

NEWSLETTER

September 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



The long-awaited next edition of the diocesan newsletter *Pathways* is due in the very near future. Readers are invited to access it online, by visiting www.oxford.anglican.org or for those unable to do so a small print run will be available at church.

Dear Friends,

Curates and Ordinands!

Our Curate, Kevin, came to us in October last year to complete his Curacy training. Kevin has recently been “signed off” which means his Curacy has been completed successfully and he can begin to seek a post of Incumbent status (i.e. leading a church of his own). Kevin will be with us for a little longer, while he seeks the right post for him and his family.

In the last few weeks, if you have been in the church building or joined in worship online, you may have seen Andy Medlicott our new Ordinand. Andy will be with us for up to three years. You may be asking what is the difference between a Curate and an Ordinand?

A Curate (or training post) starts when the person in training has successfully completed a ministry training course and has been Ordained, firstly as a Deacon and if all goes well usually a year later ordained as a Priest. One of the key roles of a Priest is to preside or lead the service of Holy Communion or the Eucharist and in the Church of England only those ordained Priest can do this.

An Ordinand is someone who has been through the Church of England’s selection process to begin training to prepare for Ordination as a Priest. So, Andy has been selected for training but only just started his training course this month. Andy is following a course based at Sarum College, Salisbury www.sarum.ac.uk/. The college is set in the Cathedral Close and looks out on the North side of the Cathedral in whose shadow it sits. Andy will attend the College for special days and short residential stays but will continue to live locally and continue his secular job. Someone on a course like Andy’s is also placed in a Parish to experience Sunday worship and other Parish activities alongside the training course. This gives Andy some practical experience on which he can reflect in his theological training. It also offers Andy a new spiritual home, away from the pressures and demands of his home Parish and so he begins part of the transition from laity to priesthood. If all goes well, when Andy completes the course of training, the Bishop can then assess Andy’s call to the Priesthood and confirm the next step to Ordination. Although most people who are selected for training and complete a theology course go on to be Ordained, the step to Ordination is still only decided by the Bishop at the end of the college course and in light of the Priestly formation that has taken place during the Ordinands course and Parish placement.

The Vicar of the Parish with a Curate is called the Training Incumbent and the Vicar acts as the Supervisor for an Ordinand. It also means that the Vicar gets to go to Salisbury from time to time to experience some of the training that Andy will be undertaking. If that all sounds a bit complicated and a bit scary; it is! To train for the Priesthood in the Church of England is a life changing experience. Please pray for Kevin as he seeks guidance for his next steps and for Andy as he begins his theology course and his placement with us at Bray. **Rev’d Ainsley**

Introducing Andy Medicott

Hello everyone,

Thank you for such a warm welcome. I find change is always a mix of excitement and nervousness, leaving behind the familiar but, at the same time, getting to know new people and forging new friendships.

I am excited to be journeying with you all over the next few years and my hope and prayer is that I am able to enrich and contribute to our St Michael's community, in addition to learning lots from each and every one of you.

Many of you will have met Emma, my daughter. She's 11, an avid Minecraft (so you can imagine how happy she is now) and addicted to her tablet but enjoys cross-fit and all things Harry Potter. My wife, Becky, has not been able to come and worship with us yet as she's a curate at All Saints in Wokingham so you can appreciate Sundays are quite busy days for her! She's a keen runner and is continuing to work part time as a personal trainer. And hugely important to us is Tilly, our 6-year-old cocker spaniel who loves chicken, jumping in smelly ponds and barking when a neighbour moves a bin!



I work as a software engineer, currently in the open banking sector (helping to ensure that those banking mobile apps are secure). I am not as physically active as Emma or Becky though I do enjoy walking and mountain biking. I discovered faith at the age of 14 through attending a small Methodist chapel just outside of the New Forest in Dorset. After experiencing several different denominations at University, I landed in an Anglican church in Bracknell. There, over the past 25 years or so, I've been involved in various aspects of service and leadership – most recently, along with Becky, having been the 'enthusiastic lay persons' leading St Andrew's in Priestwood, which is a part of Warfield Church.

We will continue to live in Bracknell so there is a bit of a commute to Bray, the normal challenges of family life schedules, and now my studies at Salisbury... but I do plan to be as involved as possible even if it's not as much as I would prefer!

Warfield is a much less formal expression of church, but in recent years I have been discovering the breadth and rich depth of the Anglican Church, and I am hugely excited that St Michael's will be the next chapter of learning. For instance, this Sunday was the first time I have ever robed up; thankfully Kevin and Ainsley were there to help dress me!

So thank you once again for welcoming me into your community!

Take care & God Bless, Andy

MINECRAFT CHURCH

After eight months of meeting online Minecraft Church met face-to-face the other day! And what a great day we had! About 30 young people and families descended on St Michael's. Some families even travelled a couple of hours and stayed overnight too!

It was amazing to meet each other for the first time, in person! Because we started in lockdown most of the Minecrafters have only ever got to know each other online. Some don't have camera's or have them off! I suppose it is like meeting a whole circle of pen-pals for the first time!

We ate cake, played games together, did some get to know you sort of stuff. We had a wide-game in the Braywick nature reserve, ate more cake, went on boat rides on the Thames (thanks [Ainsley](#)) and practised tight-rope skills. It was all offline and screen free. The kids loved it and the parents got on like a house on fire too.

At 2pm we went into St Michael's and joined with some of our normal congregation to share together what this Minecraft church journey has looked like. On the huge screen we showed the builds and special places in the world where we meet. We showed off our fireworks video and then jumped about and danced to God in praise! We then wrote some prayers in real-life on cardboard signs (This is often how we pray, using signs in the Minecraft game) and put them at the front of the church. The St Michael's folks were deeply touched (and the rest of us too) by the spirituality of the young people, many of them remarking on how good it was. We finished off by... eating cake!

Holding a day face to face like this was overdue of course. It has cemented friendships and taken them to a new level. What I also was pleased about was the families bonding, not just the young people. I think it has also given a boost in self-confidence to the young people too as on our first Sunday back online at least two of the young people appeared on camera!

Please keep praying for greater spiritual depth and deep bonds of friendship. Pray also to for the new initiatives I am starting to enable other churches around to grow their own Minecraft churches too!



Rev'd Kevin



SUNDAY AFTERNOON RECITALS

Admission free – retiring collection

Music at Bray is delighted to announce the return of its popular Sunday afternoon recitals at 3 p.m. in St. Michael's Church. We start on 12th September, and full details can be found below. Like everyone else, we have to make concessions to the pandemic, and for the time being we will not be able to provide tea in the hall after the performance.

It will be wonderful to bring back our Christmas Carol Concert, and we are always delighted to welcome new members to our community choir. Anyone can join if they enjoy singing, and we would love to have you with us for some popular seasonal numbers. Just contact Ollie Gooch ojhgooch@gmail.com or Jim Tucker jimtucker@talktalk.net

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| Sept 12 th | Relf Clarke (organ)
A programme to include music by Handel, Bach and Vaughan Williams |
| Oct 10 th | Hao Zi Yoh (piano)
Young Malaysian pianist Hao Zi Yoh presents Mozart, Liszt, Brahms and Ravel's <i>Gaspard de la nuit</i> |
| Nov 14 th | Yoon Chung (piano)
Acclaimed Korean pianist returns with Chopin <i>Three Mazurkas Op 59</i>
Mozart <i>Sonata No 4 in Eb K282</i> |
| Dec 12 th | Community Carols
Join our Community Choir and St Michael's Choir for an afternoon of festive song and Good cheer (in aid of <i>Duchenne UK</i>) |

Come, listen and enjoy

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