

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

WARM WELCOMES AND FELLOWSHIP

Hello all, as we enter into August, I thought I would let you know how I have been getting on and what I have been up to!

I have met some new baptism families at baptism preparation and families attending our Fresh Start Services on the third Sunday of the month at 9.15am and Messy Church in the village hall, on the second Wednesday of the month at 3.15pm; also the toddlers who come to Twinkles at church on the third Friday of the month at 10am. I've chaired my first Hayes Men's Fellowship AGM, which was very welcoming, was invited to a lovely evening with the St Mary's singing group, and have had visits at church from the children from Hayes Primary and Pickhurst Primary and been to an assembly at Hayes Primary (ask them about the elephant!). It was also wonderful to be invited to the end of the summer term play at St Mary's Pre-school, that was certainly one "Hungry Caterpillar".

We have also started our new prayer group, at 10am every second and fourth Tuesday, in church, when it is also open for private prayer. There is a board at the back of church, if there is anything that you would like us to pray for and you are also all very welcome to join us. I am still meeting lots of you and continue to receive a huge amount of welcome, fellowship and hospitality. I am really grateful and it has made my transition to the Parish of St Mary's really easy. I have learnt even more names and am remembering some of them too!

From meeting and listening to the St Mary's family and the Hayes community, I have been learning more about the area, its history and all the wonderful work individuals have put in to make this the community that it is. This is not from those people themselves but from others who value the contribution that they have made.

Some are now no longer able to fulfil the roles they formally did, as they have moved on or it has become too difficult for them to continue.

Some faithful church members can no longer even get to church, but still feel part of St Mary's and value a visit or a call.

They are still very much part of our church family and there are dedicated people who maintain contact and we are building a team to provide home communion. If this is something you feel you would be able to be part of too (or maybe call, visit, drop off a pew sheet or send a card and pass on some news or about St Mary's), please let us know.

I know how much I have valued your fellowship and I hope that I will continue to get know many more of you in the coming months.

Rev'd Amanda



Charity Coffee Morning

Friday 11th August
in the Meetings Room
10.30am-12 noon

in aid of the **Hayes Foodbank**
Tea, Coffee, Cakes, Raffle, Bring & Buy



If you are free, please come and support the **Hayes Foodbank**, as they need to raise extra funds for August to cover the costs of extra supplies to cater for the needs of their clients who will not be receiving free school dinners during the school holidays.

Thank you for your support.

Mary-Ann Cooper

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

I am writing this from hospital awaiting further surgery on my knee which I have just been told could be this afternoon, so this month's article will have to be written from my hospital bed.

On June 23rd many of us met in The New Inn for coffee and lunch. We do enjoy these social meetings and have the next one planned for **Tuesday, 25th July**. We will stay for lunch afterwards.

It was lovely seeing so many MU members supporting The Mission to Seafarers coffee morning. We were able to give Jean Wilson several carrier bags full of scarves, mittens and hats. Thank you to Gill Kell and Carol Crouch who continue to knit for them.

I was sorry to miss 'The Wave of Prayer' this year as I always enjoy this event. A very big thank you must go to Dorothy Burrows, who with Brenda's help, printed out the 'Wave of Prayer' for everyone. Thank you, Dorothy, as I know it was a tremendous effort for you. Thanks must also be given to Carol who provided the candles at the appropriate time, and to Christine for organising all the readings. We were so pleased that Rev'd Amanda was able to join us.

Please put this date in your diary - The Autumn Members' Meeting on **October 21st**. More details about it next month.



Avril Ashford

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

An amazing £401 was collected at the Coffee Morning and from donations on Sea Sunday for the work of the Mission to Seafarers. It will support their worldwide activities. Thank you very much and also for all the knitting - 25 hats, 12 pairs of mittens & 9 mufflers. These items will be very much appreciated.



