we experience a real deep-down joy. May we know more of that joy over the coming weeks.

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 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

Sunday 6th June

10.00am Church Family Worship online (YouTube) and by phone

11.00am Virtual Coffee on Zoom

6.30pm Holy Communion 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 30th May

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

Sunday 6th June

10.00am Church Family 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. Please join us on Zoom on Thursday 3rd June from 11am for our monthly coffee and chat. Details of how to sign up will be included in the weekly email on Saturday.

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.

For your prayers:

Unwell: Bobby McCaigue, 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.

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.

Thank you: David and Anne Harvey wish to thank the church family for their prayers and kind messages over the months. David is now in a nursing home and Anne is able to visit him regularly and they talk on the telephone.

Bible Reading Group: this week's readings for Tuesday, 1st June are Psalms 102 & 103, Matthew 13:1 - Matthew 20:34, 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)

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.