

**Rev'd Amanda would appreciate it if anyone knowing of illness or any other trouble in the Parish would notify her as soon as possible on 020 3940 1897 so that she, or a member of the Church, can call without delay.**

**If you have any enquiry about baptism, marriage or another service, or if there is something else you would like to discuss with a member of the team, please make an appointment, through the Church Office (020 8462 1373) or by emailing:**

**[info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](mailto:info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)**

## **MEET THE TEAM**

I recently attended Deanery Synod and we were addressed by Rev Canon Pamela Ive – Diocesan Director of Ordinands and Vocations (DDOV) for Rochester Diocese. She spoke about 'It's Your Calling' days and the many ways that we can serve the church including lay (congregation members being licensed by the diocese in many church roles), and ordained ministry, being a deacon, or priest like me. Each of us have gifts and skills that are God given things that we can do which are unique to us and God calls us in unique ways to use those gifts.

I began my own journey to St Mary's via an 'It's Your Calling' day. But many members of our church serve in many other ways too and Rev Pamela talked about those who keep our churches clean and therefore welcoming to those who visit, vital work for the Kingdom.

So, why do some people take up this ministry? Well, I thought I'd ask:

## **Church Cleaning**

*Whilst perhaps cleaning might not be most people's idea of fun, we have found that church cleaning can be rewarding for a number of reasons. The companionship and exchange of news with our fellow cleaners as we work; the chance to have a quick chat with other people coming in and out of church; the interest of meeting people who are visiting the church and learning of their connections with it, often going back to their parents and grandparents. Often it is simply the chance to enjoy the peace and calmness evoked by being in a beautiful building and reflecting on its history and the people who have gone before, perhaps doing similar jobs to ourselves.*

***Elizabeth and Gordon Barclay***

*Chris and I enjoy cleaning the church once a month. It's not arduous and the light physical exercise relaxes the mind in the peace of the church. Also, it gives us a chance to be up close and personal with the fabric of the building and discover small details we had not spotted over the years of church attendance. Hopefully by dusting the nooks and crannies no lurking spiders will pop out and surprise Amanda during a service.*

**Ann Lawrance**

*I have done church cleaning for more years than I can remember and will carry on as long as I am able. I have worked with some lovely people on the way as we used to have a team who could share the task together. Cleaning is never a chore; it is a privilege to be in God's house preparing it to welcome all those who come through its doors into a place of safety and peace.*

**June Garner**

*From day one it has given me pleasure, and a feeling of peace as I work. St Mary's has, and will always have, a special place in my heart. I was christened, confirmed, and married there. At age seven I started attending Children's Church, and from there went to Bible Class. My father was a choir boy. Two of my female cousins were in the choir for years, and my mother was confirmed there. Many of my family are either buried or scattered in the churchyard, hence my close affinity with Hayes, and its church.*

**Wendy Weaver**

I am indebted to all those who serve St Mary's in this way and have served over the years and now have had to step down, meaning that we need new people to step forward. If you think you could be part of this team providing hospitality to those of our church and wider community, please let us know. It is important we keep St Mary's ready and welcoming for all those who come through our doors.

May everything we do and say always be for God's glory.

Teach me, my God and King,  
In all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything  
To do it as for Thee.

A servant with this clause  
Makes drudgery divine;

Who sweeps a room as for Thy laws,  
Makes that and th' action fine.

*George Herbert*

**For Lay or Ordained Vocations the next 'It's Your Calling' is Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2024, St John's, Meopham; speak with me if you would like to explore. Rev Amanda 0203 940 1897 / [rector@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](mailto:rector@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)**

### **A prayer for vocations**

Lord God, may the seeds of your calling,  
watered and fed by longing and prayer -  
come to fruition in us  
and throughout your church.

Build up and bless with courage and hope  
the new life and growth of your harvest.  
Amen.

*©Catherine Williams #CofECalling*

For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us (Romans 12:4-6a).

**Rev'd Amanda**

## **BIG KNIT 2024**

**For Making Miracles: The Birth Trauma & Baby Bereavement Care Charity**

We shall be supporting the above charity again, down at Rochester Cathedral on **Saturday 26th October** between 9-30am and 12-30pm.

If you would like to knit or crochet squares which will be made into blankets to be sold at fundraising events, or if you would like to donate wool we would be very pleased. You are very welcome to come along to our craft mornings on 2nd and 4th Thursday of every month in the meetings room. You are very welcome to bring your own craft

making, sewing, embroidery, knitting or crochet, or any other craft. We are a very friendly group. Come and have a chat; coffee, tea and biscuits are available.

We meet at 10-30am; just come along you will be made welcome.

If you would like me to collect any wool or would like a lift to the group please ring me on **02084622118** or **07880793914**

**Pauline Muggridge**

**NOTICE OF AN EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF  
PARISHIONERS  
FOR THE ELECTION OF A CHURCHWARDEN – SUNDAY  
11 AUGUST 2024**

**PARISH OF ST MARY THE VIRGIN HAYES KENT**

A meeting for the election of a churchwarden will be held in **THE CHURCH** on **SUNDAY ELEVENTH (11<sup>TH</sup>) DAY OF AUGUST 2024**, **prior to the Morning Service at 10.30 am**

This meeting may be attended by:

- All persons whose names are entered on the church electoral roll of the parish and
- All persons resident in the parish whose names are entered on a register of local government electors by reason of such residence.

Reverend Amanda and your Parochial Church Council are grateful that **Sue Powell** has offered to stand for the vacant position of Churchwarden of St Mary's. A Special Meeting of parishioners to elect a Churchwarden will therefore be held on **Sunday 11 August** before the 10.30 am service. Notice of this meeting has been posted in the Church Porch at least two weeks before the due date. Please endeavour to attend this meeting to give Sue your support.

**Mary Whytock, Secretary to the PCC**

## **GILL ROWE**

When I came to live in Hayes, in the early 2000s, and to worship at St. Mary's, Gill was already established as one of the two Readers, and also as Branch Leader of the Mothers' Union. I quickly realized she was comfortable in both roles. She had a certain presence, a confidence and togetherness which was perhaps due to her nursing background. And she had an easy manner in the pulpit, so that her uniquely personal, accessible sermons, and her light touch, were much appreciated by many in the congregation. Her leadership of the Mothers' Union was firm, yet relaxed, and assisted by her sense of humour. I remember too her support for any member who was struggling or unhappy.

Her pastoral concern led Gill to undertake training to conduct funerals, something I know she found deeply satisfying, and I also know that it was valued by those to whom she ministered. Gill found all her church work fulfilling, and it was inevitable that she would be reluctant to retire. She had often told us of how, when she had first visited St. Mary's, she had realised instantly that it was to become 'her' church, and it did become her second home. And she didn't of course leave it.

She continued to play an active part in church life, retained her friends, and set about organising coach trips for us all to enjoy. She would also offer lifts to everyone. Proud of her driving, and especially of her Advanced Driving Qualification, she would remind us of how young she'd been when she learned to drive, and of how much she enjoyed it. So when her cognitive powers began to fail, and her car was an early casualty, she was as disappointed, I think, as when she'd had to retire.

For some time a group of us had met Gill every Saturday for lunch at the New Inn, occasions she really enjoyed. As her mental capacity further deteriorated she coped with difficulties most of us would have found embarrassing and upsetting with composure, her unfailing good humour, and dignity, all of which endeared her to us all.

When she was established in the delightful care home her son Jonathan found for her, she remained calm and composed, and accepting. I missed her when she left Hayes, was fortunate enough to visit her two or three times in her new surroundings, but now that she is gone I miss her more.

## **Hilary Abrahams**

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

At 10.30 on Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> July twelve members sat quietly reflecting on the wonderful work that Mothers' Union does throughout the world. It was our branch's time to remember other MU branches worldwide especially in Toliara -



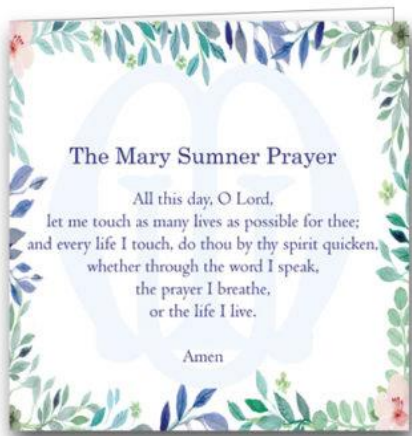
Madagascar, Mbale - Uganda, Chhattisgarh - North India, Zaria and Ndokwa in Nigeria and Rochester in the UK. We lit candles as we remembered these different branches worldwide. I felt a strong sense of unity and togetherness with the rest of MU branches in Rochester Diocese, as we prayed for these MU branches world-wide.

A big thank you to Gill Kell who has continued to knit for Mothers' Union, long scarves and mittens for the s



eafarers.





**9th August 2024** marks Mary Sumner Day, a day in which we remember our founder and her vision for our movement. Mary Sumner Day falls on a Friday. I am afraid that this year I will not be able to organise a prayer pilgrimage to Rochester. Please remember her, and give thanks for her life and vision on 9<sup>th</sup> August.

