

**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)**

## **MATTHEW - APOSTLE AND EVANGELIST**

Do we feel we are doing our best?

What about the world? It can be easy by watching the news, to think things are not going well. Sometimes we can disagree or get frustrated with others, think they are being lazy or mean. But maybe, just maybe, that person really is doing their best in that moment. Considering this, could make a difference to how we react.

Thankfully, we are loved by a loving, understanding and forgiving God, who sees who we can be and wants us to be the best we can be. Each time we go our own way and inevitably get it wrong, we are offered a way back, through prayer, our comfort and the Bible, our guide. A new start.

The new start in the coming church year begins in Advent, on Advent Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November, which means that we will be hearing a lot from Matthew's Gospel. We will be hearing about Jesus, through Matthew's account of the life of Jesus of the New Testament, through the way Matthew references the Old Testament in his writing and his picture of Jesus.

The Gospel is like a biography of Jesus, telling us about Jesus, and reveals Matthew's theology, (how he sees God), and Matthew's view of discipleship.

In Matthew's Gospel, Matthew the tax collector first meets Jesus, who sees Matthew working in his tax booth.

Tax collectors were not well liked or respected in Jesus' time. They were linked with sin, employed by the Romans to collect taxes from the people and would often tax people more so that they could pocket the difference. Matthew is not popular at all. Jesus still calls Matthew from his booth, Jesus revealing that anyone can follow Christ, be His disciple, if they answer His call.

But we do need to answer by turning our lives around towards Jesus. This is when we can start to live our lives in the full way that God created us for.

At St Mary's we are trying to answer that call. We will be following up on the Hayes Community Survey, following one of our services, to see how we can further work together with the community.

One way will be our All-Age Harvest Service to which all are welcome. During this service for all the family, we will be collecting for Hayes Community Foodbank and we will have a collection point coming soon into the church.

Matthew walked away from the life he had been leading, towards Jesus. Let us all be on our journey, the path towards Christ, the way to wisdom and peace.

If you want to find out more, speak to us or come and hear Matthew's story and maybe start writing a new one of your own, with the help of God, through Jesus the living God. All are welcome to come along to services at St Mary's; details are at the centre of this booklet.

O Almighty God,  
whose blessed Son called Matthew the tax collector  
to be an apostle and evangelist:  
give us grace to forsake the selfish pursuit of gain and the possessive  
love of riches  
that we may follow in the way of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**Rev Amanda**

## **RECTORY NEWS**

As most will be aware the future of the Old Rectory has been under discussion since our previous minister, Napo John, retired in 2021. The rectory is actually owned by Rochester Diocese who are responsible for providing suitable and appropriate accommodation for the church's incumbent. The existing building would need a major financial investment to make it so, for the future.

Various options have been considered by the Diocese taking into account several factors, not least planning constraints, cost and above

all the urgent need to provide a suitable and functional house for our present (and indeed any future) minister of St Mary's.

The Diocese has now reluctantly taken the decision to sell the existing rectory. The search therefore is on for a suitable alternative rectory for Rev'd Amanda and Stuart. What is being sought is a property close to (and within easy walking distance of) St Mary's. We are working closely with the Diocese to identify somewhere appropriate, not only to meet personal and pastoral needs but also where the minister may be able to continue effectively serving St Mary's and the community.

The Diocese is aware of the significance of the old rectory and its central position within Old Hayes and the decision to sell was made reluctantly. But the cost of development and upgrade was at the end of the day just too great. The area being sold comprises the building and immediate land and also some other land – historically known as Glebe land. However we have agreed with the Diocese to retain a portion of the land to provide adequate car park spaces for the church and also a further portion for churchyard purposes.

If anyone is aware of any potential property that may be suitable please do contact the church office!

**David James and Stuart Spence on behalf of St Mary's PCC**



**Diocese of Rochester**  
**called together**

Since 1977 Rochester Diocese has, through its annual Poverty and Hope appeal, helped meet the most basic needs that all of God's children deserve: a safe place to live; food to eat; and a way to something better.

Every year the Appeal has invested modest amounts in life-changing work, sharing God's blessings around the world.

