

The ministry team would appreciate it if anyone knowing of illness or any other trouble in the Parish would notify them as soon as possible so that 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

END OF AN ERA AND NEW BEGINNINGS

It has been incredibly difficult to know what to write as lead article for this month's *Hayes Herald*. So much has already been said over the past few days (I write just a week after the death of our late Majesty Queen Elizabeth) and by the time this month's copy appears at the beginning of October, the funeral will have taken place and increasingly, and rightly, the focus will shift to Charles as he works out his role and we adjust to having King Charles III as our new monarch.

At the moment it is still hard to reconcile to the notion that Elizabeth, our Queen for seventy years, is dead. Most of us I think had at some point over the past few years wondered what it would be like when the inevitable happened and Elizabeth was no longer with us, but the reality brings with it unexpected emotions, thoughts, and memories. Indeed, my own personal, very first memory, is the day when in July 1953, as a toddler, I watched the procession through Newport, shortly after the Coronation in June, when Elizabeth began her coronation tour of Wales. Such was the excitement generated around the visit that it left an indelible impression on this, not-yet-of-school age, baby boomer.

Listening to the media coverage over the past few days it is clear that so many people (not just in the UK but around the world) have similar or related memories of events associated with the Queen (or even of personal encounters) over the decades that followed. She was not just *the* queen but *our* queen. Despite the role of the monarchy now being largely symbolic, whether as Head of State, Head of Nation, or Supreme Governor of the Church of England, what distinguishes the UK from most other countries, as several commentators have mentioned, is our emotional attachment to that symbolism.

And what gave that symbolism a powerful resonance in our generation was of course Queen Elizabeth's personal, selfless and deep commitment to her role and duty. And there is no doubt that that

commitment was underpinned from the start by her Christian faith; it is also clear that, particularly over the past two decades, she became more confident and explicit in the way she talked about her faith, especially in her Christmas talks. In 2000 she talked about the way she drew 'great comfort in difficult times from Christ's words and example'. In 2002 she talked of the way she 'drew strength from the message of hope in the Christian gospel'. In 2011 she referred to God sending into the world a unique person, '...a Saviour with the power to forgive'; in 2013 that there was no one beyond the reach of God's love. In 2014, came a strongly personal confession, that Jesus was 'an inspiration and anchor' in her life. In both 2016 and 2017 she referred to the 'billions' that now follow Christ and His teaching, and just last Christmas (2021) she referred to the teachings of Jesus that formed the bedrock of her faith.

So, as we now say farewell to the 'Elizabethan era' and look to a new figurehead on our coins, our banknotes, our postage stamps, our post boxes, indeed as a reference point for our nation's hopes and aspirations, we need to continue to pray for King Charles, not just as he begins to establish himself in the very difficult role that now rests on his shoulders, but also that he will find strength and comfort and guidance in the Christian faith for which his mother gave such a visible witness.

These are strange times. And new times. At the same time as we have a new monarch, we also have a new Cabinet and Prime Minister. And more locally we have a new Bishop of Rochester, installed in September; and, of course at St Mary's here in Hayes, from November Amanda Spence will be joining us as our new Rector Designate. As we enter this new 'era', it perhaps becomes more important to recognise our responsibility as Christians, to hold up in prayer all those who exercise leadership within our nation and within our Church. And also to remember that whether as king or commoner, our hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ and His righteousness.

David James

CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

I have received The Children's Society Christmas Card brochures. If you would like to order Christmas Cards, please let me know. I am very happy to order them and deliver them to you. Thank you for supporting the Children's Society.

Pauline Muggridge 0208 4622118 or 07880 793914



These past few weeks have been full of emotion as we said goodbye and thank you to our Mothers' Union Patron, Her Majesty the Queen Elizabeth II. I have included below communications from Mary Sumner House, our Worldwide President Sheran Harper and Mary Margaret Yates, our Rochester Diocese President.

