

The Rector would appreciate it if anyone knowing of illness or any other trouble in the Parish would notify him as soon as possible so that he or a member of the Church can call without delay.

Rector's Surgery: If you have an enquiry about baptism, marriage or another service, or if there is something else you would like to discuss with Napo John, please make an appointment, through the Church Office (8462 1373), to come and see him during Surgery hours - Monday mornings (except Bank Holidays) 10.30 am – 12 noon and Tuesday evenings, 7 – 9 pm.

HE CREATED US FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY!

Since the tragic death of George Floyd at the hands of American police feelings have been running high among very many people. Understandably different people have different reasons for their anger and rage: the underdogs are angry because they have been on the receiving end for a very long time; they think it's time to speak out. There have also been activists who became part of the protest because they believe the way Mr Floyd was treated should never happen in any civilised society. But there are others who feel they too are victims. In their opinion, 'too many other types have come to live in their societies and the presence of these others is affecting their way of life'. During the early days of the 'Black Lives Matter (BLM) movement I met people who were angry with the supporters of BLM. Their argument was, the protest would backfire and in any case those protesting should recognise that Western society is changing, slow though the change may be for some people's liking. Some have even been questioning if racism really does exist.

I think those who doubt the existence of racism should read Andrew Buncombe, the Independent's Chief US Correspondent's article in the Independent newspaper (9th July). Mr Buncombe was arrested in Seattle by the US police while covering the protests. He writes, "Without intending to, Seattle's law enforcement machine had provided me with a rare insight into its workings. It was a brief, partial window into a criminal justice system seemingly bereft of humanity or equity: not for one second do I think what happened to me is comparable to the abuses enacted in this nation every moment on people without my white-skinned, press-badge privilege. Yet had I been allowed to remain in Cal Anderson Park and cover the police operation, I would not have seen or experienced what I did". In his article he has referred to a book by Michelle Andrews,

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. The book is an eye-opener and is a must-read for those who doubt the problem exists.

I wonder which group of people mentioned above you identify with? Or perhaps you are someone like me and believe, ‘racism certainly exists but I don’t believe it is a stigma of one race or nation, instead it is a common human problem’!

During my working life I have lived and worked among various ethnic groups, including a church made up of 21 different ethnic groups. What I have observed over the years is that some people always find a reason to belittle others and to congratulate themselves on their own superiority. At times this can be subtle, but it’s there nevertheless. At times it is based on one’s skin colour and at other times the reasons are one’s birth in a particular place, race or religion.

Those who believe racism based on the colour of one’s skin is just a problem of European races perhaps have their reasons to believe so. But I can say with confidence that the skin colour superiority complex is not limited to European races alone. In the country of my origin, people of dark skin suffer at the hands of fair-skinned people in every walk of life. The country’s colonial past may play a certain role in it but the problem existed before a white man set foot on the soil of the Indian sub-continent. Where did it come from? The Aryan race that subdued the original people of India were fair skinned and the indigenous population was dark skinned! It happened long before the birth of Jesus Christ but the problem still exists. I suffered for my dark complexion as much there as I have suffered in the West. In fact I suffered even at the hands of those who should have been my protectors – my siblings. I was the youngest of ten children with a skin that was darker than the rest of them. Some of the comments my siblings used to make were no less degrading, insulting and hurtful than those I received in the West. Please don’t worry - I do not hold anything against my brothers and sisters, and in spite of all said they loved me and I loved them. In fact, I was still lucky because I was a male child. Females with a darker skin in those days suffered even worse.

Why do people choose to belittle others on the basis of ethnicity or skin colour? In the holy Bible we read, “For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well.” (Psalm 139:13-14). Did God create one race more wonderfully than the rest? I think not; I believe He created all human races the same way - fearfully and wonderfully. If we believe the Bible means what it says, then when we belittle people whose skin colour is

different from ours who do we really disparage? Them or the hand that created them?

Always yours in Christ

Napo

OUR CHURCHYARD

Many of the wider community and indeed some within the congregation do not know the extent of what lies beyond the Meetings Room.

