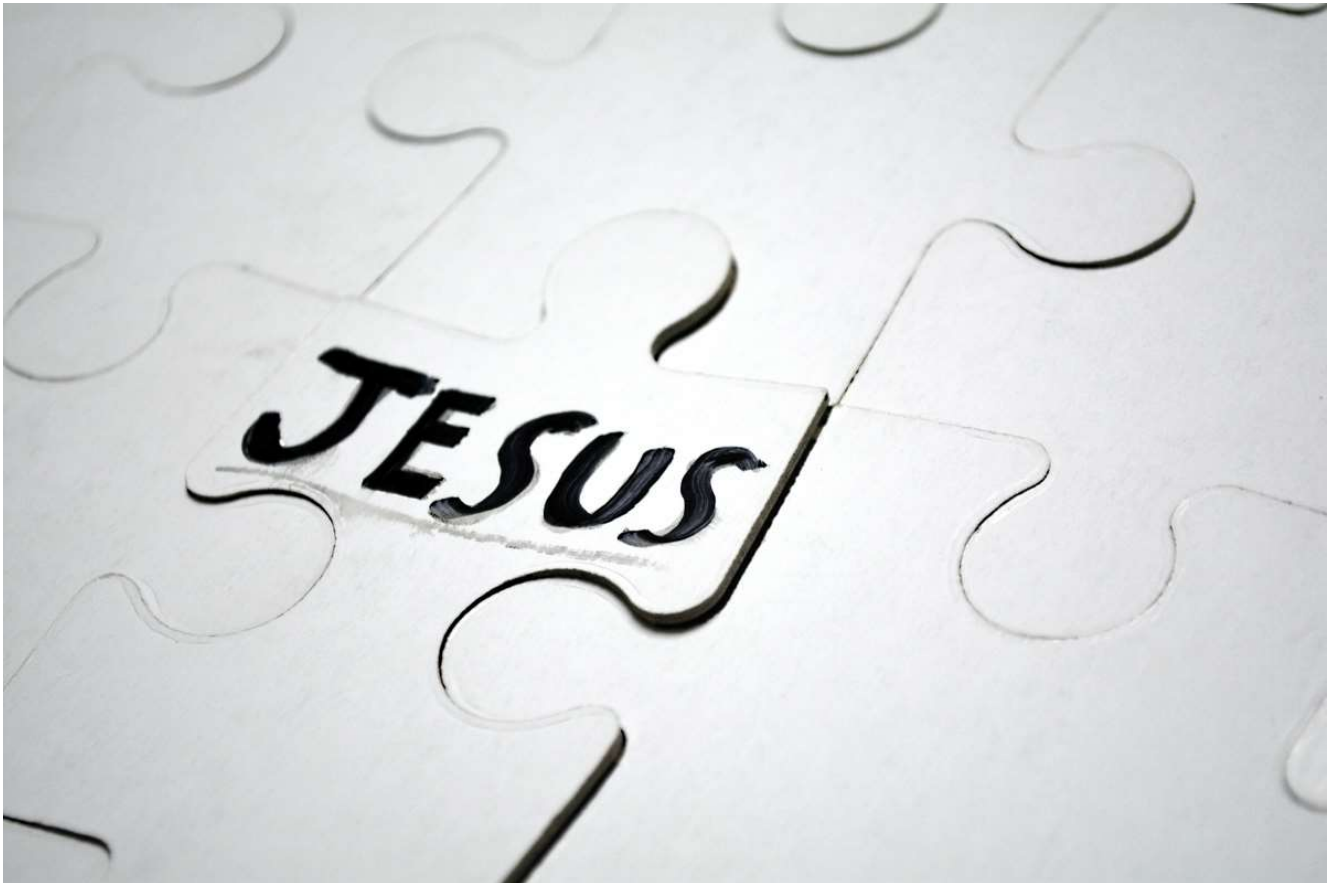


The LINK

digital edition

July 2020



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



LOCKDOWN OPPORTUNITIES

Dear Friends,

Hasn't Lockdown been a rollercoaster of mixed emotion? Peace, boredom, disappointment, exhaustion and elation may have been some of our emotions. Although, however we have felt I believe that 2020 is a year of huge opportunities for the Gospel. Each week the internet is gaining more of a wealth of excellent Christian resources to tap into.

