

# St Michael's, Bray with Braywood



**Annual Parochial Church Meeting  
Papers  
Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2022**

**St. Michael's Bray with Braywood**  
**Welcoming all in Faith, Hope and Love**

**Annual Parochial Church Meeting Papers**

Agenda

- Minutes of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting held on April 2021

St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2021

Electoral Roll Report

Treasurer's Report

The Church Teas and Raffle Report

The St Michael's Online Report

The Social Events Report

Report on the Young Church

St Michael's Mission Plan

Music Report (and Music at Bray Accounts)

Fabric, Goods and Ornaments of the Church and Church Hall Report

Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery ANNUAL REPORT for 2021

- Tower Captain's Report

The Friends of St Michael's

**St. Michael's, Bray with Braywood**  
*Welcoming all in Faith, Hope and Love*

Notice of two meetings to be held at St Michael's Bray at 11.30am on Sunday 24th April 2022

## AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence:
2. First Meeting – Election of ChurchWardens:  
(nominations received Lynn Olney and Helen Pearson)
3. Second Meeting – Annual Parochial Meeting  
\*\* Minutes of the Meetings held on April 18th 2021 and matters arising there from
4. There is no Election of members of the Deanery Synod as these take place every 3 yrs.  
The members elected last year are Jim Tucker, Penny Murray and Natasha Teeder.
5. Election of up to 9 Members of the Parochial Church Council  
Those willing to stand for re- election :-  
  
Lynda Jones, Katrin Brunning, John Seymour, Andy Giles, and Jasvir Banks.  
  
The following have been nominated for election to the PCC:-  
Mary Wiles and Sian Adams.
6. Re-commitment to an annually held election of PCC members.
7. Election of Sidespersons:  
Those seeking election are  
8am:  
Anna Frizzel, Richard Smart , Tony Ellison ,Katrin Brunning, John Dieppe and Judith Riley.  
  
10 am:  
Jackie Tucker, Ken Amery, Judith Riley, Tim Cook, Ian Murray, Jilly Rothwell .  
Julie Graham, Julie Tomkins and Mary Wiles.  
Anyone wishing to join the team is always very much appreciated.
8. Electoral Roll of the Parishes
9. St Michael's Church Bray with Braywood Annual Report for 2021-22
10. The Vicar's Report on Church Life in 2021-22
11. Presentation of the Financial Statement for the year to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021  
(Treasurer's Statement)
12. The Church Teas and Raffle Report
13. St Michael's Online
14. The Social Events Report
15. The Young Church
16. St Michael's Mission Plan

17. Report on the Music of the Church and Music at Bray
18. Fabric, Goods and Ornaments, St Michael's Church and Church Hall
19. Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Annual Report for 2022
20. Tower Captain's Report
21. The Friends of St Michael's Report
22. Appointment of an Independent Examiner
23. Date of the Next Annual Parochial Meeting
24. Any Other Business

### **Annual PCC Meeting of St Michael's Church Bray and Braywood on Sunday 18th April 2021**

Held on Zoom and transcribed from a recording. A copy of these can be found in the porch.

#### **Annual reports.**

The members of the current Council are as follows.

Rev. A.Swift	Chairman
H.Pearson	Church Warden
P. Murray	Deputy Church Warden and Deanery Synod Representative
J.Tucker	Deputy Chairman, Deputy Church Warden, Authorised Preacher and Deanery Synod Representative
K. Brunning	Secretary
R. Severn	Treasurer
J.Banks	Fees Treasurer
L. Jones	Sacristan, Lay Funeral Minister
A.Ashby	Verger
N.Teeder	Safeguarding Officer and Young Person's Advocate, Deanery Synod Representative
A. Giles	Men's Fellowship and Facebook

#### **Deanery Synod**

The Vicar is automatically a member of the Deanery Synod.

The deanery synod members of the PCC are Natasha Teeder, Penny Murray and Jim Tucker.

#### **8 Electoral Roll of the Parishes**

Electoral roll 2018 revision 2022

The date for the revision was displayed in the church porch. Five new members were added.

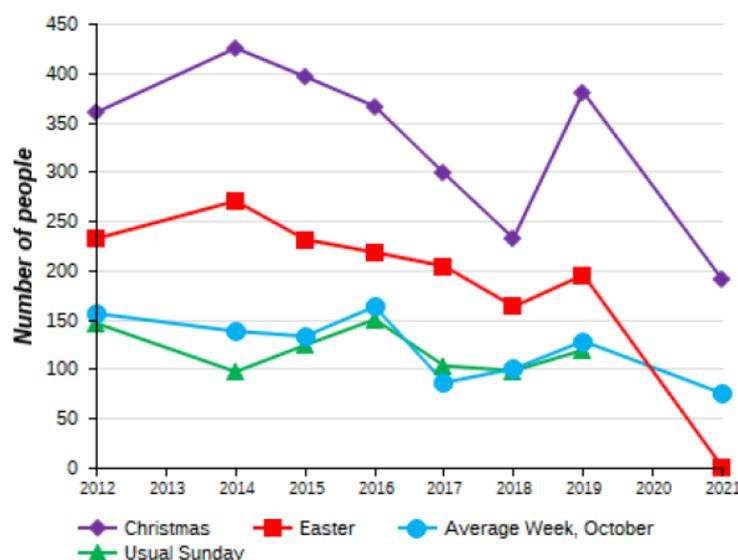
Deaths required 6 to be removed from the list plus 8 that had moved away .

The revised list has 115 names and addresses. The names only list is displayed on the noticeboard in the church porch. The full list with addresses will be kept in the safe in the vestry. The names only list post APCM will be on the bookshelf near the font.

