

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

JANUARY 2023

As I write, we are still deep in the midst of Advent; still watching and waiting. Depending on when you are reading this in January, we will still be in the continued joy of the Christmastide, or have moved onwards into the season of Epiphany, the 6th of January marking the start of this season and celebrated on Sunday the 8th.

But what is Epiphany? Well one dictionary will tell you it is 'a moment of sudden and great revelation or realization'. Another definition is 'the manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles as represented by the Magi (Matthew 2:1–12).'

Unity and mission are a backdrop to the season, with an opportunity for an extended period of reflection on the reality of God among us, to be discerned and responded to. How are we going to respond, to give, throughout the year, in our homes, workplaces and communities, ultimately sharing the gift to us, of God himself?

Christmas is a way of life to be lived each and every day, not just on the 25th December. The Christmas-Epiphany sequence is an extended celebration of the gift of Jesus to the world, long after the decorations are down and life could be seen to return to the humdrum, following all the excitement of Noel.

We can all have the continuing realisation of God loving us so much he took the fragile form of a baby, joining with us in human form, coming to us as we are. The wonder, that yes, we are loved that much, all of us, all of the time, I believe can be an epiphany for us.

At the start of this new year, how can we all manifest God's wonderful love for us in Hayes?

It is no secret that we are experiencing some of the toughest times we have ever had. The rate at which prices are rising may have

dropped back slightly before Christmas, but inflation remains near a 40-year high.

The soaring cost of energy has been a key reason why things are getting more expensive. One reason given, is that oil and gas prices increased because energy was in greater demand as life got back to normal after Covid. At the same time, the war in Ukraine meant less was available from Russia, resulting in further pressure. The war in Ukraine, as well as all the terrible events that happened to Ukrainian families, also led to food prices going up, by reducing the amount of grain available.

Where is God, we may well ask in all of this?

God is here in his Son, Jesus. Jesus shows us God in a way that we can understand. In a way that renews us. In a way that gives us hope. In a way that finds common ground between us. It is in the work of Churches Together in Hayes, in the foodbank, supporting many families, it is in groups and spaces offered to those in need of warmth, support and fellowship. In these, I believe, we can witness the manifestation of God working through people.

