

NEWSLETTER

from the Church of St.

Michael's Bray

February 2026



The Parish Church of Bray with Braywood, Holyport & Moneyrow Green, Fifield, Touchen End and Oakley Green

website: www.braystmichael.co.uk



Dear Friends,

Lent is a season of reflection and preparation before the celebrations of Easter. By observing the 40 days of Lent, Christians replicate Christ's withdrawal into the desert for 40 days. Lent is marked by fasting, both from food and festivities.

We come to Lent with our need to seek God's direction for our lives and our Church and our world.

Our Lent course this year is "**Come and See**" more details can be found in this Newsletter.

The Christian churches that observe Lent in the 21st century (and not all do) use it as a time for prayer and penance. There is also a practice of spending time reading and studying Scripture and spending more time in prayer. Only a small number of people today fast for the whole of Lent, although some maintain the practice on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. It is more common these days for believers to surrender a particular item such as favourite food/s or pastime. Whatever the sacrifice it is a reflection of Christ's time in the wilderness and a test of self-discipline and a making space for God to speak to us.

Why 40 days?

40 is a significant number in Jewish-Christian scripture:

- In Genesis, the flood which destroyed the earth was brought about by 40 days and nights of rain.
- The Hebrews spent 40 years in the wilderness before reaching the land promised to them by God.
- Moses fasted for 40 days before receiving the ten commandments on Mount Sinai.
- Jesus spent 40 days fasting in the wilderness in preparation for his ministry.

Most Christians regard Jesus' time in the wilderness as the key event for the duration of Lent.

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Why is it called Lent?

Lent is an old English word meaning 'lengthen'. Lent is observed in spring, when the days begin to get longer.

The colour purple

Purple is the symbolic colour used in church throughout Lent, for vestments, drapes and altar frontals.

Purple is used for two reasons: firstly because it is associated with mourning and so anticipates the pain and suffering of the crucifixion, and secondly because purple is the colour associated with penitence and reflection, a time of preparation and cleansing to ready us for the celebration of Easter.

Notable dates:

Ash Wednesday 18th February (the beginning of Lent) a Eucharist with ashing in Church at 8.00 pm

Mothering Sunday 15th March - a special service at 10.00 am

Palm Sunday 29th March 10.00 am

The last week of Lent is called **Holy Week** when we recall the last days of Jesus's life and prepare for the great celebration of Easter and resurrection.

Holy Week a Eucharist with a time for reflection will be held in church at 7:30 p.m. on Monday 30th March, Tuesday 31st March and Wednesday 1st April.

Maundy Thursday 2nd April 8.00 pm Eucharist with foot washing followed by a vigil.

Good Friday 3rd April 3.00 pm Liturgy of the Cross

Easter Day 5th April The first Eucharist of Easter 8.00am and 10.00am beginning with the lighting of the Paschal Candle.

With best regards

Canon Ainsley



A Lent course, where for a few weeks we gather together to chat, learn and share about things of faith, is a great opportunity. This year at St Michael's we are going to spend some time using the Diocese Come and See course to look at **Holy Communion**. Holy Communion (otherwise known as The Eucharist) is something we celebrate every Sunday but this familiarity can sometimes mean we are on auto-pilot. This Lent is an opportunity to look and think afresh and what this celebration means.

We are meeting on Thursday evenings at 7:30pm at Jesus Hospital in Bray, and on Friday afternoons at 2:30pm at the Church hall behind St Michael's Church. You don't need to commit to coming every week. If after your first time you decide it's not for you, then there is no pressure to continue! Ideally if you could drop me an email at andymed256@gmail.com that will help with just knowing numbers to make sure I have enough snacks, but please do come along even if you have not let me know!

Thursday Evenings:

Jesus Hospital, SL6 2AN - all at 7:30pm (till around 9pm):
19th February, 26th February, 5th March,
12th March, 19th March and 26th March

Friday Afternoons:

St Michael's Church Hall, SL6 2AA - all at 2:30pm (till around 4pm)
20th February, 27th February, 6th March,
13th March, 20th March and 27th March

I hope you can make it, and that we can enjoy learning and sharing together!

Take care & God Bless,

Rev'd Andy Medlicott

Lenten Soup Lunch
Saturday 28th March
St. Michael's Church Hall



Donations (minimum of £5) in aid of
The Baby Bank

Please add your name to the list at the back of the
church or just turn up on the day



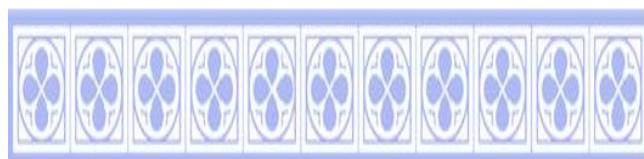
CHURCH CAFÉ

**Saturday 21st February and
Saturday 14th March
11.00am to 1.00pm**

Coffee, Homemade Cakes,

St Michael's Vintage Stall

St Michael's Church Hall,





8 March	Fabricio Mattos (guitar) Yi-Hsuan Chen (flute) Experience a vibrant multicultural concert of musical traditions from opposite sides of the world, brought to life with solo masterpieces from the classical flute and guitar repertoire.
12 April	Dimitar Burov (violin) Vesselina Koleva-Burova (piano) Romance, Meditation and Love A programme to include works by Kreisler, Sarasate, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky.

Free Entry with Retiring Collection and Refreshments

CONTACT LIST

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For general enquiries (Christenings, Weddings etc) in the first instance please contact our Parish Administrator, Richard Severn: 01628 633113 stmichaelsbray@gmail.com

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Director of Music:

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<https://braywood-ce.eschools.co.uk>