

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

SPRING INTO SUMMER, OR INTO 'ORDINARY TIME'

We have entered into what is known as 'Ordinary Time' in the church calendar. Green will be the colour used in the church for this season, stretching through the summer, following all the festivals of Easter, Ascension, Pentecost and Trinity.

As we come into July, summer is definitely upon us and we will have had some very hot weather already. As I am writing it is baking outside and temperatures are set to soar. But sitting in church you still need a cardigan! It is very cool and peaceful and it is lovely to sit in the stillness, especially before Morning Prayer at 9.15am in the Lady Chapel with the coloured light streaming through the window.

It is also lovely when someone joins us or comes in for private prayer on a Tuesday, Friday and Saturday morning. Our church is such a blessing and when people visit for the first time, seeing the sign outside saying all welcome and the gates and doors open wide saying the same, they are always struck by the stillness, calm and comment on how lovely it is. In the winter they commented on the warmth and when I replied 'Oh yes, we've had the radiators on', they replied that they were talking about the feeling of comfort the church gave to them.

As summer is upon us, the church will now provide a place of coolness and stillness, in the heat of summer and our busy lives. As well as the peace of the church offered three times a week, between 10am-12pm, St Mary's Church are continuing with the 'Warm Space', which is now because of the season, a 'Welcome Space'. The soup offering has changed to a ploughman's but the warm welcome still remains. It is an opportunity to share a meal or just time with others, or maybe to be one of the volunteers.

There is also a work space provided for those who would like a change of scene from working from home and maybe a bite to eat too.

There are also teams providing a new monthly mum, babies and toddler group, 'Twinkles' which began in June, a Bible Study group which meet every month to share and learn more about the Bible together, as well as the continuing Bereavement, Community and Charity coffee mornings. Details about these and all our services can be found in the centre of this *Hayes Herald*, including Sea Sunday, supporting 'The Mission to Seafarers' (in an article in the June issue), and there is also a special 'Songs of Praise' service at the end of the month. All are welcome and if you would like your favourite hymn included, do let us know (contact details are on the front of this issue). We will try and include as many as we can.

So, in the words of the late Queen's favourite hymn, 'The Lord is My Shepherd', from Psalm 23, may God during these summer months, make us 'down to lie in pastures green' and lead us 'the quiet waters by'.

Rev'd Amanda



Coffee Morning
Friday 7th July
in the Meetings Room
10.30am-12 noon
to support the work of
The Mission to Seafarers
Coffee, Cake & Raffle



SEA SUNDAY – 9TH JULY

On Sea Sunday we remember all who are involved with the sea, whether working on vast container ships that bring us most of the food and goods we use every day, cruise ships or the smaller fishing boats and yachts that sail around our coast.



Sea Sunday is an opportunity to pray for the seafarers and their families and also for all the organisations involved in helping them. Many of you will have watched 'Saving Lives at Sea' on the television and admired the courage of the men and women that volunteer for the RNLI. Disasters at sea are always a concern not only for those at sea but also for their families. Many will have signed up for six to nine months contracts to earn the money to support their families and will often be far from home. Individually they will have different experiences of loneliness, anxiety, sadness and may need to discuss their fears when they have a quiet moment.

At St Mary's we particularly remember the work of the Mission to Seafarers, a society set up almost 200 years ago. When a boat docks seafarers may have time to leave it and visit one of the Seafarers Centres for which transport will be arranged. Often ships have a quick turn round time and the Mission staff will visit and try to provide whatever help is required. This may be practical, like providing Sim Cards to contact their families, spiritual or emotional, to have time to listen to an individual who has experienced some personal tragedy and to arrange for whatever assistance is needed. In recent years the Mission has also become involved in difficult cases of ships being abandoned and the crews left to look after themselves without pay or with situations of hijacking when attention has been focused not only on the seafarers but also on the worried families awaiting news as events unfold. The chaplains and staff always say that every day provides different challenges.

More information on the work of the Mission to Seafarers will be available in Church on 9th July and also at the coffee morning in the Meetings Room on Friday 7th July from 10.30am - 12 noon. Please help us support the Mission's valuable work.

Jean Wilson - Parish Link

BROMLEY THREE FAITHS GROUP

Three of us from St Mary's attended the recent Three Faiths Group Meeting at Al-Emaan Centre (Keston Mosque). The Revd Andrew McClellan (Vicar at St John's Bromley and one of the leaders/driving force of this group), chaired the meeting. The Keston Mosque is thriving and now boasts a huge marquee at the rear.

We sat on that warm June evening, sharing the hospitality of 'Al-Emaan'. The theme for the meeting was '**Bitter-Sweet: the joys and the sorrows of belonging to my faith community**'. What is the best thing about being Jewish, Christian or Muslim? Also, what things made you sad? It was posed that there might be certain tough things we endure for the sake of our faith, conflicts with people of other communities, or misunderstandings about our beliefs and practices. Everyone attending had the opportunity to talk about some aspect of this question. Muslims enthusiastic about being a Muslim - Members of the Bromley Reform Synagogue reflecting on their Judaism and its deep reach into history and us three from St Mary's on our love of being Christians. There was a touching tribute from Molly of Bromley Salvation Army Temple. The significance of community featured strongly across all faiths.

The main objective of the group is to 'promote a greater understanding of each other's faiths, both in belief and practice, with the ultimate aim of nurturing a more harmonious and peaceful society'. For us as Christians this is important and we are of course urged, as far as it is possible, to live at peace with each other in the scriptures (Romans 12:18). Whilst of course there are fundamental differences between us in what we believe (most particularly in relation to Jesus as the central and unique pillar of our faith), and these cannot be minimized or papered over, it is good to have a forum such as this in which we can enjoy the company of people from other faiths, and share in a non-threatening and welcoming environment. Anything that promotes understanding, tolerance, peace and harmony among different peoples and their faiths has to be a positive thing.

I write this with a greater feeling of understanding to reside together with different races, religion and culture and the aim for peace and harmony with one another to live in contentment with our neighbours. It is such a great pity that not everyone is happy to live with and tolerate each other's faith, not just in Bromley, but world-wide!

Mary Whytock

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

We had the pleasure of inviting the Reverend David Darling to speak at our meeting on 12th June 2023. David Darling had a long and interesting life serving as a Minister and as a nurse at various levels, matron, team leader, managerial positions and prison chaplain to name but a few.

He knew at a very young age that his calling was to God but he also felt a calling to help in the medical profession. Eventually, his life work was to both but via the Ministry. He travelled to India and worked alongside Mother Theresa's nurses which was a privilege. David said that some of his choices were not easy ones but that God doesn't promise all life decisions will be easy. As a 'townie' he didn't relish the thought of being in the countryside for long periods of time. Towns are busy, crowded, noisy places but the countryside made him realise that it was also busy with trees, flowers, farm produce growing and sleeping during the changing seasons and he very much enjoyed the changing views each day.

David left us feeling that there was much more to be told of his life's journey.



Once again 13 of us enjoyed a social coffee at The New Inn, with many deciding to stay on to lunch.

We next meet at The New Inn on **Tuesday 25th July**. Coffee at 11.00 and lunch at 12.30 due to Bible Study.

This month we have our 'Wave of Prayer' where we remember Mothers' Union members in Toliara in Madagascar; Mbale in Uganda; Zaria and Ndokwa in Nigeria; Rochester in England and Chhattisgarh in India. Each day at midday, Mothers' Union members all over the world pause to pray. We approach God with confidence, knowing that God hears us and values our prayers.

Please join us in the Choir stalls on **Thursday 13th July at 2.30pm for our 'Wave of Prayer'**. This will be followed by tea and cakes in the Meetings Room.

We are delighted to see Audrey back in church after her stay in hospital and we wish her well. We also keep in our prayers Carol, Dorothy and Jo. We wish Faith a very happy 90th birthday.

This summer, Mothers' Union is turning hope into action for families in need everywhere and need our support and prayers during this Summer of Hope.

Hope into Action: 'Being Dad' courses for young dads in prison.



Many young male offenders who have children want to be better dads. That's where Mothers' Union members like Jackie Brocklebank use their skills to be a powerful agent of change.

"I trained as a Mothers' Union parenting facilitator in 2007," says Jackie, "and I was inspired by one of the tutors who worked in prison." Today, Jackie runs a 'Being Dad' course in West Midlands' prisons. Here, each young man learns not only how to be a better dad in the future, but also in the present, while they're serving their sentence.

"I firmly believe we do this work not expecting any rewards. Our actions may bear fruit but God is in charge," says Jackie. You can hear the difference in one young man's words as he reflects, "I felt anxious at first about being honest, but that changed when I did."

This Summer of Hope we can help more families to strengthen their relationships and build a better future, no matter what their circumstances are.

I look forward to meeting you on 13th July. If any other members of the congregation would like to join us you would be most welcome. Please contact Avril Ashford **0208 4687785**.

