

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

AN ANNIVERSARY TO CELEBRATE

One year on from the beginning of his curacy at St Mary's, Rev Tim Aldred reflects on the past year, and on his recent ordination as a priest.

It is coming up for a year since I began life as a minister at St Mary's, and what a year it has been! I have been warmly welcomed into the St Mary's family and the wider Hayes community, and it has been great to be a part of everything that goes on. I have loved helping to take our regular services, whether that's a traditional Holy Communion service, a pre-school friendly service at Fresh Start, or joining other churches at the Pittsmead Grange care home. It has also been a particular privilege to be part of services marking special times of life, whether funeral services or baptisms.

I have learnt that there's so much more to church life than happens on a Sunday. Messy church on Wednesdays is always a riot of glue, stickers, and silly games with children on the way home from school. The St Mary's preschool and Twinkles groups do amazing work to support younger children. I make a particular effort to get to lunch at welcome space on Wednesdays (not simply for the cakes, though they are always good) but for the good conversation and friendship.

But perhaps the biggest part of church life doesn't really have any official title. Church members from St Mary's and other churches in Hayes are active across our community, putting into action God's call to love our neighbour in too many ways to count - whether that's helping with the foodbank, supporting sports or social clubs, contributing to our society at work, and of course taking care of their families and friends, sometimes in very difficult circumstances. Most of this happens without fanfare, but is simply about living lives with love. And then there's St Mary's church and churchyard. During the day there are visitors to both,

seeking out the peace, beauty and prayer of this special place of worship.

Regular readers of the Hayes Herald will know that I started in ministry as a deacon, commissioned to preach, take services and work with the community. At the end of June, I passed a further milestone of ordination as a priest, in a special service at Rochester Cathedral. So the last few months I have been learning about what this new ministry is about. In practical terms you may notice that I can now do more, such as preside at Holy Communion services, and pronounce blessings and absolution.

I was talking recently with a friend who asked why the church ordains people to be "priests": surely, he said, Jesus is for Christians the only intermediary between God and humans, so why have any priests at all? It was a good question which made me think. Because in Christian faith, Jesus, the Son of God, is the only one with the power to reconcile us with God, as our "great High Priest" (see Hebrews 4). So what do we mean?

Christian priests originated in the days of the early church. "Elders" (sometimes called "presbyters") were chosen to be ministers in early church communities, with special roles and responsibilities. For example, St Paul asks the new church community in Crete to appoint elders "who love what is good", and James instructs elders to pray for and anoint those who are sick (see Titus 1 and James 5). In such elders we find the antecedents of modern day Christian priests (and also of church leadership in some other denominations). With my friend's question in mind, I find it helpful to remember that for a Christian, a priest is called to point towards and proclaim Jesus in ministry, not to point towards themselves, because I'm still just a human being, making as many mistakes, and with as much need of God's forgiveness and grace as anyone else. I have to say that I often find priesthood extremely daunting, but as the ordination service itself says, the role cannot be undertaken in our own strength, but only by God's grace.

So what's next? I am so glad that I will continue to be a minister here for another two years, working with Rev Amanda and the whole team. It has been wonderful, and feels like it has only just begun. Thank you St Mary's, and thank you Hayes, and here's to the next two years!

Rev Tim Aldred
Curate



CHARITY UPDATE

The good news is that we are moving forward with St Mary's Charity Giving. Firstly, a big thank you to you - our congregation - for supporting all the fundraising activities.

Recently Jean Wilson our link with the Mission to Seafarers, was able to send £458 - raised within the church; and Pauline Muggridge, link for the Children's Society has sent a total of £1,043 raised during the past year (Boxes, Christingle, Christmas and Christmas Cards). Stuart Spence and Pauline Muggridge link with Hayes Foodbank. Stuart has recently organised a Foodbank donation tub at the Church.

You will be aware that it is desired that we have a member of the Church who is the link for any fundraising within St Mary's. Heide Butcher and Carol Crouch have agreed to be the link for 'Welcare Bromley', but we need someone to volunteer to be the link for St Christopher's Hospice, Save the Children and Rochester's Poverty and Hope Appeal. Also, the Church Mission Society (CMS), for which David Rowedder has, for many years, valiantly organised St Mary's fundraising. Yvonne recently raised £325 for that charity, holding a cake stall.

