

**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)**

## **JUNE 2025**

The warm weather of late spring was marked at St Mary's by the arrival of the Hayes May Queens and their attendants, who attended church for a service before a procession around the village and a party tea. They made an impressive sight, led off by a bagpiper, proudly dressed in special clothes. It was a lovely moment for our community.

May festivities in Hayes go back at least one hundred years, and probably long before. There are video clips online of processions in Hayes from the 1910s that are fascinatingly similar to this year's procession.

This got me thinking about why May celebrations are so well supported. Celebrating the arrival of spring, and the new life and growth it points towards, is an ancient theme for cultures across many parts of the world. For example, a poem in the Song of Songs (a book from the Old Testament) includes these words: "the winter is past, the rain is over and gone. The flowers appear on the earth; the time of singing has come." (Song of Songs 2:11-12)

It seems to be a human instinct that celebrating spring matters. The new growth of spring is beautiful, and brings great joy and refreshment. Nature certainly matters to people in Hayes – in fact, in the recent St Mary's community survey, more people chose "parks and green spaces" as "the best thing about living in Hayes" than chose anything else!

There's a practical reason to celebrate spring too. In former times, winter stocks would have been running low by May, but the arrival of spring promised abundant harvests to come. On a deeper level, without the new life and growth that spring brings, humans would struggle to survive at all. Flowers and plants give us food, they make the

oxygen that we breathe, they are at the heart of the natural world on which we depend.

Writers reflect on the importance of the earth throughout the Bible, perhaps especially in the book of Genesis. In Genesis, nature has an intrinsic value to God, who has created and loves it. God calls the Earth and its plants and animals “good”, long before humans come on the scene (Genesis 1).

We then read of God creating “every tree pleasant to the sight and good for food” as humans are invited to enjoy nature’s abundance. In response, humanity is commissioned to “serve and guard” the Earth – to care for and nurture its plants and animals.

Jesus also used examples from nature to help his listeners understand spiritual truth. For example, he spoke of God creating “the lilies of the field” more gloriously than King Solomon, and of God providing food and shelter for birds, as he encouraged his listeners to trust God and be less anxious (Matthew 6:25-33). The way that Jesus speaks of birds and lilies being “fed” and “clothed” by God implies that they matter to God whether or not humans pay any attention to them.

Sadly at this time, the Earth is under threat. The day after the May Queen’s procession was Christian Aid Sunday. We heard in church about a community in Guatemala where climate change has caused failed crops, turning a once prosperous agricultural region into place of struggle and increased poverty. We can see climate change causing worrying weather changes in our own country too. While decisions are not easy, it is clear that without urgent action these kinds of problems will only increase.

With this in mind, both May celebrations and Christian tradition can remind us of similar things: the importance of nature for all, its intrinsic worth, the blessings that it brings, its goodness and beauty. Remembering that nature is deeply loved by God can also encourage us in our own calling to “serve and guard” the Earth. My prayer is that love for the Earth will inspire everyone to protect nature, in the communities that Christian Aid supports around the world, and here at home in Hayes.

**Rev’d Tim Aldred**



**MISSION TO SEAFARERS  
COFFEE MORNING  
FRIDAY 27 JUNE 2025**



**Please join us for coffee & cake on  
27 June in the Meetings Room from  
10.30am to 12 noon in aid of the  
work of the Mission to Seafarers.**

With a history dating back to 1856, this Anglican Mission operates globally and helps the men and women working at sea when they most need support. This may be the result of a tragic incident such as shipwreck, piracy, ship abandonment or an accident. Today ship collisions are fewer but many of you will remember the dramatic pictures in March of the collision between the cargo ship Solong and the anchored tanker Stena Immaculate, about 12 miles off the coast of East Yorkshire. Wars also provide a constant threat. At the beginning of May, for example, a ship bringing humanitarian aid to Gaza was attacked by two drones. The Mission to Seafarers aims to ensure that in the event of a disaster at sea or an incident that leads to a shipwreck situation, it is on hand to provide much needed comfort and support to seafarers and their families. This service includes providing counselling, post-traumatic stress care and help in contacting home.

Collectively, there are an estimated 1.89m seafarers across the world operating on 74,000 ships. These men and women, of all nationalities, spend up to nine months at sea, far from families, friends and loved ones. Many experience loneliness and often have limited access to internet on board ships and so are pleased when their ships dock to be connected by the Mission to Seafarers and to speak with their families. The mission has a presence in over 200 ports in 50 countries and operates day and night 365 days a year, providing both spiritual and practical help. The chaplains and their supporting staff know that every day will be different and provide new challenges as they welcome seafarers in their centres or go on board to provide encouragement, help and advice to individuals who are experiencing personal difficulties.

Please support this work and remember the activities of the Mission to Seafarers in your prayers. We will also have a display in Church on Sea Sunday 13 July.

**Thank you**

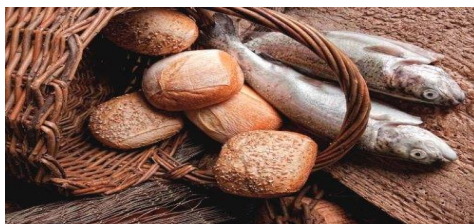
**Jean Wilson, Parish Link**

## SUNBEAMS

Recently we heard the story of the resurrection appearance of Jesus by the lake. Several of his confused disciples decided to go fishing but they had no luck all night. They saw someone on the beach who told them to cast their nets on the other side of the boat and when they did the nets were full but didn't break. Then they realised the person was Jesus. As they were close to the shore Peter jumped into the water in order to get to Jesus quickly and found Jesus had made a fire and had some bread. The disciples hauled the nets ashore and they cooked the bread and some of the fish over the fire and had a breakfast picnic with Jesus on the beach. Then they knew for certain that Jesus really was alive and they were so happy. We used the sailing boat and wooden men and also some tiny wooden fish, all of which Tom had made. We also played a fishing game with magnetic fish and rods. I read them this poem which I found from somewhere many years ago and you might enjoy it too.

7 weary fishermen saw someone burning sticks, John said it was Jesus  
and then there were 6  
6 weary fishermen said can he be alive? One could not believe it and  
then there were 5  
5 weary fishermen rowed for the shore. Peter jumped into the sea and  
then there were 4  
4 weary fishermen bobbing on the seas. One hauled up the net and  
then there were 3  
3 weary fishermen had such a lot to do. One pulled the boat ashore  
and then there were 2  
2 weary fishermen in the morning sun, staggered up the beach and  
there they found just 1  
1 special person with breakfast on a plate. He shared out the bread  
and fish, just enough for 8

**Hilary Burtonshaw**





I am starting to write this whilst watching the VE Day 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on the television as our armed forces take the Royal Salute. A poignant reminder of the sacrifices that so many of our parents and grandparents made so that we, and our children, could live our lives in freedom. We have so much to be thankful for.

In the wake of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, our Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, has shared a heartfelt letter reflecting on his legacy of compassion, service and unity. As we mourn his loss across the global Mothers' Union family, the message from our Worldwide President offered words of comfort, solidarity and inspiration for how we all should continue in the spirit of charity as an extension of God's hand in our own communities.

At our April MU meeting we had a very informative and interesting talk on the work of TWAM – Tools with a Mission. I had a phone call from Peter wondering if any members had any garden / garage tools, old sewing machines, knitting machines etc which they could donate. If so please phone Peter on 0208467 5120. There are leaflets about TWAM in the church porch. Please do support this worthwhile cause.

In May we learnt more about the work of “**Welcare**” in Bromley. Unfortunately, this talk was after the deadline for writing the June MU article, so will be reported on next month.

Members still meet for coffee and lunch at the New Inn Hayes on the first Tuesday of the month. This month 12 members enjoyed a coffee followed by lunch.



On Friday, 30<sup>th</sup> May we held a coffee morning in aid of our project to contribute towards worship for children in church. This will be reported on next month. Perhaps it is here I should mention what a delight it was on Easter Sunday to see the church full with so many families. The children were all so well behaved and were obviously enjoying the story that Christ has risen.

Whilst talking about children, several of our MU members are pen pals with children from Hayes Primary school. Just before Easter our pen pals treated us to afternoon tea, at Hayes school, giving us the opportunity to actually meet our pen pal and chat to them. It was a most enjoyable afternoon.

This year, Thy Kingdom Come celebrates its tenth anniversary. In 2025 it is running from 29<sup>th</sup> May to 8<sup>th</sup> June. For ten years we have been praying Thy Kingdom Come. In particular, each year, we have been praying for five people we know, that they may come to know the love of God for themselves. Our MU distinctive is in addition to praying for 5, we invite 1. This call echoes our triennium theme of Join Us, Join In! This year, as we continue in this pilgrimage of prayer, we focus on the prayer that Jesus taught us: the prayer that teaches us how to pray and live, the prayer that contains this amazing hope, Thy Kingdom Come.

We have been asked to have an emergency prayer contact so that the branches can be alerted to prayer requests. Is there anyone who is willing please to be our prayer contact?

## **To Mothers' Union Members around the world from Kathleen Snow, our Worldwide President**

### ***Dear Mothers' Union Sisters and Brothers in Christ,***

*Greetings to you in this season of Lent and Easter. I mention both Lent and Easter, as we cannot experience the hope in the Risen Lord without experiencing the wilderness bright-sad season of Lent.*

*Our Mothers' Union theme for Lent has been 'Living Hope' and this theme 'invites us to reflect deeply on the hope we have in Christ, even as we walk through the challenges and complexities of life'. For many of our members, we are experiencing challenging situations, whether living in war-torn countries of conflict or displaced due to these conflicts, recovering from the effects of climate change and severe weather conditions, dealing with difficult family/ personal relationships, worried about the unstable political climate, and at times just living with the challenges of daily life.*

*We know that Jesus walked a difficult journey. It was a journey in which He followed His Father as He led Him through the wilderness. We must remember that Jesus walks this journey with us. He is always beside us and waiting for us to reach out to Him. We need only to open our hands and our hearts to pray.*

*This journey ends in the magnificent joy of Easter. **He is Risen! He is Risen indeed!** We are a people called to live in hope, in hope of meeting our Master and continuing to walk with Him.*

*As Mothers' Union members we are strong, united and living in hope. I hear this when speaking with members around the world. The deep and abiding faith that we have is an encouragement to others. We are a witness to others in this bright-sad season of Lent, and we are witnesses when we share our joy on Easter morn. We know that He is risen and that He has made a place for us in heaven.*

*So, let us walk this way together. Let us support one another in prayer, in worship and in service. Let us be a force to end poverty, injustice and violence. We can and are making a difference in our walk with Him and with each other.*

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. Romans 15:13*

*With my love and blessings,*

***Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President***

We pray for all Mothers' Union members. We especially bring before you all our members who are unwell, waiting for a diagnosis, or in a hospital or nursing home. Wrap your healing arms around them that they might feel your love and warmth and know that you are there with them.

**Our next meetings are**

***Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> June 11.00am: Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes, coffee and optional lunch***

***Monday 16th June 10.30am in the Meetings Room - Speaker to be confirmed***

***Tuesday 1st July 11.00am Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes, coffee and optional lunch***

If you are interested in finding out more about Mothers' Union, please contact me on 0208 468 7785 or just come along to one of our meetings. You would be most welcome.

**Avril Ashford**

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

### 7<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF EASTER

<b>Sunday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise Sunbeams** (age 3-6)
	2.00pm	Baptism: Jaylyn Allotey
<b>Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
<b>Wednesday 4<sup>th</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 in OCS

### PENTECOST

<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW Blaze and Sunbeams Session** (age 3-10)
	12.15pm	Baptism: Alexander Drummond
<b>Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group
<b>Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

### TRINITY SUNDAY

<b>Saturday 14<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30pm	Churchyard Tidy Up
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
<b>Monday 16<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Mothers' Union meeting**



<b>Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Friday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

## 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY OF TRINITY

<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze Session** (age 6-10)
<b>Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group
<b>Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**
<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.00noon	Coffee Morning in aid of the Mission to Seafarers**

## PETER AND PAUL

<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Sunbeams** (age 3-6)
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\*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.



## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Hayes Men's Fellowship (HMF) continues in full swing through June with a full programme of activities – the usual Meeting, Outing and Walk – as we have most months of the year. It is also a month for planning our year ahead so that we have a programme of Meetings and Outings for our new year starting in October. Our Committee hardly get a break though, as September is the only month with no HMF activities!

We enjoy sharing reports on our popular activities each month, and start with the Outing to Historic Winchester and Winchester College. This Cathedral city developed from the Roman town of Venta Belgarum, lies at the western end of the South Downs National Park, on the River Itchen. In early medieval times Winchester was capital of the Kingdom of Wessex and associated with famous Kings including real Alfred and the legendary Arthur of round table fame (the round table in the Great Hall Winchester Castle is said to be an imitation). After the trip down from Hayes, time was first spent in the City itself. Attractions for our group included the cathedral which was constructed between 1079 to 1532 and is the longest medieval cathedral in the world with an overall length of 558 feet. The National Trust-run Winchester City Mill is close to the Cathedral on the Itchen and one of the oldest watermills in the country, with a history dating back over a thousand years. Also close by are the remains of the 12C Wolvesey Castle which was the



Old Bishop's Palace. Amongst the most impressive buildings is Winchester College which has expanded to include many of the surrounding buildings. The College was founded by William of Wykeham (1324-1404), who became Bishop of Winchester and Chancellor of England. Hence, former pupils of Winchester College are called Old Wykehamists. In the afternoon we were fortunate to have guided tours of the of the buildings including the impressive Chapel.

Our latest walk was close by in the High Elms, Downe & Farnborough, when we were blessed with sunny and warm weather. Starting from High Elms, the route was along paths and grass, often shaded. The walkers covered a total distance of 5 miles, 0.3 miles more than planned! An excellent, reasonably priced lunch was provided by "The Woodman" at 50 High St, Farnborough.

At our most recent meeting we had an excellent talk entitled "Problems in Aviation" by HMF member, Ray Neve. This was a multilayered talk, based around a series of eight problems in aviation including how do heavy airliners actually fly, how do you get the balance and handling right and the future of aviation. At the same time we were treated to a brief history of aviation starting with the legendary Icarus before moving on to the real Wright Brothers' first flight of a heavier than air machine in 1903 covering a whole 120 feet, through to modern high speed and long range commercial and military aircraft. In the process we learnt quite a few technical facts – including for example the way lift is generated by a wing cross section that forces air to move more quickly over the top surface, that amazingly a cubic metre of air weighs 1.2kg and that the speed of sound (Mach 1) is 760mph at sea level but is higher at higher altitudes. This was a very professional talk that was greatly appreciated by all the members present.

Fuller reports on these and many other completed activities can be found on our website at [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org) together with details of the remaining events for 2024/2025. The website also provides information about joining our welcoming group. To enjoy all our activities, you just have to be a retired or semi-retired man of any faith or none and willing to pay our annual subscription - currently a very modest £20.

Contact us to find out more (details below) or feel free to come to one of our meetings for a "no commitment" trial session.

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

## **COMMEMORATION OF THE FALLEN OF HAYES FROM THE SECOND WORLD WAR. VE DAY 80**

You will have seen on lampposts in Pickhurst Lane, Station Approach and Hayes Street, Red Tommy Lamppost badges, which have been placed there by Hayes Branch of the Royal British Legion. Each Tommy badge remembers a fallen son or daughter of Hayes by name, who was killed in action or was a civilian casualty. The Legion wrote to householders in Hayes who currently live at the address where the people we are remembering once lived.

We are very grateful to those who responded and are now displaying the Tommy badge in the front garden of the home of one of the Fallen of Hayes. The common response from those participating was one of being honoured to do so.

As you walk around Hayes, please remember those from our village who made the ultimate sacrifice.

### **The Exhortation**

They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old,  
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the sun, and in the morning,  
We will remember them.

### **The Kohima Epitaph**

When you go home, tell them of us and say,  
For your tomorrow, we gave our today

Our thanks go to Jean Wilson and the late Trevor Woodman, whose research on Hayes and the fallen included their former addresses. Thank you to the volunteers from Hayes RBL Branch, who placed the Tommy badges on the lampposts, delivered them to householders and inscribed the names.

### **Oliver Pereira**

## CLAIMING PROMISES

For some reason, known only to God, I have been presented in my Bible readings with a number of promises from Jesus:

1. I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness (John 8:12).
2. My Father knows what you need before you ask him (Matt 6:8).
3. I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me (John:14).

Each of these promises present big challenges to me.

I have found myself in 'dark places' on many occasions, usually when I have found it difficult to find God in my prayers or just through daily life and its ups and downs. When I find myself in darkness it is perhaps because I am not seeking Jesus and trying to follow him. He says that following him is essential to moving out of darkness into his light, but it's hard to do when darkness surrounds you. It seems that it involves an act of will to reach out to him into his light. When I succeed in escaping the darkness I have found his light to be spectacular and wonderful so why do I still fall back into darkness?

Jesus said that God knows all my needs. My problem is that I add onto God's list the 'wants' in life. It becomes much clearer when Jesus followed this promise with the Lord's Prayer. Careful reading of this prayer reveals that there is no room in our prayers for the 'wants' of life. The focus of our prayers should be about the coming of God's kingdom, loving God and our neighbours, seeking forgiveness for our sins, the ability to ask God for the essentials of human life such as food and health, protection from the devil and rejoicing in God's redeeming power and his glory.

Jesus the good shepherd knows me as one of his many sheep and he says that I know him as my shepherd. He knows me by name and, as one of his sheep, I should know his voice and hear him when he calls and leads me to new pasture. I find that I have to listen hard to hear his voice and usually it involves another act of will to seek a quiet space where I can put aside all the thoughts of the day and just listen.

So, where is all this leading? you might think. When I see the distress of families in war zones facing violence, hunger, disease and nowhere to live, unable to provide for their children and facing death all

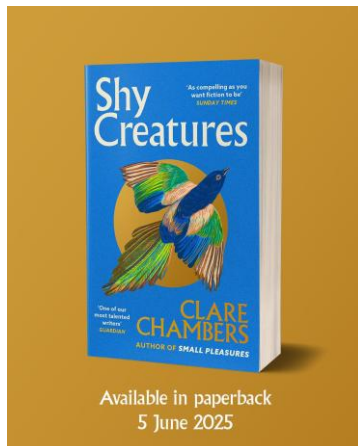
around them, I wonder how they can 'never walk in darkness' and find the light of Christ. To try to answer this what can I do? I have to turn to Christ, who issued all these promises, in the certain knowledge that he would face rejection and ultimately extreme violence at the end of his life on a cruel cross. He gave us these promises knowing full well how his human life would end.

So, in conclusion, although these promises seem difficult to us in our often comfortable lives in the Western world, I believe they hold true and we need to learn to reach out to Christ in faith, especially when our faith feels weak. Christ told us that with faith the size of a tiny mustard seed we can move mountains and many Christians have proved that to be true down the centuries. I pray for myself that I will cherish that mustard seed and nurture it and be able to claim at least some of these amazing promises in the coming days.

**David Langford**

## **LIVING WITH A WRITER**

Being married to a successful novelist certainly makes life interesting. Clare is happy if she writes one page a day, and gradually over about two years a 350 page book is produced. It is a very exciting experience as I read each page which comes off the home printer on A4 sheets. Clare has now written 10 books and each one I have read in its first print stage and every time I have been astounded, moved, tearful and laughed out loud at what my friend and partner has been able to create from her own imagination.



The first 8 books were very well received and had great reviews or won awards but unfathomably never took off. I could sense Clare beginning to show signs of giving up what she is so very good at. I felt blessed to be able to encourage her not to admit defeat but to keep trying, have faith and believe - so she tried one more time. Then, as some of you may know, *Small Pleasures* was published just at the time of lockdown. This book took off to become a bestseller with TV rights and

13 foreign translations (including Russian and South Korean!) It struck me as incredible how readers in such far-flung places would interpret a novel set in Hayes in 1957.

But things did not stop there. Clare's latest book, *Shy Creatures*, set in Croydon in 1964, came out in August and is already being described as 'even better than *Small Pleasures*'. Last year, though, the pleasures for me turned into wonderful experiences, as I was able to chaperone Clare all over the UK to Edinburgh, Manchester, Appledore, Budleigh Salterton and Hastings Book Festivals and many more (28 in total) where I could sit in the audience and listen with astonishment and pride at how she could hold an audience with erudite, pithy comments and funny anecdotes. And finally in November I was able to accompany her on the Cheltenham Festival at Sea, a seven-day voyage on the Queen Mary 2 from Southampton to New York. While I sat around enjoying the ambience of a luxury life at sea, Clare had to 'work' each day by speaking about her books or interviewing other writers in one of the two packed 500-seat theatres on the ship. The other guest speakers included Ruth Jones, John Sergeant, Robert Moore, Patrick Gale, Louise Minchin, Mark Billingham plus many others, and each evening we would sit down to a fine meal in the beautiful restaurant and chat to these funny and interesting people. We all became close as a group. An amazing and life-enhancing experience.

Already *Shy Creatures* has been selling well in hardback and I am looking forward to more 'freeloading' when the paperback comes out this month and we start touring again.

Over 30 years Clare has been writing and waiting with patience dedication and a lot of disappointment and it has finally paid off and now she is recognised as 'one of our most talented writers' (*The Guardian*) and a new chapter has commenced in our lives.

So if you ever feel that your efforts are in vain, rejected or unrecognised, never give up. God has a time and a place for everyone and you need to have faith and patience; your time will come. I have always found Hebrews 10; 35-36 to be inspiring.

### **Peter Wickert**

(Clare writes in the name Chambers and her latest book is available in paperback from Amazon, Waterstones and independent bookshops from June 5<sup>th</sup>).

## QUIZ NIGHT

Come and join the St Mary's team at the **Quiz Night for Hayes Community Foodbank**. It's at 7pm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> June at Hayes Free Church and tickets are £10 per person. Contact Stuart Spence for more details (07917 024481).

### 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)

## FATHER'S DAY

Father's Day is 15<sup>th</sup> June – a day to honour and appreciate our fathers and father figures, such as grandfathers and fathers-in-law. Many of us will make a special effort to see them on the day. No two fathers are alike, of course, but various polls across the internet reveal some interesting similarities of what people have most valued in their dad.

These traits include: being dependable, approachable, protective, patient, affectionate, honest, willing to listen, compassionate, and having spent time with them when they were young.

That's quite a list! People whose fathers had even some of those strengths have a lot to be thankful for.

Thankfully, our Father in Heaven certainly has all those traits. Jesus said the Father is totally dependable and protective of us, longs for us to turn to Him, and is full of compassion and love. And we are to call Him 'Abba' – Daddy!

*PP June 2025*

*Photo of Winchester College Chapel on p10 by Michael McGuire*

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

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

**July magazines will be ready for distribution on 29<sup>th</sup> June.**

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