

NEWSLETTER

August 2022

from the Church of St. Michael's Bray



The Parish Church of Bray with Braywood, Holyport & Moneyrow
Green, Fifield, Touchen End and Oakley Green

website: www.braystmichael.co.uk



A message from Revd Ainsley

Dear Friends,

"Jesus said to them, 'Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while...' and they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves." Mark 6.31/2

Summer is upon us and a holiday is actually possible this year! The word *holiday* comes from Old English word *hāligdæg* (*hālig* "holy" + *dæg* "day"). The word originally referred only to special religious days. The modern use varies geographically. In North America, it means any dedicated day or period of celebration. In the United Kingdom, Australia and New Zealand, *holiday* is often used to refer to a time away for rest and recuperation, in the USA the word *vacation* is used (*from Wikipedia*).

The "Holidays" or "Holy Days" are a special time, with spiritual overtones. A time to celebrate, a time to rest, a time to heal. Jesus used the "holy days" away from the crowds, in a deserted place, for rest and his "holidays" usually preceded another round of miracles and healing. Today we might call this a "retreat".

Perhaps if you are able to take a holiday you might like to think of making sure it contains some time for yourself, some time to be quiet. You might even like to think about a "quiet day", talk to one of the clergy if you would like any guidance. You can learn more about "retreat" by visiting www.retreats.org.uk or our own Bray Spirituality Centre website www.bray-spirituality-centre.com



HEATING THE CHURCH



In recent winters it has been a struggle to keep the church warm during services. In a long-overdue attempt to improve conditions for worshippers the PCC has decided to install under-pew heating in St Michael's. This is a tried and tested way to provide heating in churches, and I know that everyone will welcome the move.

Under-pew heating has three principal benefits:

1. People sitting in the pews will be warm, even if the ambient temperature in the building is low (the existing heating may be used as a background on the very coldest days).
2. Because it only requires switching on when needed and warms up quickly, energy use and cost are greatly reduced.
3. The system fully accords with carbon-use reduction as part of our progress towards being an eco-church.

Initially we want to install a complete wiring system, with a good number of the pews going live, the rest to follow. An experienced and successful contractor has been engaged, and is able to start work on 12 September, and diocesan approval is forthcoming. The cost of this phase is £43,000 or so, a major proportion of which will be covered from existing dedicated reserves, a generous grant from our own charity the Friends of St Michael's, and possibly with some help from one or two church charities.

The churchwardens and I feel sure that members of the congregation will also want to help this ambitious project, which will after all benefit regular attenders most. As has often happened previously, Ian Murray has done the research, created the specification and identified a suitable contractor and now he hands over to Jim Tucker, who will set about raising the funds required.

Once the necessary wiring is in place, it costs over £100 to equip each pew, and we are inviting members of the church who are willing to help to contribute this amount, or whatever they can manage. Please make cheques payable to "St Michael's Bray PCC" and pass an envelope marked *Pew Heating Appeal* to Jim, or one of the churchwardens. If you have any questions or would prefer to pay by BACS transfer to the church's bank, please contact Jim at jimtucker@talktalk.net.

Revd Ainsley

SUMMER SUNDAY CHURCH TEAS

St Michael's Church Hall
3pm until 5pm

There's still time to come and enjoy delicious
homemade cakes and cream teas



<i>Date</i>	<i>Team</i>	<i>In Aid of</i>
Sunday 7 th August	Katrin Brunning & Team	St Michael's Church
Sunday 14 th August	Brenda Gardener & Team	Breast Cancer
Sunday 21 st August	Pam Woodruff & Team	Thames Hospice
Sunday 28 th August	Maggie Ross & Bell Ringers	TBA

*Please come and support the Teams and
Charities*



JAZZ ON THE VICARAGE LAWN

On the afternoon of Sunday 17 July, Music at Bray hosted the annual outdoor concert on the Vicarage Lawn, by kind permission of Ainsley and Jane.

We enjoyed a lovely afternoon concert, with Josephine Davies and her quartet when they entertained us to an hour of New Orleans jazz, followed by tea and cakes in the Church Hall thanks to Pam Woodruff and her amazing team.

Music at Bray is grateful to everyone for helping us to raise £550 for St Michael's Church.

Jim Tucker





Wednesday 7th September 2022 at 7.30 pm

An illustrated talk by Sir Anthony Seldon in St Michael's Church

Title: 300 years of the British Prime Minister: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly – and how will history judge Boris?

Sir Anthony, who now lives in Bray with his wife Sarah, has kindly agreed to deliver this talk as a fund-raising event on behalf of St Michael's. It is being organised by the Friends of St Michael's. One of his most recent books, published in 2021, "The Impossible Office? – The History of the British Prime Minister", provides a fascinating insight into the development of British government. Sir Anthony is also currently writing a biography of Boris Johnson. This should be a lively and interesting talk especially after the political scandals of the last 9 months. The talk will last 45 minutes followed by 15 minutes of questions.

To quote his CV:

Sir Anthony Seldon is one of Britain's leading contemporary historians, educationalists, commentators and political authors. Vice-Chancellor of The University of Buckingham from 2015 to 2020 after being a transformative head for 20 years of Brighton College and then Wellington College, he is author or editor of over 45 books on contemporary history, including the inside books on the last five Prime Ministers. For the last fifteen years he has given his money from writing and lecturing to charity. He has three children; his wife of 34 years, Joanna, died of cancer in December 2016. He married Sarah, at St Michael's, in April 2022.

Tickets cost £15 (£10 for Friends of St Michael's). A free glass of wine or juice and nibbles will be served at the end. Car parking will be available on the Village Green. Please contact Julie Graham, Event Co-ordinator, at julie.graham@brayclose.com or 01628 778054. Payment is by cash, cheque or BACS.

CONTACT LIST

The Vicar: Ainsley Swift 633113

For general enquiries (Christenings, Weddings etc) in the first instance please contact our Parish Administrator, Richard Severn: 01628 633113 stmichaelsbray@gmail.com"

The Churchwardens:

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Lynn Olney 07966906092

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Penny Murray 623041

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Tower Captain:

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Mrs Amanda Featherstone 627743

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