**Penny Murray** Electoral Roll Officer. March 31<sup>st</sup> 2022

# Statistics for Mission Dashboard - Parish: Bray w Braywood

## 1. Attendance Summary, (2012-2021)

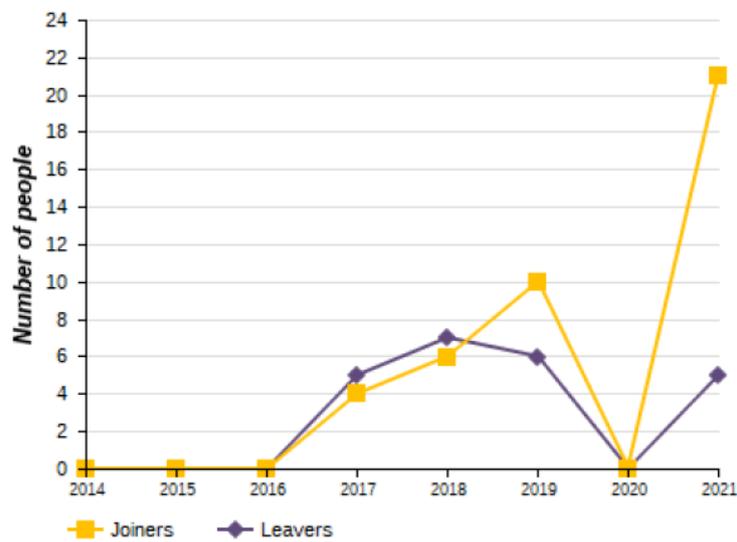
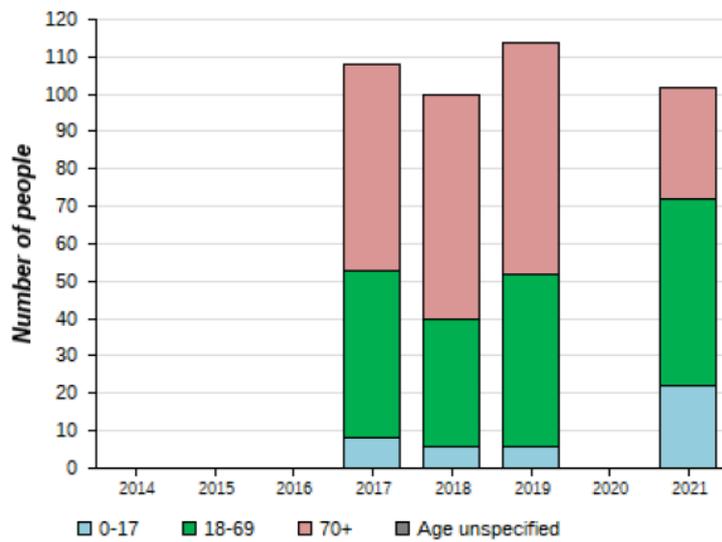


	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Christmas	360	-	425	396	366	298	232	380	-	190
Easter	232	-	270	231	218	204	163	195	-	0
Average Week, October	156	-	138	133	163	86	100	128	-	75
Usual Sunday	146	-	97	124	150	103	98	119	-	-

N.B. Because of the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, churches were not asked to report their Usual Sunday attendance for 2020 or 2021, or their Easter attendance for 2020

- Christmas: Christmas Eve & Christmas Day;
- Easter: Easter Eve & Easter Day;
- Average week, October: includes Sunday and midweek church services & fresh expressions in October but excludes attendance at services for schools;

## 2. Worshipping Community, (2014-2021)



	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Total	0	0	0	108	100	114	0	102
0-17	0	0	0	8	6	6	0	22
18-69	0	0	0	45	34	46	0	50
70+	0	0	0	55	60	62	0	30
Age unspecified	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Joiners	0	0	0	4	6	10	0	21
Leavers	0	0	0	5	7	6	0	5

Worshipping Community information has been collected from 2012 onwards

## 10. The Vicar's Report on Church Life

### Vicar's Report April 2022 (covering the year April 2021-April 2022)

"Becoming a more Christlike Church for the sake of the world" – *Common Vision, Oxford Diocese*

**Introduction-** Who could have predicted that church life and life in general would have been overshadowed by a pandemic for a second year? Despite the restrictions, fears, and concerns that the pandemic brought us, as a church we have weathered the storm remarkably well. In terms of recovering numbers and in our finances, we have fared very well, for which I and the Wardens and PCC are very grateful to all of you for keeping the church alive and active, albeit in some new and different ways.

**Our Curate-** I want to thank Kevin Colyer and his very supportive family for all they have contributed to church life here at Bray. Not least for the amazing Minecraft Church which has been a major success in outreach to young families and young people. Although not something we can see in church on Sunday nevertheless mission activity of Minecraft Church has been wonderful. Even though Kevin moves on this Easter the Minecraft Church, because it exists primarily in cyber space and is not locked to a geographical area will continue to play a part in our church life at Bray. We wish Kevin and the family every blessing in their move and in their new life and ministry in Blackburn Diocese.

**Our Ordinand-** Andy Medicott and his daughter Emma have joined us at St Michael's during this past year as Andy begins his training for the Priesthood. Andy will be with us, on placement, for the duration of his 3-year training course. Andy's course is based at Sarum College, Salisbury, whilst retaining his secular employment and visiting the college for weekends and residential training events. This makes it very important that we can give Andy a rich training experience here at St Michael's. Thank you for welcoming Andy and his family to our church life here in Bray.

Many others continue to support and develop the

**Spirituality Centre** – Following the easing of lockdown restrictions we have welcomed a few individuals for Quiet Days at Bray. These have been clergy so far, but the offer is open to anyone. The upper room at the hall is the base for anyone coming to spend quiet time here along with walks in the churchyard and even an occasional boat trip!