Our next meetings are a social gathering on **6<sup>th</sup> August** and **3<sup>rd</sup> September** 11.00am at The New Inn. On **Monday 19<sup>th</sup> August, 10.30 in the Meetings Room** Martin Print will be talking to us about "Footsteps International". A Christian mission organisation that helps rehabilitate and transform the lives of street children and orphans in Kenya. The meeting is open to all the congregation. It should be very interesting.

The Autumn Members meeting is on **12<sup>th</sup> October**. More details next month. I unfortunately cannot attend this year. I feel that I must say that we all miss Peter, his smile and willingness to help. It was lovely to see so many members of the congregation and friends at his funeral service celebrating his life and singing his favourite hymns. We, too, miss Gill Rowe. Hilary Abrahams has written a piece about Gill and all the work that she did for St Mary's especially during the Interregnum. Gill was also a Commissioned Speaker for Mothers' Union, and for a short time the Training Officer. Please remember in your prayers all the members of MU, and especially those members who are unwell - Dorothy, Carol, John and Jo.

If you are interested in joining Mothers' Union please contact me on 0208 468 7785.

**Avril Ashford.**

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY AUGUST 2024

**Morning Prayers take place daily at 9.15am Monday to Wednesday on Zoom\* and Wednesday and Friday in Church throughout the year (except Bank Holidays).**

### TRINITY 10

<b>Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	12.30pm	Churchyard Tidy Up
<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise with baptism: Josh Owen
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Sunbeams session** (age 3-6)
		Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group

### TRINITY 11

<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.25am	Extraordinary Meeting of Parishioners (see p.4)
	10.30am	Family Communion Service: Patronal Festival
<b>Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**

### TRINITY 12

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
<b>Monday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
<b>Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group



**Friday 23<sup>rd</sup>**      10.00-11.00am      Twinkles – singing, story,  
snacks\*\*

### **TRINITY 13**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>**      8.00am      Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am      Parish Communion CW  
12.15pm      Baptism of Alfie Ryan &  
Freddy Antony Foley Colman  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup>** 12.30-3.00pm      Warm Welcome Space\*\*

\* for Zoom link please contact the Church office

\*\*denotes Meetings Room

**The church is also open for private prayer on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.00am to 12.00noon unless there is a wedding or funeral taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets.**

### **A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH**

Gillian Margaret McLaren-Rowe



### **HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP**

August may be the main holiday month but, as we write these words ahead of printing deadlines in late July, we still have much to write about.

Here then are the usual reports on our recent activities starting with our varied outing to the Kent coast around Folkestone and Dover with 48 people on board the coach as we set off from Hayes. First stop was the recently opened Capel-le-Ferne Battle of Britain Memorial. It is situated in a beautiful cliff top setting overlooking the Channel and, if you go right to the edge, Folkestone below. The main gardens are circular and are marked out with what looks like a giant propeller with a memorial at its centre to each of the squadrons involved in the Battle of Britain.



There is also a separate memorial listing all those who died in the campaign. There are aircraft on display too, usually both a Spitfire and the Hurricane but also the opposition in the form of a “Stuka” dive bomber. A real treat while we were there was the sight and sound of two Spitfires flying over the site. They were accompanied by a more modern “chase” plane, probably filming the other two to record “Spitfire experience” flights. Views from the first floor café were stunning.

Next stop was Folkestone where we paused briefly to unload at the Harbour with its views of the White Cliffs round towards Dover. For most of the passengers Folkestone was a brief stop for lunch and a bit of browsing or shopping. It was interesting to note that Folkestone was becoming more trendy, with a number of creative businesses active in the town. There were lots of lunch opportunities there, with plenty of small local cafes as well as the ubiquitous and ever popular Wetherspoons.

For ten of the people on the coach, Folkestone was their main stop. This gave them plenty of time to explore the old town with its now brightly painted buildings, as well as visit the Fishing Museum near the harbour or the bigger Folkestone Museum in Guildhall Street.

Next stop after lunch for the majority was the Dover Transport Museum – the only transport museum in Kent. The unprepossessing buildings housed an array of classic and more modern vehicles, including a beautifully restored MG TC Coupe, a rare Austin Atlantic coupe and even the Mayor of Folkestone’s former official car, a Rover 75. The cars were joined by a range of commercial vehicles too, including a lorry that saw service during WW1. Not only was there a substantial model railway layout, but outside there was a real steam locomotive - the St Thomas 0-

6-0 Saddle tank engine. Altogether there was plenty there to see and do. That included the Museum café which did a roaring trade in cream teas – not surprising at just £6 – and kindly stayed open for longer than normal so that we could have a final tea or coffee before heading home. We then had a relaxing drive back to Hayes, remembering to pick up the guests who spent more time in Folkestone en route. This was another varied outing with lots to see and learn about - again in the company of fellow HMF members and our guests and friends.

