



# ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH, BRAMCOTE

## 18<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### St Michael's Diary

#### **February**

Please help us build *The St Michael's Rock Snake* during the month of February. The snake starts at the gate next to the entrance to the church car park. Rocks (for painting) can be found outside the porch at the South entrance to the church. Already painted rocks have been left by the children all over Bramcote. Please keep your eyes open for these!

#### **Lent**

The season of Lent occupies the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter and is traditionally a time of repentance and thoughtful reflection on what being a Christian means. There are Lent Books available and these can be obtained through Christine Cleave on (0115) 925 8394 or at [christine.cleave@gmail.com](mailto:christine.cleave@gmail.com).

#### **Weekdays (Monday to Friday)**

*Personal/Private Prayer* is available in church from 10:00am to 12noon each weekday. Donations for the Foodbank can be left while the church is open.

There is a *Reflection on a Bible Passage* available every weekday on the church website. These are compiled by our own Clergy and Reader team.

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> February**

There is a *Lent Study Course*, 'The Prayers of Jesus' to be held every Thursday throughout Lent and everyone is invited to this. We will be exploring Jesus' prayers to His Father as He moves towards the cross. There are six studies, and the course starts on 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2:00pm on Zoom. Contact Lillian at [rev.lillian@googlemail.com](mailto:rev.lillian@googlemail.com) or (0115) 916 4588 for the link and/or a copy of the study notes.

Also, on Thursdays (and now also on Tuesdays, because of the demand) throughout Lent everyone is invited to a half-hour on-line course entitled "*Oasis*" which will provide experience of meditative prayer.

The session of '*Oasis*' on Thursdays starts at 8:00pm and is via Zoom. The session on Tuesdays starts at 2:00pm. The focus is on silent listening prayer in the context of Jesus' journey towards the events of Good Friday and Easter Day. Please contact Christine Cleave on (0115) 925 8394 or at [christine.cleave@gmail.com](mailto:christine.cleave@gmail.com) to join in.

#### **Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February**

An on-line *Service of Reflection – 'Baptism, Temptation and Ministry'*. The service can be viewed on the church website on Sunday and through the following week.

#### **Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**

The first session of '*Oasis*' on a Tuesday is at 2:00pm.

*Parish Prayer* at 7:00pm. A prayer sheet will be available, and participants can use this for private prayer and/or join us via Zoom. Contact [dcurnock@doctors.org.uk](mailto:dcurnock@doctors.org.uk) for the link.

#### **Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February**

The funeral of Derrick Wood at Bramcote Crematorium at 1.30pm. Please pray for Derrick's wife Joan and the rest of the family.

#### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> February**

A meeting of the *Mission Committee* will be held via Zoom at 7:30pm.

#### **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March**

A meeting of the *Parochial Church Council* will be held via Zoom at 7:30pm.

#### **Friday 5<sup>th</sup> March**

We will be joining with others throughout the world in the *World Day of Prayer Service*. Our participation will be virtual in our own homes. We would like to offer an 'Order of Service' to anyone who would like to have one delivered, so that we can all go through the service at 2:00pm as if we were together in church. Please phone Chris Lane (0115) 925 7604, Ruth Coffey (0115) 939 4042 or Tina Newton (0115) 925 0202 for a copy.

*Revd Paul Reynolds (Vicar),*

*Tom Clifford and Stan Heptinstall (Churchwardens)*

## Prayer for the Nation

At the request of the archbishops, February is a month of prayer for our nation. Please see [www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation](http://www.ChurchofEngland.org/PrayerForTheNation).

Below is the prayer suggested for the third week in February.

*Loving Father God,  
be with us in our distress;  
be with our families, friends, and neighbours,  
our country and our world.*

*Give health to the sick,  
hope to the fearful,  
and comfort to mourners.*

*Give wisdom to our frontline and key workers,  
insight to our Government,  
and patience to us all.*

*Overcome disease with the power of your new life,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.*

*Amen.*

## Recommended Books for Lent

We are recommending four books to read during Lent. Please order one through Christine Cleave.

### **Live Lent – The church of England lent book for 2021**

For each of the 40 days of Lent, this booklet includes a short Bible passage, a reflection and a prayer. The daily reflections follow weekly themes - each with an accompanying action - drawn from the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, Living His Story: Sharing the extraordinary love of God in ordinary ways by Hannah Steele (SPCK). (£1.97 each)

### **Living His story**

How can we convey the love of God to our neighbours in a post-Christian world that has largely forgotten the gospel of Jesus Christ? (£9.97). In Living His Story, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Lent Book 2021, Hannah Steele uncovers liberating and practical ways of sharing the gospel story afresh. With warmth and encouragement, she shows us how we can live Jesus' story in our own lives simply by being the people God made us.

### **Rooted in love**

Introduced and edited by Bishop Sarah Mullally, forty reflections that lead us deeper into the meaning and practice of life in Christ today. Each reflection includes a Bible reading, a prayer and a suggestion for action based on the reading. The result is an exceptionally helpful Lent book. (£9 98)

### **Thy will be done**

Bloomsbury's Lent Book for 2021

At a time of change, uncertainty and widespread anxiety, we need to discover again the freshness of our most familiar spiritual resources. Stephen Cherry's Lent Book does exactly this by inviting the reader to immerse themselves in the most central, important and iconic of Christian prayers - the Lord's Prayer, the Our Father. (£9 98)

## Electoral Roll Update

Believe it or not, it is time to update our electoral roll again. Currently our next Annual Church Meeting is scheduled for Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April and we need to update our electoral roll before then. If you would like to have your name on the Electoral Roll for St Michael's, Bramcote, and it is not there already, please contact Ann Mellon on (0115) 922 1443. Ann is our Electoral Roll Officer and she will be able to offer you advice on what it means to be on the Electoral Roll and on what needs to be done. Ann will need completed forms returned to her by 4<sup>th</sup> April. Only those registered have the right to vote at our Annual Church Meeting.

## Church Finances

*Alan Bateman, our Church Treasurer, writes:*

Like everyone else, St. Michaels has to budget our finances and balance the books. Last year we just about managed to break even, with no overall surplus or deficit. For most of our income, we rely on the generosity of church members. And we were grateful for their being prepared to either continue to pay donations during lockdowns or restrictions, or to make good amounts at a later date that would otherwise have been lost.

Activities across the year were curtailed, with groups not meeting in the Church Centre, Weddings being delayed, fundraising events not taking place. But things did gradually come to life with virtual meetings and an actual Sunday service when possible. All this meant that our income was reduced as was, to a certain extent, our spending. But all the usual domestic bills still needed to be paid.

Every year, we and other churches pay into a central pot as our contribution towards clergy-related costs. This is vital to the life-blood of the wider church. As in recent years, we were not able to pay our full allocation, as to do so would have put us into deficit. This is a matter of regret. As a church we are not thriving financially, but we are more than surviving. We want to maintain a presence in Bramcote and be available for all within the parish now and in the future.

## Bestwood and Bulwell Foodbank

The church is open from 10:00am to 12noon on weekdays for gifts of non-perishable food and toiletries and monetary gifts. Sincere thanks to all for your generous continuing support for those served by the Foodbank.

### Contacting us at St Michael's

Website: <https://saintmichaelsbramcote.com>

Email: [care@bramcoteparishchurch.com](mailto:care@bramcoteparishchurch.com)

Telephone: (0115) 943 0137