I have benefitted greatly from the teaching in our Sunday services and my weekly visits to the Clayton TV website. Excellent sermons at our fingertips to watch as many times as we like!

It is also wonderful to see details emerging of large Christian events that we will be able to attend online this year. I am very excited about The Keswick Convention!! More information about this can be found at...<https://keswickministries.org/convention-2020/>

I was also thrilled to discover that 'Sing! Global 2020' would be happening. An event that in the past I could only dreamed of attending but now I can, virtually!! This is the event trailer...
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fNyC_7ZTCe8

Our **Saint Michael's Alternative Summer Holiday Club** is in the diary between the 27th and the 31st July 2020.

Due to the current restrictions, it would be impossible to run a holiday club at Church House, so we have decided to take SMASH holiday club online! My hope and prayer is that by doing so we may reach families in our area with the Good News of Jesus. So, my first holiday club at St Michael's, for a while, will be with a difference!!

This year the title is 'Jesus is the Hero!' and a team of us have been meeting regularly, for some time, planning this very exciting event! Each day we will be looking at a different miracle that Jesus performed whilst he was here on earth. So, the plan for the week is as follows...

Monday - Jesus turns water to wine - John 2 v 1 - 12

Tuesday - Jesus calms the storm - Mark 4 v 35 - 41

Wednesday - Jesus heals a paralysed man - Mark 2 v 1 - 12

Thursday - Jesus feeds five thousand - John 6 v 1 - 13

Friday - Jesus walks on water - Matthew 14 v 22 - 32

Daily Bible stories, drama sketches, Bible studies and crafts will be on our website, in the same way services are, at

www.stmichaelsbtrees.co.uk

These will also be able to be found on our You Tube channel.

In addition to this we will be running a short, fun interactive session daily during the week. These will include action songs, activities and games, all around the theme. The whole of SMASH, this year, will be aimed at families, engaging parents and children alike.

On Sunday 2nd August our service will have a focus on SMASH and we will be looking at Jesus' Resurrection. We will celebrate the week and all that Jesus has done for us!

We would really value your prayers as we continue to plan this new venture and as people sign up. Please pray that this will be a life changing event for so many. I really hope that the super team, from previous years, will be keen to get involved again this year – even though it will be a bit different! I will be in touch in the coming weeks. If anybody has ideas or would like further information about getting involved – I would love to hear from you.

My e-mail address is...

rgrovesmith@stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

Wishing you every blessing,

Rachel Grove Smith

MISSION OF THE MONTH CHAIN FOUNDATION

Dear David and Kirsty,

I send you greetings from Uganda. How are you doing at this trying time? We pray that Almighty God protects you and your family from this global crisis of corona virus.

Please our love and prayers to Christians of St. Michael's and Rev. Nigel.

We have heard over the TVs and radios that it is worse in UK, that you have lost more than 30,000 people. Please know that you have all our prayers.

In Uganda we are still in the lock down with around 100 corona cases. There is a big threat from the cargo drivers from Kenya, Congo, Tanzania and Rwanda who drive through Uganda, most of the new infections are within this category and these drivers have wives along the way.



The situation at Chain is not all that bad, as I informed you we have around 10 staff members who are there full time taking care of children led by Auntie Bridget. Other staff members are at home and we use phones for contact. Mostly children play and do digging in the mornings.

My family is also Ok, greetings from Florence.

I have sent you photos of my family plus some Chain Foundation photos.

Thank you,

Stay safe and blessed
Stone



Forwarded by David Huxter

A ROCHA INTERNATIONAL ENEWS

JUNE 2020

Coral bleaching and a warming world



Coral bleaching is the biggest threat facing reefs today, including those in Watamu Marine National Park, opposite A Rocha Kenya's field study centre.

