

**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)**

## **THE LIFETIME JOURNEY OF FAITH**

We had the joy of hosting a Confirmation Service, Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2024 at Pentecost, at our very own St Mary the Virgin Church, here in Hayes. Confirmation is a special church service in which a person confirms the promises that were made when they were baptised.

The confirmation service was led by The Rt. Rev'd Dr Jonathan Gibbs, Bishop of Rochester. Bishop Jonathan laid his hands on the candidates' head and asked God's Holy Spirit to give them the strength and commitment to live God's way for the rest of their lives.

As well as candidates Nick, Julia and Susie, from the Parish of St Mary's, also confirmed were Brenda from the Parish of Holy Trinity, Bromley Common, presented by Rev'd Roger Bristow and Sheila from the Parish of St Mary's Plaistow, presented by Rev'd Alison Tyler.

It was a great day and such a joy to see Nick be baptised and for the candidates affirm the promises made at baptism, committing their lives to following Jesus Christ.

Sheila Crimmin shares her experience below.

*My two daughters, Helen and Jane, were there to support me. The day was brilliant, both the confirmation service and the weather. One of the candidates, Nicolas, was also baptised before confirmation. The Church and congregation were so welcoming and the Bishop was very kind and supportive. He even helped me on the steps when I struggled. His sermon was on Pentecost, which is always inspiring. The reading was from Acts 2: 1-21 (When the day of Pentecost had come, they were all together in one place) and the Gospel was John 15.26-27; 16.4b - 15 (When the Advocate comes, whom I will send to you from the father, the Spirit of truth who comes from the Father, he will testify on my behalf). There were five hymns, 'Be thou my vision', 'Amazing Grace', 'All to*

*Jesus I surrender’, ‘Be still for the presence of the Lord’ and ‘Shine Jesus Shine’ (fortunately, all familiar to me).*

*Two of us, Nicolas and myself, read out the statements that we had prepared, as to why we wanted to be confirmed, and then sent to Bishop Jonathan prior to the confirmation service. This I found particularly profound.*

*I was surprised at how emotional I found it but was so glad that I had finally come to the right time and place and had been confirmed. Alison has been so supportive and challenging while I have prepared. For that I will always be thankful.*

*After the service we went into the meeting room, which is attached to the church. It is a beautiful light room (with an integral kitchen) and were welcomed again, with a wonderful supply of cakes and refreshments. It gave us all chance to discuss the day. A truly memorable day.*

*Finally, thank you for all the lovely cards and to all of you at our St Mary’s, who have supported me. It has meant a lot. I now hope for many years association with our church.*

At the confirmation service, those who were confirmed made these promises for themselves. But during the service friends, family and our own congregation made promises to support and pray for them too.

And we have the promise from God of restoration and protection in Isaiah 43.1b, ‘Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.’ We are all called by name and at the end of the service the Bishop commissioned the newly confirmed and the congregation present to take their part in the life of the Church. If you want to know about that life at St Mary’s and how to take your part, or what that promise can mean for you, please do get in touch.

**Rev’d Amanda**

## **SEA SUNDAY, 14 JULY 2024**

On Sea Sunday we remember all who are involved with the sea, whether working on vast container ships that bring us most of the food and goods we use every day, cruise ships or the smaller fishing boats and yachts that sail around our coast. It is an opportunity to pray for the seafarers and their families and also for all the organisations involved in helping them.

In our troubled world today the last year has been a difficult and traumatic time for many crews. The Ukraine war has posed huge challenges and led to enormous anxiety and fear both for Ukrainian seafarers and their families, Russian crews and those of other nationalities caught up in the events. Houthi's missile attacks in the Red Sea have resulted in death or serious injuries for several seafarers. In March three crew members were killed on the cargo ship 'True Confidence' off southern Yemen. A few weeks earlier the Rubymar carrying fertiliser was hit by a double rocket attack and subsequently sank. In April Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps Navy used a helicopter to board and seize the MSC Aries and forced it to sail towards the territorial waters of Iran where the 25 crew members were held as hostages. Iran's reason was that the boat, which was sailing under a Portuguese flag, had links to Israel. Many ships that were using the Suez Canal have been rerouted on the much longer route around Africa which has added to the stress and anxiety of seafarers who have the worry of not knowing when they might reach the next port.

