

NEWSLETTER

from the Church of St. Michael's Bray

June 2026



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

website: www.braystmichael.co.uk



Dear Friends,

Vision Morning

On 16th May, St Michael's held a Vision Morning. I wanted us to reflect together on what is going well and what we might do better in the year ahead. We were helped by Rhodri Bowen, Berkshire Archdeaconry Parish Development Advisor. Members of the PCC, alongside other members of the congregation, and the two Headteachers and two class teachers from our church schools, Holyport and Braywood, gathered for the discussion.



The morning was filled with energy and enthusiasm as we celebrated our strengths and looked to the future. We shared our hopes and dreams for a flourishing church.

At the PCC's next scheduled meeting, we selected a small team to take forward the ideas and energy from the morning and consider how we might help the church to grow. We will publish updates on progress and encourage everyone to pray as we seek to refresh our sense of mission and our spiritual and social life in the church and wider parish community.

Ways to deepen our faith and understanding

The Diocese of Oxford has been busy developing resources for everyday Christians in the parishes. Please do visit www.oxford.anglican.org/everyday-faith/learning-hub.

The Learning Hub has all kinds of resources to help us grow in faith and discipleship.

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It is committed to providing free, accessible educational resources for everyone. Choose from three distinct learning experiences:

- Bite-sized courses perfect for learning in a few hours
- Going Deeper courses designed for engaging discussion in parish groups
- Study Group courses offering online tutorials and onsite study days for those seeking a deeper exploration of faith alongside others

Bite-sized and Going Deeper courses are available on demand. Study Group courses are offered annually, with registration through Eventbrite.

Speed limit reduction outside Braywood School

The speed limit outside Braywood School is currently 40 mph. If you are able, please take a look at this petition to reduce the speed limit and, if you feel able to sign, I would be very grateful:

<https://rbwm.moderngov.co.uk/mgEPetitionDisplay.aspx?Id=2229>

Finally, have a wonderful summer, and perhaps I will see you at the Vicarage for Jazz on the Lawn on 12th July!



With best regards

Canon Ainsley

Jim Tucker has stepped down from deanery responsibilities including Deanery Treasurer for 10 years then Lay Chair for 7 years with a total of 30 years of attending deanery synods as a member. Quite an innings by anyone's standard! Archdeacon Stephen and Area Dean Sally presented him with flowers and heartfelt thanks. His contribution has been huge - thanks Jim.



We wish him well, and I'm certain there will be no difficulty in filling the newly-freed-up time! 😊

Well done Jim!

Andy Medicott

GENEROUS GIVING REPORT

*For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6, 21*

I reported to the Parochial Church Council on 20 May on the response to the recent Spring Gift Day. We are all most grateful to everyone who took action, fourteen donations to a total of £4,650 being an important element of our somewhat improved general finance position. We also know of one new Parish Giving Scheme joiner, possibly one or two more, and several people who have promised to increase their monthly payments. Of the numbers on the electoral roll, or in church week by week, a good number are couples, so it can be quite hard to compare the numbers. I reminded the meeting that further details are confidential to the finance team.

Parish Giving Scheme payments continue at a healthy level, but there has been a slight drop in May. Under our confidentiality protocol Vicki Henley is not permitted to divulge the precise circumstances to anyone, not even colleagues on the finance team, but the causes might include reduced amounts paid, or withdrawal or death of a subscriber, or payments made other than monthly. Vicki is in the process of making a claim for Gift Aid for all payments outside PGS.

Prospects for the year are, in my view, slightly improved, particularly if the possible rebate because of overcharging on the electricity bill comes as promised. We should be in a position to pay the insurance premium on the church in the summer, but as yet there is no likelihood of getting parish share payments to where they should be. I know all who read this will understand the need to continue being generous in their support of the Lord's work at St Michael's.

Jim Tucker

Friends of St. Michael's

FUNDRAISING DINNER AT CALDESI'S

Thank you to all those who attended this splendid evening generously hosted by Giancarlo Caldesi. The welcoming glass of prosecco set the tone and chatter and laughter could be heard throughout the event, with the occasional pause as people enjoyed the food on offer.

