

# **St Michael's, Bray with Braywood**



## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting Papers Sunday 27th April 2025**

**St. Michael's Bray with Braywood**  
*Welcoming all in Faith, Hope and Love*

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting Papers**

## Agenda

Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on April 2024

St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2024

Electoral Roll Report

Treasurer's Report

Generous Giving Report

The St Michael's Online Report

The Mens Friendship Group

Safeguarding

St Michael's Mission Plan

Music Report (and Music at Bray Accounts)

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church and Church Hall Report

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2024

Tower Captain's Report

The Friends of St Michael's

The Church Teas

## **St. Michael's, Bray with Braywood** *Welcoming all in Faith, Hope and Love*

Notice of two meetings to be held at St Michael's Bray at 11.30am on Sunday 27th April 2025

### **AGENDA**

1. Apologies for Absence:
2. First Meeting – Election of ChurchWardens:  
(nominations received Lynn Olney and Helen Pearson)
3. Second Meeting – Annual Parochial Meeting  
\*\* Minutes of the Meetings held on April 21st 2024 and matters arising there from
4. The Election of members of the Deanery Synod which take place every 3 yrs.  
Therefore no elections are required.

5. Election of up to 9 Members of the Parochial Church Council  
Those willing to stand for re- election :-  
  
Lynda Jones, Katrin Brunning, John Seymour, Jasvir Banks, Mary Wiles and Thomas Henley  
Election of a new member to the PCC.
6. Re-commitment to an annually held election of PCC members.
7. Election of Sidespersons:  
Those seeking election are:  
8am:  
Richard Smart, Tony Ellison, Katrin Brunning, John Dieppe and Judith Riley.  
10 am:  
Sidespeople:  
Dorothy Chappell, Judith Riley, Tim Cook, Jackie Tucker, Peter Sands, Roy and Brenda Gardner, Penny Murray, Jilly Rothwell, Julie Graham, Belinda West. and Mary Wiles.  
Readers:  
Natasha Teeder, Mavis Waghorn, John Seymour, Bill Banks, John Buck. Ian Murray, Penny Murray, Lynda Jones, Jim Tucker, Judith Riley, Helen Pearson, Julie Graham, Julie Tompkins and Mary Wiles.  
Intercessions:  
Penny Murray, Jim Tucker, Beryl Maw, Andy Giles, and Lynda Jones
8. Electoral Roll of the Parishes
9. St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2024-2025
10. The Vicar's Report on Church Life in 2024-2025
11. Presentation of the Financial Statement for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024 (Treasurer's Statement)
12. Generous Giving Report.
13. The Mens Friendship Group.
14. Online Presence and Services.
15. Safeguarding Report.
16. St Michael's Mission Plan
17. Report on the Music of the Church and Music at Bray
18. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments, St Michael's Church and Church Hall
19. Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2024
20. Tower Captain's Report

21. The Friends of St Michael's Report
22. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
23. Date of the Next Annual Parochial Meeting
24. The Church Teas and Raffle Report
25. Any Other Business

### **Annual PCC Meeting of St Michael's Church Bray and Braywood on Sunday 21st April 2024**

Held in St Michaels Church. A copy of these can be found displayed within the porch.

#### **Annual reports.**

The members of the current Council are as follows.

Rev. A.Swift	Chairman
H.Pearson	Church Warden
Lynn Olney	Church Warden
Mary Wiles	Deputy Church Warden
P. Murray	Deanery Synod Representative
J.Tucker	Deputy Chairman, Verger Deputy Church Warden, Authorised Preacher and Deanery Synod Representative
K. Brunning	Secretary and Deputy Verger.
R. Severn	Honorary Treasurer
J. Banks	Fees Treasurer
L. Jones	Sacristan, Lay Funeral Minister
N.Teeder	Safeguarding Officer and Young Person's Advocate, Deanery Synod Representative
John Seymour	
Thomas Henley	

#### **Deanery Synod.**

The Vicar is automatically a member of the Deanery Synod.

The deanery synod members of the PCC are Natasha Teeder, Penny Murray and Jim Tucker.  
There is no election due this year.

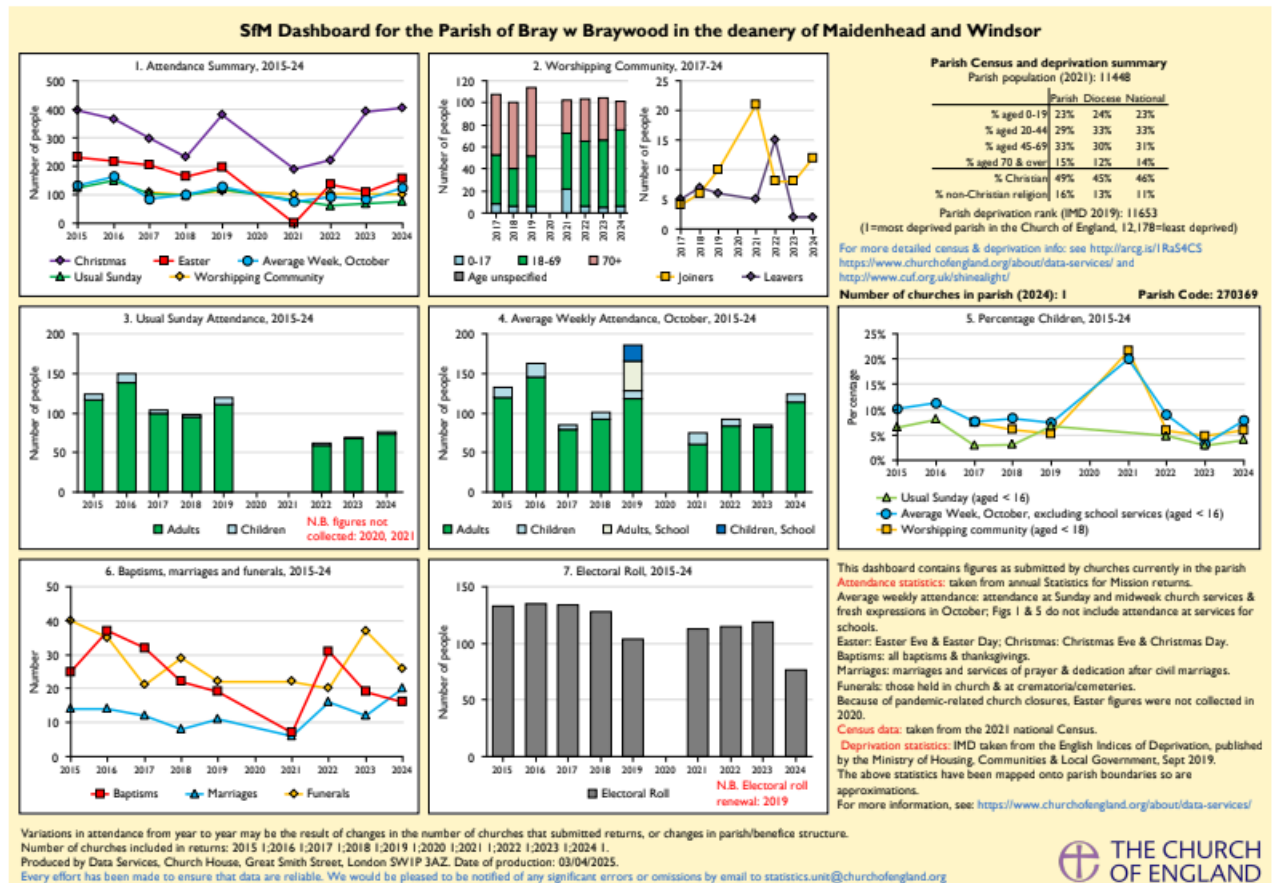
### **8 New Electoral Roll 2025**

The date for the new electoral roll was displayed within the church porch.

The new list has 89 names and addresses. The names only list is displayed on the noticeboard in the church porch. The full list with addresses will be kept in the safe in the vestry. Post APCM the names only list will be kept on the bookshelf near the font.

**Penny Murray** - Electoral Roll Officer.

## 9. St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2024-2025



### SfM Dashboard Data for the Parish of Bray w Braywood in the deanery of Maidenhead and Windsor

Report	Field	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
1. Attendance Summary	Christmas	396	366	298	232	380	-	190	222	391	405
	Easter	231	218	204	163	195	-	0	136	110	158
	Average Week, October	133	163	86	100	128	-	75	92	85	124
	Usual Sunday	124	150	103	98	119	-	-	62	69	76
	Worshipping Community	-	-	108	100	114	-	102	103	104	101
2. Worshipping Community	Total			108	100	114	-	102	103	104	101
	0-17			8	6	6	-	22	6	5	6
	18-69			45	34	46	-	50	59	61	70
	70+			55	60	62	-	30	38	38	25
	Age unspecified			0	0	0	-	0	0	0	0
	Joiners			4	6	10	-	21	8	8	12
	Leavers			5	7	6	-	5	15	2	2
3. Usual Sunday Attendance	Adults	116	138	100	95	111	-	-	59	67	73
	Children	8	12	3	3	8	-	-	3	2	3
4. Average Weekly Attendance	Adults	119	145	79	92	119	-	60	84	82	114
	Children	14	19	7	8	10	-	15	8	3	10
	Adults, School	-	-	-	-	38	-	0	-	-	-
	Children, School	-	-	-	-	20	-	0	-	-	-
5. Percentage Children	Usual Sunday (aged < 16)	6%	8%	3%	3%	7%	-	-	5%	3%	4%
	Average Week, October, excluding school services (aged < 16)	10%	11%	8%	8%	7%	-	20%	9%	3%	8%
	Worshipping community (aged < 18)	-	-	7%	6%	5%	-	22%	6%	5%	6%
6. Baptisms, marriages and funerals	Baptisms	25	37	32	22	19	-	7	31	19	16
	Marriages	14	14	12	8	11	-	6	16	12	20
	Funerals	40	35	21	29	22	-	22	20	37	26
7. Electoral Roll	Electoral Roll	133	135	134	128	104	-	113	115	119	77

## 10. Vicar's Report April 2025 (covering the year April 2024-April 2025)

"Becoming a more Christlike Church for the sake of the world" – *Common Vision, Oxford Diocese*

**Introduction** We continued to make a marked increase in attendance this year as you will see in the statistics below. Our main weak point is with the under 16's. We addressed this with the introduction of a Crib Service on Christmas Eve which had great attendance. We will build on this with other special services for children.

**Our Curate** Andy Medlicott is now coming to the end of his first year as Curate of Bray. Andy will be Ordained Priest (God willing) on the 28<sup>th</sup> June. Andy will continue to minister and worship at Bray and will from his Ordination to the Priesthood be able to preside at the Eucharist amongst other things. Andy has been increasingly involved in the pastoral work of the parish. Thank you for supporting Andy and his family in our church community life here in Bray.

**Taizé Service** – We have, thanks to Thomas Henley and Revd Andy, held a number of special Sunday afternoon services using the music and style of Taizé. Thomas made a visit to Taizé (in France) with a party led by Olivia last year and brought his inspiration back to St Michael's.

**Services for "Children of All Ages"** – We have held a number of Sunday afternoon services with children in mind; small numbers but a great way to try out new ways of engaging with children.