**Welcome** – Welcome continues to be a very important feature of a church that grows. Not least because we have had some new people turning up on Sunday's simply seeking sanctuary. We must continue to build on that welcome at every opportunity. Thank you for being a welcoming church.

**Music and worship** – Music here at Bray continues to be an impressive part of our life and worship! Along with Ollie Gooch, Lindsey Bramley and the choir have done an amazing job enhancing our worship and developing the sense of God's presence in this place.

**Mission Action Planning** – Following the lifting of the past two years of lockdowns it seems a very appropriate time to review our Mission Action Plan and to incorporate what we have learned about ourselves, our church, and our community over this strange period. To action this we will be holding a Day of reflection and Action planning on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May in the church hall for PCC members and anyone else who would like to attend. We will be helped in our reflections by Rhodri Bowen the Parish Development Advisor for Berkshire. More details will be published nearer the time.

**Church Schools** – I have led a regular weekly assembly (Collective Worship) each week as restrictions allowed, in both our Church Schools, Holyport Primary and Braywood First School and serve as a Governor at both. The relationships we build with our Church Schools is hugely important as we support education for all in the Parish and heighten the awareness of the Church presence in the community.

**Care Homes** – My thanks to Lynda Jones who maintains our ministry to the local care homes as well as giving much appreciated support with lay funeral ministry, not to mention Sacristan duties and choir! One of the Care Homes regularly joins our online service live via Zoom and displays it on a large screen in the lounge of the home.

**Jesus Hospital** – The Vicar of Bray continues to be Chaplain of Jesus Hospital. We currently mark seasonal celebrations with a service in Jesus Hospital Chapel for Christmas, Harvest, and Remembrance and with other occasional special events. If pastoral needs arise, I am kept in touch by the Warden. The Donnington Trust who cares for Jesus Hospital make a donation to us each year to support the Church for the use of the Vicar as Chaplain for which we are very grateful.

**The Friends of St Michaels** -The 'Friends' are "To raise funds for the preservation, repair, restoration, and improvement of the ornamentation and fabric of St Michael's, Bray and its Churchyard and St Michael's Hall,

so long as these buildings remain the responsibility of the Parochial Church Council, and are used for charitable purposes, and to provide articles for use in worship in St Michael's, Bray; also support for music and other charitable activities in the parish." (Charity Commissioners website).

We thank the 'Friends' for all they do to help maintain the church here in Bray.

**Thanks to all!** -I am sure there are lots of other important events and people that I have not mentioned, forgive me. One person I do wish to single out is our Verger, Audrey Ashby, whose long and faithful service I would like to acknowledge by proposing that Audrey become "Verger Emeritus" and an appropriate record of this be made in the APCM minutes.

As we enter a new season for the PCC, Churchwarden Helen Pearson, Deputy Wardens Penny Murray and Jim Tucker, Audrey our Verger, Lynda Jones our lay funeral minister and sacristan, Sian Adams our "minister" to the Zoom congregation, Richard Severn, our Parish Administrator who has also stepped up to be treasurer for the PCC. Pam Woodruff, who stepped down as Treasurer, has embarked on a wonderful new ministry of hospitality in reviving a Sunday Breakfast once a month and has reintroduced coffee after the 10.00 am service each Sunday (and all her helpers!) PCC members, specially thanking Ken Amery for his faithful service, for Brenda and Roy who have stepped down from organising social events after a long and fruitful season, Sides people and congregation. I want to thank everyone for all they do for the church community of St Michael's and wider parish; let's build on our strengths and see that St Michael's grows in faith and love and numbers.

With this report you will see some data on attendance, weddings, funerals etc. This year I am displaying it as the Diocese sees it on our Parish Dashboard which is an online service provided by the Church of England which collates the data we provide each year and builds up a useful picture of trends over time in the parish. It is important to note that these figures only cover the year up to Christmas 2021. The first thing you will see is the drop in attendance caused by the lockdown. We have seen a marked increase in attendance since Christmas, so we do need to wait to see next year's figures to understand the full recovery process.

Your Vicar,

**Rev Ainsley Swift.**

## **11. Treasurer's Report for the 2020/2021 Year End Accounts**

The accounts presented have been examined by Paul Fagan ACCA, Audit Manager, Craufurd Hale Accountants.

The auditors were appointed by the PCC at the meeting held on January 20th 2022

### **Income**

Considering that no services were held in church for over half of the year, St Michael's income held up remarkably well and saw an **increase of £3,458 over the previous year at £88,633. Planned Giving** was £10,000 up and **Contactless** brought in over £19,000 compared to £6,447 in 2020 when it was introduced. We received no legacy from the **Margaret Horn Fund** in 2021, previously £10,000 .

**Net wedding revenue** was slightly down last year to £2,896 but bookings have picked up well this year.

Rental income from the **Braywick School Hall** brought in the regular annual sum of £6,575 and this will be maintained for at least the next five years.

## **Expenditure**

Outgoings in the year were £76,971 compared to £103,097 the year before. Fortunately there were **no capital expenses** in 2021 whereas almost £18,000 was spent in 2020 on organ repairs, stonework and a training bell. Even excluding these capital expenses our expenditure was down £8,000 however, we did benefit from a **Parish Share** holiday that reduced that outlay by £12,700 to £50,000. (We are now back to the £62,000 figure for 2022.)

## **Excess Receipts over Payments.**

The accounts as presented show the rather pessimistic sub-heading of Excess Payments over Receipts but as the opposite is true of the 2021 accounts I can report an **excess of £11,662** receipts over payments.