Thanks to the continuing generosity of many parishes and individual donors, last year the Appeal was able to distribute £20,000 through seven partners, linking the Rochester Poverty and Hope Appeal with Brazil, the Caribbean, Myanmar, Palestine, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe.

Every penny of this has gone to our seven beneficiaries: four international Christian Charities and three of the Diocese's African Companion Dioceses.

This year, the fundraising target is £21,000, which would allow the Appeal to distribute £3,000 to each project.

Bishop Simon Burton-Jones, the Bishop of Tonbridge, has this to say in introducing this year's appeal, which will run through to 30 April 2026:

*"Big nations have cut funding to foreign aid budgets, and it means lots of people across the world are now at risk who weren't this time last year. Poverty and Hope is a diocesan appeal that acts like an antidote to hang-wringing despair. It helps to restore self-sufficiency to people who long for this. The saying 'every little helps' is no cliché here - it can save individual lives. Please give as kindly and generously as you can."*

You can find out more about all good things happening around the world that the Appeal is helping, by going to the Rochester Diocesan website at [www.rochester.anglican.org](http://www.rochester.anglican.org) and search for Poverty and Hope.

We know that times are tough right now, so any support you can give is much appreciated. If you are a UK tax payer, please Gift Aid your donation.

You can donate through a range of options which are given on the website.

*[See the below for an example of work that is going on in Myanmar. There is information about the other projects on the Rochester website. Ed]*

Many young people are leaving Myanmar for neighbouring countries to avoid military conscription when they turn 18. Staying in full-time education gives them opportunities when they are older to go on to higher education or find work in other countries to support their families. On 28 March 2025, a devastating earthquake hit Myanmar, causing significant damage to homes, infrastructure, and public buildings, including hospitals, schools, and churches. Tens of thousands have been displaced, with many living in temporary shelters or sleeping outdoors due to damaged homes.

The earthquake has worsened an already difficult situation in Myanmar with instability, conflict, and widespread displacement. Due to the military restrictions and danger from local militia groups, it is hard for



people to move around the country, so access to some of the worst-affected areas has been limited, hindering relief efforts.

Many communities are struggling with food shortages, and the earthquake has exacerbated existing food insecurity, with millions at risk. Despite the earthquake hitting so many months ago, there are still frequent, violent aftershocks, which create further uncertainty and fear, as well as disrupting efforts to rebuild.

The ongoing conflict further complicates the situation and adds to the challenges faced by affected communities.

The church is also running earthquake relief programmes in the worst-affected dioceses, providing food packages and shelter for displaced people or families struggling with food insecurity.

In Mandalay Diocese, Archdeacon Joseph Yin Oo and a group of volunteers are bringing household relief packages to families in their diocese, which includes staples such as fresh water, rice, beans and cooking oil.

**Janine Goddard: Senior Fundraising Manager**



It is with great sadness that I have to report the passing of Dorothy Burrows, an active, faithful Mothers' Union member, until ill health prevented her attending meetings. Dorothy was secretary of Mothers' Union for many years (1990 – 2002). She would represent our MU branch and attend Deanery meetings and has been very supportive of Mothers' Union. Dorothy will best be remembered for the beautiful Hayes branch MU banner which she designed and embroidered herself. It can be seen in "Our Lady Chapel". Thank you, Dorothy, for your steadfast support, always giving generously. You will be greatly missed.

Dorothy was always very active and abundantly giving freely of her time, energy and spirit. Music was her passion and she played an important role in the running of the choir at St Mary's, always encouraging the younger members. Dorothy was very artistic and she used this talent to design and paint the scenery for the church pantomimes.

At our September meeting Rev. Tim Aldred very kindly celebrated Holy Communion with us. It was a beautiful service and we really felt the presence of Our Lord. Afterwards we enjoyed a time of fellowship.

It has been a busy month as we gathered for an extra meeting to "fill" the activity bags for the children. The church wanted to thank us for the work we had done, so treated us all to a pastry with our coffee. It was very much appreciated. I would also like to thank Melita for making the colourful bags to hold the activities.

