

# The LINK

**MAY 2023**



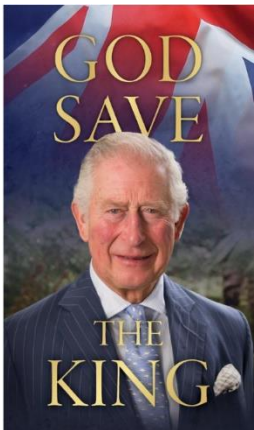
**The Parish Church of  
St Michael Braintree  
[www.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk)**

# GOD SAVE THE KING!

Dear Friends,

We are preparing for the coronation of King Charles III, an event steeped in tradition and history. There will be the ancient and priceless crowns, the orb and sceptre, and the service itself in Westminster Abbey.

Yet, despite all the history, it is also a coronation with many “firsts”. Charles has been heir apparent for longer than any previous monarch, waiting almost all his life to become King. He is also our oldest monarch ever crowned, and for many of us, the first coronation in our lifetime



We do hope that many of you will be able to join us as we celebrate the coronation together, on Saturday 6th May, 10am-3pm, in Church House. There will be a family friendly TV showing of the coronation in the main hall, with activities for the children. There will also be a quieter viewing of it in the small hall. We will have light celebration refreshments & lunch and a cream tea. Do please invite your family, friends and neighbours to join you for it.

Two thousand years ago, a unique King came into the world. Jesus came, not in majesty, but as a small and helpless baby. He said that he came not to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45).

The crown he wore was a crown of thorns and he died an agonising death, paying the price for the sins of his citizens. But he did something that no earthly monarch can do: three days later he rose from the dead and is now reigning in heaven.

It has been said that, “all the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that were ever built, and all the parliaments that ever sat and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of man upon the earth as powerfully as has this one solitary life.”

As King Charles III is crowned, let us remember the King of Kings and as well as singing, “God save the King” also pray, “God save me!”

Wishing you every blessing,

Nigel





### Watch together at...

St Michael's  
Church House  
Saturday 6 May  
10 am to 3pm  
Drop in any time  
All are welcome



- Adult only TV room
- Family TV room
- Refreshments
- Children's Activities
- Lunch
- Cream teas



## MISSION OF THE MONTH



Stand By Me have been rescuing children since 1995. They provide child-centred care as they consider the needs of each child, their family and their community.

The following points explain the work of Stand By Me in their own words...

### ❖ Loving care

We get to know each child — their hopes, history, needs and dreams. We delight in our children and want the best for them. We invest our time, love and attention raising them to know that they're loved and accepted for who they are.

### ❖ Strong families

Usually the best place for a child to thrive is in their family – that's why we work hard to help families stay together. In the absence of a stable family, we place children who are at risk into our loving family homes.

### ❖ Great education

A great quality education is key to escaping poverty. Our education programmes equip our kids with the skills they need to rise above their circumstances and help change their communities.



### ❖ Access to healthcare

The health of our children is vital to their development and happiness, so we go the extra mile to make sure that they are fit and well, and can enjoy their childhood.

### ❖ A reason for hope

It's a privilege to teach our kids of Jesus' love for them, and to demonstrate this through the quality of our care. As their desire for spiritual answers grows, we encourage them to discover a love, respect and knowledge of God for themselves.

### ❖ Caring relationships

It's incredibly important to each child's sense of value and stability that they're raised by parents and teachers who care about them. Child sponsorship supports this further by giving our kids a relationship with a sponsor who loves them and helps them feel part of a wider family.

Stand By Me has developed four care programmes to meet the individual needs of the children they work with. These programmes are Children's Homes, Schools, Care Centres and Family Support.

They are currently working in the following countries...Dominican Republic, Myanmar, Colombia, Romania, Ethiopia, India and Kenya. We continue to sponsor and support Tsion from Ethiopia through Stand By Me and we receive letters and updates.

If you would like to find out more about Stand By Me then do visit their website: <https://www.standby.me/>

*Rachel Grove Smith - St Michael's rep for Stand By Me*

**WOMEN @ ST MICHAEL'S  
CONFERENCE DAY: SATURDAY JUNE 10TH  
9.30- 3.00PM  
ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH HOUSE**

Every time that we hold a Conference Day we say that this one is the best ever... so we are planning that our Day in June will definitely be the best day ever!

It will be special because it is the first time that we have been able to meet since before Covid. We last met in February 2020. We plan that it will be a warm Summer's Day.

