

**The Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin,
Hayes, Kent
in the Diocese of Rochester**

Parish Profile

The Parish

The Parish is part of the London Borough of Bromley, but retains its self-contained village atmosphere and is attached to the green belt.

The Parish, with a population of around 8,500 is predominantly residential with a mixture of young and middle aged families and a significant proportion of elderly people many of whom live alone.

The working population are mostly white collar. There is a lack of facilities for young people.

Hayes has its own railway station, good bus services and road connections.

The Parish includes two state primary schools and a comprehensive secondary school.

The Church

The church is over 800 years old, well cared for and in good condition. Within the last fifteen years a vestry extension has been built. This is in use throughout the week for various church activities.

There is also a large church hall complex (Old Church Schools) in use throughout the week.

The Ministry

The ministry team includes the Rector, an SSM- Curate, LLM in her third year of training and two PTO Readers. They are supported by the PCC and a very active church membership.

Sunday Worship

On Sundays there is an 8 am Holy Communion service, at 9.15am on the second Sunday of each month a service is held for 0 – 5 year olds and parents ('Fresh Start'). At 10:30 on a first and third Sunday an informal, morning praise service and on a second and fourth Sunday Holy Communion service is held. Currently we also have sung Mattins on a fifth Sunday and a 6.30pm service on a first and third Sunday. All the services will be reviewed during the summer of 2017.

Children and young people (those up to 14 years old) join the rest of the congregation in church for the first ten minutes of services and then leave to meet in age-appropriate groups. These groups are lively and stimulating, offering a chance for the young to discover more about their faith through a wide range of activities. They remain in the church for the modern Morning Praise service on the first Sunday of each month.

Average weekly attendances (2016 Annual Report) were 110 adults + 12 children.

Church activities

Each month church members are involved in a range of activities that provide support for spiritual and social needs and fellowship: fortnightly prayer support groups (one in the day time and one in the evening); daily morning prayer meetings Mondays- Thursdays, bible studies, fellowship and support groups, Lunch club and coffee mornings (for charity and for the bereaved and those who live alone). These groups meet both in the Church and in people's homes on a regular basis.

There are strong links with other churches in the area (Roman Catholic, Free Church and Baptist Church) through Churches Together in Hayes (CTH). Various joint services and shared activities are arranged, including an annual open air service, joint Good Friday service and Lent study series.

Schools Ministry:

St Mary's has strong links with all the schools in the parish and regular visits to one of the primary schools.

St Mary's also has a strong musical emphasis. In addition to the robed choir, there are instrumentalists, bell ringers and a handbell ringing group.

Church activities also include various ***children's and youth groups***:

Uniformed organisations

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers, Guides, Brownies and Rainbows are active and attend Morning Praise four or five times a year.

Parents and Toddlers

Weekly (term time only), the group aims to provide a friendly environment for young children to learn to mix with each other while their parents have a chat and a cup of tea or coffee.

St. Mary's Mini Music Makers

Once a month this group provides an hour of songs and rhymes with actions, a story and a prayer to end with, for the under 5s and the parents/carers.

St. Mary's Pre-school

The Pre-school is run in the Old Church Schools during the week over five morning and three afternoon sessions. It caters for children between 2½ and 5. It is very popular (it has a long waiting list) and has had good Ofsted reports.

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Further details can be found on our website www.stmaryshayeskent.co.uk