

NEWSLETTER

May 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



Dear Friends,

The church's electrical wiring is now of an age where complete replacement is urgently required, and this gives the opportunity to improve the lighting throughout the building.

The Church Council has looked at a number of options, and has selected a system which will mean everyone will be able to enjoy a greatly enhanced, modern, flexible and much more efficient system of lighting.

The total cost is expected to be around £100,000, we currently need to raise £30,000 to reach that total.

We are hopeful that we will be able to reclaim VAT through the government's Listed Places of Worship Scheme, but we are asking for your help, please, in raising enough to complete this vitally important project.

Gift Aid will be available if you are a taxpayer. All donations will be gratefully received.

On the 12th July at 7.00 pm in church, we will have a fundraising event for the Lighting Appeal. Mr Mike Parkinson Jnr will be talking about his father's life, with live music featuring Sir Michael's favourite pieces.

Keep the date and more details will follow.

With best regards

Ainsley

Thank you

To all who very kindly donated supermarket vouchers for Foodshare for Easter – they were thrilled to receive your generous donations which amounted to £345

And to those who donated towards the Easter flowers in memory of a loved one or anonymously.



Those remembered were:

Tom Alexander
Kenneth Allan
Ian Bairnson
Wendy Collinson
Praha Chandarana
Sophie Dashwood
Paul Dieppe
Maria de Lourdes Santos
Linda Ellison
Emily, Fred and Marjorie
Sophie Farmer and her mother -
Cynthia Smith
Daniel and Lillian Gardener
James and Dorothy Hutchinson
Diana Hutchinson
Stasia Halfhide
Wendy Hetherinton

Michael Kennedy
Norman Long
Graham Miller
Derek Parmenter
Sir Michael Parkinson
Tejkla Pawluk
John Rothwell
Alan and Mary Sears
Gordon Slinn
Sue Seymour
Hilary Tavinor
Margaret Tayler
Jenny Wigginton
Vanessa Wiles
Jill Webster
Freda and Peter Weyman
Alan White

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 29th June: The Friends of St Michael's In aid of St Michael's Church

Sunday 6th July: Brenda Gardner & Pam In aid of Breast Cancer Now

Sunday 27th July: Katrin Brunning & Team In aid of St Michael's Church

Sunday 3rd August : Katrin Brunning & Team In aid of St Michael's Church

Sunday 10th August: Lynn Olney & Team In aid of Alexander Devine

Sunday 17th August: Sarah Pawluk & Team In aid of Home Start

Sunday 24th August: The Bell Ringers

Sunday 31st August: Katrin Brunning & Team In aid of St Michael's Church

Church Vacancies

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



'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'

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



contact Maggie Ross

maggieross@live.co.uk



Sunday Afternoon Recitals at 3.00pm

11 May Victor Braojos (piano)

Rising star Victor Braojos makes a welcome return with **JS Bach** Goldberg Variations

8 June Eva Doroszkowska (piano)

A lyrical programme featuring **Grieg's** Moods Op 73 from international pianist and chamber musician Eva Doroszkowska

Retiring Collection and Afternoon Tea

20 July Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn

We welcome back the Josephine Davies Trio for this popular annual event by the river. Bring your own chairs, blankets and afternoon tea and enjoy top-class jazz to round off the Music at Bray season.

Tickets: £10 on the gate



Whoever suggested that I do this needs shooting! Me? Run?
I'm sure it started as a casual reference to the fact that the event was on Saturday 31st May at Windsor Racecourse, and the next thing I knew, my friend Elaine has signed us both up!

As most of you know my own journey with cancer started back in March 2023. Like everyone else, I didn't think it would happen to me. How wrong could I be! However, I'm now into my second year of preventative treatment and incredibly grateful to those who have dedicated their time into research of this cruel disease. This is why I want to give something back so that the research can continue and others can be helped.

Why do this? Well, I wanted to do something which was out of my comfort zone and I'm hardly the build for running!! It is hard going, as many of you who have seen me wobbling around the village can testify! but I'm determined to do it.

If any of you would like to support me in my endeavour my Giving Page link is...

<https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/pams-race-for-life-4292>

or I have a paper version which I will have at the back of the church on Sundays.

A big thank to all those who have sponsored me so far; I know I can't back-out now!

I will of course write an update after the event and let you all know how I get on!

Thank you!

Pam Woodruff



Alexander Devine Children's Hospice Service is a local charity that provides specialist care and vital support to babies, children and young people with life-limiting and life-threatening conditions, and their families, across Berkshire and into surrounding counties.

The charity was founded by Fiona and John Devine in memory of their son Alexander who sadly passed away from a rare brain tumour in 2006. Their personal experience led them to realise a desperate need for a local children's service with a hospice facility in Berkshire.

The Hospice currently supports over 200 children, and their families, and is committed to growing the service and reaching out to every child, and their family, that need their help.

The Hospice approach is child and family-centred in order to provide the best possible care and support that each family needs, as well as helping create memories for however long they have together.

The cost of running this service this financial year is £3 million. With minimal government funding, the Hospice is almost entirely reliant on the generosity of the community including donations, corporate and community support, Trusts, volunteering, fundraising and gifts in Wills. For more information on how you could help please contact The Fundraising Team tel 01628 822777 or email fundraising@alexanderdevine.org

Children's Hospice Week is approaching on the 16th-22nd June, and the Hospice is encouraging people to **'Rock the Blue'** and fundraise in a blue-related way, in memory of Alexander's favourite colour. This could be a blue bake sale, wearing blue clothes or accessories, or having a blue-themed party. The choice is yours! For more information, visit <https://alexanderdevine.org/2025/04/rocktheblue2025/>

CONTACT LIST

The Vicar: Rev. Canon Ainsley Swift 633113
Curate: Rev'd Andy Medicott 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"

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
Vergers: Jim Tucker 673685

Parochial Church Council:

Hon Secretary:

Katrin Brunning: katrin.brunning@btinternet.com

Hon Treasurer:

Richard Severn richarddb7@outlook.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 635732

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>