We hope to have a meeting for all those interested later this year to discuss our plans for fundraising in 2026 – so please, please if you can, let either Reverend Amanda, Churchwarden Sue Powell or myself know of your interest. **'We make a living by what we get – We make a life by what we give.'**

Mary Whytock

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

On **7th September** we will be celebrating our Patronal Festival, our second annual celebration, remembering the namesake of St Mary's Church, patron of our parish. This festival is extra special this year as it is St Mary's 850th anniversary! It is a way for St Mary's Church and the community to celebrate the dedication of their church and its patron saint.

We are having a special 10.30am service, on the wedding of Cana (with puppets!) and all are welcome.

Rev Amanda and Rev Tim

OPEN HOUSE WEEKEND: 20-21 SEPTEMBER

Thanks to a team of wonderful volunteers, St Mary's is opening its doors to the community as part of Open House London on **Saturday 21st and Sunday 22nd September**. The church will be open to all comers between 10am and 12.30pm on the Saturday, and between 2pm and 4pm on the Sunday. Tea and coffee will be provided throughout – perhaps biscuits and cake as well!

In addition, there will be three events onto which visitors may book in advance via the Open House London website: churchyard tours led by Nick Goddard at 10am on Saturday and 1pm on Sunday, and a history talk and tour given by Jean Wilson on Sunday at 2pm. Tickets are free but must be booked in advance - and we expect to be booked out!

The booking page is at:

<https://programme.openhouse.org.uk/listings/12444>,

or you could just go to the Open House London website at:

<https://programme.openhouse.org.uk>, and search for 'Hayes'.

If you know the church and would like to join the volunteer team providing a welcome (and cups of tea) to visitors, either on the Saturday morning or the Sunday afternoon, please speak to Stuart Spence directly after the 10.30am morning service on Sunday 31st August or Sunday 7th September.

Colin Gale



Diocese of Rochester
called together

EXPLORE ROCHESTER DIOCESE DAY

Is God calling you or someone you know to the Diocese of Rochester?

On Tuesday **23rd**

September 2025, join a day to hear firsthand what a great place this is to serve Jesus.

The Diocese is on an exciting journey to seek first the kingdom of God. With a range of full, part-time, and interim opportunities available across idyllic rural communities, suburban towns, London Boroughs, and across a range of traditions, why not find out more?

Visit: <https://tinyurl.com/3v59jwm4>



Diocese of *Rochester*
called together

The Bishop of Rochester invites you to explore the varied opportunities available across Medway, north and west Kent, and the London Boroughs of Bromley and Bexley

IS GOD CALLING YOU TO ROCHESTER DIOCESE?

Join us
on Tuesday 23 September

For a day, including lunch, with our Bishops, Archdeacons, senior staff, and clergy working across the Diocese. Hear firsthand about:

- What a **great place** this is to serve Jesus
- Our Called Together vision, for which we have been awarded **significant SMMIB funding**
- The full, part-time, and interim **opportunities available** within idyllic rural communities, suburban towns, and London Boroughs - across a range of traditions

To book a place email sal.hamlyn@rochester.anglican.org

To find out more visit www.rochester.anglican.org

or Scan the QRcode. We will cover UK travel costs.





I sit here, gazing out over the shingle banks and beach shrubland to the deep blue sea beyond, I say a heartfelt 'Thank you God!'. This surely must be perfection. A cool onshore breeze providing relief from England's fourth heatwave, banks of mostly golden flowers stretching down the path towards the water. Today, I reflect on the many blessings we have enjoyed as I relax, surrounded by the beauty of God's natural world.



On Sat 9th August a group of us travelled by train to Rochester Cathedral to attend a 'Choral Evensong' to celebrate Mary Sumner Day, the Founder of the Mothers' Union in 1921. We sat in the Quire and were



treated to a beautiful and moving service sung by the Agricola Consort, a visiting choir. The Agricola Consort, founded in 2017, is from The

Netherlands and is a mixed choir that mainly sings liturgical music. The choir regularly sings cantata services, Vespers, and choral Evensong. It was a beautiful, moving service and we were pleased that we had attended.