Piracy continues to be an issue and also the abandonment of ships by their owners. Imagine being stranded on a ship in the middle of the tropical ocean, with limited supplies of food, water and fuel, The scorching heat and humidity make it nearly impossible to function without electricity for essentials like air conditioning and a functioning kitchen. Seafarers on these ships also face long stretches without any wages, isolation from loved ones and constant uncertainty about their future.

St Mary's supports the work of the Mission to Seafarers who provide help in over 200 ports around the world through their seafarers centres, chaplains and volunteers. In the case of a ship abandoned in Colombo the Mission stepped in to provide basic provisions such as rice, flour, vegetables, eggs, spices, toiletries and vital SIM cards until the ship was auctioned and the crew allowed to go home. The team in Panama was able to visit and provide the pastoral support needed on a ship where the crew had had to face the deaths on board of two close colleagues within three months.

On Sea Sunday we will have a retiring collection for the work of the Mission to Seafarers who daily through seafarers centres and ship visiting deals with all kinds of issues - mental health, emotional support and everyday friendship. Please support its activities, Further details can be found on [www.missiontoseafarers.org](http://www.missiontoseafarers.org).

Thank you for your help.

**Jean Wilson**  
**Parish Link**

## **HEARING/SPEAKING GOD'S WORD COURSES**

Several people have asked about the courses I did last year in order to be able to give sermons/talks at church.

When Rev'd Amanda was fairly newly with us we were talking and I mentioned that I felt that there was something that I felt God wanted me to do but I wasn't sure what it was. Not long after that Amanda told me about the Hearing God's Word and Speaking God's Word courses. It piqued my interest and so I took quite a time to think about it. I was definitely ready to do some study and so I decided to give it a try.

I was lucky enough to get on to a course starting in June last year at Christchurch in Orpington. The course was run on 2 Saturdays, one in June and another in July. There were six of us on the course and initially I found it a little disconcerting as all the others seemed to know what they were doing and had obviously spoken in church before and led groups. I felt like the baby of the class. I found the research side of things very interesting and reading my first theology book was quite an eye opener. The content of the course was about reading and interpreting the Bible. The last thing that we did was to write the outline of a sermon and present it at the course.

I could have stopped at that point but decided to carry on to the second course which was 'Speaking God's Word'. As the title suggests, it was about how to know what to say, how to prepare to speak and then preparing a sermon/talk and how to present it. This course was run over three Saturdays in the autumn. At the end of the course there was an assessment where I had to prepare and present a sermon with Amanda in attendance. This I did on the morning of Christmas Eve last year. My sermon and feedback from Amanda and myself was sent in to the Diocese. As my work was assessed positively I now have permission to give talks/sermons up to six times a year with Amanda in attendance.

I enjoyed doing the courses and I would say that I understand my faith much better now with reading and interpreting what I read in the Bible. I hope that I can help others through what I talk about in my sermons.

**Eileen Cohen**

### **Technical Team to Support Worship**

If this is your gifting, please consider being part of the visual support for our worship. St Mary's needs YOU! Contact Rev'd Amanda if you can offer this ministry.



I can't believe that we are halfway through the year already! It has been a very sad month for MU in Hayes. We have said 'goodbye' to two of our most faithful members, Peter Marcham, who was called home after a short illness, and more recently our faithful, past Branch Leader, Gill Rowe, after a long illness. We have been very grateful for the dedicated service that Gill Rowe gave to MU. She was always very willing to run a very thoughtful meditation at Easter, and an Advent meditation. She will be remembered for her faithfulness and help, not only in the local MU, but at the Deanery level. Thank you, Gill. I know that there will be more about Gill in the August magazine. I have written a tribute to Peter Marcham and have included many things that fellow MU members have said. At the moment, I am in hospital again, and so am relying on Clare to help put the article, along with contributions from others, together with photos, all from my mobile phone!

I was very grateful to Allan Evison, who at very short notice, took Mondays meeting for me and introduced our speaker from MAF. I was sad to have missed the talk because it was about a cause that I support, and know individuals who have worked for MAF in Kenya. Allan writes:

#### **Mission Aircraft Fellowship – MAF**

We were first asked to consider the meaning of the word "isolated". How would we or our family reach a doctor if you were sick or injured? How would we receive an education? Or access job opportunities? Even get basic supplies like food and medicines. Jungles, mountains, swamps, insecurity, and dilapidated infrastructure such as roads: these are all barriers to receiving physical and spiritual care and a hope for a better future. In fact, the MAF mission statement is "We believe that every community, however remote, should have the essentials for life". MAF is a Christian organisation that uses planes to overcome these barriers. Their pilots and crews deliver relief workers, doctors, schoolbooks, bibles, food, medicines – everything that can only be safely and quickly transported by air. On average, a MAF plane is estimated to be taking off and landing somewhere every six minutes.

For over 75 years MAF has become the world's largest humanitarian air operator, flying light aircraft, which require the minimum

landing conditions, often just levelled earth, and cut back grass, in the middle of remote parts of the world.

This was all illustrated by our speaker Bernie – himself a former pilot and worker for MAF in the field – with an excellent presentation of photos and video which other groups would benefit from seeing.

MU Hayes Branch is making a freewill donation for the talk which is otherwise free.

## Peter Marcham

We all have such happy memories of 'our Peter'. Hilary and Pam reflect many of the views of the members of Hayes MU. Pam writes, 'We have lost one of the kindest men I have ever met. He looked after his sister, and his mother, and later befriended and visited daily a lady who lived in Heydon Court. Hilary says, "We all have such happy memories of 'our Peter'."

Here are some views of MU members:

*I have never called anyone a diamond, but our Peter was one. Unlike his namesake, the apostle, he was quiet and unassuming, not at all hasty or impetuous, but willing and dependable he was part of the bedrock of St Mary's.*

*His motto seemed to be "no job too small" and I cherish the memory of his regularly and cheerfully putting out tables and chairs, for countless MU meetings, and then looking round to see what else needed doing.*

For many years Peter was a valued member of the church choir, and he belonged to the MU as well as the Men's Fellowship. He would perform any church duty open to him, and enjoyed especially being on hand whenever a baptism followed the regular Sunday morning worship. And his duties extended beyond the church walls: he was well known in the community, partly because he ran the weekly over 60s club in the village hall.



But Peter was not just a pair of willing hands. His was a life of service, and he did what he did because he cared. Before coming to Hayes he looked after his sister, and later cared for his Father, then his Mother. Bereft after her death he accepted an invitation to come to a service at St Mary's, and never left. He said he'd found a new family, when he also found his faith. He had an infinite capacity for friendship, and he loved everyone, so we loved him; not for what he did but for who he was.

He was by surrounded by friends and always enjoyed lunching out, whether it be at The New Inn, or the fish and chip restaurant. Peter, you will be sorely missed. Thank you for your loyalty and service.

Dates to be noted for next meetings. **Tuesday 2nd July, 11.00am** The New Inn.

**Monday 15th July, 10.30am** Meetings Room. Wave of Prayer.

**Tuesday 6th August, 11.00 am** The New Inn

**Monday 19th August, 10.30am** Meetings Room " Footsteps'.

Please support our meetings. If any member of the congregation would like to join us, you are more than welcome.

**Avril Ashford**

## **British children rank among world's worst for taking exercising and eating properly**

In a recent World Health Organisation (WHO) study covering 44 countries, children in England, Wales and Scotland performed badly when it came to brisk walking and daily consistent exercise. Too many youngsters are also missing breakfast, and not eating enough vegetables.

