

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:

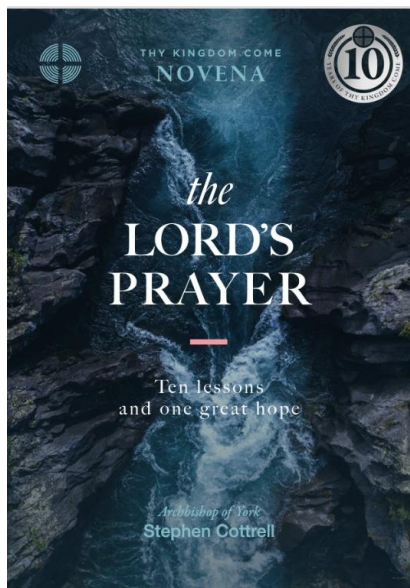
[info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](mailto:info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)

## THY KINGDOM COME!

Last month, St Mary's yet again shared in 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Thy Kingdom Come (TKC) runs from Ascension Day (29<sup>th</sup> May) to Pentecost (8<sup>th</sup> June). We began on Ascension Day with a morning service at St Mary's and then an evening service at St Peter and St Paul's church, Bromley, led by myself and where Rev Tim preached on 'Thy Kingdom Come', as we preached also at the following Pentecost Service ten days later.

But what is it? Well, 'Thy Kingdom Come', celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> year, was initiated by the Church of England and from very small beginnings it is now worldwide and includes many different churches, from Roman Catholic to Pentecostal, Baptist to Reformed, Methodist to Anglican. All churches are invited to get involved in this worldwide prayer.

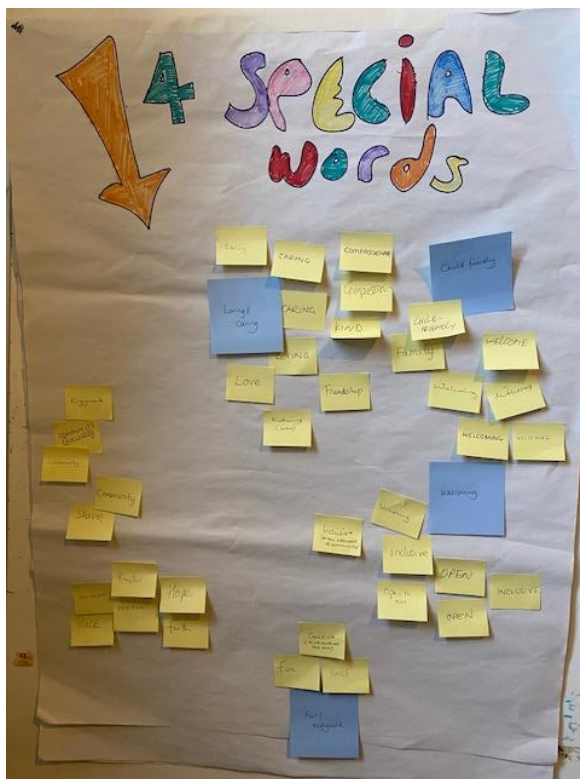
As in previous years, during the 11 days of TKC, we were all invited to pray for five people that we know, that they may come to know Jesus. This year we were also encouraged to pray using the Lord's Prayer, and to reflect on the meaning of this prayer, using booklets with daily reflections on the Lord's Prayer.



This year 'Thy Kingdom Come' shared: 'This means everything comes from God and everything belongs to God, now, and forever more. God's kingdom is not a place, but a life lived in relationship with God. God makes this possible through Jesus whose power and glory are shown in humility, service and sacrifice. This is the life we are called to live if we follow in the way of this prayer.' When we say 'Amen' at the end of this prayer it means we agree. 'Thy Kingdom Come' this year asked, 'But do we? No prayer is said more than this one, but maybe no prayer is meant less.' Their challenge was to change that; to say the Lord's Prayer and mean it. To 'Let it change your heart. Then it might change the world as well.'

If you would like to use a booklet yourself and have a deep dive into the Lord's Prayer for yourself, please let us know. And if you would like to journey through the 11 days of 'Thy Kingdom Come', you can still download the app, which has all the content or check out the Prayer Journal plan which is now on the YouVersion Bible app!

This year we also held two prayer walks, in different parts of Hayes parish, on the two Saturday afternoons (31<sup>st</sup> May and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> June). There was a leaflet to guide the prayer walk, and also so that people who could not join the walk in person could pray around the parish at home. The whole community of Hayes, every part, was prayed for.



Leaflets are still available at the back of church, or email Rev Tim, who led the walks, if you would like a copy\*.

This year St Mary's are really trying to focus on what St Mary's means to the community of Hayes and how we be part of how God's Kingdom can be present, here in this place and His will be done. Following on from the Community Survey, the PCC were thinking of words which captured who we are as a church. We will also be asking our congregations and groups. You are welcome to come and see and add your own. Let us know and maybe together and through the grace of God, His Kingdom will come.

Lord we pray 'Thy Kingdom Come', Amen.

**Rev Amanda**

[\\*curate@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](mailto:curate@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)

## **SEA SUNDAY 13 JULY 2025**

On Sea Sunday we remember the many men and women who are involved in bringing us food, fuel and other supplies, who work in the fishing industry or on cruise ships. We also pray for those who help to support seafarers with many of the problems they face in their daily lives.



At St Mary's, although not close to the coast, many people have worked on boats, in seafaring activities or have families who are or have been involved with the sea. For over fifty years we have been supporting the work of the **Mission to Seafarers**, an Anglican Mission. It is now one of the world's largest providers of port based welfare services, operating in over 200 ports across 50 countries, 365 days a year. Last year the chaplains and volunteers made almost 49,000 visits when ships docked and spoke with over 340,000 seafarers, providing practical support, such as sim cards, and pastoral support for those encountering personal difficulties. Family support networks are also flourishing in the Philippines and India. The Ven. Dr Peter Roach, the Secretary General of the Mission to Seafarers, recently reflected on the importance of human connection in an increasingly digital world. "Sometimes our work can be quite mundane. Yet even that assures seafarers that we are

there, a dependable presence when life gets tough, a sign and symbol of a God who never turns away, a quiet reminder that they are worthy of love, even when they feel broken. All of this would be impossible without the dedication of our staff and volunteers and the support of people just like you. Thank you for being present with us in this journey."

Very many thanks to everyone who helped and supported the Coffee Morning in aid of the Mission to Seafarers on 27 June. The craft group have also been busy knitting hats for the seafarers and we recently received thanks for their time and effort from Diane, the Port Welfare Officer at the Mission to Seafarers, Tyne, for the ten hats and a knitted teddy that we had sent. She added that the crew really appreciate them. Amazingly, over the year the Mission has distributed over two metric tonne of knitting.

Please support us on Sea Sunday, 13 July when there will be a small display of the work of the Mission to Seafarers and the opportunity for you to help the Mission with its valuable work.

Thank you

**Jean Wilson**

**Parish link - The Mission to Seafarers**

## **CONSULTATIONS FOR THE NEXT ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

More than 11,000 people have so far participated in the consultations for the next Archbishop of Canterbury. It was carried out online, by post and in person between February and March this year.

The public consultation was a unique opportunity to influence the future of leadership within the Church, helping to discern the gifts, skills and qualities that will be required in the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, to meet the needs of the Church today and in the years to come.

The themes that emerge through this consultation will sit alongside the 'Statement of Needs' produced by the Diocese of Canterbury, as well as other information provided by the National Church and Anglican Communion. This information will inform the Canterbury Crown Nominations Commission of the needs of the mission of the Church of England and the wider Anglican Communion.

*PP News - July 2025*

## **PRAYER FESTIVAL**

On Saturday 7th June three of us from St Mary's went to the Prayer Festival being held at the St Benedict's Centre in West Malling.

The Centre is next to Malling Abbey. Unfortunately, I didn't get a chance to look at the abbey but the grounds are beautiful. It is a very calm and peaceful place. Definitely a good place for the Prayer Festival. The weather forecast had threatened rain but we were very lucky to have a dry day with people spending time out in the grounds.

The day started with an address by Bishop Simon which I found very inspiring. There were eleven workshops that we could choose from. There was one workshop session before the lunch break and two more sessions in the afternoon. The workshops were about many different forms of prayer. All three of us had our workshops chosen for us and I was pleased with the ones I attended.

My first workshop was in a beautiful chapel, called the Pilgrim Chapel. It was beautifully light in there. The subject matter was 'Praying with Icons'. We had a few icons to look at and then think about what we were seeing. It was very interesting to hear what people had seen. I got very attached to an icon of Jesus with his hand held out in blessing and it felt very real.

After lunch I attended a workshop on 'Creative writing as Prayer'. I was a little apprehensive but we were told to find a space, either out in the grounds or in the room and really think about what we were seeing around us, what could we hear, touch, smell or even taste. I decided to stay in the room as I was fascinated by a handmade cross that was on the wall. It was amazing how much detail could be found by really looking. Then we were to write all this down and ask where we thought God was in this. My mind went to the wonders of God's creativity especially in the construction and design of the cross using materials from God's creation.

My last workshop was on Christian meditation. I was really looking forward to this one but a little concerned that I might fall asleep after such an interesting day so far. I needn't have worried too much although I did feel my head drop a little once or twice!

I think all three of us found it very interesting and I would definitely recommend the next Prayer Festival, whenever it may be, to anyone interested in prayer in its many forms.

**Eileen Cohen**



I don't know about you, but I'm finding this 'heatwave' a bit overwhelming. We British tend to be obsessed by the weather and are constantly wishing that things would 'warm up'. Then, when it does, we bemoan the lack of air-conditioning and effective fans. However, on the plus side, as long as I remember to water, the flowers in my garden are looking beautiful. It is a joy to sit outside in the shade, and reflect on the beauty of nature all around us. I love June; summer has arrived!

There is a lot to report on over the past active five weeks. We welcomed Anna Khan, chief executive of Welcare to our May meeting. It was a fascinating talk telling us that Welcare is a registered charity which works to provide practical and emotional help and support to strengthen families with school aged children up to 13 years who are experiencing difficulties. The charity provides services across South London, East Surrey and Bromley including: family support, social work, counselling, groups, outreach workers, volunteer buddies, mentoring, signposting and workshops. They provide practical and emotional support to families, empowering them to rebuild their lives and access opportunities to ensure their children have a happy, confident childhood and future. Their services are tailored to the real needs of the communities in which they work.

In June we welcomed Rev. Eric Hesselwood who had recently retired after 60 years of service. He kept us captivated, giving an interesting and lively account of his sixty years in the ministry. Both he and his wife started off in the Church Army. It was a very lively and entertaining session! He knew Rev. Peter Thomas, and Rev. David Graham enabling us to reminisce about the past.

Thank you for your support at our coffee morning to raise money to equip the 'Bags' for the children in church. We raised the fantastic amount of £360. We now need a working group to research and find items for the 'Bags' for the children. If you are able to knit or sew finger puppets please contact me, Avril Ashford, on 020 8468 7785.



At the Autumn Members' meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, there will be a 'Rainbow' table sale. The colours for Bromley and Bexley Archdeaconry will be BLUE and YELLOW, so please start collecting items for sale and bring them to the meeting in August and September.

Thank you to Carol Crouch and Gill Kell who have been busy knitting scarves and hats for the Seafarers.

Our next meeting on Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> July will be the 'Wave of Prayer' when we pray for our prayer partners across the world. As usual, we will also meet for coffee, on the first Tuesday of the month.

Finally, we wish Rev. Tim Aldred God's blessings and guidance as he is ordained later this month.

If you are interested in finding out more about Mothers' Union, please contact Avril Ashford 020 8468 7785 or just come along to one of our meetings. You would be most welcome.

**Avril Ashford**

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## **HALLS FOR HIRE**

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)

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY JULY 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.**

|                                 |                 |                                                                 |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>   | 11.00am-12.15pm | Bible Study**                                                   |
| <b>Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup></b> | 10.30am         | Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own** |
|                                 | 12.30-3.00pm    | Warm Welcome Space**                                            |
|                                 | 2.45pm          | Hayes Men's Fellowship                                          |
|                                 |                 | AGM In OCS                                                      |

### 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

|                                 |                 |                                                |
|---------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 6<sup>th</sup></b>    | 8.00am          | Holy Communion BCP                             |
|                                 | 10.30am         | Morning Praise: Sunbeams (age 3-6)             |
| <b>Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>   | 10.00-11.00am   | Prayer Group**                                 |
| <b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup></b> | 12.30-3.00pm    | Warm Welcome Space**                           |
| <b>Thursday 10<sup>th</sup></b> | 10.30am-12.30pm | Craft Group**                                  |
| <b>Saturday 12<sup>th</sup></b> | 12.00 noon      | Wedding of Victoria Taylor And Richard Plowman |

### 4<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

#### Sea Sunday

|                                  |                 |                                         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|
| <b>Sunday 13<sup>th</sup></b>    | 8.00am          | Holy Communion BCP                      |
|                                  | 10.30am         | Parish Communion CW                     |
|                                  |                 | Blaze and Sunbeams Session** (age 3-10) |
| <b>Monday 14<sup>th</sup></b>    | 10.30am         | Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer**         |
| <b>Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>   | 11.00am-12.15pm | Bible Study**                           |
| <b>Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup></b> | 12.30-3.00pm    | Warm Welcome Space**                    |
| <b>Friday 18<sup>th</sup></b>    | 10.00am-11.00am | Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**     |



## **5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|                                  |                 |                      |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| <b>Sunday 20<sup>th</sup></b>    | 8.00am          | Holy Communion BCP   |
|                                  | 9.15am          | Fresh Start          |
|                                  | 10.30am         | Morning Praise       |
| <b>Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>   | 10.00-11.00am   | Prayer Group**       |
| <b>Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup></b> | 12.30-3.00pm    | Warm Welcome Space** |
| <b>Thursday 24<sup>th</sup></b>  | 10.30am-12.30pm | Craft Group**        |

## **6<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

|                                  |              |                      |
|----------------------------------|--------------|----------------------|
| <b>Sunday 27<sup>th</sup></b>    | 8.00am       | Holy Communion BCP   |
|                                  | 10.30am      | Parish Communion CW  |
| <b>Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup></b> | 12.30-3.00pm | Warm 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**

Jaylyn Allotey  
Alexander Drummond

## **A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH**

Mary Christina Beckett

## **A RECENT MEMORIAL SERVICE IN THE PARISH**

David Viles

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

July heralds the gradual pause in our programme sessions ahead of our annual holiday break in August and September, this and every year. Have a look at the details on our website at [hayesmensfellowship@gmail.com](mailto:hayesmensfellowship@gmail.com) if you are internet-equipped like most of our members, or you can read the usual reports summary below on what we have been up to recently.

Looking for something to do each week in convivial company? Joining HMF is really simple, for men of any faith or none, retired or semi-retired, and who are prepared to pay the modest annual subscription of £20 from each October. The only extra is the price of each outing you choose to join and they average around £30-£35 according to distance and cost of entry to the venue, much cheaper than comparable commercial offerings because we price ours to be non-profit making.

There's still much to occupy our members in July. Our Annual General Meeting takes place on 2 July and is a genuine opportunity for members to raise any concerns (few!), applaud the successes (many!) and make suggestions for discussion (honestly considered by our hard-working Committee).

Our final two outings are on July 16 to Rye and Great Dixter House and Gardens, and on August 20 it's our traditional Boat trip, this time from Runnymede on the Thames. By the way, you can always enquire for any few seats which may remain available. Our band of walkers will continue their wanderings in every month, either around the nearby Home Counties, or along the Thames and also in parts of London., always including a convivial pub for lunch and refreshment after about 5 miles.

Reports on our recent activities start with our outing to Newhaven Fort and Devil's Dyke in the South Downs. The Fort was constructed over seven years and opened in 1871 and was one of over 70 Palmerston Forts built at that time mainly around the South East to protect





the country from attack and invasion. This Fort is unique in design, set in a cliff top location, with the gun emplacements almost unable to be seen from the sea. It remained in military use until 1962, and then it became quite dilapidated. Eventually a £7.5m project was put together to create the visitor attraction that is now the Fort. The site was opened to the public again in February this year after being made safe with better paths and fencing etc. And there are excellent displays about the area, the Fort and the roles it played over the years. Well worth a visit – as is Devil's Dyke for the magnificent 360° views over the South Downs.



Our latest walk was from Greenwich Cutty Sark to London Bridge. We were again lucky with mild weather, mostly sunny and breezy for the walk. From the DLR at Cutty Sark Greenwich, the route followed the river upstream. There were many things going on, making it an interesting walk. They had a very good lunch at “The Mayflower” before continuing along the Thames Path to London Bridge Station.

The guest speaker at our latest meeting was Paul Barwick, a former Police Officer, with a background in national intelligence and security. His talk was entitled “The Murder of PC Yvonne Fletcher and the Libyan Embassy Siege” and it was clear that this had been very well researched as well as being a topic of personal interest. To give the fateful events of April 1984 when she was killed, Paul took us through the complex background involving Muammar Gaddafi (including his rise from son of a goat herd to Libyan dictator), the battle between Margaret Thatcher and the Miners’ Union (and the secret deal with Libya for oil to make up for coal shortages) as well as that of Yvonne Fletcher (who wanted to be in the Police from the age of 3). The shooting



outside the Libyan Bureau (Embassy) of PC Fletcher and 11 others followed a failed plan to snatch Libyan dissidents to return them to Libya for trial (or worse) and then led to the siege. Agreement was eventually reached for the 30 staff to leave and return to Libya (to a heroes welcome!) but there was no sign of the gunmen. However, it was later realised that an underground garage had an exit away from the Bureau and the gunmen had probably escaped before the siege. This all seemed rather lenient treatment – possibly because of the secret oil deal!

Feel free to contact one of us for a friendly chat or just drop in to one of our monthly meetings always on the first Wednesday of each month except in August and September. We look forward to meeting you soon, via the technology or in person when we can even offer a free cup of tea and biscuits!

**Allan Evison**, HMF Chairman    **Graham Marsden**, HMF Secretary  
Contacts: e-mail: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org)  
phone: **07764 153383**

## DANIEL: TO CONFORM OR NOT TO CONFORM

What drives dictators? What restrains them? In June 1941 Hitler, casting aside the terms of the Nazi-Soviet pact, invaded Russia. Success for operation Barbarossa depended on deliberately starving millions of Russians. Stalin, who had not shrunk from such behaviour himself during the previous ten years, appeared to be more confounded that Hitler would choose that moment to be so perverse as to breach the pact. He had been ignoring the warnings of his own generals for some while, insisting, ironically, on continuing to supply Germany with enormous amounts of military aid up to the day that Hitler invaded. Irony also because Stalin had already in his own mind the possibility that at some point in the future Russia may itself invade Germany!

Around 2500 years previously, another dictator – albeit of a totally different stamp – was bent on world conquest. And dominion. The difference was that he succeeded. Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon (in what is now southern Iraq) established what was at the time the largest empire in the world. It was based on a city – Babylon – which was the largest city in the world. In a short period of time nations that previously had been major players – such as Egypt and Assyria – were conquered and smaller countries and cities submitted or were devastated.

Among these smaller nations was Judah, centred in Jerusalem, representing what was left of what had been in the time of David and Solomon, the mighty kingdom of Israel.

In 605 BC Judah submitted. Significant treasures from the Jerusalem Temple were ‘transferred’ to Babylon and a number of hostages taken from the cream of its noble young. Amongst them was Daniel and his youthful friends, possibly no more than teenagers.

This is the setting for the opening chapter of the Bible book of Daniel, which we have begun to explore in our central Bible Study.\*

The ancient city of Babylon eventually disappeared into the mists and (literally) sands of history. But over the past 100 years or so, extensive excavations have revealed the magnificence that was the city of Babylon of antiquity. Significant parts of the city have been uncovered. Not least one of the gates, the Ishtar Gate, which has been painstakingly rebuilt, and is now displayed at the Berlin Museum, together with the ‘Procession Way’ with its lions, all in colourful glazed bricks (see pictures on p14).

Walking through that gate and gazing on its power and artistry, we began to glimpse how intimidated and overwhelmed those young Jewish exiles must have felt. When they arrived in Babylon they were



*Above: The Ishtar Gate; Below: One of Daniel's Lions?*

stripped of everything: home, families, language, culture, the clothes they wore, even their names.

All they had to hold on to was their faith in God, the God of Abraham and Moses. The issue for Daniel and his young friends was how to avoid being so totally smothered by their new environment, and culture, that even their faith and residual Jewish identity would be washed away: how to resist in a way that would be visible only to each other but would re-assure them that their faith was equally real in Babylon as in Jerusalem. Refusing to eat the cordon bleu cooking of the King's



Palace was not as dramatic as 'lions dens' and 'fiery furnaces' but it established the principle. It drew a line in the sand. It established that their God was the one true God, who was with them and was sovereign.

Daniel's approach anticipated that of St Paul; five centuries later, in his letter to the Roman churches, he urged that wherever we are, we are



not to allow ourselves to be moulded to the environment and culture around us but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds in Christ. (Romans 12). Then the Lord can work transformation through us. The fact is that the world around us - the empires, the kingdoms, powerful nations - are temporary. They come and go. Their power does not last. It cannot last because God is sovereign. That is the lesson that Daniel and his friends learned from the start. We are called to wait patiently, being faithful and obedient to our calling. For some Christians that may be very costly.

### **David James**

\* Meet first and third Tuesdays am in the Church Meeting Room.  
11am -12.15.

### **FRIDAY THE 13<sup>TH</sup> – LUCKY FOR SOME IN HAYES!**

Without looking it up on the internet, would you be able to answer this question: how many Friday 13ths will there be in total in 2025? That was one of several dozen questions asked of teams participating in the quiz night at the Hayes Free Church on Friday 13 June, held as a fundraiser for the Hayes Community Foodbank.

It was a lucky night for one of two teams made up of members of St Mary's congregation. 'The Ravens', which included (among others) at least one person actually born on a Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, one or two who had never attended a quiz before, the Rector and her husband, and yours truly, won prizes of wine, chocolate, and a trophy tin of baked beans (don't ask me why, I really don't know).



It was also a good night for the Hayes Community Foodbank. The event raised around £1000, with an additional amount of £500 generously donated on the night by a local business, to support the Foodbank's vital work. About 60 people attended and a wonderful time was had by all, thanks in no small part to quizmaster Mark Willoughby, and our friends at Hayes Free Church were fabulous hosts.

Near the end of the evening, Foodbank Chair (and former LLM at St Mary's) Becky Willoughby oversaw the raffle ticket draw – the last prize left on the table was *exactly* what one St Mary's member wanted, and she won it with the very last ticket drawn! - and gave an insight into the needs in the community on our doorstep.

Hayes Community Foodbank currently serves on average 30 families each week (around 120 individuals), thanks to a dedicated team of volunteers. Donations of food are gratefully received but these generally need to be topped up by supermarket deliveries costing £300-400 per week.

For anyone wanting to make a financial contribution to the Foodbank, the details are:

**Account name:** Hayes Community Foodbank Kent  
**Sortcode:** 08-92-99  
**Account number:** 67307296

For a gift aid form send an email to:

[hayescommunityfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:hayescommunityfoodbank@gmail.com)

The quiz was a great way to spend Friday 13<sup>th</sup> of June. Without giving too much away, there won't be another day like it for the rest of 2025!

**Jo Gale**

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*Photos on p. 10-12 by Graham Marsden*

**Items for the August magazine by 16<sup>th</sup> July please. Copy to the Editor: Clare Wickert, 3 Hayes Garden, Hayes.**

**Tel: 020 8462 7161** [wickerts@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:wickerts@hotmail.co.uk)

**August magazines will be ready for distribution on 27<sup>th</sup> July.**

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