**Spirituality Centre** – Over the last year various parishes, groups and individuals have made use of our hall and upper room and grounds for Quiet Days and a place of retreat. This year I hope to explore how we might engage with young people and retreat. Discussions with Rhodri Bowen and Kathryn Aboud from the Diocese are taking place.

**Music and worship** – Music here at Bray continues to be an impressive part of our life and worship! Along with Ollie Gooch, Lindsey Bramley and the choir have done an amazing job enhancing our worship and developing the sense of God's presence in this place.

**Mission Action Planning** – We keep our Mission Action Plan as a regular feature on our PCC agenda. It is so important to be reminded of our core mission and give ourselves fresh insight into our mission direction.

**Sunday School** – This year has seen a new Sunday School initiative; some Sundays have seen a 500% increase in attendance! Many thanks to Natasha Teeder as she leads our Sunday School.

**Church Schools** – I have led a regular assembly (Collective Worship), in both our Church Schools, Holyport Primary and Braywood First School and serve as a Governor at both, along with Lynda Jones as Governor at Holyport and Julie Tomkin at Braywood. I have also been involved in helping in some RE lessons at Braywood. A new headteacher has been appointed at Braywood to take over from Mrs Calvert who has served the school so well over the last 20 years. We are also encouraging the schools to come along to special Sundays in Church and to bring their choir!

**Care Homes** – My thanks to Lynda Jones who maintains our ministry to the local care homes as well as giving much appreciated support with lay funeral ministry, not to mention Sacristan duties and choir! This year has seen the reintroduction of a Communion service and other pastoral work at Foxleigh Grove Nursing Home in Holyport.

**Jesus Hospital** – The Vicar of Bray continues to be Chaplain of Jesus Hospital. We currently mark seasonal celebrations for Christmas, Harvest, and Remembrance and with other occasional special events. If pastoral needs arise, I am kept in touch by the Warden. The Hartley Trust donate to us each year to support the Church for the use of the Vicar as Chaplain for which we are very grateful.

**The Friends of St Michaels** The ‘Friends’ are “To raise funds for the preservation, repair, restoration, and improvement of the ornamentation and fabric of St Michael’s, Bray and its Churchyard and St Michael’s Hall, so long as these buildings remain the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council, and are used for charitable purposes, and to provide articles for use in worship in St Michael’s, Bray; also support for music and other charitable activities in the parish.” (Charity Commissioners website). We thank the ‘Friends’ for all they do to help maintain the church here in Bray and this past year especially for the wonderfully restored West Doors.

### **Under Pew Heating.**

The under-pew heating has resulted in a decrease in our energy consumption (and bills!).

**Our Buildings** – Much of the daily care and maintenance of our building continues to be ably led by Ian Murray as our “clerk of works” and we give him special thanks for that. This year Ian has been joined by Lee Brunning as his assistant and in terms of succession planning, we have a candidate in Lee! Lee also operates as our Health and Safety Officer.

### **Generous Giving**

Our thanks to Jim Tucker for encouraging our Stewardship and generous giving and promoting the Parish Giving Scheme There has been a continued increase in giving this year. Thanks also to Vicky Henley who has been managing our Gift remotely from Northern Scotland!

You will see in the attached “Dashboard” that St Michael’s congregation has continued to grow and our number attending major festivals and events has been increased, in some cases Dramatically.

### **Safeguarding**

As a church we remain highly aware of our commitment to safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in the church community. We thank Natasha Teeder for being our Safeguarding Officer and Helen Pearson for administering our DBS checking and Safeguarding training.

### **Thanks to all!**

I am sure there are lots of other important events and people that I have not mentioned, forgive me.

As we enter a new season for the PCC, Churchwardens Helen Pearson and Lynn Olney, Deputy Wardens Penny Murray and Jim Tucker (also Verger), Lynda Jones our lay funeral minister and sacristan, Sian Adams our “minister” to the Zoom congregation, Richard Severn, our Parish Administrator and treasurer for the PCC, Pam Woodruff and the wonderful ministry of hospitality in continuing Sunday Breakfasts once a month and coffee after the 10.00 am service each Sunday,

the Summer Teas, and a number of other occasions (and all her helpers!) and all the members of the PCC. I want to thank everyone for all they do for the church community of St Michael's and wider parish; let's build on our strengths and see that St Michael's grow in faith and love and numbers.

Your Vicar,

Ainsley.

Vicar of Bray with Braywood  
Area Dean of Maidenhead and Windsor.

## **11. Treasurer's Report for the Year-ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2024**

I've just received the audited/inspected accounts from the accountants. Most of the comments are those I made at the January meeting but these figures have the benefit of an extra two months for things like CCLA interest and dividends to come through and for accounting processes like depreciation on assets to be applied.

These figures are also presented in a different way, for example some receipts are condensed under one heading and wedding and funeral fees are shown as a net figure under income rather than showing income for these services and costs separately. Further explanations are on page 2.

The balance sheet or financial statement is shown on page 3 containing information on all our assets which I'll leave with you and which I will not be going into beyond saying they are increasing satisfactorily.

Starting from the top of page one; Voluntary Income at £112,754 was slightly up on last year as were: Dividends, Fund Interest and Wedding and Funeral net income. Other Revenue was over £9,000 down as this is the account that the auditor's put the boiler insurance claim into in 2023.

Total receipts at £143,034 were slightly down on the previous year but would have been about 4% up if we don't count the insurance.

Moving on to Payments (half-way down page one.) The first big difference comes under Church Running Expenses (6<sup>th</sup> item down) at £8,133 compared to £3,632. These expenses cover bank charges, insurance, green bins, bathroom items, Easter eggs etc.

In the notes over the page it shows 2024 Insurance on Church and Hall being over twice as much (£7,467) as in 2023. This is because in 2022 the premium was paid in full and accounted for thus but in 2023, whilst we paid the full of over £7,000 in one lump again, the accountants showed that as £2,950 being a part payment as the cover spanned two

accounting years. In 2024 two part payments were lumped together to get £7,467.

I have suggested to the auditors that it would make my job easier if they weren't quite so pedantic!

Going down the list of Church Expenses we get to Depreciation (which relates to the under-pew heating) the accountants have put in as £5,056.

This brings our total outlay to £121,958 which is £21,076 less than our income of £143,034 thus a surplus of £21,076.



On page 3 you'll see a whole page of detail about all our funds and assets which, compared with 2023 have shown good to very good increases.

That concludes my presentation of the PCC Accounts for 2024.

**Richard Severn Hon Treasurer PCC**

**St Michael's Church Bray District Church Council**

**Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church Bray**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2024**  
**Receipts & payments account**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Endowment Fund	Total as at 31/12/2024 £	Total as at 31/12/2023 £
		£	£	£		
<b>Receipts</b>						
Voluntary income/receipts						
Planned giving		53,715	-	-	53,715	49,836
Collection at services		14,548	-	-	14,548	10,388
Donations wallbox/contactless	a	15,158	24,021	-	39,179	40,796
The friends of St Michaels		-	-	-	-	-
Gift aid recovered		5,312	-	-	5,312	10,049
<b>Total voluntary income</b>		<b>88,733</b>	<b>24,021</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>112,754</b>	<b>111,069</b>
Activities for generating funds						
Fundraising (including coffee)		2,993	-	-	2,993	3,310
Investment income						
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund		132	5,409	-	5,541	6,353
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest		839	3,025	-	3,864	1,946
Rent - Braywood School Hall		6,575	-	-	6,575	6,575
Church activities						
Fees for weddings and funerals	b	11,292	-	-	11,292	7,480
Other revenue		15	-	-	15	9,557
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>110,579</b>	<b>32,455</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>143,034</b>	<b>146,290</b>
<b>Payments</b>						
Church activities						
Parish share		66,831	-	-	66,831	63,979
Clergy expenses		2,452	-	-	2,452	1,520
Church administrator		8,840	-	-	8,840	8,580
Organist & music subs		6,059	-	-	6,059	6,760
Mission giving (CMS)		550	-	-	550	625
Church expenses						
Church running expenses	c	8,133	-	-	8,133	3,632
Sanctuary	d	1,532	-	-	1,532	1,563
Church utility bills	e	4,504	-	-	4,504	5,809
Church repairs & maintenance	f	6,447	5,903	-	12,350	16,053
Depreciation on under pew heating		5,056	-	-	5,056	4,490
Printing & stationery		415	-	-	415	989
Miscellaneous	g	5,236	-	-	5,236	4,861
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>116,055</b>	<b>5,903</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>121,958</b>	<b>118,861</b>
Excess receipts over payments		(5,476)	26,552	-	21,076	27,429
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-	-
<b>Other recognised gains and losses</b>						
Revaluation of investments		-	-	4,461	4,461	16,759
		(5,476)	26,552	4,461	25,537	44,188
Fund balance as at 1 January		80,013	66,410	491,353	637,776	593,588
Fund balance as at 31 December		74,537	92,962	495,814	663,313	637,776

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total as at 31/12/2024	Total as at 31/12/2023
	£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>a General donations</b>				
Donations - other	11,697	-	11,697	24,706
Donations - Music at Bray	375	-	375	(281)
Donations - Donnington hospital	-	-	-	1,000
Goodbox collections	3,086	-	3,086	3,210
Donations - The Margaret Horn	-	24,021	24,021	12,161
	<u>15,158</u>	<u>24,021</u>	<u>39,179</u>	<u>40,796</u>
<b>b Church activities</b>				
Wedding & funeral fees received	20,720	-	20,720	25,971
Less wedding costs & fees to OSBF	(9,428)	-	(9,428)	(18,491)
	<u>11,292</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>11,292</u>	<u>7,480</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>c Church running expenses</b>				
Bank charges	437	-	437	407
Christingle & Easter eggs	30	-	30	-
Royal County of Berkshire Churches	50	-	50	50
Website costs	-	-	-	215
Church & hall annual insurance	7,467	-	7,467	2,960
Green Bin	85	-	85	-
Hand Sanitiser and Bathroom Tissue/Hand Towels	64	-	64	-
	<u>8,133</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>8,133</u>	<u>3,632</u>
<b>d Sanctuary</b>				
Vino Sacro Altar Wine	365	-	365	151
Candles	87	-	87	640
Communion Wafers	-	-	-	57
Palm Crosses	47	-	47	112
Church Flowers	1,033	-	1,033	603
	<u>1,532</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,532</u>	<u>1,563</u>
<b>e Utility bills</b>				
Gas bill	2,816	-	2,816	4,650
Electric	1,403	-	1,403	898
Water	285	-	285	261
	<u>4,504</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,504</u>	<u>5,809</u>
<b>f Repairs &amp; maintenance</b>				
Fire extinguisher annual maintenance	423	-	423	396
Organ tuning & maintenance	300	-	300	1,160
Earthing equipment annual maintenance	259	-	259	-
Church yard + cemetery maintenance	2,690	-	2,690	2,055
General Repairs	-	5,903	5,903	-
Central heating boiler	490	-	490	9,634
Electrical Works	2,285	-	2,285	2,808
	<u>6,447</u>	<u>5,903</u>	<u>12,350</u>	<u>16,053</u>
<b>g Miscellaneous</b>				
Training	-	-	-	-
APCS & DBS Fees	147	-	147	(23)
Accountancy Support and Xero Accounts Software Fees	3,395	-	3,395	2,927
Donations	467	-	467	185
Miscellaneous	1,227	-	1,227	1,772
	<u>5,236</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>5,236</u>	<u>4,861</u>

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2024 £	Total 2023
<b>Cash funds</b>						
Bank current account		24,218	-	-	24,218	21,530
Deposit funds	2	10,958	92,962	-	103,920	77,357
<b>Other balance sheet items</b>						
Fixed assets - under pew heating		36,709	-	-	36,709	41,765
Creditors		(1,861)	-	-	(1,861)	(410)
Debtors		4,513	-	-	4,513	6,181
		<b>74,537</b>	<b>92,962</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>167,499</b>	<b>146,423</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>						
Braywood All Saints Church	3	-	-	296,476	296,476	296,476
Investment fund shares	4	-	-	199,338	199,338	194,877
		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>495,814</b>	<b>495,814</b>	<b>491,353</b>
<b>TOTAL FUNDS</b>		<b>74,537</b>	<b>92,962</b>	<b>495,814</b>	<b>663,313</b>	<b>637,776</b>

#### Notes

- 1 These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- 2 This includes The St Michael's House (sale proceeds) Trust which was transferred to local control in April 2009, making the capital available if needed for emergency repairs. For the time being the funds remain invested in CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, but with the usual PCC signatories.
- 3 Cost £5,585. Valued for insurance purposes. At a PCC meeting held at St Michael Hall Bray on 21st September 2010, the PCC was granted a lease of Braywood All Saints former Church site for a period of 10 years at an initial rent of £6,575.
- 4 The capital is held in Trust and invested in CCLA Church of England Investment Fund Shares, but the income is available for approved purposes.
- 5 The movements in unrestricted and restricted funds during the year were:

	B/fwd 1 Jan 23 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Depreciation	Transfers	C/fwd 31 Dec 24 £	As at 31 Dec 23 £
Sunday school	451	23	-	-	-	474	451
Holway Legacy	2,203	-	-	-	-	2,203	2,203
Chancel Repair	6,096	797	-	-	-	6,893	6,096
Church & Hall Repair Fund	31,659	6,150	(5,903)	-	-	31,906	31,659
St Michael's HO SP Trust	12,942	-	-	-	-	12,942	12,942
Margaret Horn Memorial	13,059	25,485	-	-	-	38,544	13,059
	<b>66,410</b>	<b>32,455</b>	<b>(5,903)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>92,962</b>	<b>66,410</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>							
CCLA General Reserve	239	12	-	-	-	251	239
CCLA other reserve	10,707	-	-	-	-	10,707	10,707
Barclays Current Account	21,531	110,567	(107,880)	-	-	24,218	21,531
Debtors / (creditors)	5,771	-	(3,119)	-	-	2,652	5,771
	<b>38,248</b>	<b>110,579</b>	<b>(110,999)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>37,828</b>	<b>38,248</b>
<b>Fixed assets</b>							
	<b>41,765</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>(5,056)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>36,709</b>	<b>41,765</b>
	<b>80,013</b>	<b>110,579</b>	<b>(110,999)</b>	<b>(5,056)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>74,537</b>	<b>80,013</b>

Approved by the PCC by

and signed on their behalf

Rev'd. Ainsley Swift  
Chairman PCC

Richard Severn  
Hon Treasurer

I report on the accounts of the St Michael Church Bray for the year ended 31 December 2024, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2024, a Statement of Financial Activities for the year then ended and supporting Notes.

Respective responsibilities of Church Officers and the Independent Examiner

As the Church's Officers, you are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act).

I report in respect of my examination of the Parish's financial statements carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act. In carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the 2011 Act.

Independent examiner's statement I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Church as required by section 130 of the 2011 Act; or
2. The financial statements do not accord with those records; or
3. The financial statements do not comply with the applicable requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a true and fair view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the financial statements to be reached.

Mr P Fagan, FCCA  
Craufurd Hale Audit Services Limited  
Ground Floor, Arena Court  
Crown Lane  
Maidenhead,  
SL6 8QZ

The appointment of Auditors will take place at the end of this meeting.

## 12: Generous Giving Report

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*Matthew 6, 21*

This report to the Annual Parochial Church Meeting is, first and foremost, an opportunity to express, on behalf of the PCC, a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has generously contributed financially to the work of St Michael's during 2024. Your support is truly invaluable, and it is thanks to all of you that we have the privilege of enjoying the worship and community of our beautiful church.

I must admit, I am always somewhat sceptical of statistics. When writing a report like this, it is possible to present numbers in a way that supports any desired narrative. This year, however, I will limit the figures to just one: the record amount given by regular contributors in 2024. Through the Parish Giving Scheme—principally, supported by some paying via standing order—an incredible £43,983 was donated. With the addition of Gift Aid received from HMRC, this figure

approaches £60,000. Furthermore, if the first few months of 2025 are any indication, we are well on our way to setting another new record this year.

The full financial picture is provided separately by the treasurer, Richard Severn, whose unwavering support of our giving efforts is something for which I am deeply grateful. It is clear to me that the collective attention paid to giving has greatly benefitted the day-to-day finances of the parish. However, we must remain vigilant, as everything the church spends money on is just as susceptible to inflation as our personal finances. The cost of maintaining our glorious—but aged—building, which we all cherish, remains a significant and ongoing challenge that we must not lose sight of.

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Vicki Henley for her generous dedication to managing Gift Aid for St Michael's and administering our Parish Giving Scheme. Despite living over 500 miles away in the north of Scotland, she continues to serve with exceptional commitment. That level of dedication is hard to beat.

**Jim Tucker**

### **13. St Michael's Mens Friendship Group 2024/25**

In September 2019 the MEN'S Fellowship met for the first time in The White Hart in Moneyrow Green . The idea was that we would meet once a month in the evening and get to know each other. After a few meetings that were enjoyed by all, the pandemic arrived and our gatherings had to cease. As things improved we resumed our lunches. Eventually the pandemic was behind us and the group suggested instead of meeting in the evenings, we should meet at lunchtimes. The group embraced that idea and it proved a great success. So much so, someone in the group suggested we meet every two weeks. The whole group were enthusiastic in meeting every other Wednesday and visiting about 5 pubs in the local area. Our numbers increased and the fun and laughter at each lunch was a joy to behold. We have also enjoyed several days visiting the RAF Museum at Hendon also, Broadlands at Weybridge. We have grown in numbers as others have joined our group, both members of the congregation of St Michaels and also non members who have heard of the friendships we have made.

Now 5 years later we are still such a friendly group and still enjoying meeting up every two weeks. When we sit round a table together I look at the group laughing and joking with each other.

Recently Graham asked the men if they would be willing to help the Alex Devine Children's Hospice in a bucket collection at a local supermarket, and six of the group spent the day collecting donations from those entering the shop. The stories that unfolded were one of joy confirming that the time spent was for such a worthwhile enterprise.

**Andy Giles**

### **14. Online Presence**

This year we have continued to have our website and facebook presence. We have continued to use ChurchEdit and in Q4 last year we needed to switch to a new version of their software so Richard and I refreshed the design to make it a little easier to use on mobile devices and to be

able to highlight individual events and services, such as Taize and the Pets Service. We had at least one person turn up to the Taize services because they had seen it mentioned on the website!

We have also moved to using a graphical calendar which allows for more interesting pictures to be associated with events. During the review of pages whilst moving to the new version, it was clear many pages were out of date, so in this upcoming year I will continue to remind page owners for new updated material and will ensure there is more information available for weddings, baptisms and funerals to help people enquiring.

On Facebook we have been trying to ensure there are posts for each service, again to promote services. We currently have over 400 members on the facebook page.

The card donations machine has been renewed with a new model, and we are looking to be able to use QR codes in emails and on webpages to make it easier to donate and help with fundraising.

## **15. Safeguarding Report and Childrens Church**

### **Safeguarding Report**

All policies and procedures are up to date and are reviewed annually. All DBS certificates and Safeguarding training requirements have been entered onto the Diocesan Safeguarding Dashboard and are regularly reviewed and updated when appropriate.

### **Sunday School Report.**

I am delighted to report that Sunday School has a very small (4) cohort of dedicated children who meet once a fortnight or thereabouts. We have covered many topics, some lessons are based on the reading you'll hear in church others on the basic principles of Christianity.

### **Natasha Teeder**

Children's Advocate, Sunday School Teacher and Parish Safeguarding Officer.

## **16. St Michael's Mission Plan**

The underpinning principles of the Mission Plan are

- To welcome all in faith, hope and love
- We are a community throughout the entire Parish
- We aim to be a contemplative, courageous and compassionate church and community
- That the areas of the Mission Plan should reflect the above and encourage an inclusive and Christ-like community.

Throughout these APCM papers there are examples of an inclusive community ranging from Sunday teas, to Music at Bray, and the community facebook page.

The main areas of the Mission Plan are

- (1) Nurture and Discipleship Courses
- (2) Children and Young People –
- (3) Pastoral Care
- (4) Outreach
- (5) Communication
- (6) Bray Christian Spirituality Centre

**Ainsley Swift**

## **17. Music at Bray Report**

The choir had an eventful year in 2024. Week in week out a good number of singers faithfully met for rehearsal on Friday evenings, and at Parish Communion performed the psalm and anthem or introit, sometimes both, keeping the standards as high as ever. For the church's principal festivals the usual substantial increase in the amount of singing was once again undertaken with aplomb.

They even found time to give the Music at Bray recital for April, with a delightful and well-received selection of pieces entitled "In springtime". The skill and dedication of Lindsay Bramley plays a vital role in maintaining this standard, regularly backed up by Ollie Gooch.

Music at Bray's recitals have enjoyed good attendances on the whole, with the customary wide range of enthusiastic young people coming to entertain us with their amazing talent. We have been using the piano long enough now for it to benefit from re-voicing, and this expert task was carried out early in the year. The majority of recitals were, not surprisingly, piano solos, all of the very highest quality. They deserve an even larger audience, and if you have never come to one, do try; you will not be disappointed. As ever, we marked the summer with jazz on the vicarage lawn with Josephine Davies and her quartet playing, and Christmas with our Community Carol concert, this year raising £750 for Thames Valley Adventure Playground.

It is a feature of the recitals that everyone adjourns to the church hall for tea and cake, baked, prepared and served by Pam Woodruff and her fantastic team of helpers. We are extremely grateful for their unfailing support.

The choir personnel have seen some changes. Mother and daughter Tanya and Elizabeth Wiltsher started to sing with us in 2023, and are now established members of the sopranos, while the altos have welcomed Beverley Roberts to their number. Sean Douglas has been a regular, with his father David, since he was a young boy, and in his time took leading roles in our children's operas. He is now pursuing a musical career and recently took up the position of lay clerk at Peterborough Cathedral and goes with our best wishes.

Vicki Henley joined the choir around 27 years ago, and her wonderful soprano voice has been a highlight ever since. Mike joined the ranks of the tenors a bit later and was then confirmed by the current Archbishop of York. Their contribution to the life of St Michael's extends way beyond the choir, but their move to the north of Scotland leaves a gap in our numbers that will be felt for a long time to come. We thank them both for singing with us all these years and wish them every happiness.