The survey looked at the exercise levels of children aged 11, 13 and 15 who are living in Europe, Central Asia and Canada. Children in England and Wales are near the bottom of the global table, below Romania, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Norway and Croatia.

Dr Jo Inchley, from the University of Glasgow, said: "In the UK, we're consistently low on physical activity. And by age 15, just 35 per cent of girls and 51 per cent of boys eat breakfast daily.

There are also big differences due to poverty. It was found that almost twice as many young people from high socio-economic groups are eating vegetables, for example, compared with lower socio-economic groups.

**PP July 2024**

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY JULY 2024

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

<b>Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
<b>Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.30am-12.00noon	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
	2.45pm	Hayes Men's Fellowship In OCS

### TRINITY 6

<b>Sunday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Sunbeams session** (age 3-6)
<b>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

### TRINITY 7

<b>Sunday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze session** (age 6-10)
<b>Monday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Mothers' Union** Wave of Prayer
<b>Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
<b>Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Friday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

### TRINITY 8

<b>Sunday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	8.00am 9.15am	Holy Communion BCP Fresh Start
-------------------------------	------------------	-----------------------------------



	10.30am	Morning Praise
<b>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

### TRINITY 9

<b>Sunday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW (No Blaze session)

\* 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 an event taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets.



### RECENT FUNERALS IN THE PARISH

Thelma 'Anne' Manning  
 Peter Marcham



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)

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

July already and time once again for our HMF Annual General Meeting when we look back on our sixtieth year of existence and forward to what we hope will be another successful period of growth in membership and the election of a new Committee. We shall report on what transpires in the August *Hayes Herald*.

Meanwhile, this is what we have been up to recently, first a day of contrast with tales of heroism and solemnity at Biggin Hill followed by the grandeur and colour of Nymans Gardens.

The Museum covered the whole history of Biggin from its initial use as a quiet area at a good altitude where ground to air and air to air radio communications could be developed. Operational before the end of WWI, the airfield became more prominent in WWII as one of the Sector bases for No. 11 Group RAF Fighter Command during the Battle of Britain, coordinating the operations of a number of other local airfields such as Hawkinge. En route to London for German bombers, it saw plenty of action. A variety of squadrons were based there, rotating as necessary as losses were incurred. The squadrons based at Biggin Hill claimed to have destroyed 1,400 enemy aircraft, at the cost of the lives of 453 Biggin Hill-based aircrew. Between August 1940 and January 1941, the airfield was attacked twelve times, the worst of which wrecked workshops, stores, barracks, quarters and a hangar, killing 39 people on the ground when a bomb managed to enter an air raid shelter.

There was a Chapel on site which survived WWII, but one night in December 1946 it caught fire and was almost totally destroyed. When Winston Churchill heard of this destruction, he was extremely distressed and immediately contacted the Chapel's Padre King to see what could be done to rebuild it. They set about raising funds through a special appeal for public donations and the result was the 1950s replacement, the St George's RAF Chapel of Remembrance, Biggin Hill which was built as a memorial to the aircrew who died flying from the Biggin Hill Sector in WWII.

Inside there is a Book of Remembrance which holds the names of all the aircrew killed flying from the Biggin Hill Sector and the pages are turned daily to the current date, or the closest day to it on which there are names written. The altar is flanked by the flags of countries who contributed aircrew to the Battle of Britain.

Between the two main buildings was the exhibition about the many and varied roles of women entitled Women & War – Hidden heroes of WWII. This explained the different roles and personal perspectives of Air Transport Auxiliary (ATA) female officers and women who served in

the Women's Auxiliary Airforce (WAAF), along with stories of inspiring individual women told by their present-day relatives.

Our stay ended with a welcome cup of coffee in the Nightingale Café – so called because the sound of nightingales was pretty much all that could be heard when the site was selected for radio development work. Then back on the coach for another short trip to the National Trust property at Nymans Gardens near Handcross in West Sussex.