## **Outlook**

We've started the new year with an open church, all lockdown restrictions lifted and plenty of weddings and baptisms in the calendar which bodes well for 2022.

## **Thanks**

My thanks to my predecessor, Pam Woodruff for handing over the accounts (contained in many boxes) in good order and providing a comprehensive briefing on the quirks and foibles of Parish Accounts. Also thanks to Jasvir and Jim for providing excellent support with the passage of monies through the bank accounts and to Tony Ellison for his management of Contactless payments and Gift Aid recovery.

I would also like to thank Paul Fagan of Craufurd Hale who examined the accounts as required and asked me many questions which I seem to have answered to his satisfaction.

Richard Severn

Hon. PCC Treasurer, St Michael's, Bray with Braywood

**Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church Bray**  
**Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021**  
**Receipts & payments account**

	Note	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total as at 31/12/2021	Total as at 31/12/2020
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Voluntary income/receipts					
Planned giving		44,185	-	44,185	34,846
Collection at services		3,916	-	3,916	810
Donations wallbox/contactless	a	19,330	-	19,330	6,447
The friends of St Michaels		98	-	98	6,000
Donations - organ repairs		-	-	-	1,250
Legacies		-	-	-	10,066
Gift aid recovered		4,539	-	4,539	10,539
<b>Total voluntary income</b>		<b>72,068</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>72,068</b>	<b>69,958</b>
Activities for generating funds					
Fundraising (including coffee)		250	-	250	116
Advent Fair					
Investment income					
Dividends on CBF Investment Fund		-	4,622	4,622	5,131
Bank and CBF Deposit Fund Interest		562	16	578	163
Rent - Braywood School Hall		8,219	-	8,219	6,575
Church activities					
Fees for weddings and funerals	b	2,896	-	2,896	3,232
<b>Total receipts</b>		<b>83,995</b>	<b>4,638</b>	<b>88,633</b>	<b>85,175</b>
<b>Payments</b>					
Church activities					
Parish share		50,000	-	50,000	62,700
Clergy expenses		3,502	-	3,502	1,733
Church administrator		4,615	-	4,615	3,752
Organist & music subs		3,769	-	3,769	1,765
Mission giving (CMS)		616	-	616	500
Church expenses					
Church running expenses	c	7,188	-	7,188	8,083
Sanctuary	d	86	-	86	296
Church utility bills	e	1,988	-	1,988	2,915
Church repairs & maintenance	f	1,975	536	2,511	3,314
Printing & stationery		291	-	291	132
Miscellaneous	g	2,405	-	2,405	6
		<b>76,435</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>76,971</b>	<b>85,196</b>
Major capital expenditure					
Stonework/window less VAT claim		-	-	-	1,842
Dumb bell (training bell)		-	-	-	3,294
Organ reed repair		-	-	-	12,765
<b>Total payments</b>		<b>76,435</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>76,971</b>	<b>103,097</b>
Excess payments over receipts		7,560	4,102	11,662	(17,922)
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
		<b>7,560</b>	<b>4,102</b>	<b>11,662</b>	<b>(17,922)</b>
Fund balance as at 1 January		15,006	70,647	85,653	103,575
Fund balance as at 31 December		<b>22,566</b>	<b>74,749</b>	<b>97,315</b>	<b>85,653</b>

Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church Bray  
 Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021  
 Further analysis receipts & payments

	Unrestricted Fund	Restricted Fund	Total as at 31/12/2021 £	Total as at 31/12/2020 £
<b>Receipts</b>				
<b>a General donations</b>				
Donations - other	10,785		10,785	1,772
Donations - The Ardeola Charitable Trust	5,000		5,000	-
Donations - Music at Bray	-		-	1,080
Donations - Donnington hospital	1,000		1,000	2,000
Goodbox collections	2,481		2,481	1,453
Wallbox	64		64	142
	<u>19,330</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>19,330</u>	<u>6,447</u>
<b>b Church activities</b>				
Wedding & funeral fees received	10,512	-	10,512	13,018
Less wedding costs & fees to OSBF	(7,616)	-	(7,616)	(9,786)
	<u>2,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,896</u>	<u>3,232</u>
<b>Payments</b>				
<b>c Church running expenses</b>				
Bank charges	256	-	256	217
Honorarium & Holyport Sunday Outreach	-	-	-	250
Church flowers (Christmas)	-	-	-	96
Hand sanitiser & bathroom tissue/hand towels	-	-	-	300
Christingle & Easter eggs	-	-	-	193
Royal County of Berkshire Churches	50	-	50	50
New websites - set up costs	233	-	233	457
Church & hall annual insurance	6,529	-	6,529	6,455
Church Cleaning	120	-	120	-
Green bin	-	-	-	65
	<u>7,188</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>7,188</u>	<u>8,083</u>
<b>d Sanctuary</b>				
Vino Sacro Altar Wine	-	-	-	118
Communion wafers	-	-	-	48
Palm crosses	-	-	-	72
Candles	66	-	66	58
Altar cloth dry clean	20	-	20	-
	<u>86</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>296</u>
<b>e Utility bills</b>				
Gas bill	1,707	-	1,707	1,578
Electric	72	-	72	1,145
Water	209	-	209	192
	<u>1,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>1,988</u>	<u>2,915</u>
<b>f Repairs &amp; maintenance</b>				
Fire extinguisher annual maintenance	354	-	354	347
Organ tuning & maintenance	-	-	-	540
Earthing equipment annual maintenance	216	-	216	210
Church yard + cemetery maintenance	1,244	260	1,504	1,425
Church & Hall Gutter Repairs	-	276	276	-
Energy audit	-	-	-	300
Central heating boiler	130	-	130	460
Replacement toilet key	31	-	31	32
	<u>1,975</u>	<u>536</u>	<u>2,511</u>	<u>3,314</u>
<b>g Miscellaneous</b>				
Training	900	-	900	-
APCS & DBS Fees	114	-	114	-
Accountancy Support and Xero Accounts Software Fees	1,066	-	1,066	-
Miscellaneous	325	-	325	-
Mindfulness day	-	-	-	6
	<u>2,405</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>2,405</u>	<u>6</u>

Parochial Church Council of St Michael's Church Bray  
Financial Statements for the year ended 31 December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Endowment Funds £	Total 2021 £	Total 2020
<b>Cash funds</b>						
Bank current account		20,164	-	-	20,164	14,779
Deposit funds	2	227	74,749	-	74,976	70,874
<b>Other balance sheet items</b>						
Debtors		2,175	-	-	2,175	-
		<b>22,566</b>	<b>74,749</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>97,315</b>	<b>85,653</b>
<b>Other monetary assets</b>						
Braywood All Saints Church	3	-	-	296,476	296,476	296,476
Investment fund shares	4	-	-	176,301	176,301	176,301
		<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>472,777</b>	<b>472,777</b>	<b>472,777</b>

## Notes

- These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the Church Accounting Regulations 2006 using the Receipts & Payments basis.
- This includes The St Michael's House (sale proceeds) Trust which was transferred to local control in April 2009, making the capital available if needed for emergency repairs. For the time being the funds remain invested in CBF Church of England Deposit Fund, but with the usual PCC signatories.
- Cost £5,585. Valued for insurance purposes. At a PCC meeting held at St Michael Hall Bray on 21st September 2010, the PCC was granted a lease of Braywood All Saints former Church site for a period of 10 years at an initial rent of £6,575.
- The capital is held in Trust and invested in CCLA Church of England Investment Fund Shares, but the income is available for approved purposes.
- The movements in unrestricted and restricted funds during the year were:

	B/fwd 1 Jan 21 £	Receipts £	Payments £	C/fwd 31 Dec 21 £	As at 31 Dec 20 £
Sunday school	428	-	-	428	428
Holway Legacy	2,203	-	-	2,203	2,203
Chancel Repair	4,483	445	-	4,928	4,483
Church & Hall Repair Fund	21,471	4,189	(536)	25,124	21,471
St Michael's HO SP Trust	32,942	-	-	32,942	32,942
Margaret Horn Memorial	9,120	4	-	9,124	9,120
	<b>70,647</b>	<b>4,638</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>74,749</b>	<b>70,647</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
CCLA General Reserve	227	-	-	227	227
Barclays Current Account	14,779	91,610	(84,050)	22,339	14,779
	<b>15,006</b>	<b>91,610</b>	<b>(84,050)</b>	<b>22,566</b>	<b>15,006</b>

Approved by the PCC by

and signed on their behalf

Rev. Ainsley Swift  
Chairman PCC

Richard Severn  
Hon Treasurer

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Report of the Independent Examiner to the Members for the year ended 31 December 2021**

I report on the accounts of the St Michael Church Bray for the year ended 31 December 2021, which comprise the Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2021, a Statement of Financial Activities for the year then ended and supporting Notes.

**Respective responsibilities of Church Officers and the Independent Examiner** As the Church's Officers, you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. You consider that the audit requirement of section 144(2) of the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act") does not apply and that an independent examination is needed. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act and to state, on the basis of the procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

**Basis of Independent Examiner's report** My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the Church and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the Officers concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

**Independent Examiner's Statement** In connection with my examination, no matter has come to light which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements to keep accounting records in accordance with section 130 of the Act has not been met. Mr C Rayner, FCA

Craufurd Hale Audit Services  
Limited Ground Floor, Arena Court  
Crown Lane Maidenhead,  
SL6 8QZ

Examiner's Signature:  
Examiner's Name:  
Address: Bray, Berkshire

Date:

### **12. CHURCH TEAS and RAFFLE REPORT 2021**

Due to the pandemic there were no Church teas, raffles or even Sunday morning coffees.

#### **Penny Murray**

### **13. St Michael's Facebook and Mens Friendship Group**

What a year 2021

The Men's Fellowship has continued to grow with a few new people joining us.

The group started meeting in September 2019 at the White Hart in Moneyrow Green on a Thursday evening until Covid struck. The friendships created have been a blessing. Once we were released from the lockdowns, we started meeting up at lunchtimes, which suited the group, so much so that the guys suggested that we meet fortnightly, rather than once a month. We meet on a Wednesday and enjoy a beer, meal and great company. We have been joined by three guys who do not attend our Church, proving we can reach others in friendship and fellowship. The highlight of our year was

in August last year, when Thomas and his wife invited us to their home in Braybank for a wonderful meal they prepared for us.

A few weeks ago, Alan White died after a few months of ill health. During this period, the group supported Alan, and visited him several times in the Thames Hospice. Alan was well loved by the whole group and his giggle will be missed by us all.

Moving on, for nearly two years another group has met every Tuesday evening for an online quiz, where there has been so much fun and laughter. As the quiz settled into this regular pattern, I was asked by two of the group if some friends could join us. I was provided with their contact details and they received the login information. To my surprise, Mary and Jim told us they were in California and it was midday on the West Coast. Wendy also joined us and she is Judith's sister living in Widnes. We are also joined by others, who are not members of our Church, who have heard about the quiz. I thank the group for making these quiz evenings so much fun, they proved a lifeline to some during these testing times. As the lock down eased, one of the group suggested that as soon as was allowed, we could meet up socially in person. So, we arranged an afternoon tea for 18 of us, at Oakley Court. The prayer group that Beryl started well before Covid and the lockdowns, managed to continue on Zoom, at one point meeting each week. At the end of the first lockdown, the group managed to meet at The Stirrups Hotel, in person for lunch which was enjoyed by everyone. When the second lockdown finished, once again we met up in person at Bray Marina to enjoy meeting those with whom we met in Prayer. We also had another meal at Stirrups in December, when Kevin and Nicki joined us having been part of our prayer group.

