

NEWSLETTER

from the Church of St. Michael's Bray

October 2026



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

website: www.braystmichael.co.uk



Dear Friends,

A season of Remembrance

In November, we have several important services. On **November 1 at 4pm**, we will hold our **All Souls** service, a time to remember and give thanks for the lives of those we have loved and lost. A week later, on **November 8 at 10.45am**, we will gather for our annual **Remembrance Day service** to honour those who have served and sacrificed in conflicts past and present.

A Season of Light and Joy

The **Advent season** begins in late November with **Advent Sunday Eucharist 29th Nov 8.00 am and 10.00 am** and at **6.00 pm** our **Advent Service of Light**, a special evening celebrating the promise of the coming into the world of the light of Christ.

On Saturday 5th December is our Christingle Service which is a wonderful family event that helps children understand the story of Jesus as the light of the world.

As Christmas approaches, we have our **Community Carols** on **December 13 at 3pm**, and our **Traditional Carol service** on **December 20 at 4pm** preparing the way for the great feast of Christmas!

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Christmas Eve is packed with services for all ages. Our **Crib service** at **3pm** is perfect for families with young children, telling the nativity story in a simple and engaging way. Later that night, we'll have our beautiful **Midnight Mass** starting at **11.30pm**, a traditional and solemn service to welcome Christmas Day.

On **Christmas morning**, we will have two services: an early **Holy Communion** at **8am** and a family-friendly **Christmas Communion** at **10am**.

We look forward to seeing you and your families at one or more of these special events.

All are welcome!

Canon Ainsley



Sunday Afternoon Recitals at 3.00pm

8 November Peng Lin (piano)

A keenly anticipated return of piano virtuoso Peng Lin in a programme for Remembrance Sunday including **Bach, Janáček** and **Debussy**

13 December Community Carols

Join us for this annual festive celebration of Christmas with carols and readings. In aid of **Thames Hospice** and featuring St Michael's Church & Community Choir and Windsor Community Orchestra

Free Entry with Retiring Collection and Refreshments

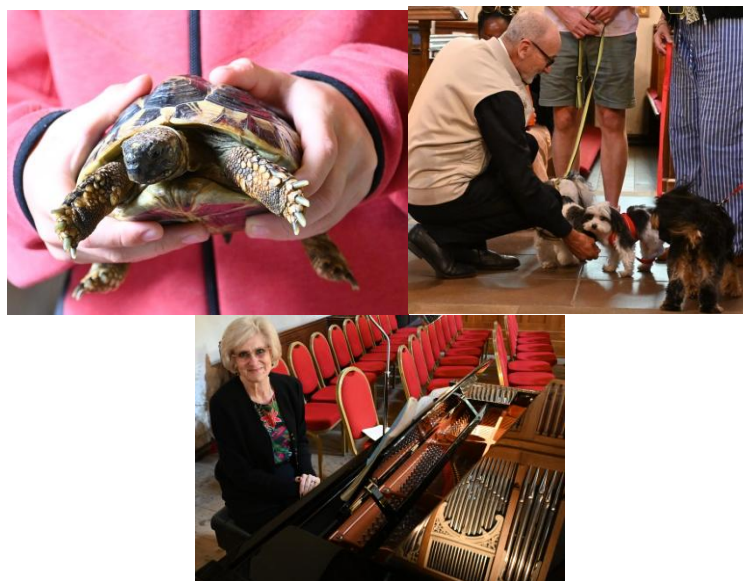
HARVEST THANKS GIVING SERVICE

Thank you to everyone who donated tinned goods which were delivered to Maidenhead Foodshare and received with much appreciation.

Pet's Thanksgiving Service



Our annual Pet Service proved very popular again, with 16 dogs, 1 tortoise and 30 humans attending. Some of the dogs enjoyed 'singing along' with the hymns and they all received a blessing and a treat. And thank you to Janis Dieppe who played the piano during the service.



Thank you to all who visited our St Michael's Vintage stall at Bray Fete on the 6th September 2026. We raised over £1000. A brilliant, if tiring day was had by all.



Photo shows Katrin Brunning and Pam Woodruff with Mary Wiles in the background

Our next event was Hymns with PIMM'S held on Sunday 20th Sept at 3pm. Our thanks to Brian, organist, Janis, our pianist, and Mike, our presenter. Thank you to everyone involved. A lovely afternoon celebrating the singing of hymns in the community.



The Church cafe and Vintage sale is on 31st October from 11 am until 1pm.

The Crat Fayre is on Saturday 14th November 10.30 until 1.30pm. We have a couple of stalls available if you are a crafter and interested in attending please contact me katrin.brunning@btinternet.com

Later in November there will be 2 Christmas Card making sessions – Wednesday 25th November 10.30 am – 12.30 pm and Thursday 26th from 2.30 to 4.30 pm. There will be drinks (Tea/coffee) and Mincepies and materials to make about 3 cards . The cost is £10. Details and registration form will at the back of the Church from 1st November.

Flora Chigwedere Reports on Ride & Stride 2026

– 23 Miles, Four Friends and a Lot of Laughter!

On Saturday 12 September, four friends, four bicycles and a healthy dose of enthusiasm set off from St Michael's, Bray for this year's Ride & Stride — and what a wonderful day it turned out to be!

With the September sun above us and the wind on our faces, we headed out along the beautiful country lanes around Winkfield and Warfield. Twenty-three miles may sound like quite a distance, but with plenty of chatter, giggles, laughter and — most importantly — strategically planned coffee stops, the miles seemed to fly by.