The House at Nymans was built in about 1839 in a plain Regency style and bought, with its 600-acre estate, in 1890 by Ludwig Messel, a German émigré who had set up a successful stockbroking business in London. He set about remodelling the house in a more Germanic style, adding features such as a conservatory, billiard room and tower. On Ludwig's death in 1915, the house passed to his eldest son Leonard, who again remodelled the house, this time into a mock medieval mansion. One of Leonard's grandsons was the Earl of Snowdon, who married Princess Margaret in 1960. The house was ravaged by a fire in 1947 thought to have been caused by a member of staff using a blow torch to unfreeze a central heating pipe. The impact of the fire is still visible today with only part of the property made habitable after the disaster.

Ludwig Messel was passionate about plants and happy to spend vast amounts of money on his garden, working with head gardener James Comber to breed new cultivars. Over the years Ludwig and his family developed the extensive gardens, adding an arboretum, planting Japanese wisterias, creating a rose garden and collecting plants from the Andes, Tasmania and elsewhere. When we visited, there was some magnificent spring blossom on display from trees and shrubs.

Next a walk led by Brian Wood from Kings Cross to Charing Cross in London. The weather for the walk was excellent, and there were many photo opportunities, including the Roman Wall, 10th century Great Bartholomew's Church, 11th century Charterhouse plus the Guildhall and two sightings of a smelly river Fleet 30 feet underground. From comments made, everyone enjoyed the walk and the walk leader hoped it would encourage some to return to experience again the wonderful city that is on our doorstep.

The final activity to report on was our latest talk, "US Presidents – Bits & Pieces" by Joe Mendell – who describes himself as a transplanted American, resident in the UK since 1978, who tries to bring a little of Americana to these shores. Incredibly, Joe gave us a whistle stop tour with facts about every single American President – all 45 of them. It would be impossible here to recount all of those facts but some are included here:-

- The first President, George Washington, was offered a salary of \$25,000 a year for this role – a fabulous sum in 1789. But he did not apparently draw the salary offered. He suffered from dental problems, making use of no less than four pairs of wooden dentures. One pair had gold springs to open the teeth when the mouth opened!
- Abraham Lincoln was a very imposing President at 6'4", with his trademark stovepipe hat accentuating his height. He was apparently very good at arranging a compromise solution – a good trait for a politician – and notably playing a major role in the abolition of slavery.
- Sadly, Abraham Lincoln in 1865 became one of four US Presidents to be assassinated while in office. The others were James Garfield, William McKinley and, most recently, John F Kennedy in 1963.
- Andrew Jackson introduced higher taxes for the Southern States contributing to the tensions leading to the American Civil War. But he was also notorious for having over 100 duels – and surviving all of them.
- The longest Serving President was Franklin D Roosevelt who served for 12 years until 1945 and he was the only one to serve more than two terms. The shortest serving was the ninth, William Harrison, who died just 31 days after his inauguration.
- This year Fox News Channel in the US carried out a survey to find out who was considered to be the greatest President of all time. It was perhaps no surprise that Abraham Lincoln was considered the greatest with his role in the Civil War and abolition of slavery. But equally no surprise that the worst was Donald Trump.

Joe had three goals for his presentation; to be humorous, entertaining and educational. He certainly nailed that brief!

All the above reflect our flexible organisational abilities. This was Ray Lyddall's last outing after many he has organised over the past several years of really sterling service. His knowledge and experience will remain available to those who replace him and so will Tony Archer who is reducing to organising just one rather than two outings per session. Tony has also been supported by Brian Wood who has recently led some of the monthly walks. Many thanks Ray and Tony, and also to John Hobbs who hangs up his tea towel after goodness knows how many cups of tea he has poured for us, and washed up after our monthly meetings! We welcome Barry Mason to this role with many thanks.