Dear Mothers' Union Member,

We join the world in mourning the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. First and foremost a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Her Majesty served our nation and the Commonwealth for 70 years with grace, dignity and unwavering commitment. Our thoughts and prayers are with the royal family at this time of national and personal grief. She was a passionate supporter and patron of Mothers' Union for 70 years. Through these decades, her invaluable encouragement and dedication towards our cause has been an indispensable part of all we have achieved. During this period of mourning, we remember her as an inspiration, and as a symbol of strength across the world. May she rest in peace and rise in glory.

Our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, released a statement in honour of The Queen, which can be found below.

*Yours in Faith,
Mary Sumner House*

Sheran Harper's Statement:



It is with deep sadness that I receive the news of the passing of our beloved Patron, Her Majesty The Queen. On behalf of the Mothers' Union members around the world, I join with the United Kingdom and the

Commonwealth in offering our love and sincere condolences to the entire Royal Family and all those dear to her.

Her Majesty has had a long and extraordinary life in which she saw our world change dramatically. Yet Her Majesty's dedication and service to her country, the Church and Commonwealth remained steadfast and continued to be an inspiration to us all, keeping us together in all situations.

We give thanks to God for her being our Patron, for blessing her with special gifts for a life humbly dedicated to public service, her strong faith as she weathered many storms; her commitment and devotion to family life; and her great concern for communities and all people. Her guidance and support of Mothers' Union over the decades has enabled us to achieve so much in impacting communities and touching lives. During times of ongoing war and turmoil around the world, she reminded us of the healing power of forgiveness, peace and reconciliation. This inspired us and encouraged us to work for harmony and good relationships among all people in our communities.

Her spirit of acceptance to change and transformation through the years and her ability to take others on the journey of change is testimony to her great strength as a leader and her faith in change that is inevitable. This outlook on life strengthened Mothers' Union members to embrace all opportunities of change and transformation that truly reflect the worldwide nature of our movement.

We will always remember her intelligence and humility in making wise decisions, her charm and sense of humour, and her sincere caring

and gentleness. Hers was a life born to serve God and all humanity and her legacy that will live on in so many ways and in the hearts of all Mothers' Union members for generations to come.

On behalf of the Worldwide Board of Trustees, Staff and Members all around the world, we pray for the peaceful resting of Her Majesty's soul with the sure hope of her rising in glory.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Romans 8:38a (NLT)

My dear Sisters and Brothers

At this sad time, the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, I write to you on the occasion of the death of our royal patron. The Mothers' Union was blessed to have the late queen as our patron. Her late majesty was an example of faithful service to our nation, and the Commonwealth and more importantly her devotion to Our Lord and Saviour.

For us she was an exemplar of Christian Life. Her witness and graciousness service following her faith continues to show us the way. We will all find ourselves at a loss at her death, we must take time to mourn and to pray.

We pray for the repose of her soul, that she will rest in the glory of Our Lord. We also pray for the king, His Majesty King Charles III, his Queen and all the Royal Family, we pray that they will find comfort as do we all in the true and certain knowledge of our salvation. May they feel God's comforting love in their grief.

Our country is blessed to have smooth transitions, prime ministers and now monarchs. There are prayers published by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the Bishop of Rochester, I urge you to use them in your private prayers and branch worship time. I have not copied them here; they are widely available on the internet.

*May God bless us and comfort us.
God save the King.*

Blessings

Mary Margaret Yates
Diocesan President, Mothers' Union Rochester Diocese



Twelve members and friends met again this month for a chat over coffee and lunch at The New Inn. We reflected on our fond memories of Our Queen, each with our own stories to tell. I myself can vividly remember my father taking me up to the rehearsal of the coronation and being given a periscope to see over the crowds whilst sitting on my father's shoulder. For the actual coronation, the family all crowded round our 'new', very small television to watch.

Our next meeting and coffee morning will be on **Tuesday October 18th, 11.00am** at The New Inn. Please come and join us. You will be most welcome.

The Autumn Members' Meeting will be held on **Saturday 15 October 2022** at St Margaret's Millennium Centre, Rainham ME8 8AN. The meeting will start with Holy Communion at 10:00am followed by a short AGM to approve the Annual Report

By popular demand, there will be Rainbow stalls and Bromley & Bexley AD have been given red, green and white. If you have anything which is one of these colours for our stall please give it to Peter, Carol or myself to be sold at the Meeting. Everything to cost £1.