The meal began with ravioli stuffed with porcini mushroom & ricotta followed by roast chicken rolled & stuffed with veal mince & fruit. For dessert, two very light Italian style doughnuts with a little dish of vanilla custard on the side for dunking them into. When the petit four arrived with the coffee there was almost a sigh of "can we possibly manage these as well?" – but of course we did!

I was delighted that we were able to raise £500 for the Friends of St Michael's. Thank you again for supporting us. Judging by the comments during and after, a good time was certainly had by one and all.

Julie Graham

The Annual Parochial Church Council Meeting was held on the 26th of April 2026. This is when the affairs of the church and what we have done in the year are discussed along with elections for Churchwardens and new members of the PCC.

Our Church wardens Helen Pearson and Lynn Olney were duly re-elected. Janis Dieppe and Flora Chigwedere were duly elected to the PCC, as was Jim Tucker as he has stood down as Deanery Synod member. Penny Murray, Natasha Teeder will continue as our Deanery synod members and Helen Pearson was newly elected to the Synod. All other members of the PCC were re-elected.



Sunday Afternoon Teas



Teas will start on Sunday 5th July from 3pm -5pm hosted by a number of groups raising money for several charities.

Details will be posted on the church website and social media closer to the time.

Katrin Brunning



14 June

Ivan Hovorun (piano)

Ukrainian-born pianist Ivan Hovorun plays
Rachmaninoff, Chopin and Mozart

Free Entry with Retiring Collection

12 July

Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn

A welcome return of the
Josephine Davies Quartet
for our annual jazz. Bring a picnic
and enjoy traditional jazz by the river.

Tickets: £10 (on the gate)

Braywood Church of England First School is looking for a Foundation Governor.

Braywood is a small voluntary controlled Church of England school welcoming children of all faiths and non-faith.

If you are passionate about primary education and are keen to make a difference in your community then please consider applying for this rewarding voluntary role as a Foundation Governor.

There are three full Governor's meetings a year, held in the evenings and Governors are always welcome to visit the school, classes, assemblies and attend events such as school plays and sports days throughout the academic year.

The role is to uphold and support the School's Christian ethos, to challenge the School's leadership to ensure best outcome for all pupils, work with the other Governors as a team, overseeing areas such as Curriculum, Safeguarding and Finance.

No previous experience is necessary as free training off-site is available. You do not need to be a parent but you must be over 18 and pass an enhanced DBS.

If you are interested in this role please contact: Mrs Annie Cole, Headteacher Braywood School, tel no. 01628 623660 or email: head@braywoodfirstschool.co.uk

<https://governorsforschools.org.uk/webinars/introduction-to-becoming-a-foundation-governor/>

Easter Flowers

**Thank you to all who donated to the Easter Flower Fund and those
made in memory of**

TOM ALEXANDER
WENDY COLLINSON
PAUL DIEPPE
SOPHIE
STASIA HALFHIDE
MICHAEL PARKINSON
TEKLJA PAWLUK
PAUL RILEY
GORDON SLINN
HILARY TAVINOR
JILL WEBSTER
JENNIFER WIGGINTON
VANESSA WILES
FREDA WEYMAN
ALAN WHITE



CONTACT LIST

The Vicar: Rev. Canon Ainsley Swift 633113
Curate: Rev'd Andy Medicott andydmed256@gmail.com
For general enquiries (Christenings, Weddings etc) in the first instance please contact our Parish Administrator, Richard Severn: 01628 633113 stmichaelsbray@gmail.com

The Churchwardens:

Helen Pearson 07979 756409
Lynn Olney 07966906092

Deputy Churchwardens:

Jim Tucker 673685
Lee Brunning 07770 836011
Mary Wiles 635000

Sacristan & Lay Funeral Minister:

Lynda Jones 635178
Vergers: Jim Tucker 673685

Parochial Church Council:

Hon Secretary:

Katrin Brunning: katrin.brunning@btinternet.com

Hon Treasurer:

Marney Nicholls marneynicholls@gmail.com

Gift Aid Officer :

Vicki Henley
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

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 Annie Cole 623660
<https://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk>