

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

MEET THE TEAM

It is my pleasure to tell you something about the newly-formed **Communications Team**.

We are a number of volunteers working together by using our creative and administrative skills to make known, in a co-ordinated manner, the message of God's love for all in every aspect of life. As a team we are striving to alert everyone, young and not so young, of all the activities we have to offer. This goes beyond our range of church services, essential though they are, and embraces social and caring activities.

The essential focus of the team is to carry the existence and work of our church out into the entire community of Hayes. I hope you are aware of the colourful posters and fliers produced by the team and available in church and around Hayes on various notice boards and shop windows. If you have a suitable front window or even a notice board in your house frontage we'd be delighted if you join in with other parishioners who already display our efforts. Our work also encompasses use of social media in all its modern forms.

The current members of the team are named here alphabetically, with thanks for their achievements to date: Eileen Cohen, Kate Davies, Allan Evison, Brenda Harper, Julia Gudinchet, Clare Scriven, Stuart Spence, Mary Whytock, all coordinated by Rev'd Amanda Spence.

For further information, or to suggest joining us, please speak to Brenda in the Church Office, Rev'd Amanda or to me.

Allan Evison, Reader with PTO

REMINDER: ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING ANNUAL MEETING OF PARISHIONERS

The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on **Wednesday 17th April** at 7.30pm in the church.

We will be electing two new Churchwardens and new PCC members: Yvonne Pickford, Rosemary Smith, Roger Rowe, Mary Stannard and Mark Willoughby will be retiring, as they have served their three-year term. We are extremely grateful to them for their service and input into our deliberations.

If you would like to stand for election, please indicate this to Rev'd Amanda, Yvonne and/or any member of the PCC. Please consider standing as a Churchwarden or Assistant Churchwarden and for PCC. There is a great need for members of our church to volunteer for these roles – we are at the moment considering the deployment of duties of these roles - as they have been defined in the past – so do not be daunted in offering your services in any way! These are exciting times for St Mary's and you can play your part and support the organisation and running of YOUR church.

So make a note in your diary and do think about standing for election.

The documents and papers will be available at the end of March.

Mary Whytock
Secretary to the Parochial Church Council



PRAYER

Talking to God - praying - is to make our hearts ready to experience the love of God. Praying regularly helps us to develop a spiritual rhythm.

Learning to pray

There is no 'hidden secret' when it comes to prayer. Anyone can pray, at any time and in any place. It is as simple as talking to a friend. In this case Jesus. It can begin in a moment and takes a lifetime to explore.

Sometimes we need to offer 'arrow prayers', asking for God's immediate help in a particular situation. But thankfully we don't live all our lives in moments of extreme crisis. But what about day-to-day praying?

Use your hand as a model.

Your fingers can be used to bring to mind different things to pray for.

Thumb

This is the strongest digit on your hand. Give thanks for all the strong things in your life, like home and family, relationships that support and sustain you.

Index finger

This is the pointing finger. Pray for all those people and things in your life who guide and help you. Friends, teachers, doctors, nurses, emergency services and so on.

Middle finger

This is the tallest finger. Pray for all the important people who have power in the world, like world leaders and their governments, members of parliament and local councillors, the Royal Family, other world leaders and their governments.

Ring finger

This is the weakest finger on your hand. It can't do much by itself. Remember the poor, the weak, the helpless, the hungry, the sick, the ill and the bereaved.

Little finger

This is the smallest and the last finger on your hand. Pray for yourself.

Other useful resources to explore:

- [The Prayer Pack](https://www.rochester.anglican.org/everyday-faith/deepening-your-relationship-with-god/the-prayer-pack/) - Twelve different ways to pray.
- The Church of England's '[Learn to pray](https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/learning-pray)' page also has more information about how to start praying.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

I hope that you have all had a very happy holiday with lots of Easter blessings. Thank you for all your prayers over the past six months, they have really made a difference to my recovery, and at the moment I feel ready to start getting more active.

Our next meeting at The New Inn will be **11.00 o'clock on 2nd April**, when I hope to be able to join you all. Please let me know if you would like a lift.

