

# NEWSLETTER

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

March 2026



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,

### **Community and Celebration: Spring at St Michael's, Bray.**

As the days lengthen and the village begins to bloom, St Michael's Church invites you to join us for a season of reflection, beautiful music, and community spirit. From the solemnity of Holy Week to the swinging rhythms of Jazz by the river, there is something for everyone in the coming months.

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### **Journey Through Holy Week and Easter**

We begin our transition into spring with the profound services of Holy Week, leading us toward the joy of Easter Day.

- **Palm Sunday (29 March):** Our 10.00am Parish Communion begins with the traditional procession of palm crosses, marking the start of this sacred week.
- **Holy Week Reflections (30 March – 1 April):** Join us Monday through Wednesday at 7.00pm for a quiet Holy Communion and homily.
- **Maundy Thursday (2 April):** At 8.00pm, we commemorate the Last Supper, followed by a reflective Vigil.
- **Good Friday (3 April):** A service for the Liturgy of the Passion will be held at 3.00pm.
- **Easter Sunday (5 April):** Celebrate the Resurrection with Holy Communion at 8.00am or our Parish Communion at 10.00am.
- **Pentecost Sunday (24 May):** We continue the season's celebrations with Parish Communion at 10.00am.

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### **Music at Bray: A Feast for the Senses**

Our monthly recital series continues to bring world-class talent to the heart of our parish. All recitals take place on the **second Sunday of each month at 3.00pm.**

On **12 April**, we are delighted to welcome **Dimitar Burov (violin)** and **Vesselina Koleva-Burova (piano)**. Their programme, titled "*Romance, Meditation and Love*," features exquisite pieces by Tchaikovsky and Beethoven.

**Note:** Admission is free with a retiring collection. Please join us in the church hall afterward for tea, cake, and conversation!

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### **Save the Date: Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn**

The highlight of the summer social calendar is back! On **12 July at 3.00pm**, the ever-popular **Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn** returns to the banks of the River Thames.

Relax in the stunning gardens behind the Vicarage and enjoy the sounds of the renowned **Josephine Davies Quartet**. Tickets are just **£10**—simply bring a chair, a picnic, and your friends for a perfect afternoon by the water.

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**THANK YOU!** I want to give a big "Thank You" to Richard Severn, our Parish Administrator, who stepped into the breach "temporarily" and ended up as our acting Parish Treasurer. We have, at long last, appointed a new Treasurer, Marney Nicholls, who you can read more about in this Newsletter!

With best regards

*Canon Ainsley*

## **Wiring and & Relighting Works**

### **7th April to 12th June 2026**

After many months of fundraising and planning we are nearing the start of the project to replace our aging wiring and lighting within the Church.

During these works and for the safety of all (congregation, visitors and works engineers) we will need to close the church to all.

Our contractors engineers will be working at height and using access towers and lifting equipment to enable the installation of the new services and lighting units.

The Church will therefore be closed Mon 7.00am - Friday 6.00pm.

Our Sunday Services, Choir practice and pre notified services (Funerals, Weddings, etc) will go ahead as usual. Access to the Porch will remain open.

***Please observe the signs displayed and any instructions given by our contractors.***

Should you want to know more about the works please contact Lee Brunning  
(07770 736011)

## *Friends of St. Michael's*

**Date for your Diary – Dinner at Caldesi's**

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2026 7p.m. for 7.30 p.m.**

Giancarlo has very kindly offered to host another evening for us at Caldesi in Campagna in Old Mill Lane, Bray, in aid of the Friends of St Michael's.

The evening will include a glass of Prosecco on arrival with a canapé. We will then be served a three-course meal of pasta, main course then a dessert.

The cost will be £60 per person, £10 of which will go to the Friends. Tickets will go on sale at the beginning of April. You can email me on [julie.graham@brayclose.com](mailto:julie.graham@brayclose.com) or ring 01628 778054.

We are aiming for 50 people to join us in the conservatory at the back of the restaurant so please keep this date free and perhaps gather a group of friends or family who might like to come along. The event will be open to guests from the Church community, Parish and local villages.

I know everyone thoroughly enjoyed our dinner three years' ago when we raised £500 for the Friends of St Michael's. Please come along so we can repeat the success.

Thank you

*Julie Graham*



We decided to try something different for the beginning of this year by holding Coffee mornings on a Saturday which included St Michael's Vintage Sales with New or nearly new clothing items too.

These events seem to have gone down well in the community with lots of new and old friends meeting, chatting over coffee and cake and buying a new dress or coat at the same time. We raised nearly £800, £795.83 to be precise, towards Church funds. Thank you so much to all who have come along.

Our next community get together is a Lent lunch of Soup and a Roll on Saturday 28th March from 12noon - 2pm, Donations of a minimum of £5 , we are raising money for The Baby Charity in Holyport.

Keep an eye out for details of our next Cafe events. We look forward to seeing you all soon .

*Katrin Brunning*

*Music at*  
*St Michael's Church*  *Bray*

12 April

Dimitar Burov (violin)  
Vesselina Koleva-Burova (piano)

Romance, Meditation and Love  
A programme to include works by Kreisler,  
Sarasate, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

12 July

Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn (more details to follow)  
**Free Entry with Retiring Collection and Refreshments**

**Congratulations to Ainsley on his special Birthday seen here celebrating with his wife Jane at his Birthday Party attended by many at Bray Cricket Club**



## Introducing the new Treasurer of St. Michael's

My name is Marney Nicholls and I'm very pleased to have been asked to undertake the Treasurer role at St Michael's.



I was born and bred in North Wales and my husband and I moved in to the Parish 23 years ago in what we thought would be a temporary move. But we got drawn in to the lovely community feel and decided to stay and raise a family here. Our daughter came along in 2009 and the family was completed 4 years ago when I was persuaded to take on a retiring Police dog !

We love to go on adventures together and our next one is walking in North Wales... a particular favourite of the dog!

I am now retired but have had careers in Accounting and Banking and more lately I retrained as a Maths teacher in my forties.

I now split my time between active pastimes such as walking and lots of gym classes and the more sedentary world of reading. My current book is The Hundred Years of Lenni and Margot by Marianne Cronin and it is a lovely heart -warming tale (if you're looking for a good book). And if I'm not doing those things I'm probably in the kitchen concocting something.

## CONTACT LIST

**The Vicar:** Rev. Canon Ainsley Swift 633113  
**Curate:** Rev'd Andy Medicott [andydmed256@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](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 Annie Cole 623660  
<https://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk>