

NEWSLETTER

April 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



Easter: A Season of Resurrection and Joy

Easter marks the pinnacle of the Christian calendar. It commemorates the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, signifying victory over sin and death. But Easter is not merely a single day; it unfolds into a season of celebration and renewal.

The Great Fifty Days of Eastertide

1. **Easter Sunday:** The festivities begin on Easter Day itself. Known as the **Great Fifty Days** or **Eastertide**, this period extends for **fifty days**—a time of continuous feasting and joy. The acclamation “Alleluia” is used often in liturgical worship in this season when the Church year reaches its zenith.
2. **Historical Roots:** The word “Lent” (meaning spring) leads up to Easter. Lent’s 40 days symbolize Jesus’ wilderness fast. But after Lent, the Church enters a season of abundance. The **Great Fifty Days** mirror the biblical themes of liberation, restoration, and renewal.
3. ***The Number Fifty: Why fifty? It holds deep significance:***
 - **Moses and Mount Sinai:** The 40 days of Lent parallel Moses’ 40 days on Mount Sinai, where he received the Ten Commandments. The additional 10 days symbolize the journey from Sinai to the Promised Land.
 - **Jubilee:** In the Old Testament, the **Jubilee** occurred every 50 years—a time of release, restoration, and freedom. Similarly, the Great Fifty Days invite us to experience spiritual liberation.
4. ***Easter Vigil to Pentecost:*** During these fifty days, there is no fasting. Instead, we stand in prayer, celebrating the risen Christ. The season culminates in **Pentecost**, the 50th day, when the Holy Spirit descended upon the disciples. It’s a moment of empowerment and mission.

A Time of Renewal and Abundant Life

As Anglicans, we embrace the Great Fifty Days with joy. We sing, “Triumphant in his glory now, his scepter ruleth all, earth, heaven, and hell before him bow.” The resurrection isn’t confined to Easter Sunday—it reverberates through these days, transforming hearts and renewing faith.

So let us journey through this Eastertide, savouring the victory of Christ, anticipating the Holy Spirit’s fire, and sharing in the abundant life He offers. Easter isn’t just a day; it’s a **season of resurrection** that invites us to participate fully in God’s redemptive work.

With best regards,
Rev. Canon Ainsley.

A BIG THANK YOU TO MAGGIE JANS AND HER TEAM OF LADIES FOR THEIR BEAUTIFUL FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS IN THE CHURCH TO CELEBRATE EASTERTIDE AND THOSE WHO UNDERTOOK CHURCH WATCH IN THE WEEK AFTER EASTER TO WELCOME MANY VISITORS



AND TO ALL THOSE WHO DONATED TOWARDS THE COST OF FLOWERS IN MEMORY OF LOVED ONES WHOSE NAMES ARE LISTED BELOW:

Kenneth and Wendy Allan
Ian Bairnson
Prabha Chandarana
Wendy Collinson
Maria De Lourdes Santos
Maureen Gibbs
Elisabeth Gregory
Teresa Godwin
Brian Henley
Ian
James
Norman Long
Marjorie, Emily and Fred
Michael Parkinson
Derrick Parmenter
John Rothwell
Susan Seymour
Sophie
Dorothy "Mollie" Sugden
Vanessa Wiles

St. Michael's got a huge 'thumbs up' from Foodshare in Maidenhead for our donation of 90 plus Easter eggs



Helen Pearson, Church Warden, delivered the eggs – well done to Helen and all who donated the eggs.