## **Our next meetings are:**

**Tuesday 7th October** 11.00 am, Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes.

**Monday 20th October.** Claire and Alison talking about Hayes Food Bank. There will be a plate for money donations.

**Saturday 25th October** Autumn Members' Meeting. At St Justus Church, Rochester. If you would like to go, I have 4 seats in my car. Please let me know. There will be a 'Rainbow' table sale at the Autumn Members Meeting. Bromley and Bexley table will be Yellow and Blue. If you have anything that's yellow or blue that could be sold, please let me have it at our next meeting on 20<sup>th</sup> October.

**Tuesday 4th November 11.00 am,** Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes.

**Monday 17th November** Preparation for Christmas Charity Fair. Wrapping up parcels etc.

**Sunday 23rd November** Very Importantly the Cathedral has invited us to participate in the Safeguarding Evensong they are holding on 23<sup>rd</sup> November. The Cathedral is marking Safeguarding Month in November and will include the campaign against Domestic Abuse as part of it. This will be our Diocesan Service instead of one on Global Action Day. It falls in the 16 Days of Activism Against Domestic Abuse. Please start to think whether you can attend. There will be displays in the cathedral, and other events.

**Saturday 29th November** Church's Charity Fair. We will have a 'Lucky Dip' for adults and one for children. There will also be a tombola for the children.

**Monday 15th December** Christmas meal. 12.00 at The New Inn. Menu choices and £10 deposit to be given to Carole Crouch by the next meeting, The balance will be paid on the 15<sup>th</sup> December at the meal.

If you are interested in joining Mothers' Union please contact me on 020 8468 7785.

**Avril Ashford, Branch Leader**

## ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY OCTOBER 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>Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm 2.45pm	Warm Welcome Space** Hayes Men's Fellowship Service
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### 16<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

<b>Sunday 5<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise: Harvest Festival; Fresh Start parade Sunbeams session** (age 3-6)
<b>Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
<b>Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 9<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

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

<b>Saturday 11<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30pm	Churchyard Tidy Up
<b>Sunday 12<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze and Sunbeams session** (age 3-10)
<b>Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Friday 17<sup>th</sup></b>	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

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

<b>Sunday 19<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am 9.15am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Fresh Start Morning Praise
<b>Monday 20<sup>th</sup></b>	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
<b>Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup></b>	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**



<b>Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
<b>Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

### **LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY**

<b>Sunday 26<sup>th</sup></b>	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW

\* for Zoom link please 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 an event taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets.**



### **A RECENT WEDDING IN THE PARISH**

Eloise Dale-Clarke and William Wisbey

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

Maurice Allen

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

And so begins yet another session of Hayes Men's Fellowship as we enter October, for once on the very first day of the month, and very appropriately as we hold our Annual Service in St. Mary's. This is when we remember those members or former members who have died since the previous service last year. For several years past this has been the duty of Colin Vivian as our Pastoral Care Officer (amongst other titles of office he has held since he joined HMF in 2000...Secretary, Outings, Chairman). In fact I, Allan Evison, swapped roles with Colin, in Pastoral Care and Chairman just three years ago, and now I am once again assuming the role of Pastoral Care Officer. If Colin's health permits I shall be delighted to share with him as a unique "double hander". By the way, all are invited to attend this service which begins at 2.45pm.

On now to the usual business of reporting how recent activities turned out but, following our break in August and September, there is only one event remaining to be reported at this time, our annual boat trip in August.

The Annual Boat trip is usually the most popular outing of the HMF session and 2025 was no exception as 54 people departed promptly from Husseywell Crescent for the first leg of the day out – the short trip to Runnymede. After a welcome cup of coffee at the National Trust Café there, many explored the wicker sculptures nearby including a scene of pre-industrial haymaking. Our group was soon boarding the French Brothers boat, the Bray Royale, for the cruise along the Thames up to Windsor. The route was scenic and took us past some very



expensive houses! The all-female crew provided excellent service and guided the boat through the deep locks at Old Windsor and Romney – the former taking 5 minutes to adjust the levels. The crew also provided a very informative commentary as we went along, as well as having a bar and snacks available on board.

The leisurely pace of the boat meant the group arrived in Windsor in time for lunch with many different options available there. Suitably refreshed, there were then opportunities for culture with the Castle and the historic Guildhall close by, as well as shopping or a relaxing stroll down the Thames river bank. For the stroll you had to run the gauntlet of the numerous swans, geese and ducks on the footpath.