**MUSIC AT BRAY**  
**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024**

Opening Balance at 1 January 2024		11,340
Receipts:		
Interest	128	
Ticket sales		
<i>Jazz at the Vicarage</i>	1,130	
Collections		
<i>In Springtime</i>	346	
<i>Recitals</i>	1,469	
<i>Community Carols</i>	738	
Wedding fees	140	
Donations	300	
		4,251
Payments:		
To performers and expenses:		
<i>In Springtime</i>	600	
<i>Jazz at the Vicarage</i>	600	
<i>Recitals</i>	1,071	
Donations		
<i>St Michael's PCC</i>	530	
<i>Thames Valley Adventure</i>	750	
<i>Playground</i>		
Piano tuning/voicing	480	
Fees	705	
Sundries	30	
		4,766
Closing Balance at 31 December 2024		10,825
<hr/>		
Lloyds Bank Current Account		50
Lloyds Bank Reserve Account		6,599
Lloyds Bank Organ Scholarship Account		3,756
Lloyds Bank Choir Music Account		420
		10,825

***Jim Tucker***

Jim Tucker, Music at Bray Treasurer  
March 2025

*I have compared this account with the bank records and other related documents  
and these figures are in accordance with those records. I believe they give a  
true account of the funds available to Music at Bray at 31st December 2024.*

***Bill Banks***

*W R Banks, Independent Examiner*

## **18. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments, St Michael's Church and Church Hall.**

St Michael's Church, Bray with Braywood APCM Fabric Report

A second winter has passed with the successful, uninterrupted use of the pew heaters thus reducing our overall energy use by a significant amount. The gas boiler is now set to frost temperatures only and manually set to higher temperatures when the church is in use.

Philip Tilbury, our Inspecting Architect since 2007 has completed his last quinquennial inspection for us and will be retiring, probably, at the end of this year. He has promised to see through any existing projects for us and also make the hand-over to a new Architect once we have found a suitable candidate. Progress through the quinquennial priorities is slow but we have managed to initiate some significant works through this last year. Works to the roof, including the repair of broken and slipped tiles and leadwork has been carried out. This also allowed us to monitor ongoing problems with the condition of the clerestory windows and achieve another estimate for their possible reconditioning.

Work to the West Doors is now complete. This involved the removal and reconditioning of the doors themselves and the resetting of the hinge pintles in the adjacent stonework, which itself was in need of repair. Cliveden Conservation, who have carried out the West Door work, will now be working on quinquennial repairs to the stonework around the Vicar's vestry which should be completed by the end of the summer.

Recent works to repair the high level church lighting have revealed the need to replace all of the old pyro wiring. Faults have continued to materialise and some circuits have had to be isolated, including the flood lights. Asking our electricians to make temporary repairs has proved time consuming and expensive, making the inevitable need to replace the wiring achieve some urgency. What this situation does, however, is offer an opportunity to do something about the overall lighting scheme in the church which is considered by many to be rather poor. As a result the PCC commissioned CES (Lighting designers) to design a choice of options for a completely new scheme. The PCC has chosen a combination of spot and pendant lighting. The spot lights would give feature lighting, particularly over the chancel, altars, lecterns and font and the pendants would hang over the north and south aisles and light all of the pews. The LED units would lower the operating cost and a modern digital switching system would allow 'mood' selection from a single tablet. Fundraising is underway and a full faculty application is being prepared. Time is not on our side, as it would be unwise to keep the existing lighting in operation for too long. If it did become necessary to divert funds, for urgent repairs to the lighting, costs could increase to a point where a new scheme could prove prohibitive.

All routine servicing and inspections to the boilers, lightning conductors and fire extinguishers have been completed within the year.

**Ian Murray**

## **19. Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2024**

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. The current triennium runs from 2023 to 2026. At the end of 2023 the Synod had 67 members. Attendance varied from 30 to 42 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2024:

### **Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at All Saints Church, Dedworth:**

- The Synod heard from Rev Jo Ellington, chaplain at Altwood School, Maidenhead, about her experiences and learnings there, including highlights and challenges.
- Rev Paul Walker (All Saints Dedworth) shared about the chaplaincy team currently visiting Windsor Girls' School, including how it works and what activities they run.
- Rev Charlie Kerr (Diocese Chaplaincy Advisor) shared about prayer spaces and the use of Space Makers in primary schools.
- General Synod member Daniel Matovu gave a report on the November 2023 General Synod sessions.

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024 at St Luke's Church, Maidenhead:**

- The Synod heard an introduction to Anna Chaplaincy, which is a way of providing spiritual care for older people, including how that works and what it involves.
- The Synod heard about some of the safeguarding issues involved when supporting older adults.
- General Synod member Gracy Crane gave a report on the February 2024 General Synod sessions.
- Deanery Lay Chair Jim Tucker gave a brief report on the Deanery Morning held on 27<sup>th</sup> April alongside Bracknell Deanery, thinking about how we can help with Children and young people.

### **Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at St Stephen and St Agnes Church, Windsor:**

- A small update to the Parish Share allocation formula was approved to stay consistent with the Diocese's formula.
- Several parishes shared some of their learnings around working with children and young people:
  - St Andrew's Clewer: Wild Worship, worshipping with children outside in nature
  - St Mary's Maidenhead: three aspects of and three reflections on work with secondary school age children
  - St Mary's White Waltham: how to put youth work at the heart of church life, gradually growing a bigger team, and teaching children creatively
- General Synod member Daniel Matovu reported on the range of topics discussed at the July 2024 General Synod sessions.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, the Deanery paid £ 925,871 of parish share in 2024, against an allocation of £ 1,031,299, which was 89.8% of the requested amount from the diocese. The diocesan average was 93.6%. This was a reduction from the £ 931,978 paid in 2023.