St. Michael's Men's Fellowship Group

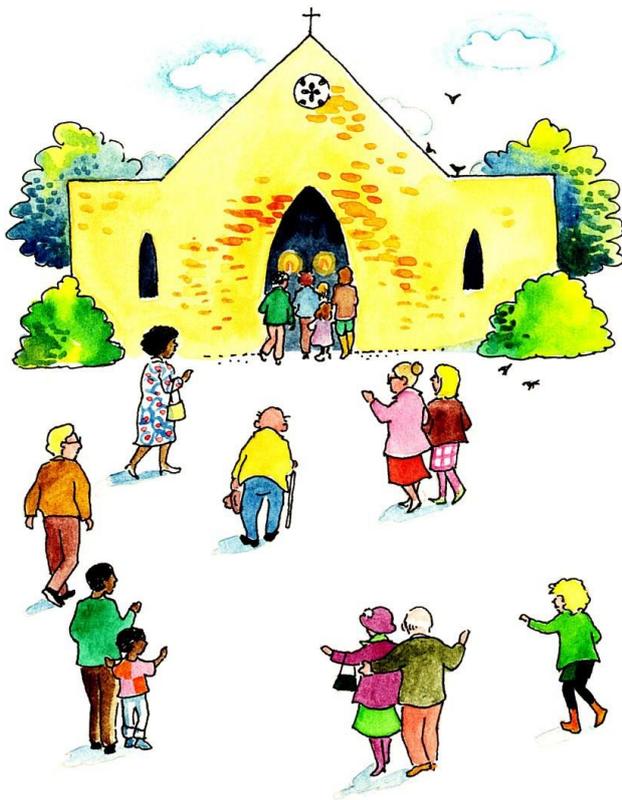
Andy Giles reports that the group has grown in numbers since forming in 2019 and in the past year a number of non-church members have also joined the group.

They meet every other Wednesday for lunch in local hosteleries. In addition to these lunches, Thomas and his wife Amita organised an incredible meal at Bray Bank, with all the men lending a hand to erect Gazebos and organise the tables and chairs for some 40 plus guests, including some of the Ladies from St Michaels.

Other events have included day trips out to Brooklands and the RAF Museum at Hendon.

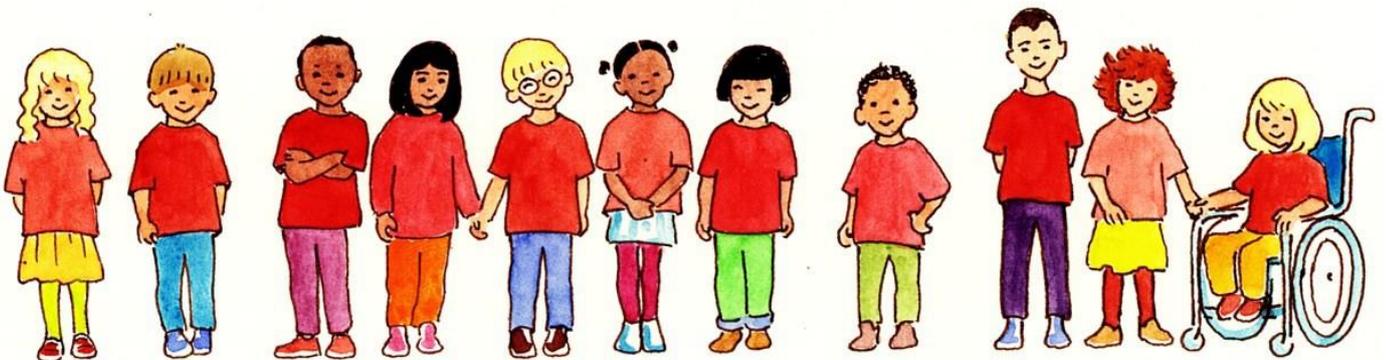
If you would like to find out more please contact Andy.

Pentecost



Or Whit
Sunday St
Michael's,
Bray SUNDAY
19th MAY

A service for all ages!
Songs and stories
(*about 30*
mins)



Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM): A Vital Gathering

The **APCM** is a crucial event in the life of an Anglican parish. Here's what you need to know:

1. **Purpose and Timing:** **This year it is on Sunday 21st April in the church at 11.30 a.m.**
 - It serves as a forum for parishioners to come together, discuss important matters, and make decisions.
2. **Agenda:**
 - **Electoral Roll:** The meeting receives reports on changes to the **electoral roll**—the list of eligible voters within the parish.
 - **General Parish Activities:** Reports cover various aspects of parish life, including worship, outreach, and community engagement.
 - **Financial Matters:** The financial health of the parish is discussed, including budget updates and stewardship.
 - **Elections:** New members are elected to the **Parochial Church Council (PCC)** and the **deanery synod** (every three years).
3. **Legal Framework:**
 - The legal aspects of convening and running the APCM are outlined in **Part 9, section A** of the **Church Representation Rules 2022**.
 - These rules provide guidelines for conducting meetings, eligibility, and procedures.
4. **Electoral Roll:**
 - The **Electoral Roll** is revised annually.
 - Every sixth year, a new roll is prepared, requiring everyone to reapply for inclusion.
 - Names can be added throughout the year, but removals happen only during the annual revision.
5. **Forms and Notices:**
 - The APCM requires specific forms and notices:
 - **Notice of the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (Form 1):** Provides essential details about the meeting.
 - **Nomination Forms:** Used for electing churchwardens, PCC members, and deanery synod representatives.
6. **Spirit of Participation:**
 - The APCM is open to all parishioners.
 - It's a time to engage, share insights, and actively participate in the life of the church.
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Remember, the APCM isn't just a bureaucratic exercise; it's a sacred gathering where the community discerns its mission, celebrates achievements, and looks ahead with hope.