Our route took us to some beautiful Berkshire churches, including **St Peter's, Hatchet Lane; St Mary's, Winkfield; St Martin's, Chavey Down; and St Michael the Archangel, Warfield**. Each church had its own character, history and charm, and there was something rather special about arriving by bicycle, stepping inside for a moment, and then setting off again for the next stop.

One of the highlights of the entire ride was our visit to **St Mary's, Winkfield**, where we were greeted by the most wonderful welcoming committee. And then came an unexpected treat: **Trevor the bell ringer gave us a lesson in church bell ringing!** There is definitely a technique to it, but judging by the enthusiasm of some of our riders, a sideline career in campanology may yet beckon!

Then it was back onto our bikes, winding our way through the lanes once more. There was something wonderfully joyful about it all — four friends cycling through the Berkshire countryside, autumn's sunshine on our faces, calling to one another along the road, laughing, talking and occasionally wondering how far it was until the next coffee stop!

Eventually, after **23 miles**, we rolled back into **St Michael's, Bray**. Seeing our own church again really did feel like coming home. We were met by another lovely welcoming committee, which made crossing our imaginary finish line all the sweeter.

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And, of course, behind all the fun was a very important purpose. Thanks to the extraordinary generosity of everyone who sponsored and supported us, we raised **just over £1,800 for the Berkshire Historic Churches Trust**. Half of the money we raised will come back to **St Michael's, Bray**, helping towards the much-needed restoration and preservation of our beautiful church.

To every single person who sponsored us, encouraged us, welcomed us along the route or simply wished us well — **thank you**. We are enormously grateful.

Twenty-three miles. Beautiful churches. Country lanes. Coffee stops. Bell ringing. Sore legs. Lots of laughter. And more than £1,800 raised for a wonderful cause.

Would we do it again?

Absolutely. See you on the start line next year!



The PCC are looking into replacing the Church G Tech vacuum cleaner which is showing its age. Before buying a new one it would be very helpful to know if anyone has upgraded their hand held, stick vacuum cleaner recently and would be able to donate their old one to St Michael's. We have a larger vacuum but need a smaller unit as well. Please speak to a member of the PCC or cleaning team to discuss this further if you think you can help.

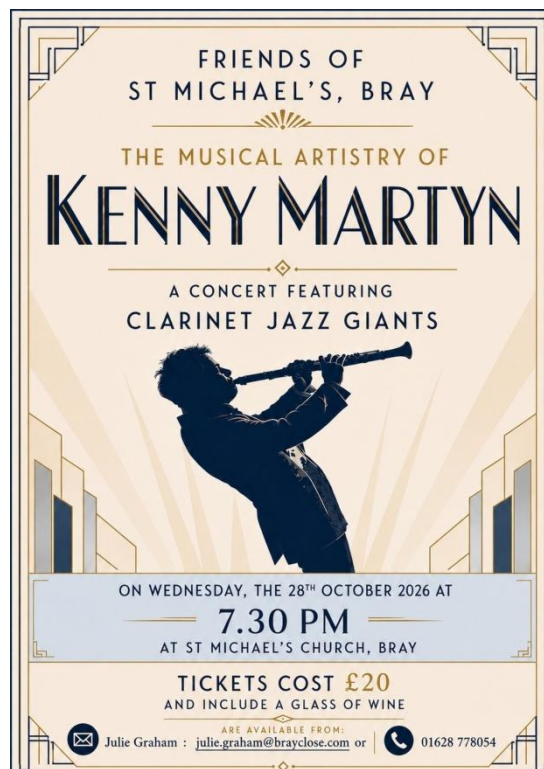
Thank you the PCC St Michael's Bray with Braywood

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 28th October 2026 at 7.30

Join the Friends of St Michael's in the Church for a concert listening to Kenny Martyn, a professional clarinettist, who also happens to be the brother of Graham Barker. Kenny will be playing a selection of music featuring clarinet jazz giants. Tickets cost £20, to include a glass of wine. They are available from Jules on 01628 778054 or email her at

julie.graham@brayclose.com.



Braywood Church of England First School is looking for a Foundation Governor

Braywood is a small voluntary controlled Church of England school welcoming children of all faiths and non-faith.

If you are passionate about primary education and are keen to make a difference in your community then please consider applying for this rewarding voluntary role as a Foundation Governor.

There are three full Governor's meetings a year, held in the evenings and Governors are always welcome to visit the school, classes, assemblies and attend events such as school plays and sports days throughout the academic year.

The role is to uphold and support the School's Christian ethos, to challenge the School's leadership to ensure best outcome for all pupils, work with the other Governors as a team, overseeing areas such as Curriculum, Safeguarding and Finance.

No previous experience is necessary as free training off-site is available. You do not need to be a parent but you must be over 18 and pass an enhanced DBS.

If you are interested in this role please contact: Mrs Annie Cole, Headteacher Braywood School, tel no. 01628 623660 or email: head@braywoodfirstschool.co.uk

<https://governorsforschools.org.uk/webinars/introduction-to-becoming-a-foundation-governor/>

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

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Mary Wiles 635000

Sacristan & Lay Funeral Minister:
Lynda Jones 635178

Verger: Jim Tucker 673685

Parochial Church Council:

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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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Bellringers:
Tower Captain:
Tim Palmer

Tower Secretary: 07411429577
Amelie Smith 07988517343

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Lynda Jones 635178

Church Flowers: Maggie Jans 07774484308

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