If anyone would like to go to the Autumn meeting at St Margaret's Church on Saturday, 15th October, please let me know so that I can arrange lifts. Avril Ashford 020 8468 7785.

Our Christmas meal this year is at The New Inn, on **Thursday, 8th December 12.00 for 12.30**. Please let me know by 10th October if you would like to join us. I will need a £10 deposit with your booking. Thank you.

Avril Ashford

THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, JUSTIN WELBY:

"It is with profound sadness that I join the nation, the Commonwealth and the world in mourning the death of Her Late Majesty The Queen. My prayers are with The King and the Royal Family. May God draw near them and comfort them in the days, weeks and months ahead.

"As we grieve together, we know that, in losing our beloved Queen, we have lost the person whose steadfast loyalty, service and humility has helped us make sense of who we are through decades of extraordinary change in our world, nation and society.

“As deep as our grief runs, even deeper is our gratitude for Her Late Majesty’s extraordinary dedication to the United Kingdom, her Realms and the Commonwealth. Through times of war and hardship, through seasons of upheaval and change, and through moments of joy and celebration, we have been sustained by Her Late Majesty’s faith in what and who we are called to be.

“In the darkest days of the Coronavirus pandemic, The Late Queen spoke powerfully of the light that no darkness can overcome. As she had done before, she reminded us of a deep truth about ourselves – we are a people of hope who care for one another. Even as The Late Queen mourned the loss of her beloved husband, Prince Philip, we saw once again evidence of her courage, resilience and instinct for putting the needs of others first – all signs of a deeply rooted Christian faith.

“As we sustain one another in the face of this challenge, our shared grieving will also be a work of shared reimagining. I pray that we commence this journey with a sense of Her Late Majesty’s faith and confidence in the future.

“As a faithful Christian disciple, and also Supreme Governor of the Church of England, she lived out her faith every day of her life. Her trust in God and profound love for God was foundational in how she led her life – hour by hour, day by day.

“In The Late Queen’s life, we saw what it means to receive the gift of life we have been given by God and – through patient, humble, selfless service – share it as a gift to others.

“Her Late Majesty found great joy and fulfilment in the service of her people and her God, “whose service is perfect freedom” (BCP). For giving her whole life to us, and allowing her life of service to be an instrument of God’s peace among us, we owe her a debt of gratitude beyond measure.

“The Late Queen leaves behind a truly extraordinary legacy: one that is found in almost every corner of our national life, as well as the lives of so many nations around the world, and especially in the Commonwealth.

“It was my great privilege to meet Her Late Majesty on many occasions. Her clarity of thinking, capacity for careful listening, inquiring mind, humour, remarkable memory and extraordinary kindness invariably left me conscious of the blessing that she has been to us all.

“May Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II rest in peace and rise in glory.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY OCTOBER 2022

Morning Prayers take place daily at 9.10am Monday to Wednesday in the Meetings Room and on Zoom* on Thursdays throughout the year (except Bank Holidays).

16TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise: Harvest
Tuesday 4th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 5th	10.30am	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	2.45pm	Hayes Men's Fellowship in OCS
	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Thursday 6th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers

17TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
Tuesday 11th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Thursday 13th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers

18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 16th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start**
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 18th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Thursday 20th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers

19TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 23rd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	5.00-6.00pm	Illuminate**
Tuesday 25th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 26th	10.15-12.00 noon	Charity Coffee Morning**

Thursday 27th 10.00-12.00 noon Church open for prayers

4TH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 30th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	All Age Youth-Led Service
	6.30pm	Commemoration Service CW

*For Zoom link contact the church office ** denotes Meetings Room

A RECENT WEDDING IN THE PARISH

Jullie Edmonds and Simon Care

Younger People More Likely to Pray than Older Generations

Younger adults are more likely to pray than older generations, according to a recent survey for the Church of England which shows that nearly half of UK adults report having ever offered up some form of prayer.

A third of 18-to-34-year-olds - 32% - say they have prayed in the last month. By contrast, a minority in the 55+ age group - 25% - said they had prayed in the last month. Among those who had ever prayed, the most common topics prayed about were for friends and family (69%), people they know who are sick (54%) and to give thanks (51%).

The Revd Dr Stephen Hance, National Lead for Evangelism and Witness for the Church of England, said: "These findings really challenge the all-too-common assumption that young people are not interested in faith or spiritual things.

"In an age when mindfulness and meditation are more popular than ever, prayer makes sense to people. And with pressures mounting and people of every generation facing huge uncertainty, many people of all ages are drawing strength from God in prayer.

"This also confirms what other research has told us, that while younger people may be under-represented in church, this isn't indicative of a lack of interest in faith. That's why the Church of England has made engaging young people one of our top priorities for the decade."

PP – Oct 2022

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

October is always the start of a new season for HMF and this year is particularly noteworthy as we welcome our new President, the new Incumbent of Hayes Parish who traditionally fulfils this role for us. So we look forward to greeting the Rev. Amanda Jane Spence among us.

We hope this will be a further stimulus for members to renew their subscriptions, and to enjoy the full programme of talks, outings and walks already arranged. Visiting speakers will be covering a range of diverse themes and topics, starting this month with "To Peace. Did war end in 1918?" via "VIP Protection" and later "US Presidents – Bits and Pieces" and including also "The Crime Scene Examiner". Tea and biscuits (mince pies at the December meeting) always accompany the post-talk questions, discussions and friendly catch-up conversations.

Our planned schedule of outings is being kept under review against the uncertain prospect at the time of writing of potential operating price increases but we can be certain of at least two steam train rides during the year and our traditional boat trip on the Thames or a coastal stretch of water in August. See our website (address below) for current details. We continue our policy of welcoming partners of members to take part as well. Non-members can join a waiting list to come too whenever space on the coach permits, once members have had their opportunity for priority booking.

The only uncertainty for our walkers, who remain committed to turning out throughout the year, is the continued existence of pubs still able to offer decent lunches at affordable prices on a Wednesday for that essential pause for refreshment and fellowship, often joined by members who no longer feel able to participate in the actual walk! Partners of members are welcome to accompany, by the way.

Any other retired or semi-retired men of any faith or none are most welcome to join us too as members for the modest sum of £20 for the year. Full details can be found in our website at www.hayesmensfellowship.org. Although the majority of our members do have internet access a few do not and, like them, you can give me a call to 020 8249 0070 or to our Secretary Graham Marsden on 020 8654 0872 (contactable also at: secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org).

To further whet enthusiasm, here are reports on the events held since our previous article in these pages.

Our 2021/22 programme of outings ended with a full coach, the usual boat trip, on a sunny day (despite the forecasts) with friends. What more could we ask for? This year, we were trying somewhere different – a trip to historic Maldon in Essex followed by a trip down the Blackwater

River. We gathered in Husseywell Crescent for our 9.00am departure with a bit of trepidation about the weather – the majority of seats on our boat had no cover yet rain and thunderstorms had been forecast for the afternoon! We were delighted to see that the boat trip was a popular as ever with just one seat to spare on the 55-seater coach.

We departed on time and had the easiest journey imaginable, arriving at RHS Hyde Hall, a little South East of Chelmsford, just after 10.00am. Hyde Hall was bequeathed to the RHS in 1993 and has been extensively developed since then. There was an opportunity to visit the gardens, but time was limited so this was essentially just a coffee stop. Many of our group took the opportunity to sit outside in the sun for their refreshments.

Then on to Maldon, arriving there just after 11.30am. This is a historic town of just over 15,000 people situated at the confluence of the Chelmer and Blackwater Rivers. It was a significant port in Saxon times and one of the first two towns in Essex. Prominent in the centre of the town is All Saints Church which has its origins in the 12th century, and is distinguished by its tower with a steeple on top. Nowadays the town is known for Maldon Sea Salt which has been produced there since 1882 by the Maldon Crystal Salt Company.



Our coach dropped us off in the very large Promenade Park which runs along the banks of the Chelmer River and was also close to the jetty from which our boat was due to depart later. The park had a large stage for open air performances as well as a large duck pond – which we were told used to be the largest salt water swimming pool in

Europe. In one corner there was Maldon Museum in the Park, housed in the former park keeper's lodge and specialising in items directly related to the town and the local district. Further up Mill Street towards the town centre, there were plenty of pubs and cafes to provide us with lunch before our afternoon boat trip.

Maldon is home to several of the former Thames barges with their distinctive red sails and side rudder, several of which are moored at Hythe Quay close to our jetty. The barges there included the Pudge which was built in 1922 and in 1940 was one of the fleet of Dunkirk "Little ships" evacuating troops from the beaches there. It now provides more leisurely trips around the area during the summer.

Our boat was the Viking Saga which was built in Essex in 1947 and, apart from 15 years of its life, owned and operated in Essex. She was designed with a flat-bottomed hull to enable her to operate in very shallow waters and was originally licensed to carry around 100 passengers, but currently carries rather fewer. We gathered at the jetty and waited for the boat to appear. And we had to wait a while for the tide to rise high enough for the boat to be able to get to the jetty. Once it was there, we boarded quickly – all seated outside – and were on our way. That was until one of the crew said we had left someone behind – she had seen a woman waving to the boat from the jetty. The boat slowed down but, after a brief panic, organiser Michael McGuire worked out that we were all on board and that the woman waving was a local friend of one of our passengers!



The Blackwater Estuary has three large islands, all connected to the mainland by causeways. The first we came to was Northey Island

which is now a National Nature Reserve operated by the National Trust. Visitors are allowed provided you get a permit from the warden, the island's only resident. But the island did have rather more visitors in 991 when it was overrun by Vikings. The town of Maldon was defended by the Saxon warrior Byrhtnoth and his forces who were able to pick off the Vikings as they attempted to cross to the mainland via the causeway. We were told that Byrhtnoth did not think that this was the proper way to resolve matters so allowed the Vikings across the causeway for a proper fight – the Battle of Maldon – which the Saxons promptly lost! There is a statue on the quayside of the slain Byrhtnoth.

The second island we came to was Osea which had military links in both World Wars. It was the site of a Coastal Motor Torpedo Boat base during WW1 with 2,000 sailors stationed there. In WW2, the island was occupied by the British Army. More recently, it was a rehabilitation centre specialising in the treatment of addiction problems and mental health called the "Causeway Retreat". In 2008, Amy Winehouse attended the rehab clinic on the island and we were told that costs ran at around £10,000 a week.

We did not get as far as the third island, Mersea; looking in that direction we could see the boat used by the former "Radio Caroline" and the large concrete outline of the decommissioned Bradwell nuclear power station. We also saw plenty of sea birds and lovely countryside but, more importantly, we saw no rain and the biggest risk to the passengers was sunburn! When we returned there was just time for a hot drink or an ice cream from the café in the Park before boarding our coach for the journey home. This was as speedy as the outbound trip with us arriving in Hayes before 6.00pm.

For our August walk in the Foxendown area, we enjoyed perfect weather – ideal temperature with a mix of cloud and sunshine. From Camer Park we soon left the minor road and the walk went through wooded areas, across and alongside fields and some minor lanes. We exchanged pleasantries with a couple of Duke of Edinburgh Awards groups on their practice expeditions and later, 1.7 miles before returning to the car park, were provided with an excellent lunch at 'The Cricketers'. There were four walkers and the total distance walked was 5.7 miles.

By the time you get to read these words the September walk will have taken place and we shall include the usual report here next time, together with a report on our Annual HMF Service held in St. Mary's to launch each new season in October.

Allan Evison, HMF Chairman
(contactable also at: chairman@hayesmensfellowship.org)

SOMETHING TO SMILE ABOUT

So Far So Good

So far today, God, I've done all right. I haven't gossiped, I haven't lost my temper, I haven't been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish or over-indulgent. I'm really glad about that. But in a few minutes, God, I'm going to get out of bed, and from then on I'm going to need a lot of help. Amen

New Perils

A child was trying to memorise The Lord's Prayer: '...and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from email...'

