

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

MEET THE TEAM

Continuing to introduce some of the team in the coming months, Mary, who among other things is one of the leaders of our Warm Welcome Space, has volunteered to share this month. So meet Mary and find out all about Warm Welcome Space.

At the January 2023 PCC meeting the idea was discussed about the possibility of a Warm Welcome space being set up in the Meetings room of St Mary's church for our congregation and the wider community. I and Stuart Spence were asked to look into the possibilities of this, including visiting other local Warm spaces. At the February PCC we reported back and it was agreed to start the Warm Welcome space the next week on a Wednesday.

The objective of a Warm Welcome space is to provide a safe place of warmth, welcome and friendship which is inclusive and non-judgmental. Those of any faith or none are welcome. Everyone is welcome to come for a short or long time - whatever they wish. All ages are welcome including children for whom we provide toys to play with and crafts.

In the colder months free tea, coffee, biscuits and cakes are available. We are also offering a free soup and roll lunch. There is a designated workspace and Wi-Fi offered for those who would like to use it as well as daily newspapers, magazines, books, board games, jigsaws, puzzle sheets and quizzes. At first we had 9/10 guests but are now averaging between 20 to 25. In our busiest week we had 35 guests. Over the summer months our soup and roll lunch was changed to a ploughman's style lunch.

The Warm Welcome space is coordinated by a small team but is supported by the homemade soup and cake makers and on the day it is a team effort with some of those attending helping to set up, serving,

washing and drying up as well as clearing up. Among those who attend we have people who are happy to chat informally about money, legal and spiritual matters or other issues- We have quiet spaces where this can be facilitated.

Anyone who would like to attend on Wednesdays between 12.30 and 3pm is very welcome. It is a very relaxed and informal atmosphere.

Many thanks to Mary and all the team for their commitment and hard work for those of our church and the wider community. I have seen for myself how it has brought people from within and outside the church together and it is a wonderful example of Christian fellowship, truly revealing the love of God. It is one of our many outreach groups, that bring so much to the community of Hayes, for which many, and I personally, are very grateful.

Rev'd Amanda

BIG KNIT 2023

The Diocese of Rochester is pleased to support Making Miracles' Big Knit 2023, which will be held in Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 28th October 2023 in



conjunction with National Baby Loss Awareness Month. The event runs from 9:00am until 12:00pm and participants are encouraged to knit or crochet squares, which will be made into blankets to be sold at fundraising events. Details are available from St Mary's Church and displayed in the porch. As refreshments will be provided, please email Sally Howells, the Chair of Making Miracles, on sally@makingmiracles.org.uk advising the names of anyone that is attending. Or let the St Mary's office know.

St Mary's will be supporting this event by holding knitting sessions on **Thursday 5th, 12th and 19th October from 10.30am-12.30pm** in the Meetings Room. (Knitting squares can also be done at home!) At the 19th October session we will be sewing up the squares.

THE CHILDREN'S SOCIETY

I am hoping to have the Childrens' Society Christmas card catalogues in the next few weeks. If you are interested in a catalogue please let me know by email pauline@muggridge.org or by telephone **0208 462 2118** or **07880793914**. I hope to be collecting the Children's Society boxes towards the end of the month; I am just waiting for the paperwork from the society.

Thank you all for supporting a much-needed charity.

Pauline Muggridge

THANK YOU FROM THE MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Johnny Dowling, the Senior Development Manager of the Mission to Seafarers, has written to thank everyone at St Mary's who contributed to the £401

collected in July. Such gifts play a vital part in ensuring that seafarers across the globe are not forgotten. Seafarers living conditions have improved, unscrupulous shipowners have been held to account, families reunited and loved ones brought home.

The Mission to Seafarers will continue to be at the forefront of maritime welfare ensuring that those who work at sea & their families have an advocate and someone to turn to. From London to Lagos, Manila to Melbourne and Durban to Dunkerque - in more than 200 ports in 50 countries - the Mission to Seafarers is a constant source of help, hope and support to those who are in most need.

With sincere thanks and every good wish.

Further information on the Mission's work can be found on www.missiontoseafarers.org.

