

The LINK digital

September 2022



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

"BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY"

Dear Friends,

The past two and a half years have been unprecedented times, in many ways. Some of our basic assumptions have been challenged as we have lived through the coronavirus pandemic.

In line with many churches during the pandemic, we have been through various phases. There were times when the church building was closed, YouTube video services were recorded from our homes, "St Michael's by Phone" was created, then we returned to the church building, initially socially distanced and with face coverings. At various stages, these changes were required by law or were just government or Church of England guidance.

We are now very much back in the church building. Whilst many people in our church family have returned to "in-person" church services, some people have either not returned at all, or not returned as regularly.

On Sunday 11th September, we are having a "Back to Church Sunday". We will have services at 8am, 10am & 6.30pm that day, as well as Junior Church for children & young people at 10am. We would encourage everyone who is able, to join us, in person in St Michael's Church that day.

We will be asking the question, "Why is church so special?" By church, I mean the people of God who meet in the church building. Part of the answer is that, as we meet together as a church family, we can encourage one another and obey Jesus' command to love one another (John 15:12).

If you prefer to be socially distanced in church, do please sit around the sides of the church at the 10am service, or join us for the 8am or 6.30pm services, which tend to be smaller in number.

“And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another—and all the more as you see the Day approaching.” (Hebrews 10:24-25)

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel



MISSION OF THE MONTH



Tearfund is a Christian charity that partners with churches in more than 50 of the world's poorest countries. They tackle poverty through sustainable development, responding to disasters, and challenging injustice. They believe that poverty is not God's plan, and an end to extreme poverty is possible.

They work directly, and/or alongside local partners and churches, in under-served communities to tackle complex poverty in three main ways:

- **Humanitarian response**

Responding quickly to disasters and conflicts, supporting those in greatest need throughout the recovery process.

- **Community development**

Partnering with local churches and organisations, mobilising resources and empowering communities to lift themselves out of poverty.

- **Advocacy and influencing**

Helping individuals and churches speak out on issues of poverty and injustice, and challenging unjust policies and practices at a local, national and global level.

Tearfund is committed to working with the local church and believes in the church's limitless potential for outreach and influence for change through and in its community. They believe in supporting the church, at local and national levels, to carry out its calling to be salt and light in the world and serve those living in poverty. They believe that poverty exists as a result of

broken relationships with God, ourselves, others and creation. The church has a key role to play in helping to restore these four broken relationships, bringing about whole-life transformation to individuals and communities.

God is calling all of us to play our part and bring an end to extreme poverty and injustice.

Soaring temperatures in the UK in recent months have acted as a stark reminder: we are in a climate emergency. Around the world, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense. From prolonged heatwaves across Europe to landslides in Brazil, drought in Afghanistan and failed rainy seasons in East Africa – to name just a few – the impacts of the climate crisis are widespread.

Such events not only lead to lives being lost and people being displaced, but they are often followed by food shortages and a loss of jobs and income, pushing communities back, or deeper, into poverty.

But we have hope in a powerful God who is able to break into this crisis and bring restoration.

If you would like to learn more, please visit the <https://www.tearfund.org/> website. Or if you would like to sign up for the weekly One Voice in Prayer email please go to [tearfund.org/onevoice](https://www.tearfund.org/onevoice)



Pray with us:

- Lift up in prayer everyone affected by the climate crisis. Pray that people living in poverty will receive the support they need to adapt and thrive.
- Ask that the leaders of high-income countries will honour their commitments and deliver the promised climate finance to the most vulnerable communities.
- Pray that communities will be empowered to unleash their potential as they develop innovative and sustainable ways to adapt to climate change.

Margaret Kinniburgh - St Michael's rep for Tearfund

EVENTS, MY DEAR BOY, EVENTS

Harold Macmillan, Prime Minister from 1953 to 1962, is supposed to have made this remark to Adam Raphael a journalist with the 'Observer'. Adam Raphael asked Harold Macmillan what was the toughest thing about being Prime Minister. In reply, Macmillan's remark reflected on the fact that those in government are often overtaken by the unforeseen and unexpected that they couldn't plan for. We know all about that: Covid and the Russian invasion of Ukraine came out of the blue.

EVENTS AND RISHI SUNAK & LIZ TRUSS.

Events seem to have thrust Rishi & Liz centre stage. They are telling those who can vote for them, how they will deal with 'events' like inflation and especially the rising cost of heating.