I have also taken over from Ken Amery on the Facebook page for St Michaels, which I hope meets with everyone's approval.

In conclusion, I wish to thank everyone involved in the Men's Fellowship for their support and friendship since 2019, also my thanks to the quiz group for all the fun and laughter that has helped us get through these difficult times together. Finally, my thanks to the prayer group led by Beryl, for sharing so much on Zoom in prayer that has been a real delight.

Andy Giles

11<sup>th</sup> April 2022

#### **14. Social Events**

Needless to say that due to the pandemic there have been no social Away Day events. Hopefully we can arrange something for 2022.

#### **-Church Watch**

Sadly due to the pandemic and lock down restrictions we did not have church watch this year.

#### **Ken Amery**

#### **15. Young Church**

#### **Safeguarding Report**

All Policies and procedures are up to date. Due to a change in the course structure by the diocese. Our Safer Recruitment Policy was adopted by the PCC on 18th March 2021 and will be in line with Guidelines and will be reviewed annually. We will repeat the need to adopt the policy at the APCM on 24th April 2022

**Natasha Teeder Parish Safeguarding Officer .March 2022**

## Minecraft Church Report

April 2022

Minecraft church has continued to grow and mature this year. We have only been going 16 months by April – barely toddling!

Currently we are meeting weekly with around 20-25 people. We have about 33 people joining once or more a month and 39 over six months. People are always asking to join up. We have also run two in-person meetup days in Bray which has solidified relationships and brought together the parents too! The goal has always to be an all-age church which is hard to do online hence the need for face to face meetings.

We have had three baptisms now (even if two are mine!) and one of the constant themes is how young people are growing in their faith in a church that they can really call their own. In addition to this I have been promoting new styles of 'Minecraft Church In-Real-Life' expressions. These are a lot more universal (ages 8 to 80 have all enjoyed it!), can take place more simply and are somewhat easier to run. I have run several taster sessions and this has resulted in the plans and first steps to doing Minecraft Church In-Real-Life. We have also started a second online church for young people over 18 who like gaming and Minecraft. This is starting to take root.

Location	Team Leader	Status	Comment
Online All Age	Kevin Colyer	Weekly.	Going well!
Online 20's	Ellie Colyer	Fortnightly.	Just started. Growing interest from an initial handful of 5. Drawing interest from North America.
Emmanuel, Woodley	Richard Baker	Starting 2 <sup>nd</sup> April	They have a growing team and are planning a launch. Combining connections to existing outreach youth groups on local estate.
Kidlington Methodist	Emma Huber	Started 5 <sup>th</sup> March	Strong interest and have just started with a small 'practice session'
Bray, Maidenhead	Andy Medicott	Early team building	In the initial planning stage.
<b>Other</b>			
St James Messy Church, Woodley	Linda Galpin	An occasional table at Messy church	This may well be supported and grow from Emmanuel, Woodley

In the initial planning stage is a Minecraft Church In-Real-Life, based from the Parish (and possibly connecting into the wider deanery) which Andy Medlicott, our ordinand, is seeking to build a team to launch. Please do talk to Andy if you want to help and support this new initiative!



Moving forward I will be continuing Minecraft Church from Over Darwen as best I can. I hope to have ongoing connections with St Michaels. There are existing ties with the finances and expenses currently being managed by St Michaels which is also managing the Safeguarding of Minecraft Church too.

It has been an exciting journey! Thank you for the freedom and support to do such an exciting ministry. It is a credit to the prayer and faithfulness of St Michael's and open-handed giving to the wider church!

**Rev Kevin Collyer**

## **16. St Michael's Mission Plan**

The underpinning principles of the Mission Plan are

- To welcome all in faith, hope and love
- We are a community throughout the entire Parish
- We aim to be a contemplative, courageous and compassionate church and community
- That the areas of the Mission Plan should reflect the above and encourage an inclusive and Christ-like community.

Throughout these APCM papers there are examples of an inclusive community ranging from Sunday teas, to Music at Bray, social club outings and the community facebook page,

The main areas of the Mission Plan are

- (1) Nurture and Discipleship Courses**
- (2) Children and Young People –**
- (3) Pastoral Care**
- (4) Outreach**
- (5) Communication**
- (6) Bray Christian Spirituality Centre**

**Ainsley Swift and Lynda Jones**

## **17. Music Report**

The choir and Music at Bray endured the same frustrations due to the pandemic in 2021 as every other sphere of church activity. We were sorry not to be in church at Easter, with its glorious musical settings, then when services resumed, the choir was limited to three singers not robed. Gradually things improved, with eventually full numbers permitted and robing, but not yet processing. The rendition as the first anthem after the return of Haydn's *The Heavens Are Telling* was an emotional moment for us all. The second half of the year found the choir performing much of the seasonal repertoire, culminating at Christmas with the carol service and midnight mass.

After a long wait, Music at Bray recitals restarted in September, with an enjoyable programme from local organist, and boyhood St Michael's chorister, Relf Clark. Two piano recitals followed in October and November, but sadly we have not yet been able to welcome Lara Melda, distinguished pianist and former BBC Young Musician of the Year, for a gala performance on the new piano.