Do include a visit to the Churchyard on one of your walks! You will find peace and quiet and, if you sit, time for reflection and the appreciation of nature. This year butterflies abound and you may be lucky to see some Gatekeepers and perhaps the rarer Jersey Tiger Moth (*pictured on p4*).

While uncovering some of the graves' inscriptions, particularly on buried kerbstones, questions have arisen about the lives of those interred. Having appealed to Jean Wilson for information, we would like to mention a few:-

Isabella Frances Akers d 1903 of Warren Wood who was the first elected woman to serve as a Guardian for Bromley Poor Law Union in 1890. Her mother Frances Whitmore d 1900 lies next to her. In their memory we have the reredos, altar rails and pavement with some other alterations in the Chancel.

LT Col Arthur James Cowan DSO (*pictured, right*) d 1933 of Meadow View who was badly affected by an accident at Lewisham Station where he fell between a train and the platform and fractured his skull. He was later found shot dead in a ditch in Esher.

Major General George Carden 1838-1894: He served in the Crimean



War at the siege and fall of Sebastopol. Later he was in the 5th Fusiliers throughout the Indian Mutiny including the relief and capture of Lucknow and the defence of Alambagh in Oudh. He was granted a reward for distinguished and meritorious service. Described as a conscientious, just and kindly commanding officer he endeared himself to all ranks.

His wife Mary Gertrude Carden OBE d 1930 is buried with him and was honoured for her untiring work for the welfare of women.

Nurse of the Parish, Fanny Maria Hearne d 1933: She was employed by Hambro's first wife Gertrude in Staples House where she had four crippled children in her care. She was also involved in general nursing. Her grave is modest alongside the more elaborate one of her parents.

Hayes seems to have been an area favoured by financiers and, as well as Norman and Hambro, there was Samuel Herman de Zoete d 1884 of Pickhurst Mead who was chairman of the Stock Exchange in 1872. He is buried with his wife Ellen who died in 1883. We have Harriet Georgina Sofia 1815-1901, Samuel's sister and Ellen Emily 1889-1909 interred. Samuel's son Walter lived at the Warren. The de Zoetes continued in stockbroking or banking until the Barclays de Zoete Wedd investment bank (BZW) was amalgamated into Credit Suisse in the 1990s.



It is fascinating to find hidden treasures in the Churchyard and notable that the women of the Parish were recognized for their good works as well as the men.

We are indebted to Jean Wilson for the facts supplied and suggest you might like to find out more local history contained within her books written with co-author Trevor Woodman.

Do come and take a look at our heritage!

The Churchyard Volunteers



At 10.30 on Monday, 13th July I lit a candle and sat quietly reflecting on the wonderful work that Mothers' Union does throughout the world. It was our branches' time to remember other MU branches worldwide especially in Toliara - Madagascar, Mbale - Uganda, Chhattisgarh - North India, Zaria and Ndokwa in Nigeria and Rochester in the UK. Although I was praying on my own, I felt a strong sense of unity with the rest of our branch, and wondered whether you too were feeling that sense of togetherness despite us all being in our own homes. Thank you to Peter for helping me deliver the prayer leaflets to you all.

Last weekend Mothers' Union held 'Love thy Neighbour' - an online service to celebrate the acts of kindness and strengthening of community bonds that have occurred during the recent crisis.

It is a summer unlike any we have known. It is a time for prayer, it is a time for the Lord. The world is reeling from the effects of COVID-19 and the waves of the economic fallout are now beginning to be felt.

*When I needed a neighbour, were you there, were you there?
When I needed a neighbour, were you there?*

These are the words of a well-known modern hymn written by Sydney

Bertram Carter. It's based on the passage in Matthew's gospel, chapter 25 verses 35-45 when Jesus is talking about The Kingdom of Heaven.

It's also very relevant for us, today. We are in a strange and new situation in our village, in our country, in our world. We are in the grip of a pandemic that fades and re-appears in an unsettling and worrying way. We could be forgiven for putting ourselves and our families first and make 'keeping them safe' and serving their needs, our one and only priority. However, is that what we are being called to do?

Jesus told several stories about 'being a good neighbour' and here is another one from the 21st century.

It was 10:15am on a blustery Sunday morning in May. Folk were making their way to church, anxious to get a good seat as the visiting speaker had a great reputation. On the side of the steps leading up to the main doors sat an untidy and oddly dressed man with a battered felt hat pulled down over his face, hiding his hair. An unpleasant odour hung around him as he sat, with eyes downcast, clutching a hand written sign that read 'I've fallen on hard times...please help me.' People tried not to notice him as they hurried up the steps. Any delay might mean they missed out on a warm seat near the front. One lady, noticing how chilling the breeze was, dashed into church and procured a polystyrene cup of warm coffee, with sugar. She put it down, on the step, next to the beggar and gave him a wan smile before she returned to the warmth of her church. 10:30am and the doors closed and after a welcome from the Vicar, the music group started with the opening lines of 'When I needed a neighbour were you there? The service progressed until the time came for the talk. The speaker was introduced, by name. Then to everyone's horror, the doors opened and slowly, the tramp walked to the front and started to preach. 'You see,' he said 'It's so easy to sing about loving and helping and reaching out to our neighbours and strangers in our midst.... but it's not easy to put the needs of others, less fortunate than ourselves, before our own!' This visiting speaker certainly grabbed the attention of the entire congregation!

So, I would encourage you to take the words of Jesus in Matthew 25 v 35-45 to heart. For He said very clearly that every time you reach out to a neighbour or a stranger in need and render some service, however small, you are in fact, reaching out to Him.

I have been impressed by the way in which our church has reached out to strangers and made them welcome. Daily we hear other ways in which those most in need as a result of the ravages of Covid19 have been fed, supported, encouraged and blessed by all your acts of kindness.

As branch members we are all keeping in touch by email and phone and

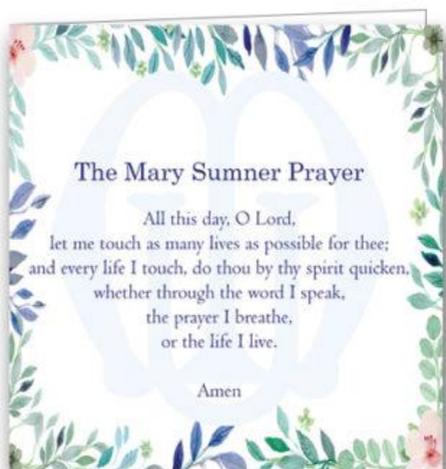
have been keeping busy at home either self-isolating or helping locally with neighbours. Some of our members have been shopping for neighbours. Many members have been busy gardening in their own property and some of our members have kept themselves busy with knitting, crochet and other crafts including making items needed for the maternity unit. A few of us have met for a walk and a cup of tea in an outdoor cafe and we are avidly looking forward to being able to meet up again in larger numbers.



9th August 2020 marks Mary Sumner Day, a day on which we remember our founder and her vision for our movement. This year, Mary Sumner Day falls on a Sunday and in the midst of a global pandemic. The day will look very different as there will be no prayer pilgrimage to Rochester for our members. Please remember her, and give thanks for her life and vision on 9th August.

Please continue to remember our branch in your prayers, and I look forward to the time when we can all meet safely again. If you need any help please don't hesitate to phone (0208 468 7785), and I will do what I can do to help.

Avril Ashford



ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY AUGUST 2020

TRINITY 8

Sunday 2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise

TRINITY 9

Sunday 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start online via YouTube
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW

TRINITY 10

Sunday 16th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise:

TRINITY 11

Sunday 23rd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW

TRINITY 12

Sunday 30th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30 am	All-age Youth-led Service

Follow the link below to the St Mary's YouTube channel where you will find our pre-recorded services.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo7KNHYf0iKm95VXyQdFg6g>

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

I concluded last month's report with a sincere hope that we could bring you positive news in August, thinking and hoping for progress in easing the lockdown restrictions.

At the time of writing this report for August there have indeed been encouraging signs of progress. For example, church services are set to resume in the parish church rather than electronically and that surely augurs well for holding our Annual Service in St. Mary's in October to launch our next session year. Afterwards, we shall move to the OCS – we assume it will also have been reopened by then – and hold our Annual General Meeting postponed from July. This will be in a truncated form to allow for the essentials of presenting and accepting the Annual Accounts, reappointing the independent examiner, and voting in a new committee for the year ahead. That will leave plenty of time for much-needed informal fellowship, distanced as necessary by then.

Then for November and December this year we plan to hold monthly meetings in the OCS with visiting speakers already booked, accepting that some members may still feel nervous about venturing out. Like all similar organisations we are endeavouring to balance the safety of our members with the need for fellowship and activities.

Our Outings sub-committee have met recently – within Covid-safe guidelines! – and agreed on a monthly programme of Outings for 2020. The unanimous view was to wait for January and use our Annual Lunch (upstairs in the New Inn's Banqueting Suite called Regan's) as a splendid occasion to encourage members to take part in the hope that our "new normal" is well established, to allay any residual fears or concerns.

In the absence of our usual planned activities, we continue with our additional mid-month Coronavirus Extra Newsletter to keep in touch with our members, keep them amused and include write ups on the activities we have cancelled. For the last month that has been the AGM mentioned above and a trip to the Kent and East Sussex Railway. This is a Heritage Steam Railway largely run by volunteers and operating between Tenterden (where they have a Museum) and Bodiam (with its lovely Castle). We have rearranged this trip for 2021 – fingers crossed!

Perhaps the first return to "normal" activity may be our walkers who usually set out every month of the year over about 5 miles of local countryside, or in winter around London and the Thames. They have been frustrated by the lockdown of pubs for the lunch which usually concludes each activity so the only hindrance would be for likely

establishments not to be fully open serving food (and beer!). Our Walks Organiser, Tony Archer, is investigating what is possible.

I hope in future reports to feature photos of their exploits. Meanwhile here are some reminders of how things used to be and surely will be again.

On that note of optimism I look forward to meeting you all again in these pages in September.

Allan Evison, HMF Hon. Secretary

(Contacts: 020 8402 7416

secretary@haysmensfellowship.org)



Walk April 2019 – Green Street Green area



Meeting November 2019 – Flanders Fields Talk

CHURCH OF ENGLAND GUIDANCE ON FACE-COVERINGS

Q. Should I wear a face covering in a church building?

A. Face coverings are currently mandatory on public transport and will be mandatory in shops and in supermarkets from 24 July 2020. People are also encouraged to wear face coverings in enclosed public spaces where there are people they do not normally meet, such as a place of worship.

We **strongly advise** that face coverings should be worn by all those attending a place of worship, including ministers, worshippers, staff, volunteers, contractors and visitors, where there may be other people present; remembering that they are mainly intended to protect other people, not the wearer, from coronavirus COVID-19 and that they are not a replacement for physical distancing and regular hand washing

However, masks are not **mandatory** for Sunday's worship.

Our Ref: SJW/tmb

16th July 2020

Students, Parents/Carers and staff of Hayes School
Churches Together in Hayes
Hayes School PTA
Hayes Primary School & Hayes Primary PTA
Hayes Kent Trust
Fare Share

Dear All

Re: Hayes Community Foodbank

On behalf of all the students and families that have benefited from your support over the last few months, I want to express our thanks.

The establishment of the Hayes Community Foodbank during the COVID-19 pandemic has provided much needed support to local families experiencing financial difficulties and I know that those who have donated food and other supplies have felt they have been able to make a difference to others.

Thank you to all who have given their time, donated goods and funds and made deliveries to local households.

I have been overwhelmed by the generosity of members of the local community and appreciate all that has been done to help our students and their families.

The pandemic has shown how much we can achieve when we work together and the difference we can make.

With very best wishes

S J Whittle
Principal



Principal:
Mr S J Whittle
M.A., (Oxford), P.G.C.E., NFOU

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HAYES COMMUNITY FOODBANK UPDATE