Jean Wilson
Parish Link



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

I'm afraid this month's contribution will be fairly brief as I have spent the last month in and out of hospital. I have really appreciated all your prayers and news, thank you. I would like to express my appreciation to MaryAnn and Christine for taking over the day to day running of MU whilst I was incapacitated. Sadly, I will have to return to Guy's Hospital later next month, for a further operation, but after that I hope to return to full health and mobility.

Whilst on the subject of prayer, several of our fellow members are unwell or are in need of healing prayer. If you have a moment please hold them, and anyone in need that you know, in prayer. Prayer works!

At this time of year, we usually think of and prayerfully remember our children and grandchildren returning to school for a new academic year or starting at a new school, college, or university. May God be with them. Congratulations to all who have recently passed their degrees, and who have graduated. May God guide them as they choose their career paths.

We will meet for a friendly social coffee and lunch, on **Tuesday, 10th October**. If you would like a lift please contact Mary-Ann or Christine.

Our next meeting in the Meetings Room is at **10.30am on October 23rd**, when we will be having a talk by Jenny Beaney on the subject of her role as a MU member doing voluntary work at Rochester Prison. Please do try and come as it should be very interesting, and an eye opener.

Our Diocesan Mothers' Union Annual Autumn meeting is on **21st October**, at St Mary's Church in Kippington, Sevenoaks. If you would like to go, please contact Christine Leonard and we will try and arrange a lift for you. Unfortunately, I will still not be able to drive then, so we are looking out for drivers to take MU members to this meeting.

Please keep **Monday, 11th December 12.00 for 12.30** free for our Christmas lunch. It will cost each member £27 (plus £1.00 tip). A deposit of £10 will be collected by Carol Crouch at our next meeting. The Christmas Menu will be available then for you to choose from.

If you are interested in joining us at Mothers' Union please come along as a visitor to one of our meetings. You will be made very welcome.

Threads Through Creation

Two Mothers' Union members friend of mine, Humphrey and Janice Clarke, visited Rochester Cathedral on 18th August to see the "Threads through Creation" Exhibition. The artist Jacqui Parkinson took 3 years designing and making 12 beautiful silk panels using enough fabric to cover a playground and over 8 million stitches!

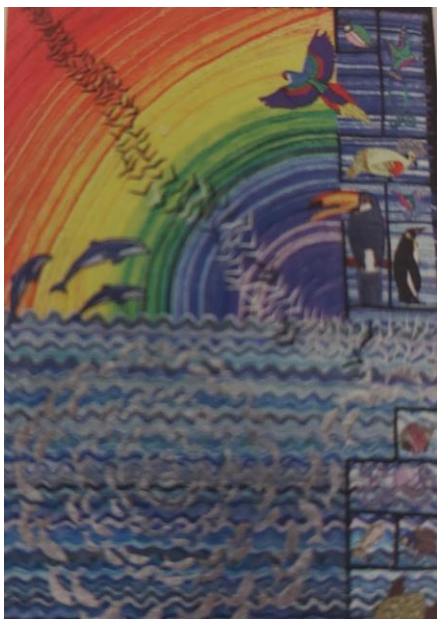
The panels depict the story of Creation from Genesis and are very contemporary, yet totally understandable. The stitching is very intricate and, as they studied it closer, they could see tiny details like frog spawn, tadpoles and a frog, leaves and flowers, fruit, water in all its forms, constellations and even the hope of the Lamb of God.

Also, in the Cathedral in the Nave was a 13 metre long table. In 2012, a 13.2m long section of a giant black oak tree was discovered in a field at Wissington Fen in East Anglia. It had been preserved deep in the peat for the previous 5,000 years. It was decided that this incredible discovery needed to be preserved for future generations. Over ten years, a team of specialist crafts people created a stunning sculptured table known as the Jubilee Oak Table. There was a timeline displayed showing what had happened on Earth during the 5,000 years that the tree trunk it had lain hidden. The table has been used on special occasions including a "Bring your own Lunch" for the Coronation of Charles III but a protective cover was put over it.

In the Crypt, there was also an exhibition of artwork done by blind art groups. Janice and Humphrey found it was a most interesting and inspiring visit.

