

# NEWSLETTER

June 2021

## from the Church of St. Michael's Bray



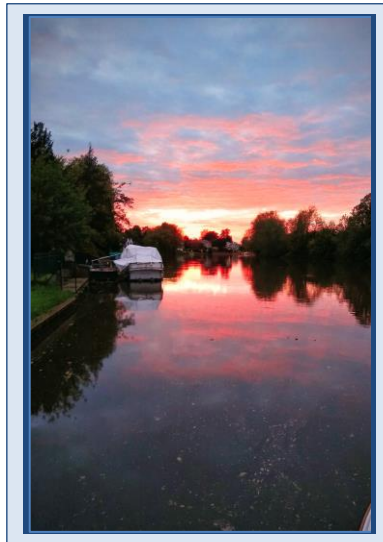
The Parish Church of Bray with Braywood, Holyport & Moneyrow  
Green, Fifield, Touchen End and Oakley Green

website: [www.braystmichael.co.uk](http://www.braystmichael.co.uk)



**Dear Friends,**

**The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters;  
he restores my soul.**



**Psalm 23** is a favourite text of many. I may have said before it is a favourite of mine. The green pastures and still waters bring vivid thoughts of a pastoral idyll and this idyll, the Psalmist promises, “will restore my soul.”

With the restrictions on movement and meeting easing, the arrival of better weather, and the beautiful scenery of our Parish, we have more opportunities available in the weeks ahead to restore our souls.

The soul feeds on nature and beauty and God’s creation provides a healing power for the soul. “*The world is charged with the grandeur of God.*” Gerard Manley Hopkins.

In our rush back to “normal” let’s not forget to cherish the grandeur all around us this summer and be open to giving time and space for its healing power on our souls.

**With prayers and blessings, Rev’d Ainsley**

## The Churches seasons, the liturgical year...

**Advent/Christmas/Epiphany and Lent/Holy Week/Eastertide, which lasts 50 days and ends on The Feast of Pentecost, with the rest of the year known as Ordinary Time.**

These seasons are designed to annually re-tell the key elements of the Gospel story so that each year we take a spiritual journey through story that unfolds the message of salvation and grace.

Each season has a colour to remind us of the 'tone' of that season.

**Advent** – purple for reflection and preparation.

**Christmas and Epiphany** – white or gold for celebration.

**Lent** – purple again for preparation and repentance, turning back our lives back toward God in preparation for

**Easter** – white or gold for celebration.

**Pentecost** – red for the fire of the Holy Spirit (and also when we remember the Feast Days of Apostles and Martyrs).

A good while ago a lovely lady in an old Parish of mine made me a set of miniature vestments in the colours of the liturgical season primarily for use in schools. I thought you might like to see them...



**Rev'd Ainsley**

## **MINECRAFT CHURCH**

In mid-May, having taken the plunge and attended the Sunday service in person rather than lurking on Zoom, I was “persuaded” by a certain Curate whose name begins with a ‘K’ to join in the Minecraft session that evening. When I say “join in”, I should really say “observe” as my only experience of online gaming thus far has been a brief flirtation with Candy Crush (I reached level 10 before becoming bored).

What an experience! I had. Absolutely no idea what was going on (and still don't) but it was an utter joy to see 25 children interacting with each other, working in teams, building all sorts of things based on Psalm 1, the bible reading for that Sunday. Their enthusiasm, creativity and sense of fun was infectious and their spiritual understanding put me to shame.

Kevin does a wonderful job in keeping things on track - no easy feat believe me - as does Sian in hosting the sessions. They must have both been exhausted by the end of it - I know I was!

Please give some thought to tuning in yourself one Sunday evening. I can't recommend it highly enough and you can always record “Countryfile”! You won't regret it.”

***Linda Shepherd***

## JAZZ ON THE VICARAGE GARDEN



Music at Bray is looking forward to presenting the annual Jazz on the Vicarage Garden on **Sunday 11 July at 3.00pm.**

We will welcome back the Josephine Davies Trio for an afternoon of jazz standards, alongside members of Cantorum Choir with a selection of George Shearing's Songs and Sonnets.

With the backdrop of the Thames, it promises to be an uplifting and memorable afternoon for the church community.

More details will follow regarding tickets and access but for the time being do pop the date in your diary!

***Oliver Gooch***

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