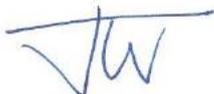
Hopes are pinned on a date in next October. The now traditional Community Carol Concert was staged on 12 December, with good numbers of singers and audience enjoying the afternoon. We were delighted to raise £500 for Duchenne UK, a charity supporting young people with muscular dystrophy.

As we all know nothing stops Jazz on the Vicarage Lawn, and last year's event on 11 July saw Josephine Davies and her quartet delight a packed garden by the river, supplemented by a brief appearance from Cantorum Choir. Music at Bray was able to show its support for St Michael's by donating the £900 takings to the PCC. We are grateful to all who attended these events for the generosity, and of course to Ollie Gooch and Lindsay Bramley for another year of outstanding leadership.

**MUSIC AT BRAY**  
**STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021**

Opening Balance at 1 January 2021		<b>11,890.58</b>
<b>Receipts:</b>		
Interest	1.17	
Ticket sales		
<i>Jazz at the Vicarage</i>	900.00	
Collection and donations		
<i>Community Carols</i>	429.72	
<i>Recitals</i>	769.35	
Sundries	40.00	
		2,140.24
<b>Payments:</b>		
To performers and expenses:		
<i>Jazz at the Vicarage</i>	550.00	
<i>Recitals</i>	250.00	
<i>Community Carols</i>	185.00	
Donation to St Michael's PCC	900.00	
Donations to Duchenne UK	500.00	
Piano tuner	80.00	
		2,465.00
Closing Balance at 31 December 2021		<b>11,565.82</b>

Lloyds Bank Current Account		50.00
Lloyds Bank Reserve Account		7,340.15
Lloyds Bank Organ Scholarship Account		<u>4,175.67</u>
		<b>11,565.82</b>



Jim Tucker, Music at Bray Treasurer  
 March 2022

I have compared this account with the bank records and other related documents and these figures are in accordance with those records. I believe they give a true account of the funds available to Music at Bray at 31st December 2021.



W R Banks, Independent Examiner  
 March 2022

## Report on the Fabric, Goods and Ornaments

St Michael's Church, Bray with Braywood April 2022

The high level clerestory windows have been a source of concern since one of them was sucked out during high winds some years ago. Since then their general condition has been monitored from the top of the tower and closer observation made, more recently, using a drone camera. The church Architect is aware of the problem and is assisting in advice to likely contractors. However getting contractors in to estimate for the work has proved problematic and only one estimate is available at the moment. It is proposed that, due the high cost, the works should be carried out over a two years with the south valley windows first, as these are considered to be in the poorer condition. Large contingencies are necessary when estimating for this kind of work but the cost for each valley will probably be around £28,000 including vat.

Following on from the previous years church energy survey (carried out in conjunction with the diocese) we have looked at the possibilities of introducing solar or heat pump technology to reduce our dependence on gas. Quotes were received from a number of companies who all advised that unless we were prepared to add battery storage, we would use only 10% of the power available and this would not be cost effective. The conclusion was, closely aligned to that in the survey, that we should move toward electric pew heating and transfer the responsibility for becoming carbon neutral to a green energy supplier. My thanks to Steve Adams and Mike and Thomas Henley for their considerable help and advice on this. We will have two estimates for the pew heater wiring installation which will include updating our existing three phase supply in the tower. It will be necessary to lift some of the floor stones, to lay the primary cabling, and this will be costed separately. Estimates for the cabling come to around £20,000. This does not include the heaters themselves as it is planned to introduce them later, at an affordable rate, possibly using a sponsorship scheme.

Routine boiler maintenance (including gas safety certificates), fire-extinguisher inspection and lightning conductor tests have been carried out. A working party day in September helped with gutter clearing and high level cleaning in the church. Regular tuning, plus some minor maintenance (£350), has been carried out on the organ.

**Ian Murray**

### **19. Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery Synod Annual report for 2021**

The Maidenhead and Windsor Deanery comprises 14 parishes and benefices. The Deanery Synod comprises all the clergy in the deanery and Lay Representatives elected by their respective parishes for a period of three years. For St Michael's the representatives are Penny Murray, Natasha Teeder and Jim Tucker. The current triennium has been shortened due to Covid-19 and runs from January 2021 to May 2023. At the end of 2021 the Synod had 70 members. Attendance varied from 44 to 52 over the year.

There were three meetings of the Synod during 2021:

#### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2021 on Zoom:**

- Jim Tucker was re-elected as Lay Chair, and the new Deanery Standing Committee was elected.
- Area Dean Ainsley, Associate Area Dean Sally and Lay Chair Jim introduced the new Deanery Mission Action Plan, talked through active initiatives in the Deanery, and described the new plan as a working document, which will be updated over time.

- Synod members shared their thoughts on what they had been learning about mission's during the pandemic and how this could affect the mission action plan.

#### **Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2021 on Zoom:**

- Ian Macdonald, Diocesan Youth Adviser and Discipleship Enabler for Berkshire, spoke about how the church could better reach out into the parishes, particularly about reaching young people with authenticity, building relationships and intergenerational community.
- Synod members had an opportunity to ask questions to Ian.
- Lay Chair Jim updated the Synod on proposals for a formula to determine parish share allocation.
- John Sykes informed the Synod about upcoming Diocesan Synod and General Synod elections.

#### **Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021 on Zoom:**

- Rev Polly Falconer, Diocesan UK Minority Ethnic Development Enabler, spoke about moving "From Lament to Action" in understanding and celebrating other cultures. She spoke of some of her experiences as a black woman, and described some of the work she is doing to help the diocese and churches acknowledge the riches of diversity in our churches. Synod members spent some time discussing in breakout groups and asked questions.
- Lay Chair Jim proposed a new system of parish share allocation within the Deanery, moving towards a formula-based system, to be brought in gradually over a number of years. Synod members shared many comments and asked many questions about these proposals. The proposal was voted on and approved by a large majority.