The Mary Sumner prayer.

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee, and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen

Interestingly, Rochester Cathedral was hosting the "Taking Flight" exhibition, and whilst we were there, we were able to view the display of the Short Scion Floatplane itself, in the nave of the Cathedral. There was also a Pioneers of Flight exhibition in the Crypt exploring Medway's aviation history.

You may remember that Mothers' Union held a coffee morning in aid of providing activities for children in church. Well, on **Sunday 7th September** Rev Amanda has asked us to launch the bags and explain them to the congregation, during the Patronal Festival Sunday Service, and say more about the work of the MU.

At our next meeting, **September 15th**, Rev Tim Aldred will celebrate Holy Communion with us. So please do try to join us.

Our next meetings are:

Tues 9th Sept 11.00 am, Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes.

Mon. 15th Sept 10.30 Rev Tim Aldred celebrates Holy Communion

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

Mon 20th October 10.30am Hayes Food Bank

Saturday, 25th October 'Autumn members Meeting'.

There are a few places left for MU upcoming Dementia Awareness Training sessions which start on **Friday 12th Sept** from 10am -12pm and for the following two Fridays. If you are interested, please email membership@mothersunion.org.

Advance notice: - On **Wednesday, 10th June** 2026 at 5pm, there will be a 150th Celebratory Service of MU, at St Paul's Cathedral. We will be holding a stall at the church's charity Fair. Please start collecting items suitable for an adult and a children's 'Lucky Dip'.

If you are interested in joining Mothers' Union please contact me, Avril Ashford, Branch Leader, on **020 8468 7785**.

Avril Ashford

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY SEPTEMBER 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.

Tuesday 2nd	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 3rd	10.30am-12.00noon	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**

TRINITY 12

Patronal Festival

Sunday 7th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise
		Sunbeams session** (age 3-6)
	4.00pm	Confirmation Service at Christchurch, Chislehurst
Tuesday 9th	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group**
Wednesday 10th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 11th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

TRINITY 13

Saturday 13th	12.30pm	Churchyard Tidy Up
Sunday 14th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
		Blaze and Sunbeams session** (age 3-10)
Monday 15th	10.30am	Mothers' Union Service
Tuesday 16th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 17th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Friday 19th	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**
Saturday 20th	2.00pm	Wedding of Eloise Dale-Clarke and William Wisbey

TRINITY 14

Matthew Apostle and Evangelist

Sunday 21st	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
	5.00pm	Healing Service
Tuesday 23rd	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group**
Wednesday 24th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 25th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

TRINITY 15

Sunday 28th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW (Blaze session** – age 6-10)

* 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 an event taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets.



A RECENT BAPTISM IN THE PARISH

Sienna Rogerson

~~~~~

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)

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

September is something of a relaxing month for our members to choose how they can spend holiday time without having to miss out on our exciting programme of events during the rest of the year. However, our hard-working committee are about to hold their latest quarterly meeting when they will agree the final details of what is planned for our new session from October, all ready to be included in the usual Welcome Back Letter to be sent out at the end of this month. Incidentally, the annual subscription remains at £20 for yet another year's activities of talks, outings and walks. Full details can be accessed on our website at [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org).

### *From the Archives*

The afore-mentioned break means there is less to report on how recent events turned out, giving us a little space to delve once again into our archives.

There was a significant development in 1992 when Harold Mosedale came up with the idea of pastoral care for our members, when for example they became unable to attend as often as they had done, or at all, through failing mobility or ill health. So he volunteered to identify and contact them (in confidence of course) to see how we could help them to keep in touch. We have always recorded attendances at meetings – it's required in our Standing Orders – so a sequence of three absences would trigger Harold's intervention, and the scheme immediately proved popular, and still does today. The position of Pastoral Care Officer has been held by only 5 individuals, including Harold! That suggests a high degree of job satisfaction. By the way, the name of Mosedale is notable for the establishment of the Mosedale Fund whereby the family has generously funded the cost of one speaker each year in memory of Harold's outstanding achievements in the development of HMF during his lifetime and the satisfaction he clearly derived.

And so time to report on the two recent activities starting with an excellent outing to Rye and then Great Dixter House and Gardens. Rye is a historic town, once a major port almost surrounded by the sea at the confluence of three rivers, but now two miles from the sea. It was an important member of the mediaeval Cinque Ports confederation fortified with a wall and towers to protect it from attacks from the French. Today, Rye is a beautiful historic town, most of which is covered by a designated conservation area. Thanks to this it has an amazing array of fine buildings.

At Great Dixter, just north of Hastings, the house, and indeed the gardens, are Grade 1 listed. The present house is an adaption of a 15th century house on the site with the addition of a similar structure brought from Benenden in Kent and the two were combined with new work by Edwin Lutyens. Its most immediately impressive feature is its Great Hall. Its furnishings are an interesting mixture including pieces that are modern in addition to those that would not have looked out of place when the property was first built.



The owner, Nathaniel Lloyd and Lutyens initially shaped the garden at Great Dixter. However, it was Christopher Lloyd (son of Nathaniel) better known as a garden writer and television personality, who developed the garden into what we see today. It has been described as one of the most experimental, exciting and constantly changing gardens of our time. The garden features distinct areas including yew topiary, a long border, an orchard, a sub-tropical area and a wild flower meadow. The planting is dense and lush, in soil that must be very fertile as the plants are much larger than the equivalents in most people's gardens. In many areas, you had to push your way through the vegetation to get along the paths.

Our latest walk was in the Petts Wood area and again we were blessed with perfect weather for walking. Leaving Tent Peg Lane, the walkers progressed through a mix of suburbia, woods and fields, ignoring an array of security cameras at one property on the way. They stopped briefly to admire the ruin of moated Scadbury Manor and later enjoyed a good lunch at "The Sovereign of the Seas." before the 0.2 mile walk back to the cars. The total distance walked was 5.2 miles.

Until we meet again in these pages, or through the contact details given below, we hope you enjoy to the full whatever you may have planned for the rest of this summer.

**Graham Marsden, Secretary**

**Allan Evison, Asst Secretary**

**Contact details: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org)  
or phone 020 8654 0872**

## **CHILDREN**

I have just come home after a wonderful Fresh Start service. It being August, we thought lots of families would be away but we had many more than we expected, including some new families. It is such a fun time of family worship with songs and instruments, a colouring picture, a bible story and prayers. We celebrate birthdays and have a collection when the children feed our china sheep, Lambikins, with money. We sing the Lord's Prayer to the tune of 'The wheels on the bus' and end by singing a blessing. Of course there is then the inevitable juice and biscuits! All those of us who take part really enjoy seeing the happy families and quite often some of the congregation arrive early and sit at the back which is great. In fact the September Fresh Start will be the two hundredth since we began and long may they continue.

During the summer Sunbeams included some of the older children as Blaze wasn't meeting and I had some lovely sessions with mixed-age children. On the second Sunday of the month when it isn't holiday time there are separate sessions for Sunbeams and Blaze but we always begin together with a game which is fun and burns off some energy before things become a bit more serious.

Twinkles continues with monthly meetings throughout holiday periods and that is another fun time for families. During holidays older siblings come and join in as well. I love Twinkles!

Twice a month there is a craft group and in August that has been opened up to families and I gather there was a wonderful attendance at the first one. I hope to call in for the next one to see what is going on and perhaps enjoy a cup of tea at the same time.

St. Mary's is such a welcoming place for families and it is lovely to have new people coming along. We hope they will spread the word to their friends so we will become overwhelmed with children! I feel very fortunate and blessed to be able to work with them all.

**Hilary Burtonshaw**

## THE CHALLENGERS YOUTH CLUB

Youth Clubs were very prominent in the years after the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War. In Hayes there were:- The Young Conservatives, Victory Social Club and St. Mary's - The Challengers.



Bromley Borough held a "Youth Week"; this was held the first week after schools broke up for the summer. It consisted of events that each club could compete in. On the Saturday in the 1950s there was a decorated lorry procession through Bromley High Street. That was when you could drive around the Market

Square down to Bromley South; that stopped in the early 60s. Monday - a Drama Competition; Tuesday – Netball for the girls. Wednesday - Cycling races on a track on the airfield at Biggin Hill. Thursday was Quiz evening and Friday a Swimming Gala, held at Beckenham Baths. Saturday was the big day with the Athletics meeting that ended with a Tug of War competition. It was held at Bromley Boys' Grammar School, Hayes Lane, then in the evening the Grand Dance and cup presentations. A great week; any club could take part and enjoy making new friends. The Challengers and St. Mark's were usually the overall winners and great rivals too. One year The Challengers won the overall cup but St Mark's ran off with it. A great race around Bromley took place but Hayes retrieved it in the end.



On Sunday Challengers were expected to attend the 6:30pm Evensong Service. When Challengers started it was run by Claude Pierce and Mr. Player, a retired police officer, and a group of six members. You joined at the age of 14. Later Senior Challengers was



formed. When members went to College or National Service they were always welcomed back. During school holidays hikes were arranged, and some years a camp in the summer.



At Christmas there was a pantomime in the Village Hall. This was great fun and very well supported. The group met on Thursday evenings during term time, with a full programme of talks, discussions and demonstrations, plus quizzes and musical evenings ending with tea/coffee with biscuits.

We held a 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Dinner during the Millenium Weekend. We organised two hotels in Eastbourne to hold a special weekend celebration. Over 100 members with their partners attended from all over the world - Australia, New Zealand, Canada Singapore, to name just a few. We gathered on Saturday for the evening Grand Dinner then on the Sunday morning a ramble over the Downs ending with lunch at The Golden Galleon just outside Eastbourne. It was a great weekend of remembrance. People brought photos and their memories: it was a very special occasion.

I still meet up with a group every few months. A wonderful Youth Club. Thank you for all the memories.

**Liz Woodman**



# The Big Knit

*Knitting for charity*

Saturday 11th October 2025

Rochester Cathedral, Kent

10am - 1pm



Local registered charity Making Miracles is pleased to announce this year's annual Big Knit at Rochester Cathedral and we would like to invite as many people as able to attend the event on **Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> October** from 10am to 1pm.

As a local charity we provide baby loss support and services to all families across Kent and Medway who lose a baby and monies we make from selling knitted items fund our really important services like professional bereavement and trauma counselling so that at such a tragic time in their lives those families are getting the help they need without having to worry about costs as all our services are free.

We encourage as many people as possible between now and then to make squares which they can make up into blankets themselves or let us have on the day for other knitters to sew into squares for us. The morning is lots of fun with us always trying to make more squares than

the previous years. Squares should be 6 x 6 inches each and we ask people to bring any they have been able to make before as well if they would like to and bring in a bag so that we can put those knitted by one person into the same blanket. The most popular colours are pastel pinks, blues, greys and white but we are happy to take all squares made.

The finished blankets are then sold on our community stalls and in our shops "Handmade with Love" with every penny raised funding our bereavement services for families who lose a baby.

Making Miracles is also really proud of what local volunteers make for us so at this year's event we will also be showcasing lots of items that have been made and kindly donated to us to sell to raise much needed funds. Included in this showcase event will be wooden items made and donated to us by the prisoners in Maidstone Prison, with whom we have a unique partnership.

It would be lovely for people to also visit us on the day and learn more about what we do.

For catering purposes, it would be really helpful for people to let Sally know if you are able to attend and please also contact Sally with any questions at [sally@makingmiracles.org.uk](mailto:sally@makingmiracles.org.uk)

We also go out into communities and give talks about what we do so if you would like someone to come and visit your group please do let Sally know and she will make the necessary arrangements with you.

We really hope that as many of you as possible are able to support us this year as part of the Big Knit.

**Sally Howells, Chairman**

**Making Miracles** (Registered Charity No 1158233)

*Photograph of Great Dixter on p.11 by Graham Marsden*

**Items for the October issue by 16<sup>th</sup> September please.**

**Copy to the Editor. October magazines will be ready for distribution on 28th September.**

**Editor: Clare Wickert, 3 Hayes Garden, Hayes.**

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

**Business Manager: Gordon Barclay, 29 Hurstdene Avenue, Hayes**

**Tel: 020 8462 2568 [gcb Barclay@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gcb Barclay@hotmail.co.uk)**

**Church Website: [www.stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](http://www.stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)**