And we welcome you too as new member if you are a retired or semi-retired man of any faith or none. Contact details are below.

**Allan Evison**, HMF Chairman    **Graham Marsden**, HMF Secretary  
 e-mail: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org)  
 phone: 07764 153383

## **ST MARY THE VIRGIN, HAYES – ANOTHER ST MARY'S**

St Mary's the Virgin, Hayes, is a very historic church. People have been worshipping there for over 800 years. Today few medieval features remain, but some 13th century structures still exist in the tower and the west wall, and the nave roof is late 15th century.

Today it is predominantly a Gothic church. It was extensively restored and added to in 1856 and 1862, to a design by the architect Sir George Gilbert Scott. Then a later 1879 addition was designed by his son, John Oldrid Scott. Further modernisation took place when the chancel was redesigned in 1904-5 (probably the work of Sir Thomas G Jackson). The south porch was added in 1963 and a new vestry extension was added in 2005. The extension includes the meeting room and kitchen.

In its present form it is a hall church with an aisled nave of three vessels of similar heights under three parallel roofs. The church has three aisles. Most of the stained glass windows date from Victorian times.

Within the church are several memorials including two Prime Ministers, William Pitt the Elder, Earl of Chatham, and his son William Pitt the Younger, the latter of whom was baptised in St Mary's.

They lived in a country house, Hayes Place, which was opposite the church. It was also the home at a later date to Sir Everard Hambro of the Hambro Banking family. In the churchyard there is an imposing memorial to Sir Everard Hambro, graves of many notables including General Alexander Mackenzie Fraser (1809), Sir Vicary Gibbs and also the grave of 9 year old John Panis, who had been brought to the country as a slave. Panis was the general term for an enslaved Native American. He died in 1763. There are also war graves, both from the First and Second world Wars.

The people: We all know of the William Pitts but the others mentioned above are also interesting. Sir George Gilbert Scott (13th July 1811 – 27th March 1878) was a prolific English Gothic Revival architect and although he started his career designing workhouses (more than forty of them in the wake of the Poor Law Amendment Act 1834) he went on to design and work on so many famous buildings, churches and, cathedrals.

He was very much inspired by Augustus Pugin. He was the architect of the Midland Grand Hotel at St. Pancras Station, the Albert Memorial, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office amongst so many other London buildings. But he worked country and world-wide on hundreds of projects, including St Mary's, Hayes. In 1858 he designed Christchurch Cathedral, Christchurch, New Zealand which was left badly

damaged by the earthquake in 2011. Demolition was blocked and in 2017 it was decided to reinstate it. He is buried in Westminster Abbey.

He had five sons, one of whom was John Oldrid Scott (17th July 1841 – 30th May 1913) who was also an architect and who worked on St Mary's designing the south aisle and transept, the financing of which was by Lord Arthur Sackville, 4th son of the second Marquess of Salisbury and eldest son of Mary Sackville-West. Lord Arthur Sackville became an engineer and was very involved in railways, including campaigning to bring the rail to Hayes.

In 1873 he built his own home in Hayes, Oast House, on the edge of Hayes Common. In 1878 he gave money for the building of the south aisle of the church as well as the south transept to house the organ. On the wall of the south aisle there is an inscription 'The transept for the organ with the vestry adjoining were the gift of a parishioner. And to increase the accommodation for the poor this aisle was built by him upon condition that all the seats therein should be forever free and unappropriated.'

He eventually moved back to Keston and so attended church there. With his engineering background he was renowned for keeping a tool kit in church in case anything went wrong with the organ or anything else.

Sir Thomas Graham Jackson (21st December 1835 – 7th November 1924) was also a distinguished architect and worked extensively in Oxford including designing the university's Examination Schools and the Bridge of Sighs over New College Lane. His alma mater was Brighton College and he has a stone memorial tablet in their chapel, part of which he had built as a First World War memorial in 1922-23. He and his wife travelled extensively, particularly in Dalmatia, and wrote many travel books. He also was a great fan of M.R. James and he wrote a collection of supernatural stories himself, 'Six Ghost Stories'.