For the remainder of our spring recital series, we have the following, all of which are free with retiring collection and followed by tea and cakes. We do hope you will join us for an enjoyable Sunday afternoon, with glorious music played by excellent musicians.

MAY 12 – Hao Zi Yoh (piano)

A welcome return of acclaimed Malaysian pianist, Hao Zi Yoh, with a programme of Albeniz, Haydn, Szymanowski, Ravel and Rachmaninov's *Variations on a Theme of Corelli*

JUNE 9 – William Bracken (piano)

Wirral-born pianist William Bracken has won numerous awards including 1st prize at both the 2022 Liszt Society International Piano Competition and the 2023 Euregio Piano Award International Piano Competition.

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JULY 28 – Jazz on the Vicarage Garden

Josephine Davies and her musicians return for another afternoon of sunshine and jazz on the Vicarage Garden, by kind permission of the Reverend and Mrs Ainsley Swift. Admission £10 on the gate. Bring your own chairs/picnic rugs and refreshments.

Our Director of Music, Oliver Gooch, will be conducting the The Royal Philharmonic Concert Orchestra, The London Philharmonic Choir and The Bach Choir in a performance of Beethoven's Ninth at The Royal Albert Hall on Saturday 21st September.

BREAKFAST BEFORE CHURCH (OR AFTER FOR EARLY BIRDS!)



The first Sunday of each month

Sunday 7th April 2024

Sunday 5th May 2024

Sunday 2nd June 2024

Sunday 7th July 2024

Join us from 8.45 – 9.45 am for a light breakfast in St Michael's hall
for a simple continental style meal.

No charge, just your company is required.

It would be lovely to see you even if you only have time for a quick
coffee!

CHURCH TEAS

2nd June – 1st September



If you enjoy baking and would like to raise funds for the church or a
charity of your choice, it's not too late to be included in the listing for
this year's summer teas.

There are a number of dates yet to be allocated so please contact either
katrinbrunning@gmail.com or pamwoodruff@btinternet.com for further
details.

Friends of St Michael's

– Dates for your Diary 2024

We have been getting ourselves organised and have three events coming up which we hope you will make a note of so that you can come along and support us. The funds you help to raise do a great deal in maintaining the fabric of the church building. In the last year, The Friends have been able to contribute £15,000 towards the cost of the new under pew heating from which we have all benefitted. A significant amount so we need to keep topping up our funds.

Sunday 7th July, 2.30 - 5.00 pm – tea and cakes in St Michael's Church Hall; the church will also be open and people will be available for you to talk to and explain how funds have been spent over the last few years. How often do you have a chance to actually wander around the church at leisure? It was only a couple of years ago that I realized that there was a beautiful window to the right of the altar, opposite the Goddard Memorial.

Sunday 8th September, 11.00 am - 4.00 pm – Bray Village Fete on the Green. One of the aims of the fete is to give local organisations the opportunity to highlight their existence to the community and to raise funds for their organisation. The Friends of St Michael's will be having their own stall selling cakes, cards and others items linked to the church. Please come along and say hello.

Wednesday 9th October, 7.30 pm – a talk in St Michael's Church by Hugo Vickers, writer and commentator on the Royal Family. The final details have still to be confirmed but the theme will certainly be linked to the Royal Family over recent decades. Please put the date in your diary with more information to follow.

Julie Graham, Events Co-ordinator

CONTACT LIST

The Vicar: Rev. Canon Ainsley Swift 633113

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

Verger: 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:

Tim Palmer tim@timzmail.com

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>