

## HAYES HERALD JANUARY 2021

**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, by emailing [info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](mailto:info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)**

### JANUARY 2021

Happy New Year to you all!

'It is not the end but the beginning of the end,' is a phrase I have heard or read a few times during the last few weeks. The phrase came on the scene with the start of the vaccination programme. Surely, we can now look to the year 2021 with hopefulness. Maybe towards the end of the year the saying will become, 'It is the end of Covid 19.'

I pray the year 2021 may bring other good news for our nation. I pray the year 2021 may be good for you personally too! But will everything be good in the year 2021? I am not sure. Perhaps you want to ask me, 'If you are uncertain about the year then why pray for it to be good?' The answer is because I am a Parish Priest and regard asking blessing for you as my God-given responsibility.

Admittedly at times even we Christians don't fully grasp the depth of the meaning of 'blessing'. But the truth is, in its biblical context it means far more than just a wish that 'all may go well with you'. The theme of 'blessing' dominates the story of the whole Bible (Genesis 1:22 to Revelation 22:14!) This, however, should never mean that even a Parish Priest should shy away from the realities of time and life.

In the book of Numbers we find one of the most wonderful words of priestly benediction that priests were to pronounce on God's people. It reads, "The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace. So they shall put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them." (Chapter 6:24-27). Here is a three-fold invocation addressed to LORD God:

- Asking the LORD to bless His people in everything and in all they owned. To keep them safe from all harm and destruction.
- Asking the LORD to turn His face or to turn towards them in a pleasurable way.
- Asking God to look at His people with approval and give them peace.

The passage ends with these words, "So they will put my name on the Israelites". On all special occasions the priests would bless God's people with this three-fold blessing.

As we step into 2021 I want to put Jesus' name on you and ask God's blessing on you and upon everything that is yours. It is not really me or any other individual who can truly bless you. The blessing comes from God alone but I, as your Parish Priest, can ask God for you. As we enter the New Year, we need Jesus' protective name to be upon us more perhaps today than ever before. Looking, listening and reading, I believe the year 2021 is going to be a year of many hardships and that is in spite of the fact that we may be on the winning side of the war against Covid 19. I anticipate there are going to be hardships in three areas of life: Economic, peace and security, and the spiritual life of our national church.

**Economic realities:**

- The present economic downturn due to Covid 19 is the worst in the past 300 years.
- We have seen the carnage in the retail and hospitality sectors, which sadly may worsen for some time to come.
- At the time of writing this article the deal with EU remains uncertain and most of us believe if there is no deal it may not be good for our economy.

**Peace and Security realities:**

- The ongoing tussle between the USA and China will perhaps continue even under the new US leadership. The South China Sea will remain a trouble spot!
- The ongoing troubles between Israel and Iran are not going to disappear.
- Turkey is flexing its muscle in a new way.

**Spiritual realities:**

In 2021 our national church is going to start to debate certain issues that may bring a lot of heartache for the faithful.

I would be the happiest man in this land if the problems identified above didn't materialise. But just in case things turn out to be tough I ask you to take shelter in the name of Jesus Christ.

At His birth Jesus was given two names: 'Jesus', a Greek form of Hebrew 'Joshua' which means, 'Yahweh is salvation'. The other name, Emmanuel, 'HaEl Immanu', God is with us. God is our salvation and God is with us in all life circumstances. Like a hen keeping her brood under her wings God wants to protect us from the troubles we may be faced with during the year.

Jesus said, "I am with you always, to the close of the age." (Mt. 28:20). May you know His presence with you every day of the year 2021!

Always yours in Christ

**Napo**

## **UPDATE FROM WELCARE IN BROMLEY TO PARISH REPRESENTATIVES**

The last quarter has been very productive for the Bromley team amidst all the changes and challenges presented by the current global pandemic. Bromley staff has passionately delivered services to children and families. Volunteers have continued to receive supervision and local training, ensuring that they feel motivated and supported. Bromley staff have passionately delivered services to 22 children and 31 families. The presented issues have been complex relating to mental health, drug abuse and domestic violence, mental health and domestic violence being at the forefront of our current caseloads. I have continued to provide support to teams across Welcare for staff and parents on Strengthening Families, Strengthening Communities, evidence-based parenting programmes. Our current focus is to deliver a digital taster groups for the Bromley Families. SFSC one to one parenting support has been provided as a service for parents. These sessions have generally focused on promoting protective factors with parents, setting boundaries, and positive discipline, and gaining a better understanding of child development. Also, a great deal of focus in response to need has been placed on how to look after your well-being. Mental Health Awareness week in May highlighted the many challenges parents face in managing their own self-care and reducing stress and anxiety, particularly relating to the coronavirus outbreak.

All groups have been cancelled following the lockdown from March 23<sup>rd</sup>. We have remained open for new referrals and have continued to provide a service for individual parents and children through regular phone contact, email and digital channels. Our appeal to provide vouchers for families supported by Welcare across all regions have raised over £8,000. We thank you for all your support and prayers provided during this time. Many of the families we have supported have shared their appreciation, particularly for the practical support provide during Covid-19. We have also signed up to be a distributor for Food Bank in Bromley. This will enable us to distribute E-vouchers where a

service of food delivery can be made directly to clients who are physically unable to shop for themselves.

Notably, we are facing different challenges with the current universal epidemic for many families that are already struggling. This situation has created crisis both on an emotional and on a practical level and has amplified difficulties that they are already experiencing in their life. The Bromley team continues to work closely with partner agencies to provide an effective and safe service in a rapidly changing situation. Priority planning has focused on safeguarding service users at particular risk of harm, neglect or isolation. Key local partner agencies include Bromley Well-being, Just B, Bromley Children Centres, CAHMS, Children and Families, Voluntary Sector Forum, Bromley's Women's Aid and Race Equality Foundation. We have also been involved in the South-East London Social Work Partnership.

Also, support has been given to local schools, particularly for year 6 students transitioning from Primary to Secondary School. We have provided transition support materials and strategies to schools to be implemented with groups and one to one support for individually referred students.

We have had a final year Social Work Student placed in Bromley who has recently ended her placement and has been a valuable resource to the team. Our relationship with Kingston university continues to strengthen. I am also completing the Practice Education course that will end next month. We plan to continue working with Kingston University and provide placement opportunities for social work students.

Catherine O'garro, Senior FSW had continued to support us with the demands of the delivery of family support and group work services in Bromley and ended her part-time role on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. We continue to work closely with our Fundraising Officer, Christopher Vasey to secure additional funding sources to support services in Bromley.

Again, we would like to honour the memory of Judy Rambridge, Secretary of Bromley Parish Representatives who will be sadly missed by all at Welcare.

*submitted by Sarah Willis*



I think that we will all be pleased to say goodbye to 2020. What a year it has been! Covid 19 has affected all walks of life, nationalities and countries worldwide. Despite all the challenges we face I would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and importantly a healthy, blessed 2021. I look forward to the time when we can once again enjoy fellowship together, and again, the opportunity for us to share our faith as Mothers' Union members within our parish.

Our thoughts at this time are with all our members who are unwell and we hope and pray that they are soon feeling better. I speak regularly with Jean and Jenny and they send their best wishes to everyone. Please do keep in contact with each other as during 'lockdown' and restrictions in 'Tier 3' as one can get very lonely. You can always phone me if you need anything or just want to chat.

I must say a big thank you to Peter who valiantly helped me deliver Christmas cards, the Prayer diary, the Autumn newsletter and information explaining about our subs for next year. I am hoping that we can collect your subs during January. They work out at 67p per week, which is not a great deal of money if you consider the good work that Mothers' Union does worldwide and how many lives we touch and influence for the good. A member of the committee will be contacting you. To help ensure you are all kept better informed about the work of Mothers' Union at home and abroad you will receive a new publication twice a year as part of your subs.

The theme for 2021 is "Rebuilding hope and confidence."

Our 2020 theme of Building hope and confidence has been timely and pertinent, as we have reached out to those who are suffering in deep and unique ways because of the global pandemic. We recognise that the effects of this pandemic will continue to be felt across the world throughout 2021. Therefore, it seems appropriate to develop our theme to encompass Rebuilding hope and confidence.

As people seek to come to terms with loss of all kinds, from bereavement to loss of livelihood, relationships, wellbeing and other challenges, our work of rebuilding hope and confidence will be vital.

We will add to the 2020 resources, which continue to be relevant for the coming year, to help us to sustain our confidence in the sure and steadfast hope of God as we reach out to a hurting world.

Usually, I write about our success at the Christmas Fayre. It seems so strange that we haven't had one to report on. Instead, I have included a few photos of past years!



I look forward to the time when we can enjoy fellowship and meet again, but until we have all had the vaccine, I don't think that it is advisable. I await instructions from Mothers' Union.

