

NEWSLETTER

July 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,

Celebrating three Milestones: Andy Medicott Ordained Deacon, Alan Dibden celebrating 50 years of Ordination and Ainsley Swift celebrating 30 years since Ordination in the Church of England.

In a momentous ceremony held at Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford, on Saturday 29th June, Andy was ordained as a Deacon in the Church of England. This significant milestone marks the culmination of years of dedication, study, and spiritual growth.

Surrounded by family, friends, and members of the congregation, Andy received the holy orders from the Bishop of Oxford, Steven, who led the ordination service. The atmosphere was filled with joy and reverence as hymns were sung, prayers were offered, and the sacred rites were performed.

Andy's journey to ordination has been one of deep commitment and unwavering faith. Having felt a calling to serve the church he pursued theological studies at Sarum College, Salisbury, where he developed academically and spiritually. Throughout his training, Andy has been actively involved in various ministries, demonstrating a profound dedication to pastoral care and community service and to the congregation here at Bray.

The ordination of Andy is not only a personal achievement but also a blessing for the entire community. As he embarks on this new chapter, Andy is eager to continue in ministry, here at Bray as our Curate in training.

Congratulations to Andy on this remarkable accomplishment. May his journey as a Deacon be filled with grace, wisdom, and the unwavering love of God. And next year we hope and pray to witness his Ordination to the Priesthood.

The Revd Alan Dibden, known to many here at Bray also celebrated a major milestone as he celebrated 50 years since his Ordination with a wonderful service he shared with Revd Andy.

We give thanks for the birth of a new ministry in Andy and the accomplishment of achieving 50 years of ministry in Alan's life. We congratulate and pray for both of them today.

The third celebration is the marking of 30 years since my own Ordination. I offer my thanks to all who have helped me on my journey to this point and look to the future with hope and love.

Revd Canon Ainsley Swift

Last week was a strange experience. Working as normal on Monday and Tuesday writing software and managing teams. Then early Wednesday morning, walking to the train station to go to Oxford. A dress rehearsal at the cathedral in the morning, and then being bused off to Cuddesdon for a silent retreat until the weekend. Returning to the cathedral on Saturday, to be amongst so many people I know and love, thank you to all who came or were watching online and holding me in their thoughts and prayers. And then Sunday returning to St Michael's and forgetting that I have more things to say in the service now I'm an official deacon! Thank you especially for all the cakes!

I spent much of the retreat sitting with the birds in the early morning, listening to them and considering how God cares for the sparrow and knows, loves and values each one of us, irrespective of how we view ourselves... To show the love of God is to offer hope that we are all loved far more than we know or feel we can admit.

I do feel ready, I feel equipped, Not that it's because I know it all, far be it. But because Christ is my strength and my pattern, and I am surrounded by a great team of people whom we all work together to show God's love.

As I look forward, I am excited to think that working with and supporting Ainsley, I may be able to encourage us to go deeper into Christ as I learn from all of us. And perhaps also to invite us to explore different expressions of spirituality; enriching and supplementing the forms and patterns of worship we have at St Michael's, so as to encourage us to bless all those in the whole parish and in our immediate locales!

So, thank you, God bless, and may we journey together for a long time!

Reverend Andy Medicott



After the laying on of hands by Bishop Steven, Andy was given his stole by Rev'd Canon Ainsley Swift, who as our vicar had been his training incumbent.



After a wonderful service with beautiful music concluding with a celebration of the Eucharist, all the new Deacons celebrated with Bishop Steven and Olivia, Bishop of Reading

**BREAKFAST BEFORE CHURCH
(OR AFTER FOR EARLY BIRDS!)**



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



CHURCH TEAS

In aid of various charities

Sunday 7th, 14th, 21st July

Sunday 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th August

Sunday 1st September.

2.30pm to 5.00pm in St Michael's Church Hall

Come and meet friends old & new

Looking forward to seeing you

The Friends of St Michael's are running a stall at the Bray Village Fete on Sunday 8th September.

Two of the things we will be selling are jigsaw puzzles and good condition second hand books.

If you are able to help us out by donating either of these items, please can you contact either Julie Graham on 01628 778054, julie.graham@brayclose.com, or Sarah Pallot on 01628 622716, sarah.pallot1411@gmail.com.

We look forward to hearing from you. Thank you.

Ride+Stride is an annual nationwide sponsored church-crawl whereby you can visit as many (or as few) churches as you like on the second Saturday in September (the 14th September this year) between the hours of 10am and 6pm. The scheme is organised in this county by the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust which aims to raise funds to help with the cost of repairs to the fabric of Christian churches in the county.

If you should undertake a ride or stride, you would plan a route in advance and ask people to sponsor you per number of churches you visit. Then on the day, you would walk, run, cycle, ride a horse or travel by boat between churches and look around them in the process.

If you would like to take on this challenge on behalf of St Michael's Church, do contact me and I can explain things in more depth. Meanwhile, you might like to have a look at the Berkshire Ride+Stride web site at <https://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/>. Click on the Ride+Stride link for the drop down menu.

As riders and striders will be visiting our own church on the day, it would be nice to keep the church open, so later in the year, I shall be looking for volunteers to church sit and to welcome visitors.

You can contact me, Sarah Pallot, by email: sarah.pallot1411@gmail.com ; or by phone: 01628 622716 or 07980 941883



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 Canon 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.

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:

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Lynn Olney 07966906092

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Jim Tucker 673685
Penny Murray 623041
Mary Wiles 635000

Sacristan & Lay Funeral Minister:

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Gift Aid Officer :

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Electoral Roll Officer:

Penny Murray

Director of Music:

Oliver Gooch

Assistant Director of Music:

Lindsay Bramley

Parish Safeguarding Officer/Sunday School:

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Tower Captain:

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Lynda Jones 635178

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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>