If you want to see the 'Threads Through Creation' exhibition, it is on display 6th September - 15th October in Portsmouth and 18th October - 27th November at Wells Cathedral.

Avril Ashford



PUBLIC OPINION AND A 'PROPHETIC' VOICE – BISHOP NICK RESPONDS TO NEWSPAPER SURVEY

The Church has a duty to challenge popular culture but also to listen and be challenged by it, the Bishop of Leeds, Nick Baines has said. He was speaking as a recent survey in *The Times* newspaper highlighted views among some clergy on a range of questions. The findings were based on replies by clergy who responded to a list of email questions this past summer.

Bishop Nick said it highlighted the challenge the Church has faced in every generation in seeking both to listen to public opinion but also being a "prophetic" voice.

"The Church is the Church, and, as such, not a club, he said. "It has a distinct vocation that does not include seeking popularity. As God's Church, it is made up of people who love God, His world and its people. Worship, love, and justice lie at the heart of its vocation.

"This means that the Church – in every generation – has to live with the tension of being prophetic (challenging the way the world is) whilst listening to the challenge the world brings to it.

"'Repentance' means being open to changing our mind in order that society should encounter both love and justice. And this means sometimes going against the flow of popular culture, however uncomfortable that might be.

"What this survey seems to show is that clergy aren't detached in an ivory tower, but really wrestling – thoughtfully and prayerfully - with the kinds of questions our society is also addressing. This is how it has always been and should be.

"Evidently, the Church hasn't always got it right, but cannot escape the demands of its calling to be faithful to God in loving His world."

PP News Oct '23

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

REMEMBERING BEATLEMANIA

Sixty years ago, on 15th October 1963, the term 'Beatlemania' first appeared in the *Daily Mirror* newspaper in the UK. It described the intense, frenzied reaction of fans of the Beatles and their music.

The group – John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison, and Ringo Starr – had been attracting wild adulation in the north of England, notably at the Cavern Club in Liverpool, since the start of the 1960s. But from 1964 Beatlemania spread throughout the country, and then the world – particularly the USA, where the Beatles were transported to concerts by armoured car for their own protection.

Commentators were eager to diagnose the cause of the phenomenon – sometimes not convincingly – but it was agreed that the high-pitched screaming by girl fans had similarities with religious fervour and hysterical worship of young men they saw as gods.

As is well known, in 1966 John Lennon remarked that the group had become more popular than Jesus, but this was a step too far for many, leading to a backlash and violence at subsequent concerts worldwide. This and the inability of the group to hear themselves play above the screams led to the Beatles stopping touring altogether. Their 1965 album *Rubber Soul* already projected a different, more progressive, thoughtful feel.

But a cultural trend had been set, and subsequent boy bands, from the Monkees to One Direction, tended to get the kind of 'worship' from their fans that was undeniably linked to a freedom from authority and convention.

It was not totally new, however. Back in the 1840s, fans of Hungarian pianist and composer Franz Liszt apparently displayed a similar level of fanaticism, which poet Heinrich Heine called 'Lisztomania'.



Tim Lenton PP Community Oct23

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY OCTOBER 2023

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

17TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 1st	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Harvest Morning Praise with Youth Parade Sunbeams** (age 3-6)
Tuesday 3rd	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 4th	10.30am 12.30-3.00pm 2.45pm	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own** Warm Welcome Space** Men's Fellowship Annual Service in Church followed by meeting at OCS

18TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 8th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze Session** (age 6-10)
Wednesday 11th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**

19TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 15th	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Anti-slavery day Fresh Start Morning Praise Anti-slavery day
Tuesday 17th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 18th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**

20TH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 22nd	8.00am 10.30am 5.00-6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW World Homeless Week 2023 Blaze Session (age 6-10) Illuminate** (Bible Study age 10-15)
Monday 23rd	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
Wednesday 25th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Friday 27th	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

BIBLE SUNDAY: LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sunday 29th	8.00am 10.30am 6.30pm	Holy Communion BCP All-Age Youth-led Service Sunbeams** (age 3-6) Confirmation Service at St John's Bromley
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** 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

George Francis Mortlock-Ruffle

A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH

Celia Craggs

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

October marks the start of a momentous year in the history of HMF. What was originally called "The Hayes Men's Afternoon Fellowship" was being founded in May 1964 (in succession to "The Men's Evening Forum" of occasional activities on winter evenings) and the inaugural meeting took place on October 6th 1964 with monthly meetings thereafter. So we shall be celebrating our **sixtieth** anniversary – a diamond jubilee! – during 2024.