On **Monday, 15th April**, in the Meetings Room, we have Glynis Carpenter, the Rochester project manager and commissioned speaker for social policy, especially gender-based violence and modern-day slavery. Glynis will be talking to us about the MU social policy in general, and especially about domestic abuse. I hope to see many of you there.

The **Deanery Lady Day service** will take place at St Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane, BR2 8AT, on **Monday, 8th April at 1 o'clock**. It is later than usual as 25th March, Lady Day, falls in Holy Week. If you would like to attend, please let me know - Avril Ashford **0208 468 7785**.

On 26th February there was a good attendance to hear Debra Lucas, our guest speaker, give us an understanding of how we can help our bodies to stay healthy with one or two tweaks to our diet and exercise. The meeting started with prayer to Our Lord to protect this wonderful planet of ours and especially for the leaders of the countries at war to be understanding, considerate and to care for their people who are suffering. Debra then expanded on the following (Allan Evison kindly copied the list for us) and answered any questions at the end.

1. Eat real food. Try to avoid processed food
2. Enjoy happy tummy foods.
3. Cook with herbs & spices
4. Say 'NO' to sugar
5. Drink plenty of water
6. Enjoy herbal teas
7. Sunshine gives us vitamin D, so enjoy the sunshine when we can
8. Get enough sleep
9. Make time for movement. Housework is a very good exercise as you use different muscles with the various chores
10. Make time for mindfulness & relaxation

The members very much enjoyed Debra's presentation and found it very useful and listened carefully to all her suggestions for a healthier life style.

In line with the MU focus, we are thinking about another aspect of domestic abuse. For this month's magazine we will look at **recognising signs of domestic abuse**. I am quoting from a recent comprehensive list published by the NHS during the COVID crisis.

Does your partner:

- *Embarrass or make fun of you in front of family or friends*
- *Put down your accomplishments*
- *Make you feel like you are unable to make decisions*
- *Use intimidation or threats to gain compliance*
- *Tell you that you are nothing without them*
- *Treat you roughly, grab, push, pinch, punch, shove or hit you*
- *Call you several times a night or turn up to make sure you are where you said you would be*
- *Use drugs or alcohol as an excuse for saying hurtful things or abusing you*
- *Blame you for how they feel or act*
- *Pressure you sexually for things you're not ready for*
- *Make you feel there's no way out of the relationship*
- *Prevent you from doing the things you want like spending time with your friends or family*
- *Try to keep you from leaving, after a fight?*

There are some other relevant questions that maybe you could ask yourself.

Do you:

- *Sometimes feel scared of how your partner might behave*
- *Constantly make excuses to others for your partner's behaviours*
- *Believe that you can help your partner change if only you change something about yourself.*
- *Try not to do anything that would cause conflict or make your partner angry.*
- *Always do what your partner wants instead of what you want*
- *Stay with your partner because you are afraid of what they might do if you broke up?*

If any of the above points strike a chord, please talk to someone. Without help and intervention, the abuse will continue. It takes courage to talk to someone but it is the first step in helping you feel better.

Please remember, no one deserves to be abused. The abuse is NOT YOUR FAULT. You are not alone.

Next month, we will look at the different sorts of abuse...emotional, psychological, financial and economic, physical and sexual. Also, we will identify agencies that can help and support you. Within St Mary's church we have people who will listen to and advise you. You are not alone. Of course, the person being abused may not be you at all but a neighbour or friend. You now have some useful information with which to help.

If you are interested in finding out more about Mothers' Union please contact Avril Ashford **020 8468 7785**

Avril Ashford

BEAVER SCOUT VISIT

The 3rd West Wickham Beaver Scout Group visited St Mary's Church with their Leaders on 14th March as part of their Faith Badge. To gain the badge each Beaver was required to visit a new place of worship and write a prayer or a reflection.

The Beavers were shown around the Church and we discussed how old it was (after one Beaver guessed it to be a million years old they were slightly disappointed to hear it was 'only' 800 years old!) and were also shown our ancient yew tree outside.

The Beavers were lucky enough to be able to see the bells being rung and were given a brief history of the bells and were shown how the pipe organ worked. They were fascinated to see that the organ could be played using feet and loved hearing how loud it could be played.

Some of the Beavers shared their prayers at the end of the session and all of them wanted to thank God for something. The themes included a thank you for their food, for water, for the earth, for their Beaver Group, for being able to come to His home, for their computer games and one brought tears to his Mum's eye by thanking God for his family.

There are various Beaver Groups around Hayes and West Wickham for both boys and girls aged from 6 to 8. Beavers are encouraged to try new things, make new friends and hopefully be the start of a long adventure within the Scouting Family.

Clare Scriven

LORD BYRON 1788-1824

It was 200 years ago, on 19th April 1824, that Lord Byron died. One of the greatest British poets and a significant figure in the Romantic movement, he died of a fever at the age of 36 while fighting for Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire.

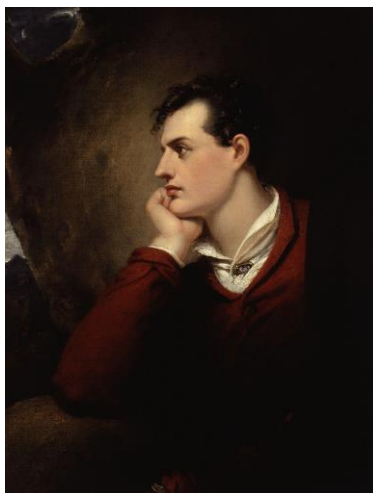
Byron's early childhood was impoverished, and he suffered abuse at the hands of his nurse to which he later attributed his turbulent relationships with women. At the age of ten he inherited his great uncle's title and went on to Harrow and Cambridge, where he embarked on a career marked by eccentricity and excess. When he was forbidden from keeping a dog in his college rooms, he retaliated by installing a bear.

After early rejections, Byron's poem *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* became an instant sensation, prompting him to declare, 'I awoke one morning and found myself famous.'

Partly because of criticism of his scandalous lifestyle – he had multiple affairs including with his own half-sister, Augusta Leigh, by whom he is believed to have fathered a daughter – he left England and eventually lived in Switzerland and then Italy with his fellow poet Shelley. Shelley's wife's half-sister became another of his unhappy conquests. Earlier he had married Annabella Milbanke, by whom he had a daughter Ada Lovelace, who achieved fame in her own right as a mathematical prodigy regarded by some as the first computer programmer.

Lord Byron moved to Greece to support the Greeks – whose attitude to life he admired – in their struggle for independence from Turkey. He is regarded as something of a hero in Greece as a result.

During his exile Byron had entrusted his friend, the poet Thomas Moore, with his memoirs. However, a month after his death, his publisher John Murray, and other friends concerned for his reputation, decided they contained material too shocking for publication and, in an infamous act of literary vandalism, burned the only known copy of the manuscript in the fireplace.



Clare Wickert

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY APRIL 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).

Tuesday 2nd	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 3rd	10.30am-12.00noon	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Welcome Space**
	2.45pm	Hayes Men's Fellowship In OCS

EASTER 2

Sunday 7th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise
		Sunbeams session** (age 3-6)
	12.30pm	Baptism: Winifred Lila Louise
		Jean Start
Wednesday 10th	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 11th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

EASTER 3

Sunday 14th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
		Blaze session** (age 6-10)
Monday 15th	10.30am	Mothers' Union meeting
Tuesday 16th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 17th	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Welcome Space**
	7.30pm	Annual Parochial Church Meeting
Friday 19th	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

EASTER 4

Sunday 21st	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Wednesday 24th	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 25th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

EASTER 5

Sunday 28th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW Blaze session** (age 6-10)

* 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.



DONATIONS TO LONDON'S AIR AMBULANCE FROM BARBARA JARVIS' PARTY

Unfortunately I cannot include any donations made directly to the fund, but I sent **£526**, which is the total collected on the day at the New Inn or sent to me directly.

Thank you to everybody for your generosity, cards and expressions of pleasure for the event. I am delighted that you all enjoyed the meal and company, which shows what lovely friends I have. Thank you once again.