It is a day when all ages of women can meet together from our Young Women in Next and Next Plus to our very oldest women!

Our theme will be '**Unswerving Hope**', which is our verse of the Year.

Our Speaker is to be Harsha Mason. Many of us have been inspired in the past when Harsha has spoken at our Saturday Schools. We are glad that she is able to be with us for the day.

Ruth Ellam will lead and plan our music so that will be a treat. There will be a 10 of Those Bookstall. Card payment too.

Time to chat, to get to know new people, to pray with someone, workshops, discussion groups and more...

Coffee and Danish will be served from 9.30 until just before 10am.

Refreshments throughout the day and lunch will be provided...just bring yourselves.

All materials and a Goody bag each will be provided for every person who signs up.

**It is a day not to be missed...** if you have never been before don't be shy... you will be welcomed... if you have been before then encourage others... so watch for further details and ways to sign up.

**Saturday June 10th 2023 in Church House.  
Everyone welcome.**

*Jennifer Bailey*



## PORRIDGE IS GOOD FOR US

No, I'm not talking about doing time in one of His Majesty's prisons. Think of the great breakfast food which comes from north of the Border.

### BLAND?

People eat porridge not for its exquisite taste, but because it fills us up on a cold winter's morning. However, to make it palatable people sometimes add things to their porridge. One favourite is golden syrup. Another is something like prunes or apricots. Maybe you have a favourite that you put on the top of your porridge. The flavour is good.

### THE FLAVOUR OF GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT

When He, God the Holy Spirit, comes to a person (please note the Holy Spirit is a He – a person – not an 'It') He adds flavour to our lives. Our Lord Jesus Christ says that when the Holy Spirit comes 'He will testify concerning me' (John 15:26). That means he will show us who Jesus is – God who became man. And that this man, Jesus of Nazareth, died on our behalf.

### THOSE FOUR GOSPELS

Usually God the Holy Spirit does this as we read and hear the Bible, especially the four Gospels. This 'witness' about Jesus is especially sharpened for us in John's Gospel.

### FOR THE 'ORDINARY' CHRISTIAN

Sometimes people give us the picture of an especially blessed group of Christians who really do seem to have the Holy Spirit in

them. Then, there are the run-of-the-mill plain Christians, who don't seem to enjoy extraordinary blessings.

## NO SUCH THING AS AN 'ORDINARY' CHRISTIAN

But the so-called ordinary Christian is a Holy Spirit blessed Christian. Why? Because in reading and listening to the New Testament, the Holy Spirit has pointed out to him or her, the Lord Jesus Christ. Seeing the Lord Jesus who died for them, and turning and trusting in him, they have the greatest gift in the world – the living, forgiving, personal friendship of the Lord Jesus Christ. If that is you, enjoy the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ with you – thanks to the gift of God the Holy Spirit.

*Stephen Bailey*

## FARMING SEASONS

This month our friend, Ian Irvine, has written a piece about dairy farming in Northern Ireland. Ian comes from a farming background and his brother in law, Sam Steele, is a 3rd generation dairy farmer, whose family have farmed there for over 70 years. Farming is Northern Ireland's biggest industry using 75% of the available land. Meat, dairy, and eggs are the largest sectors accounting for over 80% of the output. Ian will giving us an insight into the different challenges a dairy farmer faces and some of the key events occurring at this time of the year. Over to you Ian...

When Johnny Cash visited Ireland in 1959, he was struck by how green the land was – so struck in fact, he wrote the song, “Forty Shades of Green”. As any native or visitor to this land will testify, it is green for a reason, it rains, and rains a lot. Here in County Antrim, on a family farm that milks just over 380 Holstein Friesian cows, we receive our fair share of rainfall. Whilst many parts of the United Kingdom receive greater annual volume of rainfall, we receive less, but receive it more often. Experiencing all four seasons in one day is commonplace. This makes for wonderful grass growing conditions, which in turn enables us to grow enough grass to feed the dairy herd from pasture in the summer months, to then store enough in silos for the winter months.

In this regard, the month of May is crucial. The rising spring temperatures, alongside the fertiliser spread on the grassland in April, has had the desired effect. The grass is long, lush, has a rich deep green colour and is now at the point where we are ready for the first cut of silage. Most dairy farmers in Northern Ireland have between two and three cuts of silage each year. The actual number is determined by the yield from each cut, the total headcount of animals to be fed during the winter months, and of course, the weather! What farmer doesn't talk about the weather?

When the grass is ready to cut, dry weather is a must as this has a direct impact on so many things, not least the quality of silage produced. The longer it takes to begin, and then complete the first cut, the longer we must wait to prepare for the second cut, and potentially the third cut. This is an ongoing worry as it directly impacts our capacity to generate enough volume of the required quality of silage needed to feed our livestock during the winter months.



When we see a forecasted break in the rainfall, this is often only for one or two days. When the rain clouds clear, and the sun does come out, it's all hands on deck and the first cut of the year gets underway. The process is intense as time is of the essence. We need to get as much done before the rain returns, with some contractor fleets working 24 hours a day, stopping only to eat and for quick toilet breaks.

The costs involved in dairy farming have risen sharply over the years. Machinery, labour, breakdown costs, fuel, feed and fertiliser costs to name but a few, have all risen far beyond what many of us thought imaginable even twenty years ago. As a dairy farmer, how do we pay for all of this? Very simply, this is all linked to the price of milk. Not directly the price you and I pay at the shop or supermarket, but the price milk processors pay the farmers. Typically, a litre of whole milk in the shop could cost us anything from £0.70 pence per litre to £1.60 per litre, depending on what you buy. The average farm-gate price paid to Northern Ireland farmers last month, was £0.40 pence per litre, considerably less than retail prices. Unfortunately, this is on a downward trend at the worst possible time as associated costs have risen, with some continuing to rise to unprecedented levels. When overall costs outweigh income (the moment every farmer fears), the pressure to manage and somehow survive, hoping and praying the trend begins to reverse can be unbearable. The number of dairy farmers across the whole of the United Kingdom continues to fall year on year. For some, a farmer may pass away with no one left to take on the responsibility of the dairy herd, for others the dairy herd is sold as it is not financially viable any longer, whilst many others are less fortunate and end up being forced to sell everything to pay the bank and any other creditors. This is all too familiar a trend and puts untold pressure and worry on individuals, on families and on farm staff.

When we were children, the first cut of silage in May was our happiest time. The excitement on the farm was infectious and dominated everything we did, with the smell of freshly cut grass lingering in the air day and night. As the years have passed, and the responsibility has passed to the next generation, that excitement is still there but it no longer dominates. What dominates now, is the worry of falling milk prices and the weather. These two things have such an impact on everything we do on the farm, it is almost impossible not to let them dominate.

However, one of my Grandmothers favourite verses is forever embedded in my memory and comes to mind so often when feeling overwhelmed. From Pauls letter to the **Philippians, Chapter 4, verse 11**; *'I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances'*.

*Ian Irvine*



## FORGIVING FROM THE HEART

**“Then his master, after he had called him, said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you begged me. Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant, just as I had pity on you?’ And his master was angry, and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him. “So My heavenly Father also will do to you if each of you, from his heart, does not forgive his brother his trespasses.” (Matthew 18:32-35)**

In the parable of the unmerciful servant, the servant mistakenly thought that he could demand justice from another servant all the while asking mercy for himself from the king. When the king found out about this servant's awful behaviour, he became enraged and said to him "You wicked servant, I cancelled all that debt of yours because you begged me to; couldn't you have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had on you?" He then went on to hand the servant over to the tormentors. Jesus closes this parable by saying that this is how our Heavenly King will treat each of us unless we forgive our brother from our heart." Ugggh. Harsh words. But God will not put up with us desiring mercy for ourselves, while we lack forgiveness for others and desire judgment upon them.

It's natural for us to desire judgment upon those who continually wrong us. But we, as believers, have to remember that judgment against others is God's privilege alone. We are not to judge or wish judgment upon others. We are to pray for God's mercy upon them in salvation. Has someone offended or hurt you today? Let's choose to forgive and pass over those offences -- for truly blessed is the man who overlooks an offence! (Proverbs 19:11).

*Supplied from “The Worthy Brief” by Peter Schaad*

## REVEREND DES KELLY – CURATE AT ST MICHAEL'S 1990-1994



It was with great sadness that we learned of the passing of this much loved man.

He came to us via the Police and then Oak Hill Theological College. As far as I recall he was our first curate.

Within a month or two of arriving, regular articles began in the LINK Magazine entitled “NOT TOO SERIOUSLY – The Document”. They purported to be snippets from ancient documents found in Braintree that described the life of the Anglo Saxon tribe of Noledgebush. It transpired that they were written by Des who called himself the “Apprentice from the Land Of Plod” and the vicar (Rev Bernard Davies) as Barnabus the Just.

As a tribute to Des, I have copied out his description of his ordination in the July 1991 Link Magazine.

And it came to pass that those in charge of the area known as the Diocey of Chelmingsford didst seek the advice of Barnabus the Just. They didst say unto him “Is it fit and proper that the one known as the Apprentice should be put forward to be Revved Up”? This caused Barnabus the Just to think long and hard (about 4 minutes!!) and he didst agree. So it was that the one known as John of Chelmingsford did write to the Apprentice and say “You will report to the Mount of Pleshey and there, with others, you will

keep silence for three days!" It was well known to the citizens of Noledgebush that this latest command from John of Chelmingsford would be most difficult for the Apprentice to obey, if not impossible!

And so it was that the date was set for the ceremony of "Revving Up", The Apprentice had to keep quiet on one occasion and in due time and with further ceremony was revved up at eleven in the forenoon in the noble town of Chelmingsford.

He gave many of us nicknames in these articles and ours was Ma & Pa Rodley Dayglow of the Rose Hill Mob.

Eventually Des moved on to be Vicar of the Hedinghams and retired to Suffolk where (much to the surprised of many) he kept bees.

He was a larger than life, gentle man of God and we will miss him.

*Rod and Lesley Davey*

# BRAINTREE MALE VOICE CHOIR

## *50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert*

To celebrate this great occasion, we will be singing items which have been enjoyed over the years. These include traditional Male Voice pieces such as 'Men of Harlech', some spirituals and some favourite songs.

There will be other items from choir members.

Refreshments will be available at the interval.



As you will see from the poster, the concert is being held in Christ Church on Saturday 20th May at 3.30 pm. A poster is also on display in the Welcome Area.

You can order tickets on line using the instructions on the poster or you can get tickets from me (07986 471927). You may pay at the door if you wish (subject to space availability)

Do come along and enjoy this happy occasion.

*David Mahood*

## DEAR BRAINTREE CHURCHES

Thank you for your help knitting angels this year for the Christmas angels Yarn bomb. This is the 6th year that we have put angels around the town to send Christmas greetings to the community of Braintree.



Last year we put out over 1000 angels and they were re-homed in and around the Braintree district. Thank you for helping us to do this - we are hoping to reach 1000 angels again for Christmas 2023!

Linda Hendry

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

Just a brief reminder of how the churches in Braintree work together.

If you would like to knit angels for us please contact Lin Terris and she will give you a pattern. You have from now until the end of November to knit as many angels as you can.

*"I was really taken back this morning and felt quite emotional when finding this Christmas angel what a beautiful thing to do for people thank you for making my day something quite special."*



*Lin Terris*

## COFFEE CHAT WITH ROGER COOKE



Third Monday coffee and conversation

I shall be in the Quadrant cafe on **Monday 15th May** at 10.30am so if you'd like to join me you'd be very welcome!

Looking forward to seeing you.

*Roger Cooke*

## WHEN ONE IS MISSING

From the Link Magazine November 1993

Xvxn though my typxwritxr is an old modxl, it works wxll xnough xxcxpt for onx of its kxys. I havx wishxd many timxs that it workxd pxfxrctly. It's trux that thxrx arx 45 kxys that function, but just onx kxy makxs all thx diffxrxncx. So thx nxxt timx you think you arx only onx pxrson and that your xffort is not nxxdx, rxmxmbxr my typxwritxr and say to yoursxlf "I am a kxy" pxrson. Thx Lord nxxds mx"



# BELFRY BULLETIN

## BELL REFURBISHMENT UPDATE THE FINAL CHAPTER

This 8 year journey started at our Guilds 2017 AGM when it was agreed to invite, Nigel Taylor, the Essex Association's Technical Adviser to inspect our bells. How to celebrate the refurbishments successful conclusion? Well let's ring a Peal then have one of our enjoyable Cheese and Port evenings. "Good Idea". The chosen date was Saturday 22nd April 2023. We would ring a Peal on all our 10 bells with Lin and Richard Ould kindly hosting the party.

### THE PEAL



**The Peal band in ringing order clockwise from front right:** *Jodie Hill, Debbie Hill, Jim Green, Peter Smith, Vicki Elliot, Ellis Whitehouse, Colin Chapman, Simon Ward, Ian Cresshull, Bradley Hill [c]*

Congratulations on his 1st Peal to Ellis, to Bradley on conducting his 1st Peal, to Jodie, Vicki and Simon on ringing their 1st Peal of Royal and Debbie on ringing her 10th Peal.

It was then round to Lin and Richards to conclude our celebrations. What an array of Cheeses and two different Ports to complement them. To start the proceeding, we raised a glass of fizz to toast the Peal, the great outcome of the project to say a big thank you to Bradley for all his efforts in guiding to refurbishment so successfully. We then proceeded to spend a

very enjoyable evening of bellringing camaraderie and Christian friendship, a great time was had by all.

## FROM THE LOG BOOK

Service and practice ringing has been going well, apart from the times when most of us go on holiday at the same time. Must try to co-ordinate our diaries!!!

On Sunday 23rd March 3 generations of the Ould family rang together:- Lin and Richard, daughter Clare Gray, son Andrew and granddaughter Rosie Gray.

For morning service on Sunday 12th March we rang 1260 changes of Childwall Bob minor in 39mins, 1 Ellis Whitehouse, 2 Debbie Hill, 3 Jim Green, 4 Simon Ward, 5 Peter Smith, 6 Bradley Hill [c], this was Debbie and Bradley's 1st blows in the method and Bradley's 1st as conductor in the method.

## WE RANG THIS TO WISH DEBBIE A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

On Mothering Sunday 19th March we rang, in 45mins, 1344 changes of St Clements College Bob Major, 1 Ellis Whitehouse, 2 Debbie Hill, 3 Vicky LeFevre, 4 Pat Cresshull, 5 Peter Smith, 6 Jim Green, 7 Ian Cresshull, 8 Bradley Hill [c].

Lin joined us to ring for Mothering Sunday.

7 year old Ben Gray, with Bradleys help, tolled the treble bell up to service time on Sunday 16th April 2023.

During our ringing on Sunday 23rd April, we took time to ring in memory of Des Kelly who was a well loved Curate here at St. Michael's and Vicar of the Heddingham's and a good friend to bellringers who has sadly passed away. 1 Clare Gray, 2 Lin Ould,

3 Peter Smith, 4 Debbie Hill, 5 Ellis Whitehouse, 6 Bradley Hill, 7 Maurice Downs, 8 Richard Ould. With our Love.

## AWAY FROM THE TOWER

Whilst on holiday Debbie, Jodie and Bradley rang at Crosthwaite Church Keswick and taught the local band to ring Grandsire Doubles.

During this holiday Debbie showed her hidden talent for TRICK CYCLING!

*Peter Smith*

## MAY DIARY

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

### **1 Monday**

7:30pm Bell Ringing

### **2 Tuesday**

1:45 – 2:45pm Tiddlywinks

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

### **3 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point

### **4 Thursday**

10.00am Coffee@StMichael's (in church)

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

### **6 Saturday**

10:00am – 3:00pm Coronation of Charles III (Church House)

### **7 Sunday**

9.00am Next Plus Breakfast (14-18s)

10:00am Church Family Worship

4:00pm Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

6:30pm Evening Worship

### **8 Monday**

7:30pm Bell Ringing

### **9 Tuesday**

1:45 – 2:45pm Tiddlywinks

8.00pm First Priority Prayer Meeting (small hall)

## **10 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point

## **11 Thursday**

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

## **14 Sunday**

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship – Mission Sunday: Stand by Me

6:30pm Holy Communion

## **15 Monday**

10:30am Coffee Chat with Roger Cooke @Quadrant

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

## **16 Tuesday**

1:45 – 2:45pm Tiddlywinks

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

## **17 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point

## **18 Thursday**

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

## **21 Sunday**

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

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

10:00am Holy Communion

6:30pm All-Age Tonight

## **22 Monday**

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

## **23 Tuesday**

10:00am Living Without Worry (Church House)

1:45 - 2:45pm Tiddlywinks

7:30pm Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Church)

## **24 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point

## **25 Thursday (LINK SUBMISSION DUE)**

2:00pm Oasis@StMichaels: informal bereavement support group (Small Hall)

7:30pm Rose Hill Bible Study @Rose Hill

## **28 Sunday (Pentecost)**

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

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

10:00am Morning Worship

6:30pm Holy Communion

## **29 Monday**

7:30pm Bell Ringing

7:30pm White Horse Tavern (Church House)

## **30 Tuesday**

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

## **31 Wednesday**

10:00am Meeting Point