Bleaching events are not new here, with the last severe occurrence in 1998. But high survival rates following bleaching in 2013 and 2016 give us hope that Watamu's corals may be adapting to cope better with heat stress. Now in 2020 the reefs are bleaching again, so A Rocha Kenya's marine team, working in partnership with Kenya Wildlife Service, are back in the water, using permanent quadrats to photograph the same patches of reef every month and observing the response of each coral from bleaching to either mortality or survival.

Pray

Corals create the habitat for a host of other marine life. So a severe bleaching event can have serious implications for wildlife and local people who depend on the reef. It is not yet known how many of the corals in Watamu Marine National Park will die as a result of the current bleaching. Please pray for A Rocha Kenya's marine team and Kenya Wildlife Service as they continue to collect data that will allow them to assess the extent of the damage over the next few months. And pray too that the coral would make a dramatic recovery.





COVID

Lifesaver: Tippy tap, Uganda

Research suggests that handwashing with soap is one of the most effective and inexpensive ways of preventing the spread of COVID-19, as well as reducing the risk of other diseases such as diarrhoea and pneumonia. But not everyone has reliable access to running water. For only £5, you

can purchase a tippy tap for a school or family in Uganda, you can improve the hygiene and health of children and help keep families safe. This simple handwashing device will also save precious water – vital for communities facing unpredictable rainfall due to climate change.

<https://shop.arocha.org/product/tippy-tap-uganda>

Shared by Ann Mahood on behalf of A Rocha International

FOUR MARKS OF A DISCIPLE

(From Swiss Calendar Published By Näher Zu Dir)

Based on four features we would like to consider what discipleship concretely means for us Christians.

1) A disciple follows His Master:

We follow the Lord Jesus on the path He walked. His path leads through difficulties and ends in Heaven. Our goal is the same: As His disciples we are 'en route' to Heaven. Until we get there we experience a lot which will test our Faith.

2) A disciple obeys His Master:

The twelve showed us this. Willingly they did what the Lord ordered. We too as disciples of the Lord Jesus are asked to obey His Word and to do what He orders us to do. (John 14: 21)

3) A disciple imitates His Master:

The Lord Jesus left us an example so we can walk in His footsteps (1 Peter 2: 21-23). He would like that people in our behaviour will see something of Him. How much He is pleased when we copy His goodness and gentleness, His faithfulness and justice.

4) A disciple acknowledges His Master:

The Lord Jesus was discarded by the people. Even today He is rejected by the World. But He is worth it that we align with Him and confess Him before the people. The disgrace which as a result falls on us we want to bear. He will reward it. (Matthew 20: 32)

Translated from a Swiss church article by Peter Schaad

THE WICKS FAMILY – OUR NEXT STEP

And as if by some strange magic, almost three years have passed and here we are in 2020 and, even more strangely, we find ourselves in Joel's final week of classes at Oak Hill. It's noteworthy though to look back at my posts from before coming to college and in the early days here and to see how much has happened and how God has answered the big and small prayers of our hearts in such wonderful and sometimes unexpected, ways.

By the time you read this we'll have left Oak Hill and moved on to a new adventure in Hampton, Peterborough where Joel will be starting his role as Pioneer Curate at Christ the Servant King Church. Joel was sent for ordination by Chelmsford Diocese and we had assumed we'd be going back to Essex for his curacy appointment but there were one or two bumps in the road and it transpired that there was nothing we felt was right for us there so we were released to find somewhere in the rest of the UK. CSK was the first church we looked at seriously after Joel was released and when we visited, we both strongly felt it was somewhere God was telling us would be a really GOOD place for Joel to learn how to lead a church in a more hands on way.

Little did we know that we'd be moving in the midst of 'these strange times', with all its uncertainty. We don't know when we'll be allowed to open churches again; it could be weeks or months before we're able to meet our new church family and settle in properly. We don't know what school Elijah and Sarah will go to. We're moving house twice because the house in Hampton has tenants who are unable to move but the college needs our house to be empty for new students.

