

NEWSLETTER

September 2024

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,

As I write this, we are entering what is forecast to be an 'Indian Summer' – I did feel that the recent cold and wet weather had brought us to a sudden and damp end to summer but hopefully we will still have some good weather to come with sunny days.

As the seasons change so the Church year rolls into the season of Remembrance; not only Remembrance Sunday itself (this year on Sunday 10th November), but also All Souls Day when we give thanks and remember the 'faithful departed,' those we have loved and see no longer (this year on Sunday 3rd Nov at 4.0 pm).

We also are preparing for Advent and the new Church year as we keep the Sundays of the Kingdom season leading up to the Feast of Christ the King (24th November).

As well as Harvest Thanksgiving on Sunday 6th October we have something new this year with our "Blessing of Pets" service at 3.00 pm that day.

It is also wonderful that we have restarted our Sunday School on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at the 10.00 am service. Thank you Natasha!

Canon John White CBE, formerly Canon of St George's Chapel, Windsor Castle and Principle of the Northern Ordination Training Course will present four sessions on the subject:

What does it mean to be human? Is there a Christian response?

These sessions take place on the following **Saturdays at 3.00 pm in November – 2nd, 9th, 16th and 23rd**. All are welcome.

You will find more details about other upcoming services and events on the next page.

Revd Canon Ainsley Swift

Events at St Michael's, Bray. All are welcome!

- Sunday 6th October at 10.00 am **Harvest Thanksgiving** (see page 6 for donations info) and at 3.00 pm **Pet Blessing Service** (about 30 minutes)
- Wednesday 9th October at 7.30 pm A talk by the **Royal Biographer, Hugo Vickers**, entitled "Q2 to K3" as he shares an insight into the last few years of the reign of the late Queen Elizabeth II and the transition to the new reign of King Charles III. (See attached)
- Sunday 13th October at 3.00 pm **Music at Bray Concert** in church -
- Saturday 26th October **Craft Fayre in Church and Hall** 9.30 am - 12.30 pm
- Sunday 3rd November at 4.00 pm - **All Souls Service** where we remember all those we have loved and lost. Light a candle for a departed loved one.
- Sunday 10th November at 10.45 in church - **Remembrance Sunday Service** (with Act of Remembrance at the Bray Village War Memorial at approx 11.15 am). 3.00 pm **Music at Bray Concert** in church
- Saturday 30th November from 9.30 to 12.30 **Table Top sale** in St. Michael's Hall
- Sunday 1st December at 4.00 pm in Church - **Advent Carol Service** with St Michael's Choir (Not an early Christmas Carols service but a special selection of music to begin Advent)
- Saturday 7th December at 3.00 pm **Christingle Service** - For children of all ages! The Christingle oranges will be distributed.
- Sunday 8th December at 3.00 pm **Community Carol Service** - a sing along with carols and Christmas songs
- Sunday 22nd December at 4.00 pm **Traditional Carol Service** with St Michael's Choir - Carols and Lessons
- Sunday 24th December at 3.00 pm **Blessing of the Crib service** - for Children of all ages! Carols and stories around the crib, about 40 minutes
- Sunday 24th December at 11.30 pm **Midnight Mass with carols and choir**
- Sunday 25th December Christmas Day 8.00 am Communion (about 30 minutes, quiet and reflective) and at 10.00 am **Christmas Communion with choir and sermon** (bring your Christmas present to show everyone)!

Friends of St. Michael's

Bray Village Fete – Sunday 8th September

First, I would like to thank everyone who supported the Friends by either donating in various forms or by supporting us on the day. We were pleased to welcome many visitors to our stall and were delighted to see the number of jigsaw puzzles and second hand books reduced significantly.

We raised £604 on the day with an actual profit of £529. We need to pay for the tea towels and so the cost of these, as we sell them is, taken into account.

If you would like to buy one of our newly designed Friends tea towels, then please let me know. An excellent stocking filler as we approach Christmas. Price £7.50

Alternatively, we have some simple greetings cards & envelopes using the same design – price £1 each.



The Friends of St. Michael's Bray

Hugo Vickers – Wednesday 9th October at 7.30 in St Michaels

Renowned as a Royal Biographer, Hugo has chosen “Q2 to K3” (Queen 2 to King 3 – the Monarchy in Transition) as the title for his talk. He will take us through the last few years of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II as she moved to Windsor Castle before lockdown in 2020, the death of Prince Philip, the remarkable Platinum Jubilee, and then The Queen’s death and State Funeral.