All too soon it was time for the return trip – boat back to Runnymede and coach home to Hayes – after another excellent and sociable outing.

Just a final reminder that any retired or semi-retired men, of any faith or none, are welcome to join our growing number of members. The Committee has organised an excellent programme of meetings and outings for our new session and we look forward to reporting on these as the months unfold. Full details of our forthcoming programme can be found at our website: [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org) Or you could come along to the informal meeting in the Old Church Schools which follows the above-mentioned service from about 3.30pm and discover just what a happy and welcoming bunch we are as we enjoy life beyond the rigours of a working life and all for the small annual subscription of £20. Alternatively contact details are given below for an introductory chat if you prefer, but we won't be able to offer the free tea and biscuits over

the phone line or e-mail! However we are able to get to know you, we look forward to it; bye until then.

**Allan Evison, Asst Secretary**

**Graham Marsden, Secretary**

**Contact details: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org)**

**or phone 020 8654 0872**

## **THE GOLDEN THREAD**

2025 has been an interesting year for anniversaries. Just a little while ago, we were remembering as a nation the ending of WW2, 80 years ago, with VJ day in August and VE day in May.

Churchill, who often spoke about 'Christian civilisation', referred to the battle of Britain in 1940 in particular as the battle for 'the survival of Christian civilisation'. Whatever Churchill meant by that phrase, it struck a powerful chord, reminding the nation of the larger canvas on which our Christian roots, heritage and identity were drawn.

Although today the nation may have lost sight of Churchill's vision, interestingly 2025 also saw the anniversary of one of the key, defining statements of the historic Christian faith: **the Nicene Creed**.

In May 325 AD, around 300 bishops from across the Roman Empire and beyond, met together at a place called Nicaea, not far from what is today Istanbul in Turkey, to agree a form of words to express the essentials of the church's faith in Christ. The result was the 'Nicene Creed'. That Creed has been a cornerstone of Christian belief for 1700 years for the worldwide church (whether Protestant, Roman Catholic or Orthodox). To commemorate the anniversary the Church of England has produced on its website some helpful background and teaching materials. The Creed is "a statement of faith that connects us not only to one another, but also to generations before us as well as to Christians across the world today". Why was the gathering of bishops (the 'Council of Nicaea') called? For 300 years, since the death and resurrection of Christ, and His commissioning the first disciples to preach the gospel to all nations, the church had suffered continuing waves of persecution. These had been of varying extent and intensity, but had culminated in the concerted campaign by Rome at the turn of the fourth century to wipe out the Christian church. But Constantine, who had miraculously been converted to the Christian faith, succeeded in

becoming the sole Emperor. The church suddenly had status and safety within the Roman Empire.

But the church having battled for 300 years against external threats to its existence was now confronted by an equally dangerous threat from within.

This arose from a heated debate over the church's fundamental core belief: the identity of Christ. Was He divine or was He in some way just a part of God's creation? That debate can perhaps appear to us today like an obscure philosophical argument wrapped in obscure language. But the point is central to our Christian faith. If Christ was

just a creature – albeit a super or even semi-divine creature – and a part of God's creation, as some were beginning to argue, in what way can He be said to have been our Saviour?

“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life”. (John 3:16). What John wrote in his gospel makes sense only if Jesus was divine, the Son of God, the very image of God Himself (the expression of Paul in Colossians 1:15).

What was finally produced at Nicaea was a hard-won but authoritative declaration of our core Christian doctrines, confirming what had been believed in essence from the first, that Christ is fully God and fully human; it also confirmed the personhood of the Holy Spirit, and the reality of the Church as one; holy, catholic, and apostolic.

So week by week when we meet together in our worship services and say together what we believe, that declaration of belief, sometimes shorter, sometimes longer or adjusted to the service, is based on that Nicene Creed. It is more than just a formula; it affirms why we are meeting, to declare together our faith in the living God who has revealed Himself in His Son, the Lord Jesus, who suffered and died so that we may live.

Nicaea did not end the debate. But it produced a form of words that were to provide a crucial reference point for the faith of future generations. We can only truly understand God the Father through His Son Jesus who has revealed Him to us in His death on a cross.

In a few months at Christmas we will all no doubt be singing, amongst others, *O come all you faithful*. In that hymn we worship Jesus



as “True God of true God” and “light of light eternal” and “begotten not created”, words based directly on the Nicene Creed, a creed which continues to humble us as we reflect on the truly astounding nature and identity of the babe in the manger.

**David James**

## **CHILDREN’S SOCIETY**

I have now a selection of Christmas cards for sale on behalf of the Children’s Society.

If you would like to buy a pack or two please ring me and I can come to you with the cards when it is convenient for you. I shall also be selling them at the Charity Fair at the end of November.

I shall be collecting the Children’s Society collecting boxes in the next month. Please let me know when it will be convenient for me to collect your box.

Thank you all for supporting a much-needed charity.

**Pauline Muggridge**

**0208462 2118**

**07880793914**

## **PLASTIC CARRIER BAGS - A SUCCESS STORY**

This year marks ten years since England introduced the 5p charge for single-use plastic carrier bags. The charge has had a dramatic effect – with a reduction of 98% in sales.

In 2014, 7.6 billion single-use plastic bags were sold in the UK. By 2023, 133 million single-use bags had been sold in the major supermarkets. The average person in the UK now buys only about two single-use plastic bags per year.



***PP – Oct 2025***



## **‘HE GAVE US EYES TO SEE THEM’: LUCAS CRANACH’S ‘ADAM AND EVE’**

In October we traditionally give thanks for the good gifts of God’s creation at harvest time. In the readings for our worship, we often return to that original goodness in the Garden of Eden, described for us in the opening chapters of Genesis. We glimpse that scene of paradisaical harmony in Lucas Cranach’s painting ‘Adam and Eve.’ It shows a wonderful menagerie of birds and animals around the couple, all unaware that the harmony will be shattered as Adam takes the apple from Eve.

One version of this painting is in the Courtauld Gallery of Somerset House in London. It is a large, neoclassical building by the Strand in the centre of the city. In the summer months 55 fountains play in the courtyard outside, while in the winter people skate on the ice rink. Somerset House was built on the site of a Tudor palace and dates from the 18<sup>th</sup> century. It is now a centre for the visual arts with an impressive collection of paintings.

Lucas Cranach was born in 1472 in what is now Bavaria. He became a court painter to the Electors of Saxony until his death in 1553. Cranach was a close friend of Martin Luther, but also



Lucas Cranach's 'Adam and Eve' [public domain]

had Catholic patrons. Like the Electors, they marvelled at his mastery of landscape and animals. In this painting we are invited into the garden to look on all the beauty and wonder there. Among the animals we can see a hog, a lion (although Cranach would never have seen a lion in the flesh), a sheep, and a stag, a symbol of Christ. There are birds as well, including a pair of partridges, who traditionally represent the power of love, but also deceit. The roe deer drinking from the pool in the foreground is a reminder of Psalm 42 and the soul thirsting for God. But dominating the scene is that moment of turning from God: there is a glorious tree, laden with fruit, and in front Adam and Eve, whose hands clutch an apple, while the serpent slithers down the trunk in a moment of triumph.

The painting is reminiscent of medieval tapestries and, like them, has a beguiling quality. All is beautiful and harmonious: it is Isaiah's vision of the lion lying down with the lamb amid the fruitfulness of nature and the oneness of creation. As we look on, we know that the defiance of God and the temptation to eat will lose this paradise. But we also know that creation will be redeemed by another fruit. Around Adam and Eve are the vine and grapes: they represent the Eucharist, the gift of Christ's body and blood.

The fruit of the tree in the painting leads to a fall from grace, but the fruit from that other tree, the vine, will redeem and lift humanity again to share in the bread and wine, the gifts of creation given at harvest and shared at every Holy Communion.

***Rev Michael Burgess PP Oct 2025***

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**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)**

*Photos on p.10-11 by Graham Marsden*

**Items for the November issue by 20<sup>th</sup> October please. Copy to the Editor. November magazines will be ready for distribution on 1<sup>st</sup> November.**

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