THE UNKNOWN

But once one of them have solved our present problems (and let's pray that they will) along will come other things they have not expected and could not plan for. Covid has taught us that.

AN ABLE MAN & AN ABLE WOMAN

My personal view is that both candidates are very able and hard working but neither of them is God. All events are in His hand and happen by His decision and permission. This Bible teaching about God gives us confidence because all that happens is from the hand of a good and righteous God. Evil in whatever form never has the last say.

IRRIGATING YOUR LAND

In Bible times a farmer dug several little channels to irrigate his land. The main one led from the local river carrying the water. He would divert the water with his hand breaking the side of the main channel so that the water ran into another channel bearing the water to another part of his field.

Proverbs 21:1 says, 'the king's heart is in the hand of the Lord; he turns it wherever he will'.

GOD CAN BE TRUSTED

Politicians, we are told, can't be trusted. That is as maybe, but almighty God can direct them. I wonder if that is why our Lord Jesus Christ called on us to pray to our heavenly Father for our daily bread.

Stephen Bailey

FARMING SEASON

The harvest has finished and recently there has been a months rainfall in less than twenty four hours but there seems little to celebrate on the farm because in August my mother died.



It is in times like these when we evaluate what is really important and fondly recollect many memories. Towards the end of her life my mother suffered with Parkinson's disease, which is a degenerative disorder of the central nervous system but this is not how she will be remembered by me. In the farming world we often talk about the weather and the machinery we use, but as in any industry it boils down to the input of the people which can have the biggest impact on how the business is run.

Throughout the majority of her working life my mother fulfilled the role of a farmer's wife which in her generation involved supporting my father in running the business and managing the household. To me she was the cornerstone of the family and the

role was a non stop one always preparing and supporting, which included our grandparents and the farm staff. Until her dying day mum never lost her sense of humour and there was always much laughter and singing in the house.

Underpinning everything my mum did was her faith and she attended St Andrew's Church in Shalford throughout over 55 years of married life where she served as a church warden for over 40 years reliably attending services week after week. I remember reading Ladybird Bible stories with her as a child which both helped me to begin learning the Bible and how to read.

The best memories of my mum will be the trips across the fields walking the dog and looking at the crops. She loved both the countryside and her dogs and it was fitting that the last thing she did was go with my family and our dog for a ride up the fields on a beautiful summers evening.

Adam Grove Smith

WHO CAN BE AGAINST US?

“What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:31-32)

When Moses sent out the 12 spies to report on the condition of the land of “milk and honey”, ten of the spies brought back a bad report. They focused on the giants, and the great obstacles in their way. They walked with eyes set on the physical realm and said within themselves, “We are but grasshoppers in the sight of these giants!” (Numbers 13:28-33).

However, Joshua and Caleb came back with a different perspective. They didn't ignore the giants or the obstacles or pretend they didn't exist, but rather focused on their God who had performed miracles upon miracles, from the series of ten plagues to the parting of the Red Sea, to the miracle of “daily bread” – manna from heaven!

Giants, however large or dangerous they might be, would not prevent Israel from taking the land – at least not in the faith-filled opinion of Joshua or Caleb. If the God who had disarmed Pharaoh was for them, it was His enemies who should be trembling.

So it is with us! If there are “giants” everywhere – “fortified” strongholds – the enemy would love for us to focus on how insignificant and powerless we appear to be, but don't we also have God's miracles to look back on? Salvation from our sins, to begin with...But how many times has the Lord answered your prayers since then? We need more than ever to remember His grace and intervention in our lives. Those memories will inspire the faith to face the current giants and their apparent threats.

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” It's not an idle word or an empty epithet. Our God really is a giant slayer. We only need to remember what He has done before to maintain faith in what He can and will do now.

Supplied by Peter Schaad from “The Worthy Brief”

OASIS@ST MICHAEL'S



You are warmly invited to the first meeting of

Oasis@StMichael's A Bereavement Support Group

Thursday 22nd September 2022

2pm until 3.30pm in St Michael's Church House (Small Hall),

St Michael's Lane, CM7 1EY

If you would like to know more, please contact:

**Jo Adams, Derek Chapman, Margaret Kinniburgh or Margaret St
John-Coleman**

COFFEE@ST MICHAEL'S



Coffee@St Michael's is starting up again in September in St Michael's church – it will be on the first Thursday of the month (apart from September) from 10am-12noon.

The dates for the Autumn Term will be Thursdays 8th Sept, 6th Oct, 3rd Nov & 1st Dec.