Heard on the Radio

A teenage girl wanted to have her ears pierced but her father refused to give his permission. So she went ahead and had it done anyway. Her angry father commented, 'If God had wanted you to have holes in your ears, he'd have given them to you.' She replied, 'If God had intended you to smoke, he would have put a chimney on your head.'

Contributed by Sue Machell

RAIN

I grew up in Cardiff which is still listed as the city with the highest annual rainfall. My memories are full of images of wet buses, umbrellas and wet leather shoes, stuffed with newspaper, drying in the hall, the black leather left with white water marks requiring more polish. When in bed, I used to listen to the rain gurgling down the pipes from the gutters and would fall asleep to the comforting sound. I have since learned to live in the South East of England where rain is less common, and during periods of drought, which seem to happen quite often, I begin to feel anxious, remembering the standpipes in the streets in 1976 when I lived for a time in Wiltshire. I believe that water is the most important necessity in life followed by food and health. Today, I woke in bed after weeks of drought and heard the thunder and heavy rain and felt a deep sense of peace that all was well with my world. Unfortunately, all is not well with

the majority of people who live in this world and I realized how small-minded and selfish my feelings were.

Rain has been the subject of many songs but usually associated with hearts broken in love and sadness with lines such as 'It's raining in my heart' by Buddy Holly or 'Here comes that rainy day feeling again' by The Fortunes. In contrast, sunshine is associated with happiness in such songs as 'You are the sunshine of my life' by Stevie Wonder or 'Bring me sunshine', sung by Eric Morecambe and Ernie Wise.

In the Bible, set in the Middle East, rain is regarded as a great blessing from God, making the dry land fruitful. In the UK, sunshine is preferred and holidays are often 'spoiled' by rain and a lack of sun.

So, why am I writing about rain? Perhaps because drought induces in me a feeling of anxiety that rain may not come quickly enough, if at all, and that the glorious world of nature may be reduced to dead plants and trees, resulting in wild fires and insufficient water to drink! That may sound like 'panic stations' but we don't seem very good at storing enough water for our ever increasing population and climate change is causing increased drought and catastrophic flooding.

I often think that I should be more trusting in God's provision but it is hard to do that when one sees the state of many parts of the world. I need to remember that most of these climatic changes are the result of the industrialization of the world by man and caused by man's excesses that have come with it rather than caused by our creator God. We can pray for rain for those countries in dire need and give to charities such as Water Aid but also try to live more careful lives ourselves in order to minimize climate change.

Maybe I'm an exception with my love of rain because I don't associate it with sadness and broken hearts. When suffering in any form comes along in life, whether it's caused by broken hearts, sadness or illness, we need to be able to face it. Whether we have faith or not we can turn to God, who provides both sun and rain, to bring us peace and comfort during our suffering, whatever the weather. The prophet Hosea wrote "Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his going forth is sure as the dawn; he will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth." The next time that you hear rain, think of our Lord, coming to us every day of our lives, looking for us, seeking a conversation with us, wanting to bring us the peace and comfort only he can give. That's what I think when I hear the sound of rain.

David Langford



A Prayer for HM Queen Elizabeth II

Blessed Jesus,
 Lord of Lords and King of Kings,
 we give you thanks
 for our late sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II;
 for the grace and mercy
 she received from you,
 for all that she reflected
 of your gracious sovereignty,
 and for the great love she held
 for you and for her people.
 Enfold her in your everlasting arms,
 grant her rest
 and raise her up at the last
 in the company of the saints in light;
 through Jesus Christ, our Lord.
 Amen

Photo credit: Press Association

During the recent media coverage of the Queen's reign, it was estimated that over her lifetime HM had met the equivalent of a third of the British population. This staggering statistic made me think that here in Hayes there must be many people with stories of such encounters. Please let us have them! It would be great to run a selection next month. Ed

Photo on p 11 by Graham Marsden; Photo on p12 by Michael McGuire

Items for the November magazine by 16th October please. Copy to the Editor – see below.

November magazines will be ready for distribution on 30th October

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