

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

September is to be an exciting month. We will be having our first Open House event on 21<sup>st</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> September and also a visit from Liz Mullins from the diocese about Parish Giving on the 8<sup>th</sup> September Sunday services. But also on this date, we will be welcoming Tim Aldred who will be starting with us before he is ordained deacon on the 28<sup>th</sup> September at Rochester Cathedral and joins us as curate on 29<sup>th</sup> September.

As a way of introduction, Tim is sharing with us about what being a deacon means:

*It is a sad feeling to be moving on from St Mary's, which has been my church family for many years. But there is a good reason – this autumn I will be ordained as a deacon, and will move to serve in the parish church in Hayes (just down the road).*

*In preparation, I met with Jonathan Gibbs, the Bishop of Rochester, and he asked me what I thought being a deacon meant. It's a good question which made me think, because most people are more familiar with the idea of priests. But every minister in the Church of England is a deacon, even if they acquire additional titles later on. It's a role from the earliest days of the church, with passages in the Bible speaking about deacons like Phoebe and Stephen. But what does it mean to be a deacon?*

*For reasons I will come to, Bishop Jonathan's question made me think of a story about King David, the ancient King of Israel. Here's the story: when King David comes to power, he thinks that he ought to build God a large Temple. But God speaks to David and says "No!" "When did I ever ask you to build me a temple?" says God. Why would God say that? It sounds to me like God wants David to understand that the divine*

*is alive and at work everywhere, and isn't just to be experienced in special religious buildings.*

*Many years after David's life, in the Biblical accounts of Jesus, lots of the time he's not in religious buildings either: he's out and about, healing and teaching in the fields and towns where people were living their lives. Jesus seems to be making a similar point - that God is alive and at work everywhere, even in places that might not be thought of as religious, or even particularly special at all.*

*We too can be on the lookout for God's love and beauty everywhere and anywhere in our amazing world today, whether in the glory of nature, in work or community life, or in the love of those close to us – and not just in religious buildings. And there's no need for a badge or training course to do this, it is something anyone can do.*

*Well, what does all this have to do with being a deacon? For, as you might expect, deacons have lots to do in church, helping with services, church life and so on - and that's something I'm really looking forward to. But deacons are also commissioned to be out and about outside church, where people are living their daily lives, and serving God there too. That's because God's presence, love and beauty doesn't stop at the church walls – it is all around us. If that's where God is at work, then that's a good place to be.*

*PS You can find the story about David and the Temple in 2 Samuel chapter 7.*

So let us all pray for Tim and his family as they prepare for their move and for a fruitful season during his time with us. Amen.

**Rev'd Amanda**

### **HALLS FOR HIRE**

**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)**

## OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND: 21-22 SEPTEMBER



Bookings are now open for the programme of community events St Mary's Church is offering as part of **London's Open House Festival 2024!** All events are completely free but places are limited and tickets **MUST** be booked in advance via <https://bit.ly/hayeschurch>. There are history talks and tours, stained glass window tours, and churchyard tours on offer. We expect that tickets will sell out!

In addition, St Mary's Church will be open to all comers (no need to book) between 10am and 4pm on **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September**, and between 2pm and 4pm on **Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> September**. Self-guided tours of the church building will be made available, and tea and cake will be provided throughout.

**Colin Gale**



At our last MU meeting we had a very informative and interesting talk on the work of 'Footsteps International' by Martin, the founder, and Wendy, a trustee. We were so very interested and captivated in all that they had to say. They told us how the organisation first started, and how it has transformed the lives of disadvantaged street boys in Kenya. Each year thousands of children leave home to seek a better life on the streets. This could be because there just wasn't enough money to feed them; they come from broken homes; their mother is an alcoholic; they were often abused; and they survive by scavenging and stealing, sniffing glue to dull the pains of hunger. At the Sunshine Centre, which Footsteps International founded, it provides for the immediate and long term needs of over 140 street boys, through:

- Safe shelter with regular, nutritious food;
- Restarting their education at an appropriate level;
- Providing counselling and spiritual support;
- Reconnecting them to their family (or extended family) during the school holidays;
- Reconnecting them to the community through activities such as football matches against local teams;
- Helping them find work when they finish their education.