Avril Ashford

THE ABSENT-MINDED HIGHWAYMAN

George Whitefield, the 18th century evangelist and preacher, like John Wesley his contemporary, travelled great distances throughout Britain and America, very often on horseback, to preach to the huge crowds who not only hung on his every word but also in large numbers were converted to Christ. He was one of the first to begin the practice of open-air preaching, starting in fields near Bristol as miners left their work. The impact of his preaching was soon evident in the white lines which appeared on their faces, as tears rolled down their coal blackened cheeks. A crowd of a few hundred soon became a crowd of thousands.

But an extraordinary aspect of his character was that he was equally able to get an audience among the working poor as among the aristocracy. He himself was from a humble background (his mother an innkeeper at Gloucester).

At one time, returning from preaching in Scotland and riding back with a friend through the wild border country, they came to a village where they met a widow whose goods were about to be confiscated for debt, so George gave her five gold guineas. His friend remonstrated, saying it was more than he could properly afford. He got the reply, with an affectionate smile which erased any impression of smugness: 'When God brings a case of distress before us, it is that we may relieve it'.

They rode on into the hills. A highwayman sprang out at them pistol cocked. They had no escape. The highwayman cantered off with the contents of their pockets. George could not resist a dig at his friend: 'Was it not better the widow had those five guineas than the thief?'

Suddenly they heard the gallop of hooves behind them. They reined in and to their dismay saw the highwayman again, who shouted at George: 'Give me your coat. It's better than mine.'

They rode on once more with George in a tattered garment smelling of whisky. About ten minutes later they heard the hooves again, coming yet more furiously. This time they could see some cottages down below them, not far off, and fearing lest the highwayman meant to kill them for their horses, the two fled for their lives, pursued with blood curdling yells, 'Stop! Stop!'

They reached the cottages where the highwayman dared not follow. When Whitefield took off the filthy coat he found why the man had yelled to them to stop. A purse containing a hundred guineas was sewn into the lining.*

David James

** from 'George Whitefield the Evangelist' by John Pollock.*

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY JULY 2023

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

4TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 4th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 5th	10.30am-12.00noon	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**
	2.45pm	Hayes Men's Fellowship in OCS
Friday 7th July	10.30am-12.00noon	Coffee Morning in aid of The Mission to Seafarers

5TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
Wednesday 12th	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**
Thursday 13th	2.30pm	Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer

6TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 16th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 18th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 19th	12.30-3.30pm	Welcome Space**
Friday 21st	10.00am-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

7TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 23rd	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW
Wednesday 26th	10.00-11.45am 12.30-3.30pm	Community Coffee Morning** Welcome Space**

8TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 30th	8.00am 10.30am 12.15pm	Holy Communion BCP 'Songs of Praise'- style service Baptisms: Robyn Rose Greenway and Alfie Beau Greenway
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*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.



A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH

Marita Twoney

RECENT BAPTISMS IN THE PARISH

Sofia Sanfilippo
Alfred Weech

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

So in reaching July we have completed our 2022/23 Session as I shall be declaring proudly as Chairman at our Annual General Meeting at just about the time you get to read these words.

The past twelve months have not been without challenges, especially in the reduction of our membership from 100 pre-pandemic to now 74 at the time of writing, following the loss of three Members who had passed away and a substantial list of others who decided not to renew through increasing age or failing ability to take part in our activities. Fortunately, we have been successful in attracting new joiners through a number of recruitment articles in other local publications and, most notably, through word-of-mouth recommendations from our existing friends. There is, of course, more work to be done in attracting more Members, although our Treasurer is confident we remain viable at the existing level.

However, we haven't shut up shop just yet. We still have two excellent outings to come, on 19th July to Bressingham Steam Museum and Gardens near to Diss in Norfolk, featuring a combination of steam trains on three different layouts, lovely gardens and more; then on 16th August our popular Annual Boat Trip will be back on the Thames. Meanwhile our Walkers carry on indefatigably on the last Wednesday of every month. As always, full details are available on our website at www.hayesmensfellowship.org, even when we are taking our summer break in September.

All that remains in this article is to tell you about recent activities completed successfully.

In terms of outings, since last month we have visited the lovely Exbury Gardens and Steam Railway in the New Forest. The drive was expected to take about 2.5 hours so the plan was to have a coffee stop on the way at one of the service areas on the M3. After a slow run along the M25 we made it to the Winchester services by about 10.30am for a welcome stretch of the legs and refreshments.

The final leg of the journey to Exbury was through the New Forest – an area familiar to those of us who had been on HMF trips to the New Forest and earlier to Beaulieu. Our driver had to take care because there were plenty of ponies, donkeys and cattle around – but thankfully not on the road as we went through.

Lionel de Rothschild had been very interested in horticulture from an early age and bought land adjacent to the Beaulieu estate for £60,000 in 1919. Building Exbury Gardens on the site was said to be one of the most ambitious enterprises of its kind to take place in the last



century – the creation of a private woodland garden covering 250 acres. In the years before his death in 1942, he assembled a celebrated collection of rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias, magnolias and other shrubs and trees which can be seen today. Their website explains that the work

he started has been continued, first by his sons Edmund and Leopold and then by subsequent generations, who have raised new Exbury hybrids, added new features and maintained the high standards of his great achievement.

One of the first things many of our group did was take a trip on the narrow-gauge steam railway, dubbed “The Rhododendron Line”. This departed from a replica Victorian station “Exbury Central” and took us on a looping route through the Northern end of the gardens where we saw the Mirror Ponds, went around the Dragonfly Pond and through the Summer Lane Garden. There was also a long tunnel which enhanced the nostalgic smell of the smoke!

The stars of our visit were the Rhododendrons and Azaleas – masses of them were in bloom providing a riot of colour throughout the garden. In the wilder corners there were bluebells too.

A few of the many other highlights were:-

- The Rock Garden – a sunken garden created with the enormous stone boulders moved from other areas on the site when the garden was created.
- The beautifully laid out Centenary Garden.
- The Sundial Garden with a lovely display of Wisteria.
- The History Tree which was a slice through a cedar tree that had grown on the site where the annual rings had been marked to show what happened in those years, from 1756 when Mozart was born, to date.
- The colourful and tranquil Iris Garden

- The imposing Exbury House, which was private so we could not see inside
- The views over the Beaulieu River from the Southern end of the Gardens where there is also a memorial to the men who lost their lives on LSTs and Landing Craft during the landings in 1944 to liberate Europe.

The Steam train had a wheelchair accessible carriage and helpful staff who pushed one of our guests up the purpose-built wooden ramps onto the train. The main drive through the Gardens was paved and gave easy wheelchair access but the other paths were more challenging.



Sadly we were too late to benefit from the Daffodil Meadow or the Daffodils in the “River of Gold” but maybe that will just encourage some of us to visit again at a different time of year. We had yet another super day out with our fellow HMF members and several guests.

The latest Walk was in the Platt area of Kent. The weather was ideal for the seven walkers. Starting from Platt they soon reached a large wooded area and most of the walk was along firm tracks through woods. A very good lunch was provided by “The Plough” at Basted. The walk back to the cars was through woods and fields, with an interesting detour off the planned route! The total distance walked should have been 5.6 miles but the diversion probably added nearly a bonus mile.

Our June meeting had a talk by John Halligan entitled “The Mistresses of Charles II”. We were indebted to John who stood in at the last minute as the scheduled speaker was unavailable. John’s talk explained that Charles II had many mistresses who used their position to gain privileges. He also described the influence of their descendants on the aristocracy of today.

For context, John explained that Charles II was born in 1630 to Charles I of England, Scotland and Ireland and Henrietta Maria of France. His father and he were Protestant but his mother and sister were Catholic. At the beginning of the English Civil War in 1642, he had the title of Prince of Wales and led Royalist forces. Charles I was beheaded in 1649 near the Banqueting Hall in Whitehall where there is now a monument. Eventually, Oliver Cromwell defeated Charles II at the Battle of Worcester in 1651, and Charles fled to mainland Europe, spending the next nine years in exile in France, the Dutch Republic and the Spanish Netherlands, eventually settling in The Hague. The political crisis that followed Cromwell's death in 1658 resulted in the restoration of the monarchy, and Charles was invited to return to Britain. In 1660, he was received in London to public acclaim and succeeded his father as Charles II. His extravagant tastes meant that he needed a wealthy wife and in 1662 he married the Portuguese Catherine of Braganza. She came with a large dowry (worth around £3 million at current prices) and territories such as Tangier and the “Seven Islands of Bombay”. In return, the Portuguese gained an important ally in their fight against Spain.

Charles’ affairs began in The Hague and continued throughout his reign, before and after his marriage to Catherine of Braganza, some short term and others much longer lasting. Some of the mistresses sought to use their position for their own benefit and for the King’s many illegitimate offspring they bore. The King benefited from the general population’s relative ignorance of his “social” life so most of the information about these affairs was drawn from the diaries of Samuel Pepys and John Evelyn. The talk took us through many of these relationships – but by all accounts, these were only a fraction of the affairs the King had - and just some of them are reported here:

The first was in The Hague with the 17-year-old **Lucy Walter** who bore him a son, James Crofts (afterwards Duke of Monmouth and Duke of Buccleuch). A Protestant faction wanted to make her son heir to the throne, fuelled by the rumour that the King might have married Lucy, a claim which he denied.

Elizabeth Killigrew who had joined the royalist court-in-exile of Queen Henrietta Maria (Charles’ mother) as a maid of honour. She bore

Charles a daughter. After the Restoration, the then husband of Elizabeth became Viscount Shannon.

Barbara Villiers was 19 and already married when she became Charles's mistress – a role she retained for a long time, later being accepted as the “Official Mistress” of the King. And her rewards and influence were great. She manoeuvred allies into positions of importance and a royalty on every Troy pound of silver minted into coins. As a reward for her services, the King created her husband Baron Limerick and Earl of Castlemaine in 1661. She had five children by the King and was pregnant and living in Hampton Court at the time Charles and his new bride Catherine of Braganza had their honeymoon there. Henry FitzRoy, 12th Duke of Grafton is one of the latest descendants of this line.

Frances Stuart was a great beauty and caught the eye of the King at the age of 15 but she refused to become his mistress, so is perhaps the exception in this list. But the King's infatuation with her was so great that it is believed her face was the model for Britannia.

Nell Gwynn benefited from the Restoration of theatres and Charles' decision to allow female actors. She began an affair with the King when she was 18 and had two sons by him but was not as power hungry as some of the others. One of her sons became the Duke of St Albans and had a successful career in the Army. The current holder of the title is Murray Beauclerk, 14th Duke of St Albans.

Moll Davis, another actress and contemporary of Nell Gwynn, flaunted her success as a mistress with the King. However, she soon fell foul of Nell. Nell invited Moll to her house for a meal which she laced with laxatives. Moll's evening with the King did not go well!

We were told that Prince William, when he succeeds to the throne, would be the first King to be directly descended from Charles II – albeit illegitimately. This was a fascinating and absorbing talk appreciated by all present.

We will be back here next and every month, bye for now.

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

(Accompanying photos by Graham Marsden.)

GOD'S ACRE ON OUR DOORSTEP

As I write this article, we have just returned from a wonderful three-day break in Rye, in East Sussex, (a 1.5 hour drive from Hayes) so we were able to maximise our time there.

We were blessed with beautiful sunshine (with a stiff breeze) to accompany us on our walks around Rye Harbour Nature Reserve and also the other side of the estuary to Camber Sands with a chance to dip a toe in the cooling water.

We were benefiting from a wonderful time of year for wildlife watching. The nature reserve was full of many different waterfowl either sitting on eggs or feeding hungry young chicks – avocets, oyster catchers, common terns, and mallards to name a few we recognised. It was truly a breeding festival. We saw herons, cormorants, little egrets, blackhead gulls, great crested grebe, dunlin and others we did not recognise. It is quite an education sitting in a bird hide listening to others with their high-end spotting scopes and zoom lens cameras.

Of course here in Hayes we are blessed with our lovely Churchyard, two local parks complete with ponds and Hayes Common, where walking through the woods with the dappled light coming through the trees is a delight. Currently there are moorhens nesting on ponds in both parks and no doubt some ducklings due to put in an appearance very soon. At the moment in the churchyard some areas of long grass are not being cut, to allow the butterflies, bees and other insects to benefit from the wild flowers there. Compared to the nature reserve which was quite noisy, our churchyard is truly a place of calm and tranquillity. Dependent upon the time of day, there are some shaded areas to sit out of the sun if preferred.

Happily, we now have two more regular volunteers who are able to help during the very busy growing season. We are still working to uncover graves located on the boundaries as time does not always permit them being tended as often as we would like, hence they get very overgrown, being situated in areas where mowing is not possible and strimming not always effective. Also, the Trefoil Group, under the guidance of Pat Aste, have carried out their annual working visit, and we are very grateful to them.

There is always plenty of work to do, whether it is clearing withered flowers, picking up litter, weeding the flowers beds or some more physical work. If you are interested in learning more about how we manage the churchyard or are considering offering to be more involved, then please do contact me.



So dear friends, whether you are going on holiday in the UK or venturing further afield, I wish you safe travelling and a restful and refreshing break. If your only option is stop-at-home then do try and have a change from your usual routine and do something different each day. Even that can feel like a break.

Yvonne Pickford
Churchyard Superintendent/Churchwarden

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

Items for the August magazine by 16th July please. Copy to the Editor.

August magazines will be ready for distribution on 30th July

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