**Avril Ashford 0208 468 7785**

## Nepal, Kathmandu



Some of you may remember that a while ago I wrote to you about the situation for Christians in Nepal. Over Christmas, I received this update.

Nepal, situated on the southern border of China, became the first South Asian nation to confirm infections from Covid 19. Soon afterwards the whole country was placed in lockdown. Today, in spite of the relatively low number of deaths, just over 1000 in total, schools, markets and numerous businesses are still closed. Many children in the poorer families and particularly girls, may not return to school in the New Year, after lockdown ends and the schools reopen, as they may well be forced to work to support their families. Sexual exploitation and child marriages are on the rise since the lockdown. My contact, a local Pastor, reported the following:

“We are living in a big problem ... the government is not providing any kind of help physically or financially to the local people .... many poor people are resorting to suicide because of food provision problems. Without work and wages, they cannot pay their rent and landlords are kicking out whole families to live on the streets.” He also reports that the levels of violence and family break up has increased hugely and this is a theme that seems to be being mirrored across the world. He also reports that they have had to give up their church buildings as they cannot afford the rent and anyway are not allowed to meet together. However, on a more positive note, he reports that all the children that he and his wife are caring for in their home are flourishing and continuing with their online studies. Two of these students deserve special mention. One of the older girls has just completed her nursing training. Another, whose progress I have been personally following since she was brought down off the mountains as a 9-year-old orphan, destined to be sold on into India, has received excellent 10th grade marks. She still holds on to her ambition to become a human rights lawyer. The picture shows her in 2012 and now 2020. Most of all these children are being raised as Christians in a country where Hinduism prevails. The pastor and his amazing wife, mother to all these young orphans, need our prayers and support. The work they are doing is fraught with difficulty. We pray for them as we do for many other unsung heroines and heroes.

To find out more see the New Dawn website: [a-newdawn.org](http://a-newdawn.org)

## **ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY JANUARY 2021**

“At present the situation in our Parish area is critical, the infection rates are worryingly high...We all have the responsibility to stay safe and make sure others are safe. So this in mind I the Rector and the PCC of St. Mary's Hayes Kent has taken the decision to close the church for three weeks to keep people safe. Please note the church will not open on Sundays 3, 10 and 17 January. This, however doesn't mean no ministry, we still have two services every Sunday from the church building, 8 am on Zoom and 10:30 “live streamed” on the St Mary's Youtube Channel. We hope to reopen on the 24 January provided circumstances allow.

Please be assured of my prayers for you. Please stay safe and stay blessed.” Message from Revd. Napo John, Rector

*Please see details on how to access the online services below the Diary dates*

### **CHRISTMAS 2**

**Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup>**      8.00am Holy Communion BCP via Zoom  
10.30am Morning Praise: Christingle on Youtube

### **BAPTISM OF CHRIST**

**Sunday 10<sup>th</sup>**      8.00am Holy Communion BCP via Zoom  
9.15am Fresh Start on Youtube  
10.30am Parish Communion CW on Youtube

### **EPIPHANY 2**

**Sunday 17<sup>th</sup>**      8.00am Holy Communion BCP via Zoom  
10.30am Morning Praise on Youtube  
5.00-6.00pm Illuminate via Zoom

### **EPIPHANY 3**

**Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>**      8.00am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am Parish Communion CW



## EPIPHANY 4

**Sunday 31<sup>st</sup>**      8.00am Holy Communion BCP  
10.30am All Age Worship

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

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCo7KNHYfOiKm95VXyQdFg6g>

If you would like to join a Zoom service please email the church office at [info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk](mailto:info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk)

A photograph of a woman with dark hair wearing a light blue surgical mask, looking down. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent grey box containing prayer text. In the top right corner of the image, there is a red logo with a white cross and the word 'Reclaim' in a script font.

**Heavenly Father,**  
We pray for all those across the country  
Struggling today to adjust to new measures,  
Trying to work out what it means for them.  
We pray for all who are weary,  
All who are fearful,  
And all who are in danger of losing their  
income.  
We pray for good governance,  
For wisdom to prevail,  
And a clear pathway out of this crisis.

**Amen**

Prayer: Diocese of Truro



## Dear Supporter

We look forward to the day Bromley Borough Foodbank is no longer required within our borough. In the meantime, thank you for supporting us and helping us provide nutritionally balanced food support to over 3700 adults and 2900 children this year.