We were told of one street boy success story:-

**My name is Edward Makori.** My mother was very poor and couldn't care for me so I went to live on the streets. I was bullied by older boys and became addicted to drugs. At night I slept in drains or shop verandas – it was very cold. To survive, I started to steal. It was very



risky because if you were caught you could be stoned to death. I was offered a place at the Sunshine Centre where I was very happy to find a new home with plenty of food which I didn't have to work or beg for. It was also a clean food not like the leftovers in the streets. There was also a good place to sleep at the Sunshine Centre - a bed with blankets, not like the cold streets. And I could sleep without fear. I did well at school and went to Masai Mara University where I graduated with a BA degree in Economics.

I thank God for His grace and Sunshine for giving me a chance to prove myself. I also thank everyone who has partnered with Sunshine in supporting me to get where I am today. May God bless them and reward them abundantly.

Pastor Kelvin was formerly a street boy, and Martin said that they attended a service taken by Kelvin, which was one of the best church services they had ever attended!

We hope to have Martin come and speak to us again next year to tell us of the progress, and especially the Kenya Marafun, June 21<sup>st</sup> 2025, which had the motto "More fun .....less run !!!" *Please read the Footsteps International News on the MU notice board in the porch.*

I do hope that you were able to remember **Mary Sumner Day**. It is a day when it is not only time to honour our founder's enduring legacy but also a time to showcase the vibrant spirit of The Mothers' Union. Lets think about how we can celebrate it next year. In 1876 Mary Sumner had the courage to stand up and implore women from all walks of life to get together and support each other. In 1885, she gave a passionate address at the Portsmouth Church Congress. How daunting that must have been for her! The concept of Mothers' Union spread rapidly across neighbouring diocese and then through the UK . Mothers' Union was formed; and even given a royal stamp of approval in 1887 by Queen Victoria. Fast forward nearly 150 years later, and Mothers' Union branches are present in over 84 different countries. Membership includes men and women, married, unmarried and those without a family of their own – all are welcome to join our movement.

At Mothers' Union we work to transform the lives of others. From supporting families and communities across the world by influencing and speaking out on critical social injustices, to volunteering in prisons, knitting for premature babies and fundraising for families to have a break through AFIA (Away From It All) breaks.

This led me to think how can we transform our lives in a similar way? Is there a new way we can use our skills to help others? There is much more that we can do to support the future of Mothers' Union, to

continue Mary Sumner's vision and be a positive voice in our changing society and changing church. (Written by Julia Tum, Huddersfield Area President).

### **The Triennial theme 2025-2027**

I am pleased to share that the triennial theme for 2025-2027, following on from "Transformation Now!", approved by the Worldwide Board in July, is **JOIN US and JOIN IN!**

MU is changing lives.

This triennial theme builds on Transformation Now! which looks at how MU can continue to be relevant and reflect the needs of churches and communities in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The clear message is that MU is evolving, and MU needs to grow if we are going to continue as a movement of members delivering change in communities across the globe. This theme asks us to proactively share about MU and encourage anyone who supports what we do, **to join us and join in**. It also asks existing members to take a look at what they feel able to do in their churches and communities, and to join in.

We will receive further information on how to use this theme. Hopefully, by telling us now, we can integrate this theme into our programme planning for 2025.

#### **Our next meetings are:-**

**2<sup>nd</sup> September**, 11.00 am, Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes.

**Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> September**, 10.30 am in The Meetings Room. Ted Venables talking on '**The Samaritans**'

**8<sup>th</sup> October**, 11.00 am, Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes.

**Monday, 21<sup>st</sup> October**, 10.30am in the Meetings Room. Michael Douglas talking on '**The Chartwell Cancer Trust**'

**Autumn Members Meeting - 12th October** The Autumn Members' Meeting will be at St. Martin's Barnhurst; details will be out soon. St. Martin's is inside the ULEZ zone, so if you do not live in the zone you need to check if your car is compliant; this can be done easily by entering your car reg on the TFL website and it will let you know. Some may have exemption as well. If you are interested in going please let me know.

If you would like to find out more about Mothers' Union, or would like to join us, please contact me on **0208 468 7785**.

**Avril Ashford**

## **PATRONAL FESTIVAL THANKS**

One big thank you to everyone who kindly donated food towards our Patronal Bring and Share Festival, last Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> August 2024.

The social committee would like to say an enormous thank you to everyone that donated to this our first patronal event at St Mary's Hayes. We were slightly overcome by the volume that was donated and, to avoid any wastage, all the surplus food has been shared between our own Warm Space and the Hayes Food Bank. Many thanks to everyone that attended and indeed everyone that helped with the preparation and the clearing up after the event. We hope a good time was had by all!

## **READING IS 'INVISIBLE PRIVILEGE', SAYS NEW CHILDREN'S LAUREATE**

Reading is an "invisible privilege," according to Frank Cottrell-Boyce, the new Children's Laureate. He was responding to studies which found that children who have not been read to when they were young face "massive barriers" as they go through life.



Cottrell-Boyce stresses: "For too long, the life-changing benefits of children's reading have not been taken seriously. And now we risk losing a generation unless we act." This is because there is an "epidemic of childhood unhappiness" post-pandemic.

Cottrell-Boyce says: "Reading is an invisible privilege that those who have don't think about. It's harder to see than other outward signs of poverty, but it's just as real."

He believes that having access to books as a young child offers that child "the keys to the kingdom."

He went on: "Reading isn't a silver bullet... but it is a major way to improve equality and bring fairness. To dramatically improve the quality of family life and open up possibilities, opportunities."

And, referring to the pandemic, Cottrell-Boyce said that "the last time children faced disruption on this scale was during the mass evacuation of World War Two".

*PP Community Sept 2024*

**ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY  
SEPTEMBER 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).**

**TRINITY 14**

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Sunbeams** (age 3-6)
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>d</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am  12.30-3.00pm	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own** Warm Welcome Space**

**TRINITY 15**

<b>Saturday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30pm	Churchyard Tidy Up
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze Session** (age 6-10)
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

**TRINITY 16**

<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Fresh Start Morning Praise
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**



## TRINITY 17

<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze Session** (age 6-10)
<b>Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

## TRINITY 18

<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Sunbeams** (age 3-6)
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\*\* 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 BAPTISM IN THE PARISH

Josh Owen

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

From August to September our normally busy schedule of meetings takes a break to allow all our members to have their own independent holiday plans. That doesn't actually mean nothing is happening. Our walkers continue to place a foot forward each month, as details on our website will reveal ([www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org)). Also, our hard-working committee, including the signatories to this article, have continued to beaver away with the outings sub-committee developing the new programme of outings and our Speaker's Secretary developing the new programme of speakers for our meetings both for our next session starting in October.

Sadly, Ken Colpus, one of our long-time members having joined HMF in 1998, will not be rejoining. He died recently and a few of us were able to attend his memorial service in West Wickham in the past few days, just as we were finalising this report. Ken looked after our finances for 15 years between 2001 and 2016. He stood for election first as Auditor but when the incumbent Treasurer died just weeks before the AGM election he was "persuaded" to become Treasurer instead. He undertook this responsibility until he was able to be replaced and so 13 years later he was finally elected to be Auditor in 2014! He will be among those remembered at our Annual Service on 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2024.

We still have the following recent activities to report to you.

In fact, there was no meeting in August following the conclusion of our formal session with July's AGM, so we move straight on to our outing in July. This was a two centre outing with everyone going initially to the huge Didcot Railway Centre and then about half our number going on to the historic town of Wallingford.

The site of the Didcot Railway Centre is enormous, covering 21 acres, and had been a major maintenance centre set up by the Great Western Railway (GWR) where the lines to Bristol and Oxford diverge. It was eventually closed in 1965 when diesel was replacing steam on the network but it still has active, and high speed lines, operating close to two of the boundaries of this long triangular site.

First stop for most of our group was the steam train that runs the short distance from the Main Station to Oxford Road Station. This was pulled by "King George" an 0-6-0 tank engine built in 1942 for colliery use. The carriages were plush and very nostalgic. Then next was an opportunity to ride on a small GWR Diesel Railcar built in 1940 which ran from Didcot Halt to the Transfer shed. A rather more functional machine! These rides gave you an impression of the scale of the operation there and helped us decide where to go next!

There were many exhibits on the site including large engine sheds and carriage sheds described below, but there were also:-

- Signal boxes and signalling equipment that you could use;
- Coal stage showing how coal was loaded into locomotive tenders below;
- Locomotive turntable;
- Broad gauge exhibit which was 7ft 1/4in so much bigger than the standard gauge of 4ft 8.5in;
- Atmospheric Railway exhibit showing how they were vacuum powered (one of these used to run between London and Croydon via Forest Hill);
- A Museum and Archive devoted to the GWR operations.



The Engine shed had a vast number of engines, some immaculate and in working order but many more in different stages of repair and restoration. We were told by one of the guides there, Roger, that about 65% of the engines had been recovered from scrap yards and primarily from one in Barry so were not in a good condition. Some of the engines had to be cannibalised to provide parts for others. The magnificent "King George II" was a case in point which had benefited from parts off sister engine "King Edward I". Many cannibalised parts were lying around in and near the shed including very large and complete fireboxes and boilers.

The Carriage and Wagon shed also had a huge number of exhibits. One of the carriages was a VIP saloon that had previously had radio equipment fitted and was used by General Eisenhower prior to the D Day landings and later used by GWR as a Royal Train. Others were much more basic “Third Class” carriages. It was clear from the carriages being restored, including the much longer than usual “Dreadnought” that there was enormous attention to detail (stripping wood right back and then repriming) and a desire to maintain the authenticity of the carriages (retaining as much as possible and using the correct materials).

For those going to Wallingford, there was a much wider range of lunch venues available including pubs with gardens – very appealing on such a warm day. Wallingford is a picturesque historic town with a medieval road bridge over the Thames. It also has a local museum, and the remains of a medieval castle - which backed the wrong side and was destroyed in the Civil War. It also has two more recent claims to fame. The first is that Agatha Christie used to live there and this is commemorated with a Statue of the author. The second is that a number of episodes of Midsomer Murders have been filmed there. Causton was largely based there, with Inspector Barnaby seen driving over the old bridge. Also our group were able to visit the Corn Exchange known as the Causton Playhouse in the programmes. In addition, the town offered our group many opportunities for shopping and relaxing.

The only other activity to report upon was our latest walk, which was relatively local in the Green Street Green area. From High Elms car park, the five walkers followed paths across and through woods, passing a pop-up café in the corner of one field and later, a fire engine in the middle of another field with its blue lights flashing while a team of firefighters extinguished a field fire. “The Rose & Crown” at Green Street Green served good quality food. The total distance walked was 5.0 miles.

If you are a retired or semi-retired man of any faith or none, perhaps you will consider joining us in 2024/25 or recommend us to someone in your life who could benefit from the company of our friendly and sociable members. Prospective members are welcome to pop along to a meeting to give us a try before signing up. The undersigned would be delighted to hear from you.

Until we next meet in these pages, please enjoy what’s left of the summer.

**Allan Evison, HMF Chairman                      Graham Marsden, HMF Secretary**  
**Contact details: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org)**  
**or phone 07764 153383:**

## **BIG KNIT**

Making Miracles is now organising its annual Big Knit which takes place every year at The Rochester Cathedral during Baby Loss Awareness in October.

We would like to invite as many people as able to attend the event on **Saturday 26 October** from 10am to 1pm, during which anyone who can knit a square based on the details on the attached poster is very welcome. We also encourage as many people as possible between now and then to make squares which they can make up into blankets themselves or let us have on the day for other knitters to sew into squares for us. The morning is lots of fun with us always trying to make more squares than the previous years

The finished blankets are then sold on our community stalls and in our shops "Handmade with Love" with every penny raised funding our bereavement services for families who lose a baby.

Making Miracles is also really proud of what local volunteers make for us so at this year's event we will also be showcasing lots of items that have been made and kindly donated to us to sell to raise much needed funds. Included in this showcase event will be wooden items made and donated to us by the prisoners in Maidstone Prison, with whom we have a unique partnership. It would be lovely for people to also visit us on the day and learn more about what we do.

For catering purposes, it would be really helpful for people to let Jodie know if you are able to attend and please also contact Jodie with any questions you may have. For ease of reference Jodie may be emailed via [Jodie@makingmiracles.org.uk](mailto:Jodie@makingmiracles.org.uk).

We also go out into communities and give talks about what we do so if you would like someone to come and visit your group please do let Jodie know and she will make the necessary arrangements with you.

We really hope that as many of you as possible are able to support us this year as part of the Big Knit. Please advertise the event widely in your parishes.

With kindest regards

**Sally Howells**

**Chairman**

**Making Miracles** (Registered Charity No 1158233)



Do You Enjoy Knitting or Crocheting?  
Why Not Come Along To Our Annual Big Knit at Rochester Cathedral?  
Everyone is Welcome So Bring a Friend or Two

### You can help us by creating:

**Squares:** Plain coloured squares to be knitted in either white, pink, blue or grey.  
Please bring them together in batches of 36 or 49 or even sewn up completely already as blankets

**Square Size:** 6 inch x 6 inch, size 8 needles, (cast on approx 30 stitches & knit 56 rows)

**Popular Items:** Baby Cardigans (0-5years), Loopie Cardigans & Blankets (All sizes)

**Popular Colours:** Pink, Blue, White, Cream & Grey

Thank you!