General Alexander Mackenzie Fraser (1758 – 13th September 1809). On the female side he is descended from Lord Lovat. Amongst other campaigns he was at the Great Siege of Gibraltar, served during the American war of Independence and during the Peninsular War he was in Portugal and Spain (1808-1809) and was present at the Battle of Corunna, commanding a division. He died in 1809 from complications of an illness, which he had suffered during the Walcheren Campaign. He was a British General of the Napoleonic Wars.

Sir Vicary Gibbs (27th October 1751 – 8th February 1820) was an English judge and politician. He had the sobriquet of 'Vinegar Gibbs' because of his caustic wit. He was known for his disagreeable temper. He was called to the bar in 1783 and took silk in 1794 and had a

successful legal career. The Pitt ministry courted him and he first held office for the Prince of Wales (1795 – 1805). He became a Member of Parliament in several constituencies. He became Solicitor General in 1805 and Attorney general in 1807. Subsequently he became Lord Chief Baron of the Exchequer, a member of the Privy Council and in 1814 Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. The Court of Common Pleas was founded at the time of Magna Carta but was abolished on the 16 th December 1880. Probably the most famous case that he heard was when a libel action was brought by Lady Frances Webster and her husband over an allegation that she had an affair with the Duke of Wellington. He died in his London home in 1820 but was then interred in the Churchyard of St Mary the Virgin in Hayes.

Sir Everard Alexander Hambro (11th April 1842 – 26th February 1925) was a member of the Hambro banking dynasty. His paternal great-grandfather and grandfather were Danish bankers and his father founded Hambros bank in London. Sir Everard joined the bank and was on the board of directors of the Bank of England 1879 to 1925. He helped save Barings bank in 1891. Where was he in 1995 when Barings needed someone?

St Mary the Virgin, Hayes, is certainly a very interesting church and well worth a visit if you haven't been before.

## **Sheila Crimmin**

### **THE 'STUDY'**

I'm in my 'study' where I can be peaceful.  
I listen to the gentle rain,  
The swish of car tyres on wet roads.  
The birds are silent, hiding their songs  
Somewhere in distant trees.

I'm happy to be here, undisturbed,  
No pressing engagements, jobs to be done.  
A delivery driver shouts loudly to a neighbour  
Followed by a motorised strimmer, giving way  
To the gentle rain again.

There's always change but that's all right.  
People must learn to live together.  
A new house is rising in my road;

Extensions for more space abound,  
Kitchens apparently too small.

Our house was built in '39.  
It hasn't changed but suits us well.  
We sometimes feel we're out of step  
Without a kitchen island  
But it's our home...

I use my study most to play  
My trumpet or piano.  
Life-long challenges for me,  
Along with writing and learning Welsh!  
Progress is slow.... unfinished.

God comes to me in quiet moments,  
Sitting in my 'study' but studying little.  
Much of life is occupied with busyness.  
So little time is given to 'slow'.  
And God comes slowly.

He is my biggest challenge in life.  
Faith so complex, yet so simple.  
The Bible can confuse and mystify.  
I find Him in the quiet solitude  
And feel his eternal love.

Our faithful Queen has died this week.  
Maybe she also found you nearest  
When alone, her duties done,  
Walking through the heather  
With her dogs.

David Langford September 2022

**Items for the August issue by 16<sup>th</sup> July please. Copy to the Editor.  
August magazines will be ready for distribution on 3<sup>rd</sup> August.  
Editor: Clare Wickert, 3 Hayes Garden, Hayes.  
Tel: 020 8462 7161 [wickerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wickerts@hotmail.co.uk)  
Business Manager: Gordon Barclay, 29 Hurstdene Avenue, Hayes  
Tel: 020 8462 2568 [gcb Barclay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gcb Barclay@hotmail.co.uk)  
Church Website: [www.stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)**