There are a few things we're uncertain about, but we are very sure of a God who goes before us, stands behind us and surrounds us with all the comfort and peace we always claimed we needed but didn't always know just how much until the earth shakes a little under our feet.

Lauryn Wicks (for full text of the blog and more photos go to <https://tinyurl.com/y76h9due>)



We would like to thank everyone at St Michaels for continuing to support us with your love, friendship and prayers both while we were with you and during our time at Oak Hill.

Our new address for the first few months is:

64 Bellona Drive, Cardea, Stanground, PE2 8FU

Love and God bless,
Joel, Lauryn, Elijah, Sarah and Lizzie Wicks

CCLI TOP 20 HYMNS

St Michael's, along with most other churches, pay an annual licence fee to CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) to allow us to print or project words of hymns. Each month I have to report what we have been singing. CCLI have compiled a Top 100 of the songs sung in churches all over the UK, and here are the Top 20. There are lots here which we sing regularly. Older hymns which are out of copyright, don't have to be reported, so don't appear here.

1: 10,000 Reasons (Bless The Lord)

Jonas Myrin, Matt Redman

2: In Christ Alone

Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

3: O Praise The Name (Anástasis)

Benjamin Hastings, Dean Ussher, Marty Sampson

4: Cornerstone

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, Reuben Morgan, William Batchelder Bradbury

5: What A Beautiful Name

Ben Fielding, Brooke Ligertwood

6: How Great Is Our God

Chris Tomlin, Ed Cash, Jesse Reeves

7: This Is Amazing Grace

Jeremy Riddle, Josh Farro, Phil Wickham

8: Here I Am To Worship (Light of the World)

Tim Hughes

9: Build My Life

Brett Younker, Karl Martin, Kirby Kaple, Matt Redman, Pat Barrett

10: Living Hope

Brian Johnson, Phil Wickham

11: Who You Say I Am

Ben Fielding, Reuben Morgan

12: How Great Thou Art

Stuart Wesley Keene Hine

13: Psalm 23

Stuart Townend

14: Great Are You Lord

David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan

15: Be Still

David J. Evans

16: How Deep The Father's Love For Us

Stuart Townend

17: The Lion And The Lamb

Brenton Brown, Brian Johnson, Leeland Mooring

18: Raise A Hallelujah

Jake Stevens, Jonathan David Helser, Melissa Helser, Molly Skaggs

19: Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

Chris Tomlin, John Newton, Louie Giglio

20: Blessed Be Your Name

Beth Redman, Matt Redman

To explore the whole list, and to listen to samples of each one (what was that tune?) go to the CCLI page <https://tinyurl.com/y9xb Slut>

It would be lovely to hear about your favourite worship song, whether or not it appears in this Top 20. Let us know why it is your favourite, and we'll publish a few in Link.

Jonathan Wicks

LIFE AT CORNHILL

This from Anne Wigmore whom many of you will remember
...daughter of John and Maggie Wigmore.

As a third-year student, I find that Cornhill takes up about three days of my week. Two days at Cornhill and a day of work doing preparation. The preparation is varied - there is work to do for Thursday seminars working through a book of the Bible and preparation for electives on leading Bible studies and youth and children's work. There is also preparation to do for Friday mornings looking at a book of the Bible in lectures and also for teaching practice on Friday afternoons where we will either be giving a 20-minute talk or feeding back on the talks of others. The prep time is great and like most things, the more you do the more you benefit.

On the other days of my week I play an active role as part of my church family. I help to run the 11-18s programme under the guidance of our youth and children's minister Jamie. On a Sunday for the 14-18s we would either do a cooked breakfast before the service, or a chat post service about the sermon, both of which we have found really encouraging and helpful for building important friendships – and a good way to check they paid attention! For the younger half, we take them out of the main part of the service to do a short Bible study but always looking at the same passage as the rest of the church family.