The latest 'Port Round Up' describes the work of Revd June, the Mission Chaplain in Antwerp, who had to respond to an urgent call from a vessel in Zeebrugge where a stowaway had suffered a terrible accident and the crew needed support. It reminded me of the account at the Coffee Morning of a young British stowaway who was discovered when the ship docked in Saudi Arabia and who was thrown into prison. It required considerable effort over several months before Mission staff were able to get the boy's release. SIM cards and board games were delivered to crews in Seattle and sweatshirts for seafarers who were unprepared for the Canadian climate. In Namibia the Mission to Seafarers team are trying hard to find alternative ways to help seafarers communicate with their loved ones because new laws regarding Sim cards are making it extremely difficult for seafarers to access this vital communication method. Support continues to be given to the crew of two vessels which are in 'protective custody'. Gail Wearn, the Centre Manager, has reported that 'they are being well looked after physically but mentally they are very down.'

Further information may be found on missionstoseafarers.org.

Jean Wilson
Parish link

Church Commissioners for England to Exclude Oil and Gas Companies Over Failure to Align with Climate Goals

The Church Commissioners for England, which manages the Church of England's £10.3bn endowment fund, has decided to exclude all remaining oil and gas majors from its portfolio, and will exclude all other companies primarily engaged in the exploration, production and refining of oil or gas, unless they are in genuine alignment with a 1.5°C pathway, by the end of 2023.

In 2021, the Church Commissioners excluded 20 oil and gas majors from its investment portfolio. It is now also excluding BP, Ecopetrol, Eni, Equinor, ExxonMobil, Occidental Petroleum, Pemex, Repsol, Sasol, Shell, and Total, after concluding that none are aligned with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement, as assessed by the Transition Pathway Initiative (TPI).

The Most Revd Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury and Chair of the Church Commissioners for England, said: “We have long urged companies to take climate change seriously, and specifically to align with the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and pursue efforts to limit the rise in temperature to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. In practical terms that means phasing out fossil fuels, investing in renewables, and plotting a credible path to a net zero world. Some progress has been made, but not nearly enough. The Church will follow not just the science, but our faith – both of which call us to work for climate justice.”

PP News Aug 2023

CHILDREN’S SOCIETY

We have been given tickets by Bromley Little Theatre for their production of “Things I Know to be True” written by Tilda Cobham-Harvey, on **Thursday 14th September**. Curtain up at 7-45pm.

The tickets are £10.00 each and all of the ticket money will go to the Children’s Society.

If you would like a lift on the night, please let me know. I will have the tickets later in August.

The synopsis is as follows:

Bob and Fran have built a traditional suburban family held together by shared love and memories, but as their children become adults and discover themselves, will love, in its myriad forms, be enough to keep them together or will the truth break them apart? Beautiful, poignant and devastating this portrait of family life is not to be missed!

Hope you can come and raise much needed funds for the Children’s Society. Thank you.

Pauline Muggridge 02084622118 or 07880793914

PARABLE: THE STRENGTH OF A SEED

At this time of year, we enjoy the fruits of our gardens, fields and hedgerows: vegetables ripen, crops are harvested, and berries begin to show bright among the leaves. Much of this growth started with a few seeds in spring: the miracle of life coming from small dead-looking things. There is a league table of long-lived seeds. The winners so far are from the narrow-leaved campion, buried by squirrels in the Siberian permafrost over 30,000 years ago. When those seeds finally germinated, they became healthy plants that flowered and produced seeds of their own.

The Bible contains many links between seeds and spiritual growth, and the parable of the sower is the most famous (in Matthew 13). A person may hear or experience something of God which has the potential to germinate into a life of following Him, resulting in the fruit of others coming to know God too. But things can happen that snatch that seed away, killing it before it has finished germinating, or choking its growth.

What about the knowledge of God that gets trampled, churned too deep in the mire of life to receive the warmth and light it needs to develop into faith? Buried seeds don't always die, but they can lie dormant, remaining alive but inactive until the earth is turned over. The possibility of that moment of connecting with something divine, scrap of knowledge, or snatch of conversation resulting in a changed life may seem infinitesimally small, but it's not zero. The seed may be incredibly tough, just waiting for a chance to grow.

