

NEWSLETTER

from the Church of St. Michael's Bray

September 2026



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

website: www.braystmichael.co.uk



Dear Friends,

Farewell and Godspeed to Revd Andy Medicott

Revd Andy after being with us at Bray for five years, the last two as an Ordained member of the clergy is moving on. Andy has an exciting opportunity to finish his final year of Curacy “in charge” of three churches not too far away, **Winkfield, Cranbourne & Chavey Down.**

We continue to pray and support Andy, and we may even see him again at Bray from time to time.

We send Andy on to his next step with our love and prayers.



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Coming Up This Autumn

As the summer sun sets and the days grow shorter, our parish life continues to be a source of warmth and light. We have a wonderful lineup of events and services planned for the autumn months, and we invite everyone in our community to join us. Whether you're a long-time member or a newcomer, there's something for everyone. ***Everyone is welcome.***

We're kicking things off with a lively afternoon of **Hymns with Pimm's on September 20 at 3pm**. Come sing your favourite hymns and enjoy a refreshing drink—it's the perfect way to spend a Sunday afternoon; our last look back to Summer.

On 4 October, we will hold our annual **Harvest Thanksgiving at 10.00 am** and our **Pet service at 2.30pm**. Bring your beloved companions, from dogs and cats to hamsters and rabbits, for a special blessing.

In the next Newsletter there will be details of special services in November and December – **the season of Light and Joy**.

With best regards

Canon Ainsley

AUTUMN GIFT DAY 2026

“Oh no, is it that time again already?” might be your reaction when you see the title of this piece. Indeed, it is time once again to express the huge debt of gratitude that the church owes to all of you who have been so generous with your support so far in 2026. Support takes so many forms, helping during services, helping with tea and coffee, helping with refreshments, helping to lead the singing, and that’s not all. Thank you for any financial contribution that you have donated to St Michael’s.

Let’s look at financial support. Those who are members of the Parish Giving scheme have given this year, including Gift Aid, a staggering £33,000, yet again an increase on last year and the largest number to date for January to August. But of course, costs continue to increase across the board, we have sadly lost one or two supporters, and the church’s finances are still short of where they really ought to be. This year we had an additional Gift Day in the spring, and good support it received, but now is the time to review this aspect before the year draws to a close.

The next Gift Day is on Sunday 11 October, the week after the traditional Harvest Festival, and we are asking everyone to consider the level of financial backing they are giving. Only you can provide the answers, but would you please ask yourself at least some of the following questions.

1. Am I a member of the Parish Scheme, and if not should I join now?
2. I am a member, but should I increase the amount I have pledged?
3. How much can I give as a one-off Gift on or for 11 October?

Giving for work of the Lord has never been more important than it is today. Do please act NOW. You are invited to take a white envelope from the pews in church, any time between now and Gift Day, and return it with a note inside of what action you have decided to take, or if you would rather, a cheque payable to “St Michael’s Bray PCC”. The church’s bank account has the full name “St Michael’s Bray with Braywood Parochial Church Council”, and if you would prefer to pay by BACS the sort code is 203883 and the account number 80775754. Parish Giving Scheme leaflets are always in church, just ask the wardens or Jim Tucker.

With grateful thanks from the Finance Team



Sunday Afternoon Recitals at 3.00pm

13 September **Simone Tavoni (piano)**

Award-winning Italian pianist presents a Spanish-inspired programme to include **de Falla** and **Satie**

11 October **Ashley Solano Hernández (piano)**

British-Colombian composer-pianist presents **Ravel**, **Haydn** and alongside Ashley's *Sonata No 3*

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

Our Director of Music Oliver Gooch has two exciting events coming up.

Firstly he will be conducting the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven's 9th Symphony on Saturday 19th September at the Royal Albert Hall.

For tickets please go to the website:

<https://www.royalalberthall.com/tickets/events/2026/beethovens-ninth-2026>

Secondly he will be conducting the orchestra in a performance of – JS Bach Mass in B minor, in St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle at 7.30 p.m. on Saturday 17th October as part of the Windsor Festival.

For tickets please go to the website:

<https://tickets.windsorfestival.com/sales/autumn-festival-2026/saturday-17th-october/johann-sebastian-bach-mass-in->

THANK YOU FROM FOODSHARE SUMMER HOLIDAY APPEAL

Many thanks to everyone who contributed supermarket vouchers and cash for our Foodshare summer holiday appeal. St. Michael's donated £289 in total which is a huge help towards the extra support needed by many families during the long school holidays.



Church Teas - A review of the summer of 2026

This year's Summer Church Tea programme has just concluded. Thank you to everyone involved .

We have had a very successful year, the teas raised an amazing total of just under £3000. Though there is one more total to come in so this total may rise.

There were eight teas held raising funds for a number of charities as well as St Michaels Church funds. The charities were: Friends of St Michaels', Breast Cancer Now, Alexander Devine, The Children's Society and BPan.

The Bellringers played hand bells at their tea as well as showing people the bell tower. I hope a good time was had at all the teas by everyone involved.

We tried some new cake recipes as well as the firm favorites of Lemon Drizzle and Coffee and Walnut.

£2300 was raised by our community for charities and £650 was raised for St Michaels Church.

Thank you so much to all those who hosted a tea, those who came along to enjoy tea and cake and those who gave their time and efforts setting up, washing up and clearing up. It's very much appreciated.

See the next page for details of Hymns with Pimm's and the Pet's Thanksgiving Service. Our Craft Fayre will be in November with two Church cafes with St Michael's Vintage set for October and December.

Pam Woodruff and Katrin Brunning

HYMNS WITH PIMM' S
SUNDAY 20th SEPTEMBER AT 3.00 p.m.

Join us for an afternoon singing your favorite Hymns followed by a refreshing free glass of PIMM'S
with organist Paul Leddington Wright,
formerly conductor BBC 'Songs of Praise' & Organist Emeritus,
Coventry Cathedral
&
Janis Dieppe ALCM – Piano

Nominate your hymn by completing a request note from the church porch & placing in the box or use the QR code



The most popular hymns will be selected from nominations received

***Pet's Thanksgiving
Service***



SUNDAY 4th October 2.30 p.m.

Bring your pets for a short (30 MINS) Pet
Blessing service:

Hymns, readings, blessing of pets and a
moment to remember pets we have lost.

ALL ARE WELCOME

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.



CONTACT LIST

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