Our most recent walk was in the Keston area. Starting from Keston Village car park the four walkers followed paths across fields (one with a healthy broad bean crop) and through woods by the Wilberforce Oak and Keston Ponds. On the way, they met a young lady on a horse who kindly took their photograph. Near an emergency access gate to Biggin Hill airport, a local man told them about an incident during WW2 in which a Spitfire crash landed at that spot, throwing the pilot's body up into the nearby tree while the plane's engine skidded along the ground, crashed into the adjacent cottage and killed a lady inside. Repairs to the cottage brickwork are still evident. Shortly afterwards they saw a Spitfire approaching and landing on the runway. At the top of a hill they came to the Wilberforce Oak and then, via a short diversion, one of the walkers showed them the source of the Ravensbourne River, Caesar's Well at Keston Ponds. From the number of people they met, this 5.7 mile walk seems to have been quite sociable!

Our AGM, chaired by our President Rev'd Amanda Spence, went very smoothly and even featured a bit of audience participation, like last year. We always start with a series of reports on the previous year covering membership, finances and activities. All the reports were well received, with those presenting them receiving a good round of applause. The accounts were approved too, and the healthy state of the finances (thanks to our Treasurer) enabled the very modest annual subscription at £20 to be maintained for our new session starting in October. If you are a retired or semi-retired man of any faith or none and are looking to meet and socialise with our friendly bunch of members, please get in touch; contact details appear below or you can look us up on our website [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org) .

We look forward to meeting you soon and each month in these pages.

**Allan Evison**, HMF Chairman    **Graham Marsden**, HMF Secretary

Contacts: e-mail: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org)

phone: **07764 153383**

## **CLASSICAL GUITAR CONCERT**

On Saturday 6th July in the evening at church we were treated to a lovely classical guitar concert by Mark Jennings. The music he played was mostly from Spanish composers - Tarrega, Turina, Torroba and Rodrigo. The Rodrigo piece was an arrangement of the slow movement from the Aranjuez concerto. Such a beautiful piece of music. In this movement Rodrigo depicted the soul of his dead baby daughter ascending to heaven. The great Spanish guitarist, Andres Segovia suggested that the composers Turina and Torroba wrote music for the classical guitar as the repertoire for the instrument was not as comprehensive as many other classical instruments.

Mark also played a couple of arrangements of Johann Sebastian Bach, originally written for other instruments, and also a piece by Bach's contemporary Silvius Leopold Weiss, a German composer and lutenist. Both were Baroque composers and were indeed friends.

Mark's playing was very accomplished and very enjoyable to listen to. We would welcome him back at any time.

How lovely to have a concert at our church.

### **Eileen Cohen**

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**The Old Church Schools, Hayes, has 3 halls – two large and one medium, and a committee room available for hire.**

**For further information please contact Julie Clark on 07538 254508 or email [ocs.hayes@hotmail.com](mailto:ocs.hayes@hotmail.com)**

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## **JESUS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT**

It's intriguing how often when reading or listening to some passage from the Old Testament we meet Jesus. For example, think of the story of the prophet Samuel, when sent to anoint as king over Israel the man God had chosen to replace King Saul. Samuel had been told the family (Jesse of Bethlehem), but not which one of the eight sons was God's choice. Samuel would have chosen the son that looked most promising

in terms of physique, skill in combat etc. But God had chosen the youngest, the one everyone looked down on, the one assigned to the lowliest role in the family, looking after the family's flock of sheep. As God explained to Samuel. "For the Lord sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart" (quoted in 1 Samuel 16:8).

And reading this we are immediately reminded of Jesus in the Gospels: Jesus Himself knew what was in man (as in John 2:25).

But, of course, finding Jesus in the pages of the Old Testament scriptures should not surprise us. This is precisely what Jesus told us to expect. After Jesus had been raised from death, He joined two of His disciples who were walking to the village of Emmaus. Afterwards they recalled how their hearts had burned within them as Jesus had taken them through an amazing tour of the scriptures, explaining how they pointed to Him, His coming as Christ and His death and resurrection.