Since we began to deliver food at the start of March, things have been constantly developing at Hayes Community Foodbank (HCF). When the project began, we had no idea if it would be needed for a few weeks, few months or for longer. It became clear early on that the need is great and that HCF has to continue indefinitely but with schools returning in September, we knew that a more permanent site was needed. We have therefore, said goodbye to our temporary homes at Hayes Primary and Hayes Secondary School, feeling extremely thankful for the space they have provided over the past few months. Our delivery list has also continued to expand and we need to utilise as much FareShare food, distributed through the TBB Food Partnership, as possible, including chilled and frozen goods. Hayes Secondary School site team had kindly moved a large fridge from the staff room into the Dance Studio, where HCF were operating from, but of course the staff will be wanting that back. So in early June the checklist of things required was: 1. New venue, 2. New fridge and ideally freezer, 3. More volunteers to manage growing orders. Well looking back now, it seems like a big ask but on the 27th July we moved into our new space, fully equipped with a brand new fridge and freezer and our team had doubled! Sometimes it seems like we can watch and wait for a long time for prayer to be answered but other times the speed at which God works is phenomenal and gives assurance that the ideas we have for something are aligned with God's vision.

So we are moving into a new phase and despite the obvious hurdles described above, it all came about quite naturally and calmly, with no worry or stress considering a relatively short timeline to get relocated. In a conversation about where we could move to I asked Rev Darren Street, Deep Water Baptist Church Pastor who is also on the HCF lead team, if Hayes Free Church might open their doors for us. Darren is also Chair of Churches Together in Hayes, so he wrote to Rev Alison Smith. Darren explained what we had been doing and asked if we could perhaps move our operation to Hayes Free Church, under the umbrella of Churches Together in Hayes. Now here is where God's hand in this begins to shine through, because Alison and her Elders had actually been thinking about ministering in this way, but did not feel they had the resources at that time. HCF were at a point where we had good food donation links with the TBB Food Partnership and through the schools, good systems in place for stock control and deliveries but needed a place



to move to. When we met with Alison and her Elder Teresa Cheyne at Hayes Free Church on 18th June, they were overjoyed to be involved with the project and we were welcomed with open arms. Teresa joined the lead team and also brought with her some volunteers. There are Elders and members of Hayes Free Church and also four young, enthusiastic ex-Rangers (Teresa is also a Guide and Ranger Leader) who were on a long break from university and only too pleased to be kept busy. How amazing, venue – tick, more volunteers – tick, just a fridge and freezer left on the list. Well, in the same week that we met at Hayes Free Church, an email from Derek Holl of the TBB Food Partnership had hit my inbox. Can you guess what it said? Well here is an excerpt, ‘You will be aware that we have been successful in attracting funding from a variety of sources and are now wishing to find a mechanism for providing additional fridge and/or freezer capacity to foodbanks within our partnership.’ Wow! My heart leapt, I couldn’t quite believe how this was coming together, although of course I should believe it, God is at work. Alison agreed to moving the equipment into a small room at the back of the church and her Fabric Committee set to work making space as some desks needed to be removed. On 13th July our new white goods arrived and were set in place; everything was ready to go.

What an amazing journey; it began with a small team of volunteers, who at the start of lockdown with strict purchasing measures in place, filled a small room with food. We shopped regularly buying two tins or jars of everything and a pack of toilet rolls at a time (when we could get hold of them!) as that was all that was allowed. By God’s grace,

fantastic community links and an amazing team of volunteers, we have a permanent home to continue this work. As this is a community project there are so many people involved and therefore, so many people to thank. There is a letter from Mr Whittle the Head teacher of Hayes Secondary and at the top he lists the organisations involved who he wanted to thank. There are so many people within each group listed who have helped in various ways but I would like to thank a few key people, as without them, we would not be continuing. Huge thanks to: Caroline Lewis (Hayes Primary and Secondary PTA), Rev Darren Street, Rev Alison Smith, Teresa Cheyne and of course Napo for his continued support. Thank you also to those who have given kind donations of food and money and all those who have been praying.

If you would like to donate, volunteer or need assistance, please do get in touch: hayescommunityfoodbank@gmail.com.

Becky Willoughby



The logo for Hayes Community Foodbank features the word "Hayes" in a green, sans-serif font with a stylized green leaf above the 'y'. Below it, the words "Community Foodbank" are written in white on a green banner. Underneath the banner is the email address hayescommunityfoodbank@gmail.com.

Supporting local families and residents who attend the local schools and also the wider community of Hayes, who may need additional support because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
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Items for the September magazine by 21 August please. Copy to the Editor – see below.

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We await instruction about when distribution of parish magazines can resume.