Thanks to parishes' hard work and generosity, despite the ongoing challenges of Covid-19, the Deanery paid 94.2% of its parish share for 2021, a total of £ 961,058 against an allocation of £ 1,020,191. This was a reduction from the £ 1,024,799 allocated and paid in 2020.

#### **Jim Tucker**

##### **20. Tower Captain's Report, March 2020-2022**

Unusually, a report covering two years, but much of which involved little or no ringing. I suggest that the Bray band has bucked the national trend; we were at a low ebb when the first Lockdown began, still recovering from the departure of Graham and Katharine and often struggling to make six on a Sunday morning. Through a variety of circumstances, some seemingly trivial, we have returned post-Covid in a much stronger position.

Ringling ceased in March 2020 when the first national lockdown began. During non-ringing periods, members of the band kept in touch. We did a few Zoom calls, met for socially distanced coffee on the green when allowed, and even made it to the Cricket Club a few times. We also started a weekly handbell session which has blossomed since then. I think I probably erred on the side of caution when Covid restrictions were enforced; we did ring during Autumn 2020, but every distance was carefully measured, we only rang 4 and we wore face masks. It wasn't particularly enjoyable, but was the best we could manage. I've liaised with clergy and churchwardens at each point of reintroduction and am confident we've kept the environment safe and compliant, with a healthy dollop of common sense. As we move into the "living with Covid" phase, it has become very much a personal choice for people, and this will vary for different people and at different times.

At the last AGM, we had just had our training bell installed. It has been useful for 1:1 training sessions with our two new ringers, Charley and Mike. I would like feedback from people about how

we use it to help our existing ringers to improve, as this was part of the objective in having it installed.

I mentioned the handbell group which started during Lockdown, thanks to Jacquie. We now meet fortnightly and have made enormous progress from a standing start for many. Jacquie, Martha and Simon have all rung their first handbell quarter peals, and Martha rang her first peal on handbells on New Years Eve. Great though the practices were in their early stages, we couldn't have managed any of the above without Mike's patience and expertise, so many thanks to him for helping us all.

Coming back to ringing has exceeded expectations. Other bands have struggled to get restarted, but we are in a very strong position. We have welcomed Simon and Charley, Charles and "New" Mike to the band. Practice Nights are very well attended and Sunday mornings now have healthy attendance too. We are very fortunate to have excellent bells (well maintained by our conscientious steeple keeping team – thank you!), and ringers that can manage difficult methods, heavy bells and conducting responsibilities. It's easy to take these factors for granted, but they mean we are in a very strong position moving forwards and I look forward to the next phase for the Bray band.

It feels appropriate that at some point during the evening we take some time to remember former Tower Captain, Derek. We have all missed his presence in both the Ringing Chamber and afterwards in the Cricket Club (which of course was his idea in the first place). I am pleased that we rang a very good peal two days before Christmas which was dedicated to him and was rung by an almost local band. A peal board is being made to commemorate this.

My sincere thanks to everyone for their support over what has been a very strange period of time. John N and Margaret were so loyal during the horrible facemasks on four phases, and everyone has contributed to what is currently a healthy band with great potential. An extra little thank you to Tim who has become de facto Vice Captain over the past two years, helping with Risk Assessments etc and accompanying me to liaise with the church where needed.

### **Maggie Ross, Tower Captain**

## **21. The Friends of St. Michael's Bray (Registered Charity Number 1070040)**

The Friends of St. Michael's Bray was formed in 1998 with the objective of raising funds for the preservation, repair, restoration and improvement of St. Michael's Church, Bray including the Church Hall and Churchyard.

Since formation of the charity The Friends have raised funds which have enabled the purchase, refurbishment or repair of numerous items including cushions, kneelers, hymn and prayer books, office and kitchen equipment, folding tables, a storage shed, tents, a portable font, a lectern and Bible, the restoration of historic memorials, repairs to Vestments, a new Altar Frontal for Ordinary time, a new Altar Frontal for Lent and Advent, assistance with floodlighting and boiler replacement work, support for Music at Bray events and significant contributions towards a new piano and essential work on the organ. In the last year The Friends have paid for new service booklets.

All of the above could not have been afforded from the normal income of the church as that is generally only sufficient to cover routine running costs which are substantial, as with all old buildings. When projects requiring assistance from The Friends arise the PCC requests a donation and this is discussed and agreed by the Committee.

Sadly we have not been able to hold any fundraising events again in the last year and continue to seek support through membership, donations, and legacies from those of any religious conviction

who appreciate the presence of this beautiful and historic church, and from those who value its purpose for worship, baptism, weddings and funerals. Hopefully moving forward we will be able to plan some events.

The Annual General Meeting of The Friends will be held on Sunday 8th May at 11:45 a.m. in church and via zoom and we hope as many members as possible can join the meeting.

The Committee comprises: Lynda Jones (Chair); Bill Banks (Treasurer); Sarah Pallot (Secretary); Julie Graham (Events Coordinator) Graham Barker, Steve Adams, Chris Khoo and Rev Ainsley Swift (ex officio member).

The Trustees of The Friends are Lynda Jones, Vernon Webster, John Blaxland, Tony Ellison and Graham Barker.

If you require any further information please telephone either Bill Banks, Treasurer, on 01628 627434 or Lynda Jones, Chair of The Friends, on 01628 635178

**22. Appointment of external Examiners.**

**23. Date of next Meeting.**

**24. AOB.**