Taking these words of Jesus as our guide, in our central Bible Study, we have begun to explore the Old Testament; in what way does what is written there point to Jesus? We have started by looking at the lives of some of the central figures, beginning with Abraham and Moses. We have now turned to King David.

David of course is a massive presence in the OT, and the story of his life, his brilliance and success forms a significant central pivot around which revolves the subsequent story of the kingdom that he established. He was poet and psalmist, tender lover, brilliant leader and military strategist, generous foe, stern dispenser of justice, loyal friend. But he was of course also human, with serious moral failings and weaknesses. Although under God, the leader of the people of Israel, David knew his limitations in fulfilling that role. The psalm that most exemplifies this is of course Psalm 51 "For I know my transgressions and my sin is ever before me".

Interestingly, his role in the gospel story is picked up immediately in the New Testament. As we turn to Matthew, the first of the gospels, in the very first verse Jesus is identified as the son, the descendant, of David.

And on the day of Pentecost, when Peter explains to the crowds the amazing event they are witnessing in Jerusalem, he emphasises not just that Jesus is a descendant of David, but the fact that David had eagerly looked forward to the coming perfect King, the Messiah, who would come to save His people.

As Peter said, David suffered the fate of all men: to die and to be buried. But David, inspired by the Spirit, had in faith looked ahead, in

expectation of the one who was to come, one of his descendants who “would not be abandoned to decay”. David had spoken of the resurrection of Christ (see Acts 2:31). This was David’s faith and hope. And as we know, and as Peter explained to the crowds on that day, this had all now been fulfilled in the life of Jesus. And thank God that is now our hope also.

**David James**

## **OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND: 21-22 SEPTEMBER**

St Mary's is opening its doors to the community as part of Open House London on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The church will be open to all comers between 10am and 4pm on the Saturday, and between 2pm and 4pm on the Sunday. Tea and cake will be provided throughout!



In addition, there will be six events onto which visitors may book in advance via the Open House London website: history talks and tours on Saturday at 11am and 2pm, churchyard tours on Saturday at 1pm and 3.15pm, and stained glass tours on Saturday at 12.15pm, and on Sunday at 2.15pm. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance, and we expect them to sell out! So keep your eye on the Open House London website at <https://programme.openhouse.org.uk>. The whole programme is available to view there, and bookings open on 22 August.

**Colin Gale**



Thank you very much for all who contributed to the work of The Mission to Seafarers on Sea Sunday. The splendid total of £294 was raised from the collection in Church and direct donations. Thanks you also to the knitters for the scarves, mittens and hats which will be much appreciated by the seafarers.

The Society helps not only merchant seafarers but also those who work on cruise ships. Recently Ruth Campbell, the Port Chaplain for London, has helped to set up a dedicated cruise crew lounge at Tilbury and mobilised a volunteer team to help her run it. This facility will be used by 8000 seafarers each year and approximately 200 crew members each time a cruise ship docks at Tilbury. It has already had an impact on crew morale and well being. One innovative addition was a communications pod allowing crew to speak to family and friends in privacy. It has been much appreciated. Crew said that there was a real lack of private space onboard the cruise ship so the simple act of being able to have a private conversation with their loved ones was one they greatly appreciated.

Throughout the world the Mission continues to give support wherever it is needed. The collapse of the Key Bridge in Baltimore halted port operations and left 159 seafarers stranded on eight ships who needed help with visa and shore pass renewals. In Richard's Bay, South Africa, the team prayed with two seafarers who ended up in adjacent beds on the same hospital ward after sustaining injuries on board separate ships. Their ministrations included providing home-cooked meals, care packages, SIM cards and clothing.

Your donations will help with this vital and varied work. For further information please visit the website [www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org).

Grateful thanks

**Jean Wilson, Parish Link**

## SUCCESS

I found this in St Mary's Church in Rye during a visit there whilst Wimbledon and the UEFA Cup were being played, and the word "success" seemed to be the word of the week!

The author is unknown, but I thought it would be good to share it with you.

**Yvonne Pickford**

### Success

Success is speaking words of praise  
In cheering other people's ways  
In doing just the best you can  
With every task and every plan  
It's silence when your speech would hurt  
Politeness when your neighbour's curt  
It's deafness when the scandal flows  
And sympathy with others' woes  
It's loyalty when duty calls  
It's courage when disaster falls  
It's found in laughter and in song  
It's in the silent time of prayer  
In happiness and in despair  
In all of life and nothing less  
We find the thing we call success

*Anon*

Items for the September magazine by 20<sup>th</sup> August please. Copy to the Editor – see below.

September magazines will be ready for distribution on 1<sup>st</sup> Sept.

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