During 2024, the PCCs of Windsor Parish Church, Clewer St Stephen & St Agnes, and Windsor Holy Trinity all voted to replace the New Windsor Team Ministry with one parish of Central Windsor. With the support of the Deanery Standing & Pastoral Committee and the Archdeaconry of Berkshire this change was approved by the Church Commissioners and came into effect on 1 January 2025, with Reverend Canon Sally Lodge continuing as Rector.

## **20. Tower Captain's report 2024-5**

The band remains in a healthy state with a strong core of experienced ringers and a steady stream of recruits.

We have rung for nearly all Sunday morning services as well as weddings, occasional funerals and some special occasions like the carol service. Sunday ringing attendance has increased in recent weeks which is great. Thank you all.

The band spans a massive spectrum of experience but I think we use that to our advantage with less-experienced ringers able to benefit from the assistance and expertise of the experts. This model does mean that some of the camaraderie of learning a skill together may be lost, but I try to make sure there is something for everyone each practice night and that progress is made. And, fortunately, the camaraderie is very much apparent in the band through a good mix of social activities.

We had to abandon the planned outing this year due to lack of numbers, but managed a very local mini-outing in early December instead which benefited some of our learners. This, and the carol service ringing a couple of weeks later were both followed by meals out. Other social events have included a monthly board games evening, a trip to a Wine Tasting evening hosted by TVAP and a croquet match after the successful Sunday Teas in August.

We've negotiated the crisis of the Cricket Club closing on Monday evenings and are now considered locals at The Crown.

We made a huge investment in the band at the start of the year, with 6 ringers attending an ART (Association of Ringing Teachers) one-day course. This was helpful for learning new techniques, being reassured that much of what we were doing was good, and encouraging us to reflect on our own ringing styles. It's now a priority to look at recruitment and find some learners to practise our newly honed skills on.

Our bells are some of the best in the area and we are beginning to see more requests for peals, quarter peals and visiting bands. I nearly always remember to flag any extra ringing on social media, and this is always met with gratitude and praise for the bells. We rang three local band quarter peals in the Autumn and I'd like to continue doing this on a monthly(ish) basis this year. We should also be looking ahead to next January which will be the 100 th anniversary of the first peal on the bells. This would be good to mark with a peal, but might also spark some local interest in people involved in the history of the church, bells and Village.

We have had some interest from non-ringers, with a visit from the cubs, the bells being live-streamed for the opening of Holyport fete and also a visit from a descendant of one of the erstwhile ringers from the sepia photos.

Overall, it's been a good year and I feel the band is in a healthy position to move forward. Recruitment will be my next focus and I welcome ideas about how we achieve this.

**Maggie Ross**

February 2025

## **21.The Friends of St Michael's Report (Registered Charity Number 1070040)**

The Friends of St. Michael's Bray was formed in 1998 with the objective of raising funds for the preservation, repair, restoration and improvement of St. Michael's Church, Bray including the Church Hall and Churchyard.

Since formation of the charity The Friends have raised funds which have enabled the purchase, refurbishment or repair of numerous items which could not have been afforded from the normal income of the church which is generally only sufficient to cover routine running costs. These include: cushions, kneelers, hymn and prayer books, office and kitchen equipment, folding tables, a storage shed, tents, a portable font, a lectern and Bible, the restoration of historic memorials, repairs to Vestments, new Altar Frontals for Ordinary time, Lent and Advent, assistance with floodlighting and boiler replacement work, support for Music at Bray events and significant contributions towards a new piano, essential work on the organ and the under pew heating. When projects requiring assistance from The Friends arise the PCC requests a donation and this is discussed and agreed by the Committee.

In March 2025 the Friends donated £16,782.80 for the repair of the West Doors.

Our table top sale at the 2024 Bray village fete was a great success as was the Hugo Vickers talk in church about the Royal Family which drew a large audience.

The Friends will host a Summer Tea on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June in the church hall and we will have a table top sale at the Bray fete on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> September.

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends will be held on Sunday 1st June at 11.30 in church and we hope as many members as possible can join the meeting and also those interested in joining The Friends and supporting our church.

The Committee comprises: Lynda Jones (Chair); Bill Banks (Treasurer); Sarah Pallot (Secretary); Julie Graham (Events Coordinator); Graham Barker, Steve Adams, Julie Tompkins and Rev Ainsley Swift (ex officio member).

The Trustees of The Friends are Lynda Jones, Bill Banks and Graham Barker.

## **22. Appointment of an Independent Examiner**

## **23. Date of the Next Annual Parochial Meeting TBC 26/4/25**

## **24: ST Michael's Church Teas 2024**

A big thank you goes out to all those involved in the summer Church Tea programme. Thank you for your time, your baking skills and efforts with the washing up.

We raised a total of £2830.70 which is amazing. There were teas held for eight charities including Friends of St Michaels and four in aid of Church funds.

The charities were:

- Blood Cancer
- Windsor Homeless charity
- Alexander Devine
- Thames Hospice
- Thames Valley Adventure Playground
- The Children's Society
- Mind

Along the way we had entertainment by the Devine Buskers and trips up the bell tower with the Bellringers, I hope a good time was had at all the teas by everyone.

A total of £2315.70 was raised for the Charities and £515.00 for Church funds.

Keep an eye on the newsletter for details of dates and times for this summer's programme. year. If you would like to host a tea please look at the timetable in St Michaels Hall for available dates.

**Pam Woodruff and Katrin Brunning**

## **25. Any Other Business**

Please advise a member of the PCC if you wish to raise a matter prior to the meeting.