Everyone is very welcome.

Jo Adams

WOMEN@ST MICHAEL'S

We are glad to announce that we are coming back together so
some dates for you!

PRAYER LUNCHESS in ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH.

12.00 – 2.00 pm

Autumn Prayer Lunch Tuesday 20th September

*Please bring your own sandwiches or the equivalent and we will
provide some treats and drinks*

Christmas Prayer Lunch on Tuesday December 6th.

Soup and Christmas treats and drinks

Saturday November 12th

Saturday School in Church House. 9.30 Bacon Rolls and Drinks.

Sessions from 10. 00 – 12.30 pm.

**Watch and listen for details of a meal at the White Hart, a
Christmas Event, and plans for 2023.**

Jennifer Bailey

BELFRY BULLETIN

AT LAST we have been able to hold our [Covid delayed] 2020 and 2021 Christmas and summer parties. The date was Sunday 28th August 2022 with the Hill family kindly hosting the events. We arrived with our bags full of goodies, mainly cheese, and having arranged cheese on the table, it was time for pre-meal drinks.

In the garden we had cordials, squashes, Pimms and someone even had a cup of tea, and so the party began with much chat, bellringing banter, catching up on holiday escapades. There were lovely and beautiful wedding pictures and the joy that went with them.

Back inside we sampled a wide variety of cheeses from a delicate sheep's cheese through mild reds to mature cheddar to a very ripe camembert, accompanied by a very nice port which was a birthday present to Ellis from his University friends. To round the party off we had a short time of handbell ringing with Bradley and Debbie in charge and after some more bellringing chat it was time to go.

A WONDERFUL TIME OF CHRISTIAN CAMARADERIE

Monday 1st August was a practice night to remember as Bradley Hill rang a bell for the first time following his accident in April.

WELCOME BACK BRAD

We have had visits from two groups of ringers. On Sunday 14th August a representative band from the Essex Association attempted a Quarter Peal of Yorkshire Royal.

The West Anglian guild were the visitors on Wednesday 17th August. When 21 members were present to ring a wide range of

methods from widely rung methods on 8 bells through to more complex ones on 8 and 10 bells.

We had many complimentary comments on the GO and the sound of the bells and the welcoming and comfortable ringing room.

The West Anglian Guild had donated £500 pounds to the refurbishing fund, which is the maximum their constitution allows and one of the first promises of donations to the refurbishment fund.

Peter Smith

COFFEE CHAT WITH ROGER COOKE



Third Monday coffee and conversation

Group of us met again on the third Monday in August and had a good chat – got chatting to the manager who escaped the war in Bosnia.

I shall be in the Quadrant cafe on **19th September** at **10.30am** so if you'd like to join me you'd be very welcome!

Looking forward to seeing you.

Roger Cooke

THOUGHTS FOR THE MONTH

Is science anti God?

If you were to get your answer from the media with the time it gives to folk like Richard Dawkins you might be inclined to say... Yes.

Yet among scientists at the highest level there is a striking percentage of faith.

Google...what percentage of Nobel prize winners are **Christian**, you find that between 1900 and 2000 the percentage of Nobel Laureates that identify as Christian is 65%.

For the Physics prize the figure is 65.3%; for Chemistry it's 72.5 %; Medicine 62%.

For **Jews** 20% overall - Chemistry is 17%, Physics and medicine 26% .

Atheists are only 10% of the total of Laureates in that period.

They score highest in literature with 35% (by definition not an objective truth seeking branch of academe but an intensely personal inward looking profession).

Maybe it's a case of, when one looks in one, one can find no faith in God, but when one looks out to the creation, faith is not so daft?

Roger Cooke

QUIZPAGE

005

Hello and welcome to September's *QuizPage*! This month is based on the BBC TV show **Pointless**. If you're not familiar with how that works, it's a bit like Family Fortunes in reverse – we want answers which the people surveyed had thought of, but we're more interested in the correct answers which are obscure, beyond just the popular.

The table below sets out a series of general knowledge clues, each with a word or name missing. All eight answers are **towns and cities in the northwest of England**. Write yours in the column on the right hand side, then check page **26-27** to see how you did.

Earls _____, or _____ Engaine, as in the names of two Essex villages.	
Burt _____, American actor and director who starred in such 1950s hit films as "From Here To Eternity", "The Rainmaker" and "Gunfight At The O.K. Corral".	
Eric _____, entertainer who formed a successful song-and-dance partnership with Ernie Wise.	
_____ Mint Cake, a high energy bar flavoured with peppermint and sometimes wrapped in chocolate, popular with walkers and climbers in the Lake District and beyond.	

