

**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 the LLM 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)**

## **MANY THANKS ST MARY'S**

Well, what can I say? Whilst there is a lot to be excited about, for me and St Mary's, it is with great sadness and a heavy heart that I write my final article for the *Hayes Herald*.

Times of change require a certain amount of reflection and I am taken back to January 2004, when I came into church for the first time, with my new fiancé, Mark. We decided we would like to get married at St Mary's and thought that we ought to attend before making an appointment to see the vicar (at the time it was dear David Graham). That first service was memorable, as it was a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, so back then this meant Mattins. Whilst it is not my favoured style of worship, it was not so difficult for me, having been to a Roman Catholic secondary school. Mark, however, said that he was not sure about coming again, as being 'new' we did not know the monthly rota and assumed that it would be the same each week. Like a good husband-to-be, Mark agreed with my decision to go the next week, although there were certainly some reservations. Thankfully, as the rota still dictates, it was an all-age morning praise service and as we were 'new', many lovely people came to welcome us – June Garner being the first.

Just imagine if I could go back and meet the young woman leaving that first Mattins service and say, over the next 18 years you will not only be married here, but you will be confirmed and have two children baptised. You'll be a Licensed Lay Minister and have the privilege of serving those to whom you will look up and who will teach you so much. Then one day you'll say goodbye because God is calling you to ordination. Hmmmm, I probably would have laughed out loud and said something like... 'Yeah right!' Looking back, it seems like a lifetime ago. So much has happened in the world, at St Mary's and in the life of our

family. There are so many people from St Mary's we have been encouraged by and have looked to for guidance and wisdom over the past two decades. David Graham and Napo were and still are big influences, but beyond them, there are too many to name individually; some are still with us and of course many have gone home and are now with God in glory. 1 Peter 2:4-6, refers to the Church as Living Stones and how it is the people that are 'being built into a spiritual house'. Sure, St Mary's is a beautiful building which is kept so lovingly, but the building didn't teach me, pray with me, encourage me, listen to my hopes and fears, my laughter and tears and my awful singing! Over the years it has been so many of the living stones of St Mary's that have been an influence and inspiration and I give thanks to God for each and every one.

We will no doubt see many of you out and about in Hayes and there will be the occasional service which it will be appropriate to attend; the Instillation of Rev Amanda Spence, being one very important occasion. I will of course be holding Rev Amanda, her husband Stuart and dear St Mary's in my prayers especially over the coming weeks and months.

Many thanks St Mary's past and present, you have been so good to us.

Yours in Christ

**Becky Willoughby**

## **A MESSAGE OF THANKS**

I have received so many cards and letters and messages from my friends at St Mary's that I am simply overwhelmed. Thank you all. You will know that my recovery from the knee operation I had (in early June) has not been smooth or quick, but I am at least feeling stronger and 'making good progress'. That thankfully means that I shall soon be able to welcome some of you to my now not so new home, and can enjoy thanking you personally for your prayers and good wishes which have done so much to sustain me in the past few weeks.

**Hilary Abrahams**

## CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

Bromley Little Theatre's Charity Preview of *The Herd* written by Rory Kinnear in aid of the Children's Society on Thursday 13th October 2022 at 7-45. Tickets are £10.

Tickets are available from **Pauline Muggridge 020 8462 2118** or **07880793914**.

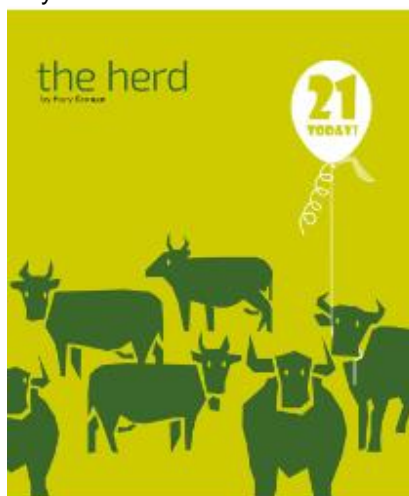
The synopsis of the play *The Herd*.

*"It's Andy Griffith's 21st birthday. Not that he's counting. But his mother, Carol, is. Counting the minutes until he arrives, counting the unexpected guests, counting the times that something like this has happened before".*

As they await the arrival of Andy, brain-damaged and physically incapacitated from birth, from his care home for his 21st birthday party, ***The Herd*** reveals, with clarity and compassion, the profound emotional impact that the constant fight to look after him has taken on his nearest and dearest over the years.

This first play by the multi-talented actor Rory Kinnear is written from his own personal experience of growing up with a severely disabled sister. Like Peter Nichols' 1967 seminal tragicomedy about the disability of his own daughter, ***A Day in the Death of Joe Egg***, Rory Kinnear's witty and heartfelt play explores a family falling apart – and pulling together – when life doesn't turn out quite the way they imagined.

**Pauline Muggridge**





I hope that you have not found the heat too unbearable over the past few weeks. It's so sad to see the brown grass and wilting plants, and I think that we all look forward to some rain!

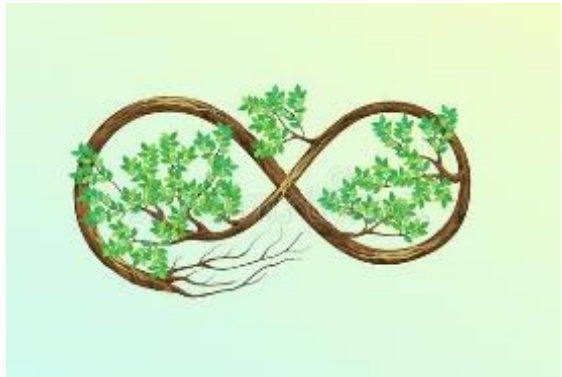
On August 9<sup>th</sup>, Mary Sumner Day, six members made a prayer pilgrimage to Rochester Cathedral where we attended Evensong. We were joined there by Bishop Given and Rev'd Lillian Gaula, from the Diocese of Kondea, Tanzania, along with other Mothers' Union members in Rochester Diocese. It was a beautiful service, all the more enjoyable as we were sitting in the front row of the choir stalls!



Although we celebrate Mary Sumner Day on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, it should really be celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August. However, this date was already the Feast Day of St Augustine, so the 9<sup>th</sup> was chosen for Mary Sumner. If you think about the significance of the number 8, on looking it up you'll find that in biblical terms it represents new beginnings

just like Easter. The first of these new beginnings leads us to Noah, when God saved 8 people to begin a new life after the flood. Then looking at the New Testament, we see that Jesus showed himself alive 8 times after his resurrection from the dead. His first appearance alive was to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9 - 11). He then showed himself to two disciples traveling to Emmaus (Luke 24). Next, he appeared to all the disciples except Thomas (John 20:19 - 24) then a week later to all of them when Thomas was present (John 20:26 - 29). According to the apostle Paul, Christ also was seen by 500 believers at one time (1Corinthians 15:4 - 7). Jesus also met his disciples at the appointed place in Galilee (Matthew 28:16 - 17) and on Galilee's shores (John 21:1 - 24). His final meeting was on the Mount of Olives, where he gave his followers instructions before ascending to heaven (Acts 1). So, the number eight certainly has a great deal of significance for us.

This picture shows the tree of life entwined in the number eight reminding us that this is a God-given blessing. We celebrated Mary Sumner Day again this year by travelling to Rochester Cathedral even if we didn't celebrate until the 9<sup>th</sup>!



We enjoyed a meal and coffee in Rochester before the service. Thank you to John O'Connor who drove us there, along with myself.

There were several exhibitions in Rochester Cathedral. I was most impressed with their 'Eagle Eyes Trail' – an interactive guide for families visiting Rochester Cathedral.



It would be remiss of me not to mention our LLM Becky Willoughby here. We are all thrilled for her that she has been accepted for ordination training at St Peter and St Paul in Bromley. We will be so sad to see her go as she has been instrumental in several initiatives. Many of our branch members joined in the 'pen-pal' initiative with Hayes Primary. We remember clearly the beautiful meditations she led. Becky, our love and best wishes go with you, and your family, as you start your formal training. May God be with you, and your family, every step of the way.

Our next meeting will be 11.00am, on **Tuesday 13th September** at The New Inn. If you would like a lift, please contact me on **0208 468 7785**. We welcome new members.

**Avril Ashford**  
**Branch Leader**

## **PROTECTING FREEDOM OF RELIGION OR BELIEF PROTECTS EVERYONE, SAYS ARCHBISHOP**

Restrictions on freedom of worship often go hand-in-hand with other forms of repression including against women and minorities, the Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has warned government ministers from around the world.

He recently told a global summit on Freedom of Religion or Belief (FoRB) that: "When people are free to worship and express themselves, faiths work with others to bring flourishing: they answer the needs of development and reconciliation, and bring grassroots community transformations that are the golden hope of the soft power of diplomats and development NGOs."

On the other hand, "We know that, when freedoms of expression and worship are restricted, other freedoms and opportunities are limited too," he said. "Women, minorities, many other people miss out."

The archbishop also cautioned against marginalising freedom of religion. "When national leaders pursue freedom of religion and belief, they have an opportunity to bring a wealth of wisdom around the table, harnessed to the common good," he said.

*PP News Sept '22*

## **NEWS FROM ROCHESTER DIOCESE**

We are delighted to share that Bishop Jonathan's service of welcome and inauguration of ministry will take place on the afternoon of **Saturday 24 September** at Rochester Cathedral.

This will be a ticket-only event and Bishops Court is currently in the process of sending out invitations to the members of the Diocese.

To ensure this joyful occasion can be enjoyed by as many people as possible, it will also be livestreamed and recorded via the Diocese's Facebook page.

Look out for more details over the coming weeks.

Please pray for Bishop Jonathan and his wife Toni as they prepare to start their ministry here in the Diocese.

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

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup>**    10.00am-12.00noon    Church open for prayers

### 12<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

<b>Sunday 4<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise
<b>Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
<b>Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
<b>Thursday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers

### 13<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

<b>Saturday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	1.00pm	Wedding: Julie Edmonds and Simon Care
<b>Sunday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
<b>Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
<b>Thursday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers

### 14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

<b>Sunday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
<b>Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
<b>Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers



## 15<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

<b>Sunday 25<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	5.00-6.00pm	Illuminate**
<b>Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
<b>Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup></b>	10.15-12.00 noon	Coffee Morning**
<b>Thursday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers

\*\*denotes Meetings Room

## A RECENT BAPTISM IN THE PARISH

Bobby Blue Small



## DAILY PRAYER PODCAST CELEBRATES 1,000TH EPISODE

A free service bringing the ancient monastic cycle of daily prayer to millions of modern listeners has recently broadcast its 1,000th episode. The Daily Prayer podcast\* brings listeners together twice a day for the short traditional services of Morning and Evening. The podcast, available both via the Daily Prayer app as well as all major podcasting platforms, was launched in March 2021. It has now been streamed more than four million times, with a monthly audience of 60,000 people.

The Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell, said: “Reaching 1,000 episodes of Daily Prayer is an impressive milestone. Being able to participate in Daily Prayer through the app has been of great help and encouragement for many to begin, sustain or develop their life of prayer.”

Many people say they have found a rhythm of prayer by using it. \*<https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/join-us-service-daily-prayer/daily-prayer-app-and-podcast>

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

September is a holiday period for most of our members, or at least a break from our usual monthly programme. For “most”, but not all: our walkers keep going every month only perhaps prevented in December by Christmas celebrations; and our new Committee elected at July's Annual General Meeting (as reported here last month) meets for their first quarterly meeting, to finalise the details of our new season from October. Also, they complete preparation of our Welcome Back Letter to existing members inviting them to renew at the still very reasonable price of £20 (up from £15 in the face of anticipated increases in operating costs). The beginning of the year is an excellent time for any retired or semi-retired men of any faith or none to consider joining HMF. We welcome applications throughout the year, but obviously full value begins from October. Full details will always be available on our website at [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org), or phone me for a friendly chat on 020 8249 0070 or our Secretary, Graham Marsden, on 020 8654 0872 (contactable by e-mail to: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org) ).

The really fantastic news is that we hope to be able to welcome our new President after a year since Napo retired from the Parish. Traditionally the Incumbent of Hayes has taken the role of HMF President. Although, as our official history declares “we must be unique in its interest, organisation and Membership in as much as it is run by men and is a men-only organisation”, we do have the precedent of welcoming some lady Reverends as “Honorary Gentlemen” and so very much look forward to welcoming the Rev. Amanda Jane Spence to our ranks once she has settled into the Parish with her family.

Timing is such that it seems unlikely at the time of writing that she will be able to join me in leading our Annual HMF Service in church on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> October. Happily, my renewal of Permission To Officiate (PTO) will allow me to use one of my permitted ten services each year to conduct this service. We will still have three other “official” occasions during 2023 desiring her presence and she will always be welcome to take part in any of our monthly activities.

And so, with the joyous prospect of the coming HMF Season, let us whet everyone's appetite by reflecting on the remainder of our past events not yet reported here.

On 20 July, at a respectable 9am, we set off as planned for a day visit to Denbies Wine Estate near Dorking in Surrey and enjoyed a relaxing drive in our comfortable coach to arrive by 10am. This gave us a good hour to use the excellent washroom facilities, relax over a coffee

and orientate ourselves before boarding the Dotto landtrain for a 50-minute tour around, and up, some of the estate, which covers 650 acres in all. Much is covered by woodland which supports a variety of wildlife in line with the owners' conservation responsibilities.

In fact, when the White family acquired the estate in 1984 the original intention was not to create a vineyard at all! A family friend who had a professional interest in characteristics ideal for viniculture proposed a development plan based upon his research into the genealogy of the area, of chalk soils stretching from the cliffs of Dover across the Channel to France allied with a comparatively warm and dry microclimate owing to the rolling South Downs. So Denbies Vineyard was planted in 1986 and since then has become one of the largest wine producers in the UK.

Only 265 acres are actually under cultivation with vines. They can be visited on foot using 7 miles of footpaths but we were glad of the Land Rover towing our carriages to the highest points of what is glorious South Downs country – viewing Box Hill in one direction and the town of Dorking spread out below us in the other.



A notable feature of the landtrain is the third carriage which gives access for wheelchair users via a built-in lift panel. The recorded commentary on-board names the fifteen grape varieties currently grown at Denbies. Some – such as Sauvignon Blanc, Pinot Noir, Muller



Thurgau and Chardonnay will probably be more familiar than say Reichensteiner, Rhondo or Bacchus. Although blending is a prominent part of the wine-making process to produce consistency of flavour year by year, Denbies lays great store that their wine is made only from their own single estate grown grapes so the quality is controlled from vine to bottle, undergoing stringent testing by independent laboratories through the English Quality Wine Scheme said to be the equivalent to the French Appellation Contrôlée as stated in Denbies own website.

After a leisurely lunch from one of several catering outlets we proceeded down a series of ramps – again a sign of how well the Estate is organised for wheelchair access – to the cavernous cellars for our wine-tasting session in which we were introduced to four different wines with tasting notes from one of the expert winemakers. Although traditional spittoons were provided between the samples, not much use seemed to be made of them! Thus it was that the return home was extremely restful in the contentment of yet another excellent day out, not least because the return journey was almost as rapid, and we reached Hayes before 6pm. Just a pity that only 30 passengers took part.

Then on 27 July in the Chelsfield area, five walkers enjoyed perfect weather for walking – ideal temperature with a mix of cloud and sunshine. The walk went through wooded areas, across and alongside fields and some minor lanes. They then paused at the edge of a field to watch a combine harvester at work and later, a mile before returning to



the car park, were provided with an excellent lunch at 'The Five Bells', where they were joined by another one of our members. The total distance walked was 4.95 miles.

That still leaves two events taking place in August after this report had been prepared:

Our annual boat trip which this year is a cruise on the Blackwater River in Essex (and has been so popular it had a waiting list for possible cancellations!); and our monthly walk planned for the Foxendown area of Kent. Read about them here in October's edition.



**Allan Evison, HMF Chairman**  
(contactable by e-mail to: [chairman@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:chairman@hayesmensfellowship.org))  
*(photos again all courtesy of Tony Archer)*

## THE SOUTHBURY CHILD

It is common nowadays for every company to solicit feedback for their services, but I felt we had perhaps reached the high-water mark of this phenomenon the other day. Peter and I went up to London to see a play on the day of the rail strike, by car rather than train, and the following morning I received an email inviting me to 'Review your parking space'!

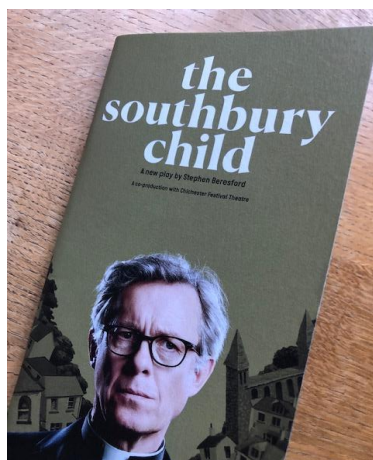
I decided to forgo this exciting opportunity, and write a few words about the play instead.

I do apologise for reviewing a play whose run will have come to an end before this magazine is printed, but just in case it transfers to the West End, or has a revival in the course of time, I recommend *The Southbury Child* by Stephen Beresford. It was first performed at the Chichester Festival Theatre in June and moved to the Bridge Theatre in London on 1st July.

It stars Alex Jennings – a really interesting and versatile actor who played Alan Bennett in *The Lady in the Van* opposite Maggie Smith, and The Duke of Windsor in *The Crown* among many other stage and screen roles – as an Anglican vicar battling with a matter of conscience. A parishioner's young daughter has died of a horrible illness and the family wants the church, and the altar, decorated with balloons for the funeral service. His refusal to accommodate this request – not, he insists, on grounds of taste, but as a deeper matter of principle – causes the family, his local community and the diocese to turn against him, leading to an almighty power struggle. It is written and performed with real heart and humour, and paints a poignant picture of a church with a dwindling congregation struggling to stay both relevant and true to its values. It is full of believable characters and sharp observations which anyone with even a passing acquaintance with the Church of England will recognise and appreciate.

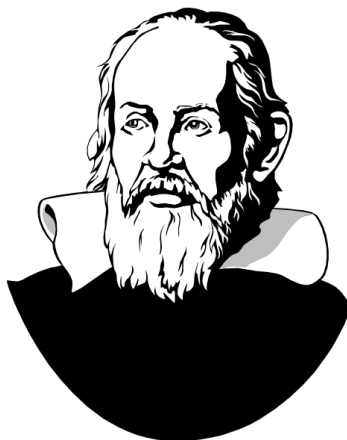
### Clare Wickert

*(The parking space was rectangular and slightly larger than a car. Five stars.)*



## WHEN THE CHURCH FIRST AGREED THAT THE EARTH WENT AROUND THE SUN

It was only 200 years ago, on 11<sup>th</sup> September 1822, that the Roman Catholic Church admitted that the 16th century astronomer Galileo Galilei might have been right about the Earth orbiting the Sun. The College of Cardinals reversed the Church's condemnation of his ideas. Galileo had spent the last nine years of his life under house arrest for publishing his work on the subject.



Galileo (1564 –1642) was a brilliant scientist and a pious Catholic. Albert Einstein called him the father of modern science, and he was one of the first to state that the laws of nature were mathematical. He was not infallible, however: his theories on tides were quite wrong: he described the idea that the moon influenced them as “childish” and “occult”.

His support for heliocentrism, a theory that had existed since the Ancient Greeks, however, was spot on, but the consensus at the time – political, scientific and religious – held that the Earth was the centre of the universe, and that any other view was “foolish, absurd and heretical”. That was the conclusion of the Inquisition in 1615.

Some 17 years later, Galileo published his theories, but unfortunately in a way that alienated the Pope, who until then had given him support as a scientist. He was tried by the Inquisition, who found him “vehemently suspect of heresy”, forced him to recant, and subjected him to house arrest. It could have been worse.

The Cardinals' decision in 1822 was a bit late to help Galileo, but it represented a big shift for the Roman Catholic Church – though it was not until 1835 that his work was removed from the Vatican's list of banned books. And it was only in 1992 that Pope John Paul II conceded officially that the Earth was not stationary in the heavens. Eight years after that he apologised to Galileo for the way he had been treated.

*Tim Lenton PP*

## **SAINT'S DAYS – 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

### **ST JOSEPH OF COPERTINO, THE AWKWARD SAINT**

Joseph of Copertino (1603 – 63) should be the patron saint of all awkward people who mean well, but who drive those around them to distraction – especially their church leaders.

Joseph began life in a garden shed, because his father had sold the house to pay debts. Then he grew up wandering about open-mouthed – his mother despised him and called him 'The Gaper'.

Young Joseph's intense devotion to God led him to try and join the Capuchin monks – but he drove them crazy: forgetting to do what he was told, dropping piles of plates on the kitchen floor, and neglecting to tend the all-important kitchen fire. He was finally accepted by the Franciscans as a servant, and grew so religiously fervent that he was accepted as a novice in 1625, and ordained a priest in 1628.

As a priest he was devout, but apt to do anything – much to the irritation of his superiors. One problem was his repeated levitations, of which there were 70 reported instances. The most spectacular stories are of his flying to images placed high above the altars and helping workmen to erect a Calvary Cross 36 feet high by lifting it into place while he was hanging in mid-air himself. Such feats earned him the name of 'the Flying Friar' by admiring locals, but gave his superiors headaches. They were also disturbed by his habit of going into states of ecstasy, from which nothing could wake him.

Joseph's reputation for flying about and for occasional ecstasy drew the crowds: they were all eager to see what would happen next. What did happen next was that his superiors kept him in virtual isolation for many years, eager to contain this intensely emotional and erratic priest. In 1767 he was canonised, not for his levitations, but for his extreme patience and humility.

**Items for the October magazine by 16<sup>th</sup> September please. Copy to the Editor – see below.**

**October magazines will be ready for distribution on 1<sup>st</sup> October.**

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