Midweek, we are beginning to do some one-to-ones. This is where I've really felt the benefit of Cornhill, being confident to just open the Bible with a younger sister in Christ and get thinking about God's Word together. Cornhill is such a great way to spend time just getting to know the Bible and then sharing what you are learning with others. On Thursday evenings, we will meet all together for games and food, but with the central part being a 10-minute talk on a Bible passage. Again, the training at Cornhill has really transformed my approach to giving talks! I am much clearer and feel far more confident in handling the Bible well. Feeling more equipped on account of my training at

Cornhill, I am also leading one of the midweek Bible study groups for the church family. The resources we're given at Cornhill have really breathed some fresh air into areas like evangelism, church outreach and even structuring a typical youth group evening.

Studying at Cornhill hasn't only helped in areas of ministry but in my own faith too. The things I have learnt at college have changed my heart and not just built up head knowledge. I am so grateful that this is what the lecturers encourage.

The rest of my week is spent working as a child minder, and when I need to unwind I'm either catching up with friends, reading a good book or trying new recipes!

To find out more about Cornhill go to the following website
www.proctrust.org.uk/cornhill

If you would like to understand and teach the Bible better this is worth a look:

One day a week course: PT CORNHILL

For the 2020-21 Academic Year you can do Cornhill Year 1 through ZOOM!

Shared by Jennifer Bailey

ALL I REALLY NEED TO KNOW I LEARNED FROM NOAH'S ARK

1. Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark.
2. Stay fit. When you are 600 years old, someone might ask you to do something really BIG.
3. Don't listen to critics – do what has to be done.
4. Build on high ground.
5. For safety's sake travel in pairs.
6. Two heads are better than one.
7. Speed isn't always an advantage. The cheetahs were on board, but so were the snails.
8. If you can't fight or flee – float!
9. Take care of your animals as if they were the last ones on earth.
10. Don't forget that we all are in the same boat.

Jeff Wise

JULY DIARY

www.stmichaelsbtree.co.uk

(Subject to change. Times of services is the broadcast time; they are available for later watching.)

2 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Zoom Coffee morning”

5 Sunday

True Freedom

Romans 8:1-4

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/junior-church>

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

9 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Zoom Coffee morning”

12 Sunday

The Spirit living in us

Romans 8:5-11

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

14 Tuesday JULY LINK SUBMISSION DUE

8-9pm First Priority Prayer Meeting on Zoom

16 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Zoom Coffee morning”

19 Sunday

Children of God

Romans 8:12-17

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

All Age Tonight:

Where is Jesus in the storms of life?

Mark 4:35-41

6:00pm All Age Tonight on the Web

<http://stmichaelsbtree.co.uk/website/index.php/worship/adult-service>

23 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Zoom Coffee morning”

26 Sunday

Godly groaning

Romans 8:18-27

9:45am Worship on the Web – Children’s and Families Service

10:00am Worship on the Web – Adult Service

11:00am After Church “Zoom Coffee”

30 Thursday

11:00am Coffee@Home “Zoom Coffee morning”

BELFRY BULLETIN

BELL RESTORATION UPDATE

With the lockdown easing White's of Appleton have returned to work although with a reduced workforce so as to comply with the Governments guide lines.

The work on the new headstocks and clappers need to be completed and then fitted to our bells which will complete the work needed to be done at Appleton

There is not fixed date for the return of the bells to St. Michael's other than by the end of October.

Bradley has ordered the cushions for the seating in the ringing chamber but as yet there is no delivery date. They will be Trident, not the Ballistic Missile or the three pronged fishing spear, but a bluey green in colour. Sounds good.

We are pleased to have been granted a £3,000 donation from the Barron Bell Trust, Pembury. Very encouraging.

Recently we have held 3 Quiz Nights and a Birthday Party all on Zoom. The Birthday Party took the form of a Cheese and Port evening which is a bit of a Braintree ringers speciality. All the Essex based members were joined by David, Laura and Ruth our Welsh contingent and Tom and Kali residing in Worcester. A jolly good party it was too.

The 3 Quiz Nights were friendly but hard fought. Bradley, Ellie and Ellis were in charge of the questions [and answers]. The Hills were winners on 1 occasion with the Oulds coming out on top in the other 2 Quiz's. All very enjoyable even for the also ran.

STAY SAFE

Peter Smith