

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

THY KINGDOM COME

We have made it to six months! By the time this issue is out I'll be going into my seventh month as minister at St Mary's! And it has been a glorious time, with all the hues of highs and lows, where God has been there to support, guide and give His Grace.

The many highs have included the opportunity to share fellowship with the congregation at St Mary's Church and also with the wider community. I hope that as God wills, we are learning and sharing together. It has been a privilege to be welcomed with such warmth and encouragement.

During the time of 'Thy Kingdom Come', Ascension to Pentecost, we have had the opportunity to pray for others and the community but also to practise love in action. I named my five people to pray for in my Prayer Journal and tried to follow the guiding words in prayer and action. There is a call to prayer but also to 'Living the Kingdom' action.

James, in his letter in the New Testament part of the Bible, writes about action; action without faith and faith without action, and he has some very strong things to say, 'Faith without works is dead', among many other things.

He writes, 'What good is it, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works? Can faith save you? If a brother or sister is naked and lacks daily food, and one of you says to them, "Go in peace; keep warm and eat your fill", and yet you do not supply their bodily needs, what is the good of that? So faith, by itself, if it has no works, is dead' Chapter 2, verses 14-17.

However, he also shares the importance of faith in the works, sharing, 'I by my works will show you my faith' v 18. Faith is still also of utmost importance, 'brought to completion by the works' v22.

Having been through the watching and waiting of the seasons of Advent and Lent, we move into the action season following Pentecost, the last Sunday of May, leading into Trinity Sunday, where we celebrate the mystery of God, three persons in one, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

As the Son returning to the Father is the focus of Ascension, the Holy Spirit is the focus of Pentecost, the Holy Spirit descending on the disciples. They are sent out to share the Good News of the Gospels, the life and teachings of Jesus.

So let us be a 'sent' people, sent out into the world, continually blessed having been sent the Holy Spirit, to reveal God's gift of limitless peace, love and grace to all his children – us!

Rev'd Amanda



UK FOODBANKS BUSIER THAN EVER

More food parcels were given out in the UK this past year than ever before. During December 2022, an emergency food parcel was handed out the equivalent of every eight seconds.

These are the most recent figures from the Trussell Trust, which supports more than 1300 foodbanks in the UK.

In all, the charity says it gave out nearly three million food parcels between April 2022 and April 2023. More than one million of these were for children. These three million parcels from the charity's foodbanks represent a 37% increase in England on 2021. And more than 760,000 people used a foodbank for the first time, which is up more than one third in 2021-22.

Soaring inflation and energy costs have driven the increase in demand. The charity reports an unprecedented rise in the number of employed people using their foodbanks, because they are "no longer able to balance a low income against rising living costs."

The problem now, says the trust, is that food donation levels are not keeping up with the need. "This is putting us under a lot of strain."

PP News Jun 2023

ANNUAL PAROCHIAL CHURCH MEETING 3 MAY

It was encouraging to see some 40 parishioners attending our Annual Parish Church Meeting in the church. Rector Amanda Spence presided at her first APCM and presented her first review since arriving in Hayes in the Autumn. Yvonne Pickford was elected Churchwarden and thanks were expressed to retiring Churchwarden, David James. A gift and card were presented to David on behalf of Rev'd Amanda and all at St Mary's. Mary Rowedder, as Electoral Roll Officer, presented a report that there are 147 on our roll at present. Two new members were elected to the PCC: David James and Stuart Spence. They join those already elected: Roger Rowe, Rosemary Smith, Mary Stannard, Mark Willoughby and Kate Davis. Thanks was expressed to Carolyn Tooley, Peter Wickert and Sarah Willis, who were retiring from the PCC, and whose input to proceedings had been very much appreciated. Ed Roberts, our Honorary Treasurer, presented the Church Accounts for the year 2022. Reports were received from Yvonne Pickford and David James covering both Churchwarden and Fabric Review matters, PCC Secretary, Deanery Synod and Safeguarding Report (Clare Scriven). The deaths of Lorelei Colbeck, Dorothy Dewey, Audrey Thompson and Ronald Stone, who had been long standing members of the congregation, were noted by the meeting. The evening concluded with some interesting questions being raised under Any Other Business.

Mary Whytock (PCC Secretary)

THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Please support our coffee morning in the Meetings Room on **Friday 7th July** from 10a.m. to 12 noon for the work of the Mission to Seafarers.

There are an estimated 1.89 million seafarers across the world operating on 74,000 ships. These men and women of all nationalities frequently spend up to nine months at sea far from families, friends and loved ones. With a history dating back to 1836, the Mission to Seafarers today operates in over 200 ports across 50 countries supporting these men and women working at sea through seafarers' centres, port-based welfare services, ship visits and helping when individuals are most in need.



The chaplains' reports reveal the great variety in their work. On one ship visit the chaplain was warmly welcomed by the crew who appreciated the gifts of chocolate and woolly hats (many thanks to all our knitters) but he also spent time in speaking and praying with one seaman who had just joined the ship and started a nine months' contract when his father suddenly died in the Philippines. Arrangements were also made for him to be visited at the next port of call and for his family to be assisted by the Philippines Family Support Network.

The chaplains and assistants are also quickly on the scene when tragedies occur. In June last year an awful yellow cloud was caused by a faulty crane dropping a canister of chlorine as it was being loaded on to a ship in Aqaba, Jordan. Fourteen people were killed including five Vietnamese seafarers and several port workers. Over 200 were injured. The Mission's local manager was immediately in action, spending much time in the hospital and supporting the crew in numerous different ways by liaising with authorities, agents and doctors, providing pastoral care and offering communications support.

In December the Mission's chaplain in Izmir, Turkey, responded following a fire and massive explosion aboard the General Cargo ship, Beata, in the Black Sea. The Captain died at the scene but the others, mainly Egyptians, were rescued; one died of his injuries and nine men were treated for serious burns. The Revd James Buxton went with his associate ship visitor, Kadir, to meet the crew in Samsun. They were able to bring gifts, provide vital pastoral help and offer initial support in dealing with questions about compensation, pay and flights home.

Another area of work which has sadly been increasing is helping to deal with the situation when ships are abandoned by their owners and the crew have to fend for themselves. There were at least 109 cases in 2022. Imagine the stress of being stranded in a foreign port, or possibly even at sea, on a ship where perhaps there's no fuel to keep the generator running and therefore no lighting or heating, no way of cooking hot food, and with supplies of fresh water to drink running out. You may not have been paid for some months – not being paid for at least two months constitutes a case of abandonment – nor have any way of contacting your family to tell them of your plight.

The Mission to Seafarers tries to help with all these issues. Further information can be found on www.missiontoseafarers.org or at our coffee morning on **7th July**.

Jean Wilson - Parish Link

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Rochester



How did you celebrate Coronation week-end? Did you spend time with other MU members, Church members, attended a street party or seeing loved-ones? Whatever you did I am sure that it was memorable and that in the future you will recollect the Coronation with pleasure.

Let us pray: *Father, we give you thanks for the opportunity to serve you in whichever way we can. We ask you to bless our members and the staff at Mary Sumner House as we all work together for the good of those around us. We ask you to bless our new king, Charles, as he seeks your will. Guide him as he begins his new journey of service and give him your peace and strength to fully blossom into the person you would have him to be. These and all our prayers we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. AMEN*

At the beginning of May twelve of us enjoyed coffee followed by lunch at the New Inn. We do enjoy these informal meetings. Our next meeting at the New Inn will be on **Monday, June 19th** at 11am.

Our next formal meeting in the meetings room is on **12th June** when Rev. David Darling will talk about his journey in the church. He currently lives in Shepherds College, Bromley.

Five members attended the AGM and Members' Meeting at St Paulinus in Crayford. A copy of notes made at the AGM is on the MU noticeboard in the porch. The Prison Chaplain for HM Rochester Prison was our speaker. The Diocesan President welcomed the Rev'd Beatrice Musundi (Mother Beatrice (MB)) the CofE chaplain at HMP Rochester. She was wearing a dress made of Mothers' Union material from Uganda. I have copied here a summary of her talk as I thought you would find it interesting.

Mother Beatrice told members that she had lived in Broadstairs for ten years, where her husband was a vicar. She was originally from Uganda, where her grandmother was a member. She came to the UK and was ordained in the Church in Wales. She worked in Canterbury prison, which was now closed and then in the Dover Immigration Centre – also now closed, then went to the Isle of Sheppey prisons; now she was in Rochester.

Rochester was an adult category C male prison with seven hundred men aged eighteen and up. Men were at the end of their sentences in this resettlement prison. Most were short term, but some had been there for more than 3 years before they were moved to open prisons on the Isle of Sheppey. As well as the chaplaincy, education, training and skills workshops go on in the prison. Companies which take people with prison records visit. The men were not locked up all the time and programmes were designed to help them lead better lives while protecting the public. Despite this rehabilitation, a few did return to the prison, but MB emphasised that no one was beyond redemption; there was hope for everyone. The chaplaincy worked to bring hope.

All major religions were represented in the prison and all new entrants were given a leaflet within 24 hours of arriving. Chaplains were; Buddhist, Hindu, Muslim, Pagan; Rastafarian, Jehovah's Witness, and Jewish. The Christian chaplains were CofE, RC and Free Church. They all offered pastoral support and care for the men and the staff. They worked with the men's families and staff families. The first time they saw a chaplain, the men thought someone had died. If there was a report that a family member had died, checks were made to ensure it was true, before the prisoner was told. They were permitted to go to funerals and to visit dying relatives and friends. Bible studies (Book of Proverbs) and Alpha courses were held; some come along just to get out of their cells for a change, but some men ask to be baptised. Each Christian

denomination held a service on Sundays. The men were on various stages of their faith journey; some reconnected - they had time to reflect on their lives. Some said they had been saved by the chaplains, but it was really the work of the Holy Spirit.

The chaplains saw the men before release to find out if they needed help to connect with a local church; safeguarding checks were carried out. Churches could register to work with ex-offenders in their congregations.

Mother Beatrice mentioned the Sycamore Tree Course – a victim awareness course, based on the story of Zacchaeus, used as part of their sentence-planning. Every offence had a victim. The course was faith-based but not faith-encouraging.

MB passed on huge thanks for the support of the Mothers' Union. Every Christmas the men received a pair of socks. Birthday cards had also been donated. Some men had never had a present or card before; this encouraged them and restored their faith in humanity. At Easter, each man had an Easter egg and a card. The staff also wanted eggs, so MB called on Jenny Beaney for more eggs! The Vineyard Church in Maidstone also gave each man a doughnut at Christmas. MB said that all these donations proved that the MU was active and still alive.

Expanding more on Sunday Services, MB said other groups joined in the services – a Seventh Day Adventist choir, bands and the Bishop attended the carol service last Christmas. Volunteers were a great help to the chaplains.

In the UK, the cost-of-living crisis is adding tremendous strain for families already going through incredibly difficult times. Mothers' Union helps parents and children facing adversity have a much-needed break away together. A time where they can enjoy being with one another and put aside the stresses and strains of everyday life.

We want to join together this summer to turn hope into action and transform lives. We will be holding a coffee morning in late summer to raise money for "Summer of Hope". Date to be announced next month. Find out more by visiting www.mothersunion.org/soh2023.

I have just spoken to Faith's daughter, Alison, who reports that Faith is fine and enjoys her weekly outings. She delights in seeing her grandchildren and being able to celebrate their birthdays, etc. with them.

You are all welcome to join our meetings, whether the social at The New Inn or in the Meetings Room. If you would like to find out more about Mothers' Union please contact Avril Ashford **0208 468 7785**.

Avril Ashford

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY JUNE 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).

TRINITY SUNDAY

Sunday 4th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 6th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 7th	10.30am	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Space**
	2.45pm	Men's Fellowship in OCS

BARNABAS THE APOSTLE

Sunday 11th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	12.15pm	Baptism: Sofia Rose Sanfilippo & Alfred Robert James Weech
Monday 12th	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
Wednesday 14th	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Space**

2ND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 18th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 20th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 21st	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Space**

3RD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 25th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	5.00-6.00pm	Illuminate**
Tuesday 27th	10.00am-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 28th	10.15-12.00 noon	Community Coffee Morning**
	12.30-3.30pm	Warm Space**

* for Zoom link please 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 BAPTISM IN THE PARISH

Oscar Awadalla

A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH

John Walker Hardy

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

June brings the start of Summer, traditionally from the Solstice on June 21 and known as the longest day for its length of daylight. Our planned coach outing takes advantage of this with an extended day out in Bath departing from Hayes at 8am and returning here towards 8pm but still just about in daylight. If you would like to join us as a paying guest in convivial company, full details are available at our website, www.hayesmensfellowship.org. Ladies are welcome to fill the remaining places, retired or semi-retired men of any faith or none can even decide to become members once they have enjoyed being in company with us. A telephone call to the under-signed could get the ball rolling to a regular social scene away from the demands of a working life.

We are very much a Wednesday club as our regular pattern of meetings with a visiting professional speaker, outings by comfortable coach from the centre of Hayes, and walks in the countryside or in and around London, are scheduled for the first, third and last Wednesday respectively in each month. There are exceptions in August, September and December as notified in our website and monthly newsletters to allow for private holiday arrangements.

To further whet your appetite, we continue with our usual review of recent activities. In April, 39 passengers set off promptly at 8.45am for a day out to Battle and Hastings. A swift journey brought us to Battle Abbey just after the site opened to the public at 10am, and the sun was shining with no hint of rain!

One occupant of a wheelchair was immediately impressed by a personal greeting from one of the guides who met us at the coach to talk us through the special provisions for access in what is a very old building designed to keep people out rather than nowadays to make entry easier!

Our first destination was the attached cinema to view a ten-minute film recreating the events of 1066. Ingenious use of CGI for the recreated battle scenes plus animation of photographed relevant sections of the Bayeux tapestry really brought the scene to life aided by an excellent voiceover which didn't flinch from the blood and death of the battle itself while still making clear the tactics employed.

Going onward to the outside, we could view the plaque marking the stated location of the battlefield. This is now just a grassy peaceful area for what is regarded as the most famous and important battle in English history. As our guide leaflet states, "it was the last successful military invasion of England and transformed the country forever". We could also view the stone block marking where it is commonly believed King Harold fell in battle.

William the Conqueror achieved this all within the space of just one year, hence the familiar tag "1066 and all that". He had begun his preparations in the January but it was only by October that favourable winds enabled his ships to reach our shores. William founded Battle Abbey a few years later out of gratitude for his victory and as a monument to the thousands who had died in battle on 14 October 1066. He was crowned King of England in Westminster Abbey on Christmas Day, ending the Saxon Age within that year.

For those of our party with stamina and suitable footwear there was a signed walking route said to take about 60 minutes and giving passing views of parts of the Abbey such as the walls, cloisters, dormitory

block and even the remains of the latrine block. The site of the abbey church, high altar and crypt could also be seen.

It was then time to reboard our coach for the short journey into Hastings. After travelling along the length of the seafront Marine Parade we alighted in the Old Town not far from the Fisherman's Quarter, which is the location of the Fishermen's Museum and of the Shipwreck Museum. Both are worth a visit with free admission, although freewill donations are prominently sought. This area featured the iconic black wooden towers built to dry the fishing nets under cover – they would rot if left exposed to the salty air. Also to be found were numerous fish and chip shops including our choice of one recommended by our coach driver which had pleasant outdoor dining in the sunshine.



After lunch, there was just time for a stroll back along the seafront before reboarding our coach at 4.30pm as arranged for the return journey to Hayes. Everyone appreciated the excellent organisation of David Smith, especially as this was his first since joining the Outings Sub-Committee; well done and he received a merited round of applause as we reached Hayes.

Our April walk was in the Leigh area of Kent. Conditions were quite good for walking - light winds, not too hot or cold. However, recent

heavy rain had made the ground soggy in places. Starting from the green in Leigh, we strolled through a mix of fields and woods, footbridges over the River Medway and alongside Haysden Water to “The Plough” near Powder Mills where a very good lunch was served. From there it was 1.5 miles across fields, a renovated footbridge over the A21 and through more woods to our cars. The total distance walked was 5 miles and there were five walkers.

As it happens, the talk planned for May didn’t take place as the intended speaker fell ill just one day before he was due to meet us! Something approaching controlled panic stations arose when our Programme Secretary discovered that nobody on his forthcoming speakers list was able to deputise at such short notice. The day was rescued by our Secretary (co-author of this article), who had just recently returned from a holiday in Japan and so had clear recollections of the sights he witnessed and information passed on by his Japanese guides. He bravely volunteered to talk about them under an intriguing title “Some things you may not know about Japan”. This is his written account...

Graham started with a little background on the country to provide some context for the things to come. 38 million people (30% of the Japanese population) live in Greater Tokyo; pro rata that is equivalent to having 20 million people living in London which was not a pleasant thought. 70% of the land area with significant areas of the remaining 30% taken up by extensive manufacturing and agriculture, constraining the space for people to live. The islands of Japan are also all on the Pacific “ring of fire” which leads to the country having 180 active volcanoes - more than any other country – and 1,000 earthquakes or tremors a year. Mount Fuji, or Fuji-san, is the best-known volcano and normally erupts every 300 years. On Honshu Island at least the terrain was quite dramatic with jagged mountains largely tree covered.

The first thing that strikes you is that Japan is a monoculture, it is one of the most ethnically pure countries on Earth. And the population is very compliant and law abiding. Just a few examples were the almost complete absence of litter and graffiti – or jaywalking, with almost everyone waiting for the green man to cross the road. It is also quiet; people in the streets were not as noisy as at home (especially kids on their way home from school) and only once in two weeks was a car horn heard. Public shows of affection seemed to be frowned upon so there was no holding hands or kissing in public. Apparently, Japanese wives prefer nice presents to other expressions of love! Some of the women on the tour quite liked that idea. Overall, the population is falling with a low birth rate leading to an ageing population.

Part of the difference in Japan is the range of customs and rituals they have. We saw Geisha clubs in Kyoto where men were entertained with singing and dancing. We heard that the number of geishas is falling with the long and strict training (no pay, no phone and no boyfriend) perhaps putting off new recruits. The Japanese Tea Ceremony was not to be missed. There is apparently a set pattern which must be followed for the ceremony and it was carried out in a beautifully choreographed manner by an elegant young lady in a kimono kneeling throughout the process. The resulting Matcha tea – only a little in the bottom of the bowl - was something of an acquired taste. Matcha is made using dried and ground green tea leaves and whisked before drinking to enhance the flavour.

Cleanliness is a major feature of Japanese life. The streets are clean, the trains and stations are clean – goodness knows what Japanese visitors think of London! In the Onsen public hot spring baths you are expected to wash, and be seen washing, before entering the Onsen. At a very much more personal level in terms of cleanliness are Japanese toilets. All singing, all dancing toilets! They have various spray and bidet functions with adjustable water pressure and water temperature. Some will have the sound of running water or music and even deodorant spray. But, on a chilly day, the best feature has to be the heated seat!

Another major area of difference is the language, especially written. There are three elements, Kanji pictograms introduced from China with Buddhism, Hiragana phonetic characters for Japanese words and Katakana, also phonetic, for foreign words. School children are expected to learn 1,000 characters while, for reading newspapers and books, 2,000 characters are needed. How different from our simple system. We were very lucky visiting in 2023 as there had been a plan for the last Tokyo Olympics to include many more signs in English. This included names of some major streets and signage on public transport which made it much easier to get around independently.

Japan has its own ancient indigenous religion, Shinto, with something like 100,000 shrines across the country. The overriding belief in Shinto is to promote harmony and purity in all aspects of life. But many Japanese are also Buddhist, with the religion reaching the country via China and Korea. There are around 80,000 Buddhist temples. Some of the larger shrines and temples have magnificently manicured gardens providing tranquil places for contemplation and meditation.

There was certainly no shortage of places to eat out in any of the towns and cities we visited. Very few served Western food, though

inevitably there were branches of McDonalds! Even when you could not read the menu all you had to do was look at the plastic models of the meals in the window and point! Some mistakes were made like ordering what we thought were mini doughnuts with maple syrup that turned out to be balls of boiled rice flour covered with soy sauce and with the texture of Blu-Tack!

We were lucky enough to manage three trips on the famous Shinkansen bullet trains and they lived up to their reputation of speed (200 mph), punctuality, comfort and reliability. More of a surprise was the fact that most stops allowed only a minute at the station to let passengers off and new ones on through doors that were only half the size of those on our local Southeastern services! The Government also has plans for even faster underground Maglev trains. The first line is being constructed between Tokyo and Osaka and we were told that it is due for completion in 2037 but is currently an amazing six years ahead of schedule. In terms of motoring, HMF members were dismayed to hear that the Government in Japan encourage people over 70 to give up their cars as they presented a higher accident risk. Those that didn't, had to have a sticker on the back of their car to warn other drivers.

The tour of Japan also included a visit to Hiroshima which was devastated in 1945 by the first atomic bomb to be used in anger. A poignant reminder of the risks of nuclear war at this time of conflict in Europe.

Graham's words here do not fully do justice to his efforts to prepare, not least the presentation of facts and pictures on the screen which he assembled especially and rehearsed only the night before! He spoke without notes using the slides as an *aide memoire* and answered many questions from the audience, including from those gathered round his display of Japanese purchases, while tea and biscuits were being served. Graham fully deserved the loud applause at the end of his 45-minute talk and could perhaps consider delivering his words to a wider audience!

Hopefully Jon Yarrow will appear to talk about "The Crime Scene Examiner" by the time you get to read these words. We shall be reporting on that and all our other news here next month.

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

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GOD SO LOVES THE WORLD

John Betjeman reflected on the many superficial preparations for Christmas in his famous poem 'Christmas'. It concludes with the following words:

'And is it true, and is it true
This most tremendous tale of all.....
The Maker of the stars and sea
Became a Child on earth for me?'

(Nothing) 'Can with this single truth compare
That God was Man in Palestine
And lives to-day in Bread and Wine.'

Betjeman was a great lover of churches and their architecture but his poem 'Christmas' is the only one, of which I'm aware, that declares his desire to find faith. He writes 'And is it true?' as a man searching for truth but then declares that nothing can compare with this single truth of God becoming a man and establishing our Eucharist through his death and resurrection.

There is a difference between something being true and *The Truth*. I think Betjeman realized this when he wrote that nothing we do can compare with this single *Truth*. We live in a world in which there are many religions which do not recognize Jesus as the Saviour of mankind, and millions of people who don't know much, if anything, about faith. The world can be a very dark place with much suffering but this is the world which God so loved that he came to earth as a man to show us his love and to die for the sins of *the whole of mankind*.

I believe that Jesus is the great '*I am*' (Jehovah).

He said, 'Before Abraham was, *I am*.'

He said, '*I am* the Way, The Truth, and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'

The death and resurrection of Jesus will always be the most important event in the history of our world.

Some evangelical Christians interpret these words of Jesus absolutely literally and believe that people who don't have Christian faith in this life will be condemned when they die, because they believe the only way to heaven is through faith in Christ in this life. We read, however, that *God so loved the world* that he gave his only Son that whoever believes in him should have eternal life. We preach the gospel

so that people may find Christ and enter into the blessings of life with him now. As Christians we have claimed that promise and Christ has prepared a place for us in heaven. But, we also read that when Christ returns in glory at the end of time, *all people will see him, all who pierced him*. Every person who has ever lived has pierced him, the whole of humanity, past and present.

I hope I am not a heretic if I say that God loves the world so much that *all who see Christ in his glory on that day* will have the chance to bow down in awe, worship him and enter eternal life.

David Langford



Sir John Betjeman in 1961

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

Photo on p. 11 by David Smith

Items for the July magazine by 16th June please. Copy to the Editor – see below.

July magazines will be ready for distribution on 1st July.

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