All items made or donated will be sold in our beautiful shop 'Handmade with Love' which is located in The Mall, Maidstone.

Please RSVP to [jodie@makingmiracles.org.uk](mailto:jodie@makingmiracles.org.uk)



Date  
Time  
Venue

SATURDAY 26<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2024

10AM - 1PM

ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL  
ROCHESTER, KENT, ME1 1SX

making miracles  
The Birth Trauma & Baby Bereavement Care Charity

Follow us  

[www.makingmiracles.org.uk](http://www.makingmiracles.org.uk)

## THE LIVING YEARS

I woke this morning from my dreams and thought I must invite my mother to stay.

It was such a lovely, vivid dream which slowly faded to reality – my mother died many years ago and my father before her.

My granddaughter at university has taken an interest in tracing my surname as part of a family tree. In my attempt to help her I have found myself absorbed in a complicated genealogy exercise with family lines originating in surnames of 'Dando', 'Tovey', 'Thorne' and 'Langford'!

This has made me look at old photographs and birth, marriage, and death certificates.

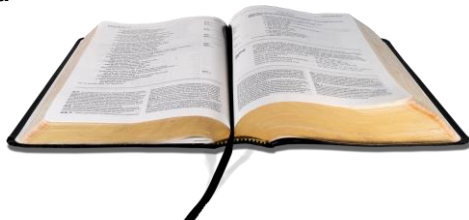
I think all this must have stimulated the dream of my mother which was so real when I first awoke and reminded me that I used to say we should record conversations with our oldest relatives before the knowledge is lost. I didn't do this, of course.

Now I've reflected on my parents' lives and so many questions are unanswered - my father's experiences in the RAF which I think had a profound effect on his post-war life and my mother's kindness and fortitude in the face of relative poverty. There were endless opportunities to share life experiences with them while they were alive and I missed them.

The Bible tells us of God speaking to people in dreams and I believe it still happens. Last night he resurrected my mother in such living detail and I realized that she is still alive with God, being kept safe until the second coming of Christ when she will have a new and glorious spiritual body, and when I die I will see her again. God is so good.

A poem I read at school had the line "Look your last on all things lovely every hour". In other words, count everything good in life as precious while you can. There is a song written in 2010 called "The Living Years" It speaks of the regrets of a son failing to tell his father that he loved him while he was still alive. A good thought with which to finish.

**David Langford**



## TRANSCENDENT SOUND

Peter and I have just come back from the Edinburgh Book Festival where I was talking about my new book *Shy Creatures*, which comes out at the end of August [*that's enough book promotion – Ed*].

While we were there, we were lucky enough to catch one of the other events – Transcendent Sound - a poetry reading by Raymond Antrobus, an award winning poet, with accompanying improvised percussion by Dame Evelyn Glennie. Both artists are deaf and the performance was both subtitled on screen and signed by a BSL interpreter.

Raymond Antrobus was thought to have dyslexia and learning difficulties until his deafness was discovered when he was six. He has since gone on to win the Ted Hughes Award and the Rathbones Folio Prize for his poetry as well as an MBE for services to literature. He writes about language, loss, grief, endurance, memory, fatherhood and much else.

Evelyn Glennie has been profoundly deaf since she started to lose her hearing at the age of 8. As well as being a world-famous percussionist she also plays piano, clarinet and bagpipes. She is a prolific composer, recording artist, performer and teacher. She has explained that her music teacher taught her to hear and feel the music with other parts of her body than her ears.

It was such a privilege to listen to these two performers and educators, collaborating and communicating with each other and the audience so effortlessly – or at least that is how it seemed – and to reflect on our mostly unappreciated gift of hearing and the way that immense talent can sometimes flourish in the face of apparent disadvantage. It was a thoroughly inspiring evening.

**Clare Wickert**

*Photograph on p13 by Graham Marsden*

**Items for the October magazine by 16<sup>th</sup> September please. Copy to the Editor: Clare Wickert, 3 Hayes Garden, Hayes**

**Tel: 020 8462 7161 [wickerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wickerts@hotmail.co.uk)**

**October magazines will be ready for distribution on 29<sup>th</sup> September.**

**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)**