<p>“Dreams”, “Everywhere” and “Little Lies” were among the successful hit singles for _____ Mac.</p>	
<p>“_____ FM”, the fictional radio station in Peter Kay’s successful comedy series “Phoenix Nights” in 2001-2.</p>	
<p>_____ cake – like a turnover, made from flaky pastry with butter, filled with currants, and can be topped with sugar.</p>	
<p>Belinda _____, American singer with The Go-Go’s; enjoyed further success as a solo artist; 1980s hits include “Heaven Is A Place On Earth”.</p>	

What's the
LONGEST
word from
these letters?

S T M I C H A E L

**Remember, remember
the 5th of November
as Countdown comes to
the hall in Church House.**

**Join Jeff for a live, interactive game show
experience with big screen graphics.**

**Find the best words, pick the numbers,
solve those crucial conundrums and
work your way up our leader board!**

www.focalcountdown.co.uk/braintree-2022

Organised and hosted by Jeff Clayton on Saturday 5th November 2022. Doors open at 10:30; the draw for Round 1 is at 11:15. Everyone plays six games from start to finish, concluding by 18:00, with breaks in between. Free refreshments will be available – tea, coffee, squash, fruit, biscuits. All ages are welcome, but under-18s must be accompanied by a participating adult. Full details of the event are posted on the above web page, including an indicative timetable and how to sign up. Registration is in advance, please (confirmed upon receipt of payment). The longest word in the selection is ALCHEMIST.

Jeff Clayton

SEPTEMBER DIARY

www.stmichaelsbtreet.co.uk

Our YouTube services can be accessed through the “St Michael’s – Worship on the Web” YouTube channel and are generally updated during the week after the Sunday service

4 Sunday

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Church Family Worship

6:30pm Holy Communion

5 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

6 Tuesday

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

7 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

8 Thursday

10:00am Coffee@St Michael’s – in church

11 Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Morning Worship

6:30pm Evening Worship

12 Monday

7:30pm Bell Ringing

13 Tuesday

8.00pm First Priority Prayer Meeting

14 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

18 Sunday

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Morning Worship

4.00pm Welcome Tea (for newcomers)

6:30pm All-Age Tonight

19 Monday

10:30am Coffee Chat with Roger Cooke @Quadrant

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

7:30pm Bell Ringing

20 Tuesday

12noon Women@StM's Autumn Prayer Lunch (St Michael's Church)

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

21 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

7.30pm Hope Explored, session 1, on Zoom

22 Thursday

2.00pm Oasis@StMichael's – bereavement support group

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (@ Rose Hill)

25 Sunday

8:00am Holy Communion

9:00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Junior Church (3-14s)

10:00am Morning Worship

26 Monday (LINK SUBMISSION DUE)

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

7:30pm Bell Ringing

27 Tuesday

8:00pm Zoom Bible Study, led by Cyril Bamforth

28 Wednesday

10.00am Meeting Point

7.30pm Hope Explored, session 2, on Zoom

29 Thursday

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study (@ Rose Hill)

We were looking for **towns and cities in the northwest of England** in our missing words. How did you do? Well done if you found some of the more obscure answers!

Earls _____, or _____ Engaine, as in the names of two Essex villages.	Colne
Burt _____, American actor and director who starred in such 1950s hit films as “From Here To Eternity”, “The Rainmaker” and “Gunfight At The O.K. Corral”.	Lancaster
Eric _____, entertainer who formed a successful song-and-dance partnership with Ernie Wise.	Morecambe
_____ Mint Cake, a high energy bar flavoured with peppermint and sometimes wrapped in chocolate, popular with walkers and climbers in the Lake District and beyond.	Kendal
“Dreams”, “Everywhere” and “Little Lies” were among the successful hit singles for _____ Mac.	Fleetwood
“_____ FM”, the fictional radio station in Peter Kay’s successful comedy series “Phoenix Nights” in 2001-2.	Chorley
_____ cake – like a turnover, made from flaky pastry with butter, filled with currants, and can be topped with sugar.	Eccles

Belinda _____, American singer with The Go-Go's; enjoyed further success as a solo artist; 1980s hits include "Heaven Is A Place On Earth".	Carlisle
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Thanks for playing, and please join us for another *QuizPage* in the next edition.

Jeff Clayton