Your help is essential to the work we do as we strive to assist people with the underlying issues which have brought them to a crisis point and to help them find ways to maximise their income so they can break free from needing to rely on food aid.



As a Trussell Trust Foodbank, our data is pooled with others in our network to campaign for policy changes both locally and nationally on areas such as the recent uplift in universal credit, school meals and local welfare support which we are campaigning to keep. The support of the general public this year has shown this is something we as a community really care about and the raised awareness is helping to drive the campaign for change.

Due to the generosity of many our stocks are ready for the year ahead come what may and it's been a blessing to be able to deliver over 800 Luxury Christmas Hampers to those most in need this Christmas.

Therefore, on behalf of all the team and those we serve here at Bromley Borough Foodbank, we thank you again for partnering with us and take this opportunity to wish you a very Merry Christmas and a happier year in 2021.



### Amanda Stone

Project Manager  
Bromley Borough Foodbank

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-  @bromleyboroughfoodbank



## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

With the vaccination roll-out now underway we can surely enter 2021 this January a little more optimistic than we departed from 2020 – despite the appearance of a new strain of Covid and the move to tier 3 precautions because of rising cases. Last year was a memorable year for all the wrong reasons. Yet we can recall the community spirit of co-operation, collaboration and doing our best in difficult circumstances.

That certainly applies in the London Borough of Bromley at large as well as within our Fellowship. At HMF we have always been aware that the ages of most of our members place them potentially at a greater risk and we are grateful that this is reflected in the declared priority for vaccinations against Covid-19.

We must reaffirm the need not to let up in cautiously still applying the basic rules of hygiene, distance and wearing of face-coverings until this vicious disease is conquered.

We have traditionally taken a break from a formal programme during Christmas and New Year festivities anyway, so little disruption there. Our members prefer to spend this time usually in the company of their families. They can then return to HMF refreshed and energised for the ensuing season of activities when conditions are normal.

We are continuing to plan our Annual Lunch although the scheduled date in January is unlikely at this time of writing, especially as there is growing expectation that London, including Bromley, will be in



*HMF Annual Lunch 2020*

Tier 3 by the time you get to read this. A sumptuous menu of 4 starters, 4 mains, 4 desserts has been agreed with the New Inn and members' choices are being sought, giving something at least to savour and look forward to. Administratively advantageous, as we can only ready our plans now to be able to implement without undue delay when permitted.

Much of our intended programme of events still depends on what happens to Covid cases, hospitalisations, and the so-called R rate of virus transmissions, indeed the whole progress of the virus, or its longed-for recession.

Once we are told the OCS is again open to us, more becomes possible there. Meanwhile, we have continued to publish our Coronavirus Extra in the middle of December to entertain, inform and uplift (we hope) our loyal members as we all await that better tomorrow.

In a festive edition, highlights include:

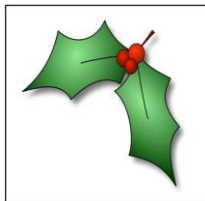
- Seasonal message from Napo as our President;
  - Christmas-themed selection of puzzles to challenge and occupy;
  - Naval treasures at Portsmouth – a possible future Outing?
  - Christmas films worth watching;
  - Year-ending quiz on “The Highs and Lows of our HMF Year”;
- And much more, 18 pages in all!



#### HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Extra Newsletter December 2020, edited by Graham Marsden and Allan Evison, HMF Secretarial team.

**(Membership Enquiries:** For more information on joining the Fellowship retired and semi-retired men can ring Graham (020 8654 0872) or Allan (020 8402 7416) for a friendly chat, drop us an e-mail to [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org) or browse our website at [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org).



*All the Committee send their very best wishes to you and your loved ones for Christmas and the New Year*

#### CORONAVIRUS EXTRA 10

Once vaccinated and armed with our hoped-for certificates we shall remain optimistic that activities will prove possible in coming months.

You can keep in touch with us month by month in these pages.

Until February, have a happier new year and please keep on keeping safe and healthy.

**Graham Marsden and Allan Evison, the HMF Secretarial Team**  
(Contact by e-mail to: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org))



*One of the few recent events – HMF October 2020 walk*

## **BLAZE ONLINE PRESERVE SHOP**

We would like to say a very big thank you to everybody who supported our Online Preserve Shop this year. We were naturally disappointed for our charity CASPA not to be able to have our usual Cake Stall, but creative thinking enabled us to still supply our previously made goodies to our regular customers.