Over the years we have evolved to weekly activities. Right now we can offer a full programme of talks, outings and walks and we are inviting our faithful and growing membership to rejoin and enjoy all that is on offer over the forthcoming months. We have communicated details in our usual Welcome Back letters already sent out on-line (or by post to those few members without computers). Full details, updated as necessary, can be found as usual on our website, www.hayesmensfellowship.org

Any retired or semi-retired men, of any faith or none, are welcome to join our friendly and convivial membership for the annual subscription of just £20. If you would like to try us out first for free please contact us for a friendly chat; our contact details are at the end of this report.

As always, we now try to whet your appetite further with news of our recent activities. There's no meeting with a visiting speaker during August but there is a very special outing, our ever-popular Annual Boat Trip which this year took us from Marlow to Henley, with plenty of time in both of those picturesque towns at each end of the journey. In bright and sunny weather our coach set off from Husseywell Crescent a little after 08:30 with 51 people on board - the highest number of passengers we have had for this HMF Session. En route we had a collection for the Hayes Community Foodbank at the Hayes Free Church.

We reached the picturesque town of Marlow in Buckinghamshire by 10:30. In the late 18th and 19th centuries, the market town of Marlow became a fashionable riverside resort and a variety of famous people were attracted to live in the town. It is located in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and now has a lively town centre made up of historic streets with small listed buildings and offers an array of shops, restaurants, wine bars and pubs. However, the town's main landmark is the graceful suspension bridge, completed in 1832, which spans the Thames and joins Buckinghamshire and Berkshire.

Our boat was not due to sail until 13:00 so we had plenty of time to enjoy the town. There were many opportunities for a welcome coffee

and/or an early lunch before we set off. Also for shopping at the range of independent stores. Those planning a picnic needed to be cautious though as the large park by the Thames had a sign that Red Kites might try to steal sandwiches! Others headed off to find a pub that would show the Women's World Cup Football match between those old rivals Australia and England – thank you to the Chequers pub!

We had exclusive use of our Salters Steamers cruise boat which offered seats in an indoor lounge, on the foredeck with a roof or on the aft deck in full sun. The key was that there was plenty of space. The scenery was stunning – superb houses around Marlow and Henley and lovely countryside in between, with three locks to negotiate. Properties we passed included Fawley Court (below) which was said to be the inspiration for Toad Hall in the 1908 novel *The Wind in the Willows* by Kenneth Grahame. Also the substantial Medmenham Abbey which is now a private residence. As we approached Henley, we saw preparations for the Rewind Music Festival which we had also seen two years earlier! In the time waiting to get through the locks, people were able to move about the boat and have a chat thanks to the space available on the boat – we have not always had that opportunity.



We arrived in Henley on Thames in Oxfordshire at about 16:15 which gave plenty of time for us to explore the many shops and cafes in the town. And on a warm afternoon, many of us also had an ice cream

while sitting on a bench overlooking the Thames – idyllic. Henley was recently voted by The Times as one of the best places to live in the English countryside and it is easy to see why. This riverside location is surrounded by a Chiltern landscape of wooded hills and green fields. Among its attractions are a pub where Charles I drank, a Chantry house, a butcher that smokes his own meat and independent shops still offering the personal touch. It is home to the Henley Regatta and the famous Leander Rowing club.

We set off for Hayes at 17:30 on the dot and, thanks to driver Mark, followed a route home that gave us views of Eton College, Windsor Castle (several different views including via the Long Walk) and Runnymede (where the Magna Carta was signed and the location of the JFK Memorial).