He will talk of the new reign and the Coronation, and examine how the new King is tackling his role as Head of State - and bring us right up to date with the challenges, the issues, and the future of the British Monarchy in 2024.

Hugo Vickers has commentated on many royal events as well as writing biographies including on Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother and, more recently, HRH The Duke of Kent.

Tickets cost £15 (£10 to Friends of St Michael’s) and are available from me, Julie Graham on 01628 778054 or julie.graham@brayclose.com.

CHURCH TEAS

A REVIEW OF THE SUMMER OF 2024



A big thank you goes out to all those involved in this summer's Church Tea programme. Thank you for your time, your baking skills and efforts with the washing up. We raised a total of £2830.70 which is amazing. £2315.70 was raised for the Charities and £515.00 for Church funds.

There were teas held for The Friends of St Michael's and Church funds. Other charities were: Blood Cancer, Windsor Homeless Charity, Alexander Devine, Thames Hospice, Thames Valley Adventure playground, The Children's Society and Mind.

Along the way we had entertainment by the Devine Buskers and trips up the bell tower with the Bellringers,

I hope a good time was had at all the teas. Though there will be tea after Music at Bray Concerts, the cake baking department is having a well deserved rest until next year. Keep an eye on the newsletter for details of dates and times for next year. Once again Many Thanks.

Katrin Brunning

Harvest Thanksgiving

All non-perishable food items given at the Harvest Thanksgiving service on Sunday 6th October will be donated to Maidenhead Foodshare. Items they are particularly in need of are:

- Rice
- Tuna
- Spreads - Jams and Peanut Butter
- Cook-in Sauces
- Biscuits

Other items they're short of are tins of mandarin oranges, fruit cocktail, sardines, custard and rice pudding.

Christmas cards will be on sale in the Church and Church Hall from Sunday 13th October.



The design of the card is from an original painting by Felicity Abbott, one of our Church members. All profits sales go to the church.



Sunday Afternoon Recitals at 3.00pm

Retiring Collection and Afternoon Tea

13 October

Riyad Nicolas (piano)

Syrian-British pianist Riyad Nicolas presents unique compositions for piano by Syrian composers

10 November

Peng Lin (piano)

Award-winning Chinese pianist Peng Lin Presents Variations and Etudes of **Schumann** and **Scriabin**

8 December

Community Carol Concert

Join us for this annual festive celebration of carols and readings in aid of **Thames Valley Adventure Playground**

Curate Andy Medicott Stepping out of the boat...

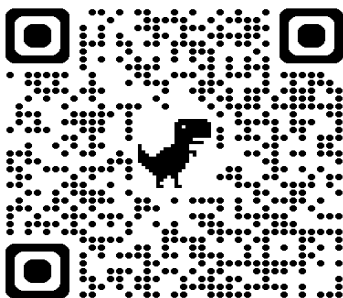
Many years ago I encountered the phrase *“if you want to walk on water, you need to step out of the boat”* - it’s one of those phrases that still influences me. It refers to Peter’s risky stepping out of the boat for a (brief) water walking episode recorded in Matthew 14:22-33. When I have risked, I have grown - though not always in the way I expected!

As a card-carrying introvert can you imagine my emotions when asked to do a series of radio interviews exploring my journey from becoming a deacon, to (God willing) also being ordained a priest next year? It’s one thing to speak in church to people you know, it’s another thing to be interviewed and have no clue who will be listening! But, how could I refuse? If I shy away from a risk, a challenge, how can I encourage others to also take risks? Thankfully they are recorded, not live!

As is often the case, it’s never as bad as I fear... the interviewers were skilled in putting me at ease and ensuring the conversation flowed. The latest interviewer asked me what I was most proud of doing as a curate - and it reminded me of being part of a recent wedding and having the honour of praying for the couple. I was reminded of the joy I have in ministry! That reminder’s been such an encouragement as this week I’ve been facing the reality of continuing academic study as a curate! If I’d not risked going out of my comfort zone, I’d have had a much harder week. I’ve also had friends who I’ve not spoken to in ages drop me a note to say they heard me on the radio! And of course my hope and prayer is that others hearing my words are also inspired and encouraged.

May we continue to step out of our boats and discover what God wants to show us!

If you want to hear the podcasts then I’ve popped them here <https://soundcloud.com/andy-medlicott-786776141/sets/ordination-journey>, and will add to it when the next ones are done. Or if you’ve printed this try this QR code...



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