Barbara Jarvis

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As we write these words we are reminded (in late March ahead of printing deadlines) of the song about April showers. Hopefully this and following months will not be as wet as March for we are continuing our plans for getting out and about. Perhaps fortuitously, our outing in April is partly underground! We are headed for the depths of Kelvedon Hatch, the name given to a decommissioned Nuclear Bunker in Essex which was constructed on three levels under a hill with only an apparent country cottage as the disguised entry and a radio mast among trees above. Our members have preference on available space but we welcome paying guests for any vacant seats. Full details on our website (www.hayesmensfellowship.org).

Here now we report on the recent activities, starting with our outing to Blenheim Palace. This was a first in the sense that we were using a coach which had wheelchair access for the first time. The coach was equipped with a custom lift to allow for the carrying on-board of one occupied wheelchair, with this space filled by Jean Evison, wife of our Chairman. Before departure from Husseywell Crescent it took 15 minutes to secure Jean in the coach but this was a first attempt by our driver Mark and timings improved throughout the day.

Our organiser, Tony Archer, had further complications to deal with during the visit. At the entrance kiosk he was told by someone driving the small bus for carrying wheelchairs and disabled people from the car park that he would follow us down the drive to a point where we had to disembark. This did not happen and Jean was left in her wheelchair out in the rain on the driveway. Allan decided to start pushing her and they reached the gate just as the courtesy vehicle caught up, having had to deal unexpectedly with greater numbers than its capacity permitted. The member of staff who met Jean finally at the gate was very helpful and supportive in her apologies. She even took over pushing the wheelchair to the recommended Stables Cafe for hot drinks and food.

So it was after lunch before Allan and Jean actually started to explore Blenheim Palace. Given its age, dating from the early 17th Century when disabled access was an unknown concept, compromises have had to be made including a wheelchair lift in the open air alongside the imposing stairs to the front door. Allan and Jean were observed waiting in the continuing downpour for someone to be called to operate the lift. A smartly-suited staff member, soon arrived with apologies and the key.



The ground-floor route follows a one-way system round all four corners of the long corridors through various rooms, filled with ornate furniture, gilded decorations, painted ceilings and many tapestries on the walls. We learned from a guide that Blenheim Palace, which remains in the Churchill family with private accommodation not open to the public, was built between 1705 and 1725 by the British Parliament as a national gift to John Churchill, 1st Duke of Marlborough, and is named after the Battle of Blenheim in Germany in 1704 where the Duke led the English to victory over the French and Bavarians during the War of the Spanish Succession. The Palace was designed by Sir Jon Vanbrugh, with a great deal of involvement by Nicholas Hawksmoor, and is said to be regarded as the finest example of truly Baroque architecture in Great Britain. In 1987 the Palace and its surrounding property, 2,100 acres in total, were listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. Sir Winston Churchill was born at Blenheim Palace and his birth room is featured on the tour. There is a separate exhibition nearby to mark the 150th anniversary of his birth.

There was also a guided tour, at extra cost, that David Abberly provided this report on:-

We were guided through a number of bedrooms with luxurious four poster beds, most of which required steps to access. The walls were hung with tapestries depicting the battle of Blenheim in 1704. In common with most big houses of the time there was a walkway through each bedroom, on the window side. However, inter connecting doors could be closed to provide privacy with a further

door for access from an internal corridor. The closed off area had a hanging rail so could be used as a wardrobe.

During shooting weekends, if you planned to join the shooting party the next morning you had to go down for breakfast. If not, you could elect to have breakfast in bed. Upon any return visit, albeit many years later, you would be asked if you wanted the same breakfast again.

A visitors' book in a glass case revealed the names of Duff Cooper, Winston Churchill and the Simpsons. The Simpsons were there to discuss their divorce with Edward the Prince of Wales. History indeed."

Our latest walk was in the Farleigh area just south of Croydon. The nine walkers set off from the car park of the Harrow Inn along the Farleigh Road towards Selsdon. They paused at the Farleigh Golf Club to inform the group that this was the place where Catherine Southon holds her auctions as televised in Bargain Hunt. All were underwhelmed! Leaving the road they took a wooded path which eventually led to Selsdon Nature Wood via a gate close to the Forestdale Estate. They followed the perimeter of the nature reserve stopping to view, at a distance, the tops of the Selsdon Park Hotel (more recently the Birch Hotel) famous as the venue for Ted Heath's meeting with his shadow cabinet in 1970. He was known thereafter as Selsdon Man. Everyone not quite so underwhelmed!! Then they retraced their route back to the Harrow Inn for lunch.

Our latest meeting was our President's Afternoon when by tradition our President arranges a mystery speaker for us. This year, Rev'd Amanda was herself the speaker when she told the 42 members present more about her background and role as Rector-Designate.

Rev'd Amanda began by explaining a little of the structure of the Church of England, with dioceses and within them parishes all over the country. Each parish is then centred on a local parish church like St Mary's, typically with a vicarage or rectory for the vicar or rector. Her role was currently Rector-Designate while arrangements for the present large rectory are being finalised.

In terms of her background, Rev'd Amanda went on to say that she did not come from a religious family that regularly attended church etc. Nevertheless later, when she had her first child, she wanted to have him baptized so approached an Anglican church in Bromley only to find that it was in the wrong Parish for where she lived. The correct Parish was that of St Peter & St Paul's Church in Church Road, Bromley. From initial concerns when the Vicar wanted to drop the Baptism papers round

to her in person, she became increasingly drawn into the Church family. She found people there who were genuinely kind and welcoming. Before long she was a Sunday School teacher.

Professionally, she was a Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCO) in the Bromley Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) – a challenging role in a setting with children with different needs. A change of management there and a reduction in staffing made the situation even more difficult, and became ill. At this point, her Vicar went to see her and asked if she had ever thought of being a Vicar herself.

As a result, she went on an “It’s Your Calling, for discerning ministry” course – actually for a second time but this time she had given up running away – and decided to accept the ‘call’. It was from the point of accepting the call, and allowing herself to think about where God was leading her, that she found an inner peace that has never left her. After further theological training she was appointed as a Curate – in essence a trainee – in Bexley before her subsequent appointment to St. Mary’s. Members showed their appreciation of the President’s talk in the usual way.

As always, our website is regularly updated and contains full details of our activities which can be accessed at www.hayesmensfellowship.org, or come along to our meeting on April 3 where you will be made most welcome in our convivial company over a free cup of tea and biscuits.

More here next and every month.

Allan Evison, HMF Chairman *Graham Marsden*, HMF Secretary

Contacts: Graham Marsden
e-mail: secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org
phone: 07764 153383

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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

A FAITHFUL WITNESS IN IRAN

It's not often that we feel shocked by the death of someone we have never spoken to personally, who lived in a country far away, and whose culture and language one does not share. But hearing that Ebrahim Farouzi, a Muslim convert to Christianity, had died in Iran in February aged just 37 was for me just such an event. He had spent most of his adult years under arrest or in prison because he had refused to deny his Christian faith. He was one of a number of Muslim converts in Iran who have been imprisoned. Many around the world had been praying for him over the past ten or so years (including at St Mary's). He struck a chord because of his passion for his faith, his honesty, his courage and commitment to share the good news with all he met.

It seems clear that the Holy Spirit is at work in the lives of the people of Iran. Conversion from Islam to Christianity is illegal, but it is conservatively estimated that there are now over 700,000 Christian converts from Islam, having grown from about 500 in 1979. Accurate figures are impossible because most Christians meet in secret house churches. Although the population is over 87m, the government views house churches as a major threat. On a list of countries where Christians are most persecuted, Iran is ranked by *Open Doors* in the top ten.

Ebrahim was first arrested in 2011 as part of a wave of arrests of Christian converts. He was initially sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment; on his release he was re-arrested and then re-released. This happened several times; a one-year sentence in 2013 was extended to 5 years, followed by 2 years' internal exile.

How did he cope with his time in prison? Like many he suffered much, both physically and emotionally. He went on hunger strike in support of the unjust treatment of fellow converts. Interestingly he distinguished between being happy in world terms and being joyful in the Lord. Interviewed, he said that that joy was always with him "and always will be".

"Since then, I know that many have prayed for my freedom, but personally I have never prayed for my freedom". "I have always prayed 'God – your will be done. It was your will that I go to prison, I am sure of that. So I trust in your plan'."

His comments on the value of prayer are striking, and an encouragement: "The prayers that are said for Christians in Iran, whether or not they are persecuted, these prayers really strengthen us."

And what should we pray for? He always thanked those who said they were praying for him, but "I asked them to pray for me that God's

will be done for me in prison”. “Anyway, for us, being outside prison is like being in a prison, only that the room is bigger.”

We may wonder why the Lord has taken away such a faithful witness at such an early age. It is a mystery. But we can be sure Ebrahim would have accepted and trusted the Lord’s will for him. He prayed, “Give me the strength to live in the right way until the end. This is always my prayer.”

Let’s continue to pray for the courageous witness of these fellow Christians around the world.

If you are interested in getting more information about what is happening to Christians in Iran, a good website to start is *Open Doors* (www.opendoorsuk.org); also, *Article 18* (www.articleeighteen.com) is a site dedicated to advocating religious freedom in Iran.

David James

MYSTERIES OF EASTER

John the Baptist baptized Jesus, at his request, rather reluctantly because he felt that Jesus should be the one baptizing him! John saw a dove descend upon Jesus and heard a voice saying, “This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.”

The next day John saw Jesus and said, “Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.”

This was a miraculous and mysterious statement which must have been inspired by the Holy Spirit. Calling Jesus the Lamb of God likened him to the sacrifice of a lamb on the altar which was a regular event to atone for personal sins. It signalled the arrival of one sacrifice which would atone for the sins of the whole world through Jesus upon the cross. St. Paul sums it up saying, “As in Adam all die, so in Christ shall all be made alive.”

My second mystery relates to the activities of the Devil. He was desperate to corrupt the Son of God by causing him to commit sin. He started from his birth and childhood, continuing unsuccessfully in the temptations in the desert and persisted at every opportunity until Jesus’ last breath upon the cross when Jesus said, “It is finished.” How did Jesus resist the Devil for his whole life without sin including the agony of Gethsemane and the torture of the cross?

The third and greatest mystery of all is this: we read that Jesus bore our sins in his own body on the tree and that by his wounds we are healed and that he who knew no sin **became sin for us** upon the cross.

It wasn't just death by crucifixion. It was an apocalyptic event as he became sin, suffering the consequences of the sins of the whole world, past, present and future. That was when he cried out, "My God, why have you forsaken me?" as he experienced the agony of sin. The temple curtain was torn in two (indicating new access to the living God), rocks were split, tombs opened and many bodies of saints were raised. There was an eclipse. The Roman centurion who supervised his crucifixion and was an expert in this torture said, "Truly this man was the Son of God," having seen how he died.

I have come to believe that we have no idea how the sin of the world was dealt with in that one sacrificial death of Christ upon the cross. I am not the first person to say that. Charles Wesley wrote that great hymn in the 1700's: *And can it be that I should gain an interest in the Saviour's blood? The second verse says – 'Tis **mystery all**, the immortal dies! Who can explore his strange design? In vain the first-born angel tries to sound the depths of love divine. He finishes with *Let angel minds inquire no more. St. Peter says that our salvation is a **mystery** into which angels long to look! But it appears to be hidden from their sight.**

In conclusion, much time and thought has gone into trying to understand our salvation and how all who come to Christ confessing their sins with faith are forgiven and enter into eternal life. I believe that when we do that, the Holy Spirit **mysteriously** enters our hearts and those impossible questions lose their power and we can stand back and say : *'Tis mercy all, immense and free, for O my God, it found out me!*

It is good to rejoice in the mysteries of God's love for us, and take courage as we walk with him each day, knowing he holds us close to his heart and that one day he will raise us from the dead just as he raised our Saviour on that Easter morning.

David Langford

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*Photo on p.11 by Tony Archer*

**Items for the May issue by 16<sup>th</sup> April please. Copy to the Editor.**

**May magazines will be ready for distribution on 28<sup>th</sup> April.**

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