Our walkers were active in the Green Street Green area at the end of August. The weather was again ideal for walking, dry and not too hot. Leaving High Elms main car park, the 8 walkers crossed Shire Lane onto open grassland towards Farnborough and then leftwards to a surprise – an enterprising person had used a tractor to position a café in the field. There was quite a queue for it so we continued across fields and along paths to a good lunch provided by “The Rose and Crown” at Green Street Green. From there it was 1.5 miles back to the car park. The total distance walked was 4.9 miles.

Unlike the rest of us, our walkers keep going throughout the year. In October they will be visiting three London parks in a circular route that starts and ends at Charing Cross Station, and by the time you get to read these words they will have covered just over 5 miles around the Petts Wood area.

That’s it for the moment as we are gearing up for the start of our 2023-24 Diamond Jubilee Session in October with our Annual Service in St Mary’s. We can preview our opening outings: in October to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, a bargain at just £20 per head; and in November to the Imperial War Museum at Duxford, cost yet to be declared.

You will not miss a thing as we shall return in these pages in November to bring you right up to date.

Allan Evison
HMF Chairman

Graham Marsden
HMF Secretary

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

IS NOW A GOOD TIME TO GROW OLD?

“Don’t grow old,” a parishioner of advanced years warned me some while back. “You won’t like it.”

Sadly, that dear woman is no longer with us, and I’m a whole lot older than when she offered me that kind advice. But was there wisdom in her words? It’s true that generally people are living longer and in better health than in generations before, but there are increasing challenges for older men and women in our society.

My friend, Maggie Dodd is an ‘Anna Chaplain’ for older people. She is one of around 300 such chaplains up and down the country. They spiritually support people – of strong, little or no faith – in care homes, sheltered housing or in their own homes. Maggie has told me how life is becoming harder for older people, and we’ve swapped notes on what we have both observed.

She told me: “Some of the basic services older people need are becoming more difficult to access. I hear about doctor’s surgeries asking for patients to print out their own forms or send photos to or from smartphones. Banks are phasing out high street branches, pushing everyone towards online banking. Many older people feel very uneasy about going online, worried of being scammed out of their savings.

“A trip to the shops is also becoming more complicated. Checkouts in supermarkets are increasingly self-service. Mobility can also be affected as car parks often need an app to be uploaded onto a smartphone to park. In many car parks there is no option to pay by card or cash!”

Plans to remove the ticket offices at train stations will make matters worse for many older would-be rail travellers.

Maggie told me “This gradual marginalisation of people can leave them feeling lonely and isolated. Loneliness can have a huge detrimental effect on health and wellbeing. Prolonged social isolation and loneliness are the equivalent of smoking 15 cigarettes a day.”

It’s good that many churches run special events and activities for older people, as well as groups for all ages. But is this enough? Christians are called to follow Christ’s example and speak out for those at risk of being marginalised in our society.

Today, that could be our older brothers and sisters.

By the Revd Peter Crumpler, a Church of England priest in St Albans, Herts, and a former communications director for the C of E. PP Oct 2023

A BEAR CALLED PADDINGTON

It was 65 years ago, on 14th October 1958, that Michael Bond's children's book, *A Bear Called Paddington*, was published. It marked the debut of the lovable Paddington Bear, who is now a household name after appearing in two irresistible films.

Paddington starred in more than 20 books written by Bond, who died aged 91 in 2017. The original story was inspired by the author witnessing Jewish and British evacuee children passing through Reading station. Bond wanted the bear to have come from "darkest Africa", but this was changed to Peru when his agent pointed out that there were no bears in Africa.