The Gospel narrative plays on the fact that it took a long time for the disciples to understand the full implications of Jesus' teaching: a germination process that took many of them three or more years. They could have been discouraged, but Jesus was not. I don't think it's too much of a stretch to draw out of the parable of the sower to include the observation that it can take a long time, sometimes decades, for people to work their way through the various barriers, sticking points, and phases of forgetfulness that may keep them from following through on their spiritual experience. When we finally receive – or are open to – the encouragement, challenge, or experience that helps our faith in Christ grow, we can experience the rich fruit of a transformed life.

This series is written by Dr Ruth M Bancewicz, who is Church Engagement Director at The Faraday Institute for Science and Religion in Cambridge. Ruth writes on the positive relationship between Science and Christian faith.

THE WIFE OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

Four hundred years ago this month, on 6th August 1623, Anne Hathaway died. She was the wife of William Shakespeare.

Born in 1556, she was eight years older than her husband, who was only 18 when they married. The eldest of eight children of a well-off yeoman farmer living at Shottery, only a mile from Stratford, Anne was pregnant at the time she married William, which caused predictable difficulties, and it is not known where the marriage took place.

The Hathaway home, known as a cottage but in fact a sizeable farmhouse, is now a tourist attraction. Although there are many rumours about the couple's relationship, there is no evidence that it was not a happy union. Much is made of the fact that Shakespeare left Anne his "second-best bed", but in fact the best bed in a home was the guest bed, and so the bed named in the will would have been the marital bed.

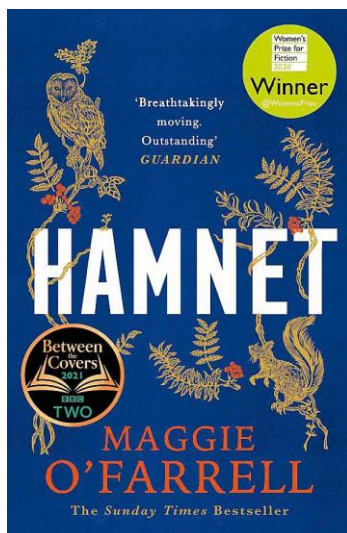
They had three children – Susanna, Judith and Hamnet – of whom the two girls survived childhood and made good marriages: Susanna wed a physician and Judith a vintner.

Although William went to work as an actor in London, he visited Stratford frequently, and when her husband became successful as a playwright, Anne would have enjoyed great prestige. In 1596 the family moved to New Place, one of the biggest houses in Stratford. William retired in 1610 and died in 1616.

Tim Lenton

Anne Hathaway's life, about which so little is known, is vividly imagined in Maggie O'Farrell's 2020 Women's Prize-winning novel *Hamnet*, which revolves around the death of her young son from the plague. Shakespeare himself is never actually named in the book, which foregrounds the experience of his wife, as a mystic, a herbalist and a grieving mother. It has also been adapted as a play, which will run at the Garrick Theatre from September 2023.

Clare Wickert



ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY AUGUST 2023

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).

Wednesday 2nd	10.30am	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**
	2.45pm	Men's Fellowship in OCS

TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

Sunday 6th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Wednesday 9th	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**
Friday 11th	10.30am-12.00noon	Charity Coffee Morning in aid of Hayes Foodbank**

10TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 13th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Family Communion CW
Wednesday 16th	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**
Friday 19th	10.00am-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

11TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 20th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise with Baptism: Elias & Julia Gudinchet
Wednesday 23rd	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**

12TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 27th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	5.00-6.00pm	Illuminate**
Wednesday 30th	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**

*for Zoom link 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 a wedding or funeral taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets.



RECENT BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH

Robyn Rose Greenway & Alfie Beau Greenway

A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH

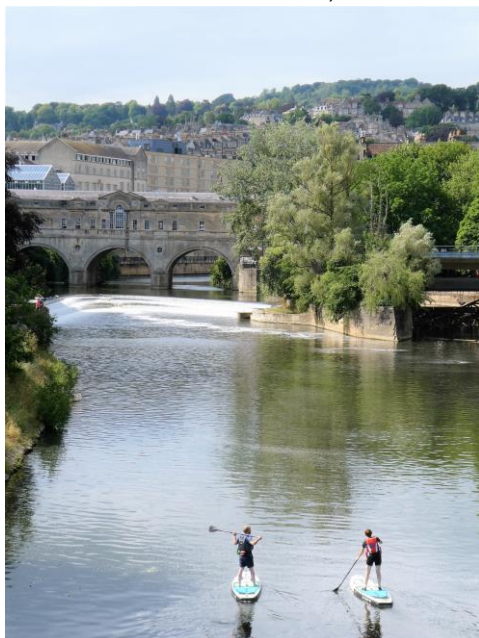
Ann White

~~~~~  
*We must always remember to try to bear fruit for God's Kingdom.*

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We have two remaining events as we move into August, before we take our holiday break until our next season begins on **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> October** with our Annual Service. Firstly, the outing scheduled for **16th August** is our ever-popular Annual Boat Trip which this year returns to the Thames, from Marlow to Henley with time for relaxation and refreshment at both locations. The excellent news, as we write, is that our final outing of the year is a sell-out and builds on the results of support across this past season. Many thanks to our loyal members and the guests who have made this possible. A report will feature here in September. Secondly, our Walkers will be continuing to stride along each month on the last Wednesday, except in December perhaps. Reports on their efforts will continue to feature here in each edition of *Hayes Herald*.

Without further ado, here's how recent events turned out.



Our outing in June was to Bath. This was admittedly ambitious given the distance from Hayes, but as it took place on the longest day, with the potential return in daylight, it was supported by 32 travellers.

Those who took part in one of the free guided walks provided by the Mayor of Bath's Corps of Honorary Guides found them to be very good. These started near the Pump Room in the Abbey Churchyard and took in the City centre and the main attractions including the Royal Crescent and The Circus.

Others took a slightly easier route – the hop-on-hop-off Open Top Bus tour. This covered the same sights as the walking tour but ventured further afield too. The route covered Roman Baths, The Abbey, The Royal Crescent, The Assembly Rooms, The Guildhall, Grande Parade, Pulteney Weir, Parade Gardens, Royal Victoria Park, Jane Austen Centre, Mary Shelley "House of Frankenstein".

Key sights included:

- Bath Abbey – a former Benedictine monastery founded in the 7th century and dissolved in 1539. It is one of the largest examples of Perpendicular Gothic architecture in the West Country and major restoration work was carried out there by Sir George Gilbert Scott in the 1860s;
- Roman Baths – There are four main elements: the Sacred Spring, the Roman Temple, the Roman Bath House, and a museum which holds artefacts from Aquae Sulis. However, all buildings at street level date from the 19th century;
- The Royal Crescent – a 500ft row of 30 terraced houses laid out in a sweeping crescent. Built in the late 18th century, it is among the greatest examples of Georgian architecture in the country with the stone facade remaining much as it was when first built;
- The Guildhall – Another late 18th century building, the present Guildhall is constructed of Bath stone. The central dome and the north and south wings were added in the 19th century. The building now houses the Council Chamber for Bath and North East Somerset Council and is also used as a wedding venue.

These still left time to explore the many other attractions such as the Herschel Museum of Astrology or Victoria Art Gallery according to people's interests.

Our Walkers explored the area of Knole Park in June. Their good fortune continued with ideal weather for walking - dry and cloudy. Starting from a gate on St Julian Road they went anti-clockwise around the periphery of the park through a mix of woods and open grassland, passing many deer. A very good lunch was provided by "The White Hart" on the Tonbridge Rd. The walk back to the cars was along Chestnut Walk in the park. The total distance was 5.1 miles.

We don't have a visiting speaker at our July meeting because this date is always set aside for our Annual General Meeting. An Agenda Pack can be viewed on our website at: [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org); this sets out the texts of the sundry reports to be delivered. In fact each speaker picked out the salient points important to their individual responsibility in the Committee rather than just reading the text slavishly. This seemed to be welcomed by the audience and enabled the formal proceedings to be completed in 31 minutes!

Worthy of mention is the presence of our new President, Rev. Amanda Spence. This was her first formal duty among us since

becoming Rector of Hayes. She briefly introduced herself by describing her “pathway” to her first Incumbency, which is for all in the parish and particularly support for HMF. She was greeted with loud applause and congratulated subsequently on her management of the AGM.

In his remarks the Chairman stressed the evidence of the strength of our teamwork in the past difficult year of rebuilding after the problems of covid and lockdowns. When we reached the final agenda item, this was again emphasised in a special questionnaire distributed among the assembled members, inviting them to consider and answer the following four questions:

- Women are invited to join us on outings, walks and at the annual lunch. Are members still happy with this - should there be any changes?
- What additional steps would you suggest the Committee take to attract new members?
- Has the recent programme of outings been appropriate? Do you have any new suggestions for future outings or are there any outings from the past that were particularly memorable that they would like to repeat?
- Are there different speakers or topics you would like to see added to the programme of meetings? (The programme for the next session is already complete, as good speakers book up quickly, so this would aid decisions on replacement speakers in the short term – though there have three replacements needed in this last session!)

It was explained that, as a Committee, we wished to involve the membership in our future decision-making and wanted their honest views and suggestions on these issues. To facilitate this the OCS was set out differently; no regimented ranks of chairs but small groups set around a table to facilitate discussion while members made the most of our “regulation” tea and biscuits. After the written suggestions had been collected, we found the quantity of responses was astonishing. Careful consideration of them will be the main thrust of our next Committee meeting in September and form the basis of our Welcome Back Letter to Members shortly after.

So we can relax now, just a little, and look forward to reporting to you in September.

**Alan Evison, HMF Chairman**

**Graham Marsden, HMF Secretary**

## **A REFLECTION ON A LIFE EVENT**

Five years ago on 15<sup>th</sup> June 2018 I nearly died during a sudden catastrophic illness. This was the third life-threatening illness I have survived and it was the worst.

While in Plymouth Hospital for almost three months, I spent the first three weeks on a ventilator in Intensive Care. Today I found the diary which was added to every day by various nurses in the ICU. It recorded my daily progress until I was able to be transferred to a high dependency ward for the remaining months.

I confess that it brought tears to my eyes. As well as the progress reports from nurses in the ICU, there were almost daily entries from my wife Jan and my two daughters who travelled across the country to visit me. Our Rector Napo rang Jan daily and I was later told that much prayer was offered to God for my recovery. I was not conscious enough to know this at the time but I am inexpressibly grateful for this outpouring of love.

Death can come suddenly or slowly, and the inevitability of it coming one day for all of us is a fact which we choose not to dwell on day by day. Having been spared again on this occasion, I have become more conscious of the blessing of each day of life. I still get anxious about trivial things sometimes and feel angry when I hear of injustice or violence. I still find growing older hard to accept but my days are now lived at a slower pace. I have found this really helpful. I also try to choose what I do each day more carefully and start with the things that matter to God and people, be they family or friends or people who unexpectedly cross my path. God still gives me time to pursue personal interests. I'm not perfect! My old Achilles heels and persistent sins still challenge me, but God reminds me constantly that he made me in full knowledge of the failures I would have from the outset of life in my mother's womb. BUT he assures me that he loves me with all my brokenness and that one day I will be made perfect through the blood of Christ.

**David Langford**

## **'HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM': THE GOLDEN FISH BY PAUL KLEE**

A few years ago, I was sponsored by the Mothers' Union in my diocese to go 'swimming with sharks' at the Blue Planet Aquarium near Chester. The prospect seemed daunting, but it proved to be a magical, memorable

experience. When I went down into the water, it was like entering a new world – somehow both alien and attractive at the same time. Manta rays swam lazily by, and small fish gathered at my feet, inquisitive and waiting to be massaged by falling stones from my hand. The magic of that water-world is caught vividly in this month's painting, 'The Golden Fish' by Paul Klee.

Paul Klee was a Swiss painter who lived in Germany until he was expelled in 1933. He died seven years later, but in his lifetime produced some 9000 works of art, each one displaying inventiveness and versatility. 'The Golden Fish,' painted in 1925, portrays a unique creature gliding serenely through its underwater kingdom. The gold scales, the red fins and the powerful eye provide a sharp contrast to the deep blue sea where other smaller fish are swimming to the edges of the canvas.

Is the artist showing us that secret, mysterious world that lies beneath the surface of the water, or is it simply an aquarium in his own house? Whichever it is, he is introducing us to a world that we, who live on the solid land beneath our feet, take for granted. Seven-tenths of our world is water, and our planet is really one gigantic aquarium. We can travel to the coasts of our island and see the great sea stretching out before us. It may bring to mind sandcastles and summer holidays, or a boat trip when the choppy waves made us feel queasy, or the memory of pirate stories about galleons and treasure, or the squawk of seagulls over our heads. Here in this painting, Paul Klee is telling us something of the nobility and wonder of this primeval element.

The opening pages of Scripture introduce us to the great waters of Creation, when the wind of God swept over the face of the deep, and separated the seas from the dry land. On the fifth day God said, 'Let the waters bring forth swarms of living creatures,' and God saw that it was good. Rupert Brooke in his poem, 'Heaven,' imagines that world of fishes and sea creatures pondering what is beyond this element of water, just as we on land ponder the future of our world.

'Somewhere, beyond Space and Time,  
Is wetter water, slimier slime!  
And there (they trust) there swimmeth  
One Who swam ere rivers were begun,  
Immense, of fishy form and mind,  
Squamous, omnipotent and kind.  
And under that Almighty Fin  
The littlest fish may enter in...  
And in that Heaven of all their wish,  
There shall be no more land, say fish.'



*Paul Klee, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons*

Poet and painter invite us to ponder the majestic glory of this element of sea and ocean which is part of God's good creation. In 'The Golden Fish' we glimpse something of the wonder of life it contains and find ourselves echoing the psalmist in Psalm 104: 'Here is the immeasurable sea in which move creatures beyond number. Countless are the things thou hast made, O Lord. Thou hast made all by thy wisdom.'

***Michael Burgess - PP Aug 2023***

You can see a colour image of the painting at <https://www.paulklee.net/the-goldfish.jsp>

*Photo on p.10 by Ros Sim*

## **LEAD BISHOP FOR HOUSING BACKS PRINCE OF WALES' HOMELESSNESS PROJECT**

The Church of England's lead bishop for housing Dr Guli Francis-Deqhani, has welcomed the launch of the five-year *Homewards* project by the Prince of Wales to end long term homelessness.

"The leadership of the Prince of Wales will undoubtedly have a tangible impact; his determination to address this crisis will be welcomed by churches up and down the country.

"The *Coming Home* report from the Archbishops' Commission on Housing, Church and Community set out the role that the Church can play in addressing a lack of truly affordable and high quality housing - a major factor behind homelessness.

"Good homes provide a foundation for communities where everyone can flourish. Together we have substantial resources to bring to bear, and so we look forward to adding our support to the Prince of Wales as he leads on this vital issue."



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

**September magazines will be ready for distribution on 28<sup>th</sup> August.**

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