

Rev 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

PSALM 27 - THE LORD IS MY LIGHT v1

We are called to live a life in hope; also to make Christ known, who is the hope for all people. Last month very sadly we had another funeral for a member of our congregation, Pam Cahill. It was a sad time but there was also a sense of hope, trusting the promises of God for our life beyond death. Rev David Graham shared some words, below, about the hope revealed through Pam's life, which I had the privilege to read at the service.

In all the best senses of the phrase, Pam Cahill could be described as 'a pillar of the church'. Her involvement with St Mary's Hayes was spread over several decades. Tall in stature and strong in personality, she seemed to me to exude an air of authority. Throughout my time as Rector of St Mary's, from 2002 until 2012, I remember her active and positive involvement in many areas of church life.

She was a regular member of the Sunday morning congregation and often served as a sidesperson. She was on the Parochial Church Council for many years, and always expressed her opinions wisely and clearly. She was one of the driving forces in the team that organised the annual Christmas Fair which used to raise £2000 or more for charities - local, national and overseas. She led a thriving sewing group which produced beautifully embroidered kneelers, many dedicated in memory of past members of the church. These now hang along the back of the pews, inviting worshippers to kneel to say their prayers - in relative comfort! She was immensely creative, constantly coming up with new ideas and styles for the group to tackle. This resulted in, for example, lovely altar frontals and other fabric designs that grace the church interior. She was a keen and skilful flower arranger, too.

Although she was so busy in practical activities for the church, she gave her time to encourage and support others. Pam was a caring person, who took her faith seriously and authentically. Just the other day, I came across a card sent to me soon after I had retired, and was settling into our new home, which read: "As you strip paper and paint, David, could you pray for a little boy who's been in St Thomas's, with a suspected brain tumour.... In Christ, Pam." She took trouble to encourage and support others, something which I personally greatly appreciated. My most recent memory of her was at a St Mary's 8am communion service, which I had been invited to take. Although by then her hearing was poor, I noticed how strong and resolute her participation in the worship still was. We thank God for a life fully and faithfully lived in the service of her Lord, and his church.

Pam seems to have lived a life in hope and her ministry continues at St Mary's. Yet, through many conversations I am aware that there are many struggles that so many people carry. We can also hold cries of grief and lament; we are allowed to sit with grief and lament, to honour the depth of human struggle, make space for the brokenness as well as beauty and hope, the hope of Psalm 27, 'The Lord is my light and my salvation ... Though a host encamp against me, my heart shall not be afraid, and though there rise up war against me, yet I will put my trust in him' v1, 3. As we say goodbye to Paul Marsden and Beryl Kirk this month and as we come out of the greyness of January, we can 'wait patiently for the Lord,' v17, Christ our hope.

Rev Amanda

[Additional tributes to Pam are on p 5-7]

ELECTORAL ROLL – IMPORTANT REMINDER

If you are a member of our church by having signed an Electoral form in the past, you will have to re-apply. This is the start of the Diocese six-year plan which helps the diocese with church membership.

Electoral forms can be found at the back of church near the book counter. I will be there to give out forms too.

Mary Rowedder, Electoral Officer

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Just before Christmas I received a thank you from Dianne Erskine for the scarves and mittens which we had sent to the Mission to Seafarers in South Shields and for the hard work, patience and kindness for the cause by all our knitters.



The knitwear is distributed to the Mission's UK and European Centres who in turn take them to the crews visiting ports. The seafarers always appreciate these gifts. She also wrote that 'we have now received a pattern for teddy bears. These are proving very popular with the crew, so if you want a change from knitting hats and scarves, I have enclosed the pattern for you'.

Please let me know if you would like this knitting pattern.

Jean Wilson, Parish Link
0208462 2325

THE CHRISTINGLE AND CRIB SERVICES 2024

This year the Christingle was run along the lines of a Fresh Start service and led by the Fresh Start team. It was very well attended and the congregation participated fully, even coming forward for Happy Birthday with the children for those with birthdays in December. The Christingle was made following instructions and later in the service the children sat on the carpet at the front (so many that they overflowed the carpet!) to hear the story of the meaning of the Christingle. There was singing with musical instruments and a happy procession of children with their instruments. It was truly a joyful service much enjoyed by many adults and children, not to mention the Fresh Start team.

As usual the Crib Service involved finding enough children to take part. Initially the numbers were a bit low but a few friends were found and eventually there were nineteen children. The roles were allocated and the costumes sorted and ironed and on Christmas Eve the meeting room was prepared with nineteen chairs each with an appropriate costume. There were belts, head-dresses, tinsel, crowns, as well as a Star. The 'baby' was ready and also the gifts for the Kings. The children duly arrived and miraculously all nineteen turned up in spite of all the colds and viruses at this time of the year. They were dressed and photographed and then taken to the Lady Chapel to wait for the service to begin.

A number of the children were quite young this year and there was some gradual divestment of pieces of costume but most survived, if perhaps not quite so neatly. The church was packed and it was challenging to walk the children around and past those people standing at the back before building up the Nativity tableau in the Chancel.

I had prepared the talk which I was giving with Amanda's help and she was responsible for holding up the visual aids as they were mentioned. These included a present, balloons, baby Jesus, straw for the stable, a donkey, a camel, a teddy, a mallet, a proclamation, biscuits, blanket, sheep, travel bag, but not necessarily in that order. It was a lot to remember and in spite of my list I have to admit that the camel was left at home in my cupboard! Amanda was kept very busy and one or two things fell off the pulpit and had to be returned by someone in the front row. It was all great fun but at the end of the talk we were reminded of the meaning of the gold, frankincense and myrrh and that this familiar story is not a fairy tale but a moment in history.

How wonderful that so many people wanted to come to church at Christmas for the Christingle and the Crib Services.



Hilary Burtonshaw



I trust that you have all had a restful January and are looking forward to a healthy and peaceful year ahead. Each month a 'Mothers' Union' article is written in the *Hayes Herald* and people new to the church /Parish probably are not sure what Mothers' Union is all about, so forgive me if I remind readers or inform readers what is Mother's Union.

What is Mother's Union? We are a Christian organisation that has been supporting families worldwide for nearly 150 years. Started by

our founder **Mary Sumner** in 1876 in her local parish, we have grown into an international charity with over 4 million members in 83 countries.

As a Christian membership charity, we demonstrate our faith in action. This happens as we work towards **ending poverty, ending inequality and ending injustice**. Our members work at grassroots level around the world. They bring hope and practical support to millions of people every year through parenting, literacy and community development programmes. We support Mother's Union work through prayer and raise money to support the different causes.

What does the central charity do?

As a registered charity, we campaign at local, national and international levels to bring about real change for gender equality and for the rights of women and girls. We also support our members within the UK and across the world with a vast collection of practical and spiritual **resources**. In addition, we produce regular publications like Connected and the Prayer Diary to keep members in Britain and Ireland informed and up-to-date with what's happening around the corner and around the world.

Every day, we broadcast Midday Prayers live on our **Facebook page** at 12pm GMT. We believe that the power of prayer is transformational and it is the heartbeat of who we are and what we do.

We also run a **monthly e-Newsletter**, featuring a roundup of current events and stories from across the movement.

Despite our name, we are an inclusive organisation and we are very proud to have a growing number of men who have joined us.

If you would like to join us please phone Avril Ashford **0208 468 7785**.



It was lovely to see so many Mothers' Union members at Pam Cahill's celebration of life service. Judith, Gillian and Michael paid fitting tributes to their mother. Their choice of hymns was very appropriate and I especially liked the service ending with the Girl Guides Good Night - 'Taps'.

"Day is done, Gone the sun,
From the sea, from the hill, from the sky:
All is well, safely rest, God is nigh."



I have just spoken to Hilary Abrahams who says that after a small setback after her back operation she is now on the road to recovery. Thank you to Carol for all the work she has done in collecting in the subs whilst feeling so poorly. I have heard from Faith who enjoys watching the racehorses being led into the stables at Newbury. Dorothy is now in a home at Coloma College. Please remember all these members and past members in your prayers.

There has been a change with our 'Wave of Prayer' partners. As you know we have had communication difficulties with some of our Wave of Prayer partners. Mary Margaret, our Diocesan President, hit upon the idea, and Bishop Jonathan has approved, that we expand our prayer links, we are adopting the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Europe because they got left out and wanted to belong, and we are going to include Diocesan Links of Kondoa, Mpwapwa, Harare and Estonia, beginning with Kondoa and Mpwapwa. You will be hearing more about this venture soon.

Our next social meeting is on **Tuesday, 4th February 11.00am**, at The New Inn. Some of us will want to attend Paul Marsden's funeral. I will be able to give you a lift up to the church. **Monday, 10th February, at 10.30am**, we have our meeting in the Meetings Room. It is entitled "Getting to know you."

If you know anyone who might be willing to give us a talk please let me know.

Avril Ashford

PAM CAHILL

Most of you will remember Pam Cahill, whose sudden death occurred in late November last year, just a few days before her 90th birthday. Pam was always busy, and it seems to me appropriate that she died, in the midst of life, fully occupied as she had always been, and looking forward to a planned celebration in her honour. A friend told me that she had seen Pam in the church porch, on the morning before she died, busy as she so often was making a beautiful floral arrangement, to decorate the church and to the glory of God. Her motivation for this activity and for everything she did (and Avril Ashford in December's *Herald* magazine reminded us of just how much she did) was undoubtedly her faith. Noticing Pam in the church porch that day will be a treasured memory for my, and Pam's, friend. I should like to add one or two of my own.

Pam had been part of the fabric of St Mary's long before I came to Hayes and it occurs to me that 'fabric' is an apt word for me to have chosen, because Pam, in addition to being a practised flower arranger, was also an accomplished needlewoman, interested in tapestries and design. As a newcomer to St Mary's, I first encountered her when she invited me to join her sewing group, when my purpose would be to make a kneeler in memory of my husband, who had died a few weeks earlier. I was accustomed to embroidery, but nevertheless struggled, and my kneeler would not have been completed without Pam's sympathetic and expert assistance. I was grateful to her for her patience and kindness, and impressed by the 'seamless' way she 'knitted' us all together. And we didn't just sew! Conversation, not to say gossip, was encouraged along with the stitching and we learned a great deal more than sewing during those enjoyable Wednesday afternoons in the church Meeting Room. That experience as part of such a pleasant, easy-going group, ensured my sense of acceptance into a new church family.

Over the years Pam became a trusted friend. Her manner was sometimes brisk, her speaking occasionally brusque, but there was no denying her kindness. Sunday by Sunday she was in church, sometimes contributing to the service, often seeing to its smooth running as a regular sidesperson. But I shall remember her best (apart from the sewing) as our almost daily, faithful companion at the weekday Morning Prayers, then held in the chancel. Pam could be quiet too!

Hilary Abrahams

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY FEBRUARY 2025

Morning Prayers take place daily at 9.15am Monday to Wednesday on Zoom* and Monday to Friday in Church (10am on Saturday) throughout the year, except Bank Holidays.

Saturday 1st 12.30pm Churchyard Tidy Up

PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Sunday 2nd	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Sunbeams session** (age3-6)
Tuesday 4th	11.00am-12.15pm 2.00pm	Bible Study** Funeral: Paul Marsden
Wednesday 5th	10.30am-12.00noon 12.30-3.00pm 2.45pm	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own** Warm Welcome Space** Hayes Men's Fellowship in OCS

4TH SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Sunday 9th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze session** (age 6-10)
Monday 10th	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
Tuesday 11th	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group
Wednesday 12th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 13th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

3RD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Sunday 16th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
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	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 18th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 19th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Friday 21st	10.00am-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

2ND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT

Sunday 23rd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
		Blaze session** (age 6-10)
Tuesday 25th	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group
Wednesday 26th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 27th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

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

The church is also open for quiet space 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.



A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH

Pam Cahill

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The calendar moves rapidly on into February already and this being the shortest of all the months will seem to move even more rapidly on into March but not before our members will have enjoyed yet another interesting talk, outing and walk. The details (what we are planning to do and reports on what we have done) are available as always at our website, www.hayesmensfellowship.com whenever convenient and at no extra charge! When your interest is encouraged by what you read there, and you qualify for membership – a simple matter of being a retired or semi-retired man of any faith or none who is prepared to part with the modest annual membership fee of £20 – the joining process is very straightforward. You can even visit us at one of our regular meetings to try us out for free, tea and bikkie included at no extra charge! The next such meeting is on Wednesday 5 February when our visitor Tony Penn will be talking about “The Bluebell Railway”, but please phone first to make sure there's no last minute change of plan, contact details below. By the way, we can accept cash, bank transfers or even cheques, but if the latter please do not write anything on the back ever; the machines at our banker's branch in Bromley refuse to process them. That's a bit upsetting for our hard-working Treasurer after having queued and then having to join another queue for the one or two actual counter staff on duty!

And so on to more positive news and views with our customary review of how our recent activities turned out.

As usual there was no outing or walk in December because of Christmas arrangements and, 1 January being a public holiday, our first meeting of this year was on 8 January when we were entertained by Col. Jon Power on a subject close to his heart and life. Col. Power was well positioned to give this talk as he served in 10 PARA from 1967 to 1987, was commissioned in 1970 and served in 15 PARA 1979-1980. He told us about the distinguished history of the Parachute Regiment, evolving out of the Commandos. Through campaigns in Africa, Sicily, the D Day Landings and the crossing of the Rhine, the Paras played a vital role, eg protecting the flanks of the D Day Landings from German counterattack.

Col. Power had brought with him a set of current Para Regiment kit and one of the HMF members was persuaded to “model” it. He started with the Paras' smock which goes over the head, followed by a tight harness which spread the load. This was followed by a life preserver on the front. Then a PX Parachute at the back. Next a reserve chute and

helmet. Finally, the kit container, with weapon, ammunition, rations and ground sheet etc., attached at the front on a long line so it could be released and towed along behind the parachutist. An overall weight of the kit is around 40Kg!



An HMF member models the kit



HMF Annual Lunch at the Park Langley Club

That would normally be it for this edition, but the slightly later printing deadline combined with a change of later customary day mean that we can just squeeze in this brief report on our Annual Lunch. This year it was at a new venue for us, the Park Langley Club, using their first floor function room with its own bar. Our 62 diners, members and partners/friends, had an excellent meal (there were several choices for each course) with very good service indeed. There was plenty of space for people to move around and chat before and after the meal making it a very sociable event. Voted a big success, we may well be visiting there again.

The monthly walk was scheduled for 29th January in the One Tree Hill area near Sevenoaks and the report should feature here next month together with a report on the February meeting. Until then thank you for reading this article.

Allan Evison, HMF Chairman

Graham Marsden, HMF Secretary

**Contact details: secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org
or phone 07764 153383**

ARTICLES WANTED

Peter Thomas famously used to recruit reluctant 'volunteers' to take up roles at St Mary's by putting a friendly hand on their shoulder and saying, 'John/Mary, etc. I think you have been *called* to be a [insert role here].' People found it difficult to argue against this kind of anointing.

On the sudden death of Diana Woolston, the previous editor of the *Hayes Herald*, Napo put out a more general appeal at the end of a service for someone to take over the magazine as a matter of some urgency. I experienced a slight shrinking down in the pew, as I met his eye. I knew that this was something I realistically could, and therefore ought to do, but still, inertia is a powerful force. As a sort of compromise with my conscience, I told Napo I would step in *until he found someone permanent*. Beginner's error.

That was more than ten years ago. This is not, in case it seems that way, a preamble to trying to recruit a successor. Instead, what I am after are more articles from You, gentle reader, whether a member of the congregation or not, on any subject of local, topical or merely human interest – news, views, what's on, thank-yous, obituaries, etc. It would be lovely to hear from a variety of voices, especially if you are someone who

thinks, 'Oh, I was never any good at writing.' To you particularly I would say it is a new year and time to challenge yourself!

So please imagine this request to be accompanied by the light but firm pressure of a hand on the shoulder, or a sweeping gaze from the pulpit. Submissions are usually due by 16th of the month for inclusion in the next issue. In the event that I am overwhelmed with material*, a piece may be held over until the next month unless it would go out of date. Details on p.16.

Many thanks.

Clare Wickert, Editor

[*This has never happened.]

COMING HOME

I turn the key and trigger the alarm.
The door ajar, I see your nose push through.
Quickly your face appears, you howl for joy.
Your warm brown eyes are just so full of love.

You sleep so patiently within your prison,
Listening for a sound at the front door.
However long the wait may be till we return,
Once we are there you never bear a grudge.

I don't know how you hear us from afar
Long before the car arrives or footsteps fall.
You seem mysteriously connected to us
By means ancestral, ancient, long ago.

You bound along as doors are opened up,
Jumping up to kiss and lick our faces.
How empty such a house would be to me
If coming home was just a silent hall.

David Langford

HEAVEN DOWN UNDER

It was late evening and we were leaving the cinema in Wanaka. Earlier, the day had been one of brilliant sunshine, with a fresh dusting of snow appearing on the distant mountains from the night before. We had walked just a short distance from the lights around the cinema building, up a side road, when we looked up and saw them. The stars. It was the most magnificent starry night we had ever seen.

The sky was absolutely alive with stars. Brilliant, dull, twinklingsilent. We found it awe inspiring, overwhelming and even awe-full (in the literal sense on the word). Of all the sights we had carefully planned to see in New Zealand this was not one. But this was surely the most stunning. And the most unexpected.

For some reason despite New Zealand being well-known for its dazzling spectacles for night viewing, this had not registered with us before our trip.

We were transfixed by the vastness of the heavens. It is strange that we call it 'space' because at that moment all we could see were stars which seemed to fill every available piece of sky above us and around us. Suddenly how fragile and vulnerable one felt on this little island on this little planet. The stars seemed to surround us as if we were in a planetarium!

In the first chapter of Genesis, after describing the creation of the sun and the moon, the author, Moses, says..."and the stars" (1:16). Almost as if God had created the stars as an afterthought. What an afterthought!

What we had experienced of course was a star-studded pointer to what Christian theologians refer to as 'general revelation'; a pointer to the creator through the magnificence of the creation. Almost as if at night time God draws back the curtain on the unimaginable expanse of the heavens to showcase further what St Paul, in his letter to the Romans, refers to as God's eternal power and divine nature as displayed in His creation. Jonathan Edwards the brilliant 18th century American theologian referred to the immense magnificence of the visible world, the incomprehensible height of the heaven.

But of course God has revealed Himself to us in another way. A way even more magnificent and glorious. He has spoken to us directly. Two thousand years ago He came amongst us in the person of His Son. Jesus. As St Paul said in his letter to the church in Philippi: all of God's character, His very nature is present in Christ (Philippians 2:6). And incredibly all that we saw that night in that vision of the night sky was made by Him (Colossians 1:16).

Sadly, although many admire and respect the beauty of Christ they reject any thought that He is anything other than a good man. But as Christians we believe that Christ is not only creator but also the One who came to earth to save us from the mess we have made. Therefore we are required to do something more than just to stand back and admire. God is speaking to us through the life and death of His Son. We are being invited to a conversation. We all need to respond. This is the essence of the Gospel, the good news, brought by Christ to the world.

Incidentally, if you are wondering about the film we went to the cinema to see....it was *Spectre*....at the time of our visit (this was several years ago) the latest James Bond movie. Perhaps that night there could have been no finer contrast between the fantasies created by man and the supreme reality created by God!

David James

GEORGE HERBERT – PRIEST AND POET

On 27th February the Church Calendar celebrates George Herbert, prolific writer, poet and gifted musician, member of parliament and priest. He wrote the hymn ‘Let all the world/ In every corner sing’, along with many others which are still popular with congregations today, even if they are well over 300 years old.

Herbert was born into a wealthy family in Mid-Wales on 3rd April 1593. His father was a Member of Parliament who died when Herbert was three years old. His mother, who was a patron and friend of John Donne, moved her large family to London where, aged 12, Herbert entered Westminster School. In 1609, his mother remarried, and Herbert left home to be a student at Trinity College, Cambridge.

By the age of 23, Herbert had graduated with two degrees. He was fluent in Latin and Greek and in 1620 was elected as the University’s Public Orator. He held this position for seven years, and for a short time was MP in his hometown in Wales.

Although Herbert was securing an illustrious future and his speeches had gained the attention of King James 1, he was restless. He felt God was calling him to the priesthood and much of Herbert’s poetry expressed his inner spiritual conflicts. When the King died in 1625, and two influential patrons also died at about the same time, Herbert

responded to God's call on his life and gave up his secular ambitions. He married in 1629 and became a priest in a small Anglican church in Bemerton in Wiltshire. Here he found inner peace at last, serving God in the local community. His poetic talent continued to flourish along with his musicianship as a skilled lutenist. He had never enjoyed good health, and after only three years as a priest, he died of tuberculosis on 1st March 1633. He was 39.

Some ninety of Herbert's poems have been set to music by such composers as Ralph Vaughan Williams and Benjamin Britten. His most well-known hymns are *Teach me my God and King*, *Let all the world in every corner sing* and *King of glory, king of peace*.

A number of artistic commemorations of Herbert exists in several churches and cathedrals including a stained-glass window in Westminster Abbey and a statue at the front of Salisbury Cathedral.

Parish Pump Feb 2025

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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](mailto:ocs.hayes@hotmail.com)**

*Photos on p.11: Talk by Tony Archer; Lunch by Graham Marsden*

**Items for the March magazine by 16<sup>th</sup> February please. Copy to the Editor.**

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

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