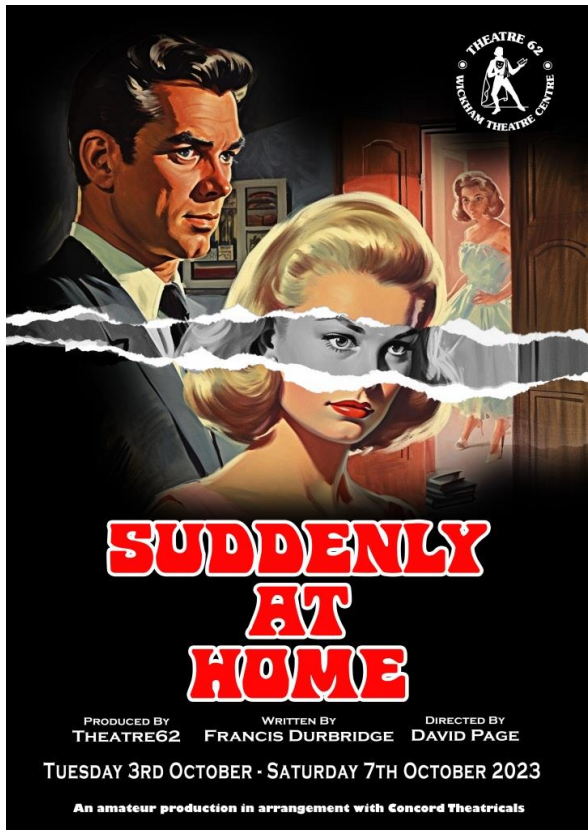
Many people have found Christian characteristics in the bespectacled, kind, red-hatted, innocent Paddington, who always tries to do the right thing but often gets into trouble as a result. He is invariably polite, but has a "hard stare" for those who behave badly. The two hugely successful films, with Ben Whishaw voicing Paddington and household names in other roles, established the bear in the national psyche – a natural successor to Winnie the Pooh.



A stuffed toy Paddington Bear was chosen by British tunnellers as the first item to be passed to their French counterparts when the two sides of the Channel Tunnel came together in 1994. The books have been translated into 30 languages and have sold more than 30 million copies.

Paddington has also reached the very top of society. Comedian and later President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky dubbed him in the Ukrainian version of the films, and to cap everything, Paddington joined the late Queen in one of her last public appearances – a brilliant comedy segment in the Platinum Party at the Palace on 4th June 2022, in which the Queen 'revealed' that she always carried a marmalade sandwich – Paddington's favourite food – in her handbag.

Tim Lenton



This classic thriller by Francis Durbridge, the master of suspense and famous for his Paul Temple series, weaves its intricate path through a story of love and greed to its ultimate end, death.

When Glenn Howard decides to get rid of his wealthy wife, firstly to enjoy her money, secondly to avoid spending the rest of his life in Bermuda, and thirdly to free himself for another woman, he works out a complicated but seemingly foolproof plan. Everything appears to be going according to plan, but Glenn has not counted on an opponent like the astute Superintendent Remick... Durbridge at his best!

Tickets for this Theatre 62 production are selling fast but may be available online at: [Suddenly at Home by Francis Durbridge at Wickham Theatre Centre event tickets from TicketSource](#) using the membership number 1113.

18TH OCTOBER – ST LUKE THE EVANGELIST

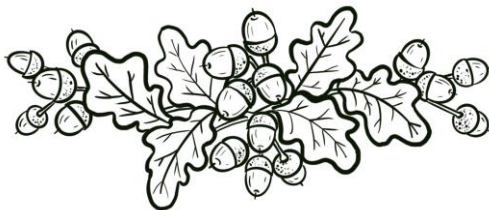
To St Luke, a Gentile, we owe the beautifully written Gospel of Luke, and the Book of Acts. He was a Greek physician, a disciple of St Paul, a companion on some of his missionary journeys, and an inspired writer.

Luke's gospel focuses on the compassion of Christ. His gospel contains some of the most moving parables, such as the Good Samaritan and Prodigal Son. This, with his emphasis on poverty, prayer and purity of heart, make up much of his appeal to the Gentiles, for whom he wrote.

Women figure more prominently in Luke's gospel than any other: look out for the extended story of the Virgin Birth, and stories of Mary, Elizabeth, and the woman who was a sinner.

In Acts, Luke is remarkably good at linking sacred and profane history, as subsequent archaeology has shown. A principal theme of his Acts is how the early Christians moved away from Jerusalem into the pagan world, and especially on to Rome.

Luke is the patron saint of doctors, surgeons and artists (due to his picturesque style of writing). His symbol is an ox, sometimes explained by reference to the sacrifice in the Temple at the beginning of his Gospel. In England 28 ancient churches were dedicated to him.



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Photo on p 11 of Fawley Court by Graham Marsden

**Items for the November magazine by 16th October please. Copy to the Editor: Clare Wickert, 3 Hayes Garden, Hayes
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