We have been genuinely amazed by the level of support we have had, and we received some exceedingly generous donations to our charity as well. We have sold virtually all our stock and have raised just over **£600** for CASPA which is a fantastic total, way beyond our expectations. None of us knew how this venture would work out and we are very pleased it has been so successful for our charity, who need our support more than ever this year.

We hope the Christmas Fayre will be able to go ahead next year and we will be back to holding our Cake Stall as usual.

Thanks again to everybody for your support which is very much appreciated by us all.

**The Blaze Team**

## MARY, DID YOU KNOW?

Words and Music by Mark Lowry and Buddy Greene

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would one day walk on water?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would save our sons and daughters?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has come to make you new;  
This Child that you delivered  
Will soon deliver you?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will give sight to a blind man?  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Would calm a storm with His hand?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Has walked where angels trod,  
And when you kiss your little baby  
You've kissed the face of God?

Mary, did you know?  
The blind will see, the deaf will hear,  
The dead will live again,  
The lame will leap, the dumb will speak  
The praises of the Lamb!  
Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Is Lord all creation?

Mary, did you know that your baby boy  
Will one day rule the nations?  
Did you know that your baby boy  
Was Heaven's perfect Lamb,  
And the sleeping Child you're holding Is the great, the Great I AM?  
Oh, Mary, Mary, did you know?

***submitted by Yvonne Pickford***

## THE STRAIGHT LINE MISSION

The strange circumstances of 2020 have led to people indulging in some curious hobbies. None stranger perhaps than Tom Davies' obsession with an extreme form of hiking called The Straight-Line Mission. This involves plotting a perfectly straight line across a country using a GPS tracker and walking, climbing, swimming and occasionally trespassing the length of it without deviating more than 25m from the line.

This August in a lull between lockdowns, he travelled to Norway to tackle a straight-line challenge starting 40km from the Arctic circle, filming it all on a GoPro head-camera, and sustained by jelly babies and beef jerky. Fortunately, a friend in Trondheim was able to lend him a kayak and life jacket to get across a lake, which would otherwise have been an impassable obstacle. Another friend, Verity, tracked him by road to make sure that there was someone to raise the alarm if he did not make each checkpoint and to meet him at the other end. But there were other hazards – dense forest, cliff-sized boulders, rivers and a sticky bog of quick-mud which was nearly the end of him. As he neared civilization, he also had to cross a railway line and tiptoe through a few private gardens. I wonder what the owners would have thought if they had glanced out of the window to see this muddy, bedraggled figure creeping across their lawn.

He posted his video of the experience on the YouTube channel Geo Wizard, where my son Julian saw it, which is how I came to hear about it.

To those of us who are not intrepid and get no particular buzz from risk taking, this kind of exploit sometimes seem unfathomable, pointless. But they are part of a tradition of exploration and endurance that sees people climb Everest, swim the channel, cross the Atlantic in a rowing boat or travel to the moon. More than that, the straight-line mission struck me as a useful metaphor for our journey through life. We fix our eyes on some distant goal and set off, hoping for the best, and before long we hit an obstacle that seems insurmountable. We fail an important exam or job interview; we are struck down by illness; a relationship founders. We may dig deep and overcome it, and resume our journey, but before long there is another boulder in our path. I suppose, in this analogy, faith is the GPS tracking device, pointing the way ahead, keeping us to the straight line. And perhaps God is the faithful friend, Verity, who watches our progress with concern and rejoices at our safe arrival.

**Clare Wickert**

## I STAND AT THE DOOR AND KNOCK

**Jesus:** Hello, my friend, where have you been  
down the years?  
I've looked for you, but you were hiding  
in a dark place.  
Shall I stay and wait?  
I have an eternity of time for you.

**Me:** Hello, dearest friend. I've tried so hard  
to be faithful.  
But my spirit is weak and sin  
Too close a friend.  
Please wait for me to find my way  
And learn surrender.

**Me:** So many years have been too full  
of anxious care.  
I've found no friends to be  
As true as you.  
When you come close to me  
I weep, wishing more.

**Jesus:** Please don't weep, dear friend.  
I've dealt with all your sin.  
Come walk with me.  
We'll face what life may bring.  
I know your future and your past  
And your future will be with me.

**David Langford**

**Items for the February magazine by 16<sup>th</sup> January please. Copy to the Editor – see below.**

**February magazines will be available for distribution on 31<sup>st</sup> Jan.**

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