

# NEWSLETTER

June 2025

## 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,

As I write this, the days are gloriously long, the sun is (mostly!) shining, and there's a distinct buzz of summer in the air. June, with its gentle warmth and vibrant colours, always feels like a breath of fresh air after the often-grey skies of winter and spring. It's a time when creation sings God's praises, and we are invited to join in.

This month, as many of us begin to think about holidays, spending more time outdoors, and perhaps a slightly more relaxed pace, it's important to remember the power of rest and rejuvenation – not just for our bodies, but for our souls too. In Matthew 11:28, **Jesus says, "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest."** Summer can be a wonderful opportunity to embrace this invitation, finding moments of quiet contemplation and renewal amidst our activities.

Of course, summer doesn't mean our church life slows down! We have many wonderful things planned. Please do check the events within this newsletter for details of our upcoming special services and events, including **12<sup>th</sup> July "Parky in Words and Music"** with Michael Parkinson Jr and friends, **our Confirmation Service with Bishop Mary on 13<sup>th</sup> July**, and our annual **Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn – 20<sup>th</sup> July at 3.00 pm** – a great opportunity for fellowship, fun, and fundraising for our essential ministries. Your support is always so appreciated.

For those considering a break, I pray for safe travels and a blessed time away. Remember that God is with us wherever we go, and our worship can continue in new surroundings – perhaps through quiet prayer by a seaside or reflecting on creation in the mountains. And for those staying closer to home, I hope you find joy and refreshment in the beauty of our local area and the company of loved ones.

Let us continue to hold one another in prayer, especially those who are struggling, those who are unwell, and those who feel isolated. Let us also give thanks for the blessings of this season, for the warmth, the light, and the abundant beauty around us.

May God bless you all with a refreshing and joyful summertime.

**With best regards**

**Ainsley**



## Being ORDINARY

How many times today have you seen an advert which promises to make you stand out from the crowd by buying their product, that you are someone special? How many films we watch start with some discovering they can do something that nobody else can... be it a super agent, a superhero or super smart? But if you're anything like me most of the time you just feel ordinary. The other day I was commuting into London on the train, suited and booted, just one of many. Ordinary.

### ***BUT ORDINARY IS POWERFUL***

But I am at a crossroads, as a deacon (literally, a servant) my role is not to stand out but to serve, in some ways just to be ordinary and kind. I will be ordained a priest in a few weeks time, but I will remain an ordinary deacon, and hopefully I will remain kind.

When I wear my collar, people see a clergyperson. One of many. When I do good, when I am kind, it reflects well on the church. My hope is it increases people's view that the church is somewhere they can come to on their spiritual journey. When they do so, they will (hopefully) meet other ordinary clergy who also do good and are kind. But perhaps people expect me to be this way because I wear a collar?

What if we all are kind, we all show love, like Christ did, like Christ commands us to "love one another". Lots of ordinary people, but spreading love rather than doing nothing. Imagine when people realise that it's not just a few rare individuals, but lots of ordinary people. It might be someone simple, like smiling and saying hello to a fellow train passenger. It might be offering to help carry some shopping or help loading it into their car when I'm at the supermarket.

In this hurting and confused world, people need to know the love of Christ is still present. One or two rare occurrences of seeing love and kindness is better than none... ..but imagine if it becomes ordinary to show love, to show kindness! That changes society.

### ***THAT IS WHEN ORDINARY BECOMES SO POWERFUL***

***Andy Medicott***

## *SHINING A LIGHT AT ST MICHAEL'S*

It has become apparent to the Parochial Church Council recently that the electrical installation in the church is reaching the end of its safe life, and that urgent steps need to be taken to remedy the situation. At the same time, we are conscious that lighting conditions in St Michael's are far from perfect, and undertaking significant work now gives us the opportunity to install a much more appropriate system. We have engaged electrical contractors CES Lighting of Wallington, Surrey, who have a history of successful involvement in such projects, and the Council has accepted a tender of some £91,000. Sums of money put aside for use only on the building come close to the figure, but we cannot risk using everything we have, which is why we are asking for your help. VAT will be payable but can be reclaimed under the government's Listed Places of Worship scheme, provided we finish the work in the current tax year. To get our fund-raising under way, we have been fortunate to have the following offer from Mike Parkinson, for which we are very grateful. The presentation is on Saturday 12 July at 7.30pm.

### *Parky in Words and Music*



A special Fundraising Evening celebrating the unique life and career of Sir Michael Parkinson told through the music that meant the most to him. His youngest son and Producer Mike Parkinson, the renowned Jazz pianist and Musical Director Malcolm Edmonstone plus award winning singer Becki Biggins will join forces to remember the man who for millions, as host of Parkinson, defined their Saturday nights. Combining the intimate memories and thoughts of Mike about his Dad with Malcolm and Becki's specially arranged performances of the music that meant the most to his Father this will be a revealing, emotional and entertaining evening. Parky in Words and Music is free to attend with tickets available on Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parky-in-words-and-music-tickets-1369467126039>. All money raised on the night will go towards the urgently needed new electrical and lighting system for Bray Church.

## ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH SUMMER TEAS 2025



Once again we are hosting the ever popular summer teas in St Michael's Hall from 3-5pm.

Each week a different team will host and either raise money for church funds or a charity of their choice.

The first team to start the proceedings will be The Friends of St Michaels who raise money for the preservation, repair, restoration and improvement of the church.

So, if you can, please come and support them.

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> June:** The Friends of St Michael's In aid of St Michael's Church

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> July:** Brenda Gardner & Pam In aid of Breast Cancer Now

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> July:** Katrin Brunning & Team In aid of St Michael's Church

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> August :** Katrin Brunning & Team In aid of St Michael's Church

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> August:** Lynn Olney & Team In aid of Alexander Devine

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> August:** Sarah Pawluk & Team In aid of Home Start

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> August:** The Bell Ringers

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> August:** Katrin Brunning & Team In aid of St Michael's Church

## *Church News*

On the 27th of April we held our Annual Parochial Church Meeting which a number of the congregation attended. Thank you. A copy of the APCM papers is available to view in the porch. We re-elected Lynn Olney and Helen Pearson as our church wardens. The other members of the PCC also remain unchanged though there maybe a new member to co-opt soon. If anyone else would like to join us please let any member of the team know. Penny Murray stepped down as Deputy Churchwarden. We thank her for all years of service to St. Michaels.

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### *The Choir of St. Michael's Church needs to recruit new members of all ages and voice types*

We meet twice a week: on Friday evenings for choir practice from 7 to 8 p.m. and on Sunday mornings with a rehearsal at 9.20 a.m. ready for the for the Parish Communion service at 10 a.m. We also sing at special services throughout the Church year. The choir takes its major hoiday during the school summer holidays and we take a week off after Christmas and Easter. For further information please contact our Director of Music Oliver Gooch [ollie@musicatbray.co.uk](mailto:ollie@musicatbray.co.uk)

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'We're looking for someone who could be our [DBS & Safeguarding Training Administrator](#). If you're interested in this role please email Helen Pearson - [helenpearson52@btinternet.com](mailto:helenpearson52@btinternet.com)'

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If you would like to co condier joining the [Bell Ringers](#) please contact

Maggie Ross [maggieross@live.co.uk](mailto:maggieross@live.co.uk)

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Can anyone spare an hour or two to sit in the Church and show visitors around?

Time & days to suit, preferably Thursday - Saturday. Contact

[Lynnolney21@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:Lynnolney21@yahoo.co.uk)



## ***20 July Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn***

By kind permission of the Reverend and Mrs Ainsley Swift, you are invited to join us in the garden for this year's *Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn*. You will be delighted to know that we will once again be entertained by the marvellous Josephine Davies and her quartet. We will start at 3.00pm as usual, with entrance £10 at the gate (cash preferred). For a lovely afternoon by the river, just bring something to sit on, and your own refreshments.



## A SPECIAL OCCASION AT THEALE



There was a special event at the Area Office in Theale on Thursday 5 June, when our Vicar the Reverend Canon Ainsley Swift, was authorized as a Commissary to the Archdeacon. Pictured (*l to r*) are the Venerable Stephen Pullin, Archdeacon of Berkshire; Ainsley; the Right Reverend Mary Gregory, Bishop of Reading; the Reverend Canon Sally Lodge, Rector of Central Windsor; and Jim Tucker, there in his capacity as Lay Chair of Maidenhead & Windsor Deanery.

Sally Lodge was at the same gathering sworn in as Interim Area Dean of Maidenhead & Windsor to replace Ainsley.



## CONTACT LIST

**The Vicar:** Rev. Canon Ainsley Swift 633113  
**Curate:** Rev'd Andy Medlicott [andymed256@gmail.com](mailto:andymed256@gmail.com)

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

### **The Churchwardens:**

Helen Pearson 07979 756409  
Lynn Olney 07966906092

### **Deputy Churchwardens:**

Jim Tucker 673685  
Penny Murray 623041  
Mary Wiles 635000

### **Sacristan & Lay Funeral Minister:**

Lynda Jones 635178  
**Verger:** Jim Tucker 673685

### **Parochial Church Council:**

#### **Hon Secretary:**

Katrin Brunning: [katrin.brunning@btinternet.com](mailto:katrin.brunning@btinternet.com)

#### **Hon Treasurer:**

Richard Severn [richarddb7@outlook.com](mailto:richarddb7@outlook.com)

### **Gift Aid Officer :**

Vicki Henley  
[vicki@henleyclan.co.uk](mailto:vicki@henleyclan.co.uk)

### **Electoral Roll Officer:**

Penny Murray

### **Director of Music:**

Oliver Gooch

### **Assistant Director of Music:**

Lindsay Bramley

### **Parish Safeguarding Officer/Sunday School:**

Natasha Teeder 674469

### **Bellringers:**

*Tower Captain:*

Maggie Ross  
[maggieross@live.co.uk](mailto:maggieross@live.co.uk)

### **Friends of St. Michael's**

Lynda Jones 635178  
**Church Flowers:** Maggie Jans 07774484308

### **Holyport School Headteacher:**

Mrs Amanda Featherstone 627743  
<https://www.holyportprimaryschool.co.uk>

### **Braywood School Headteacher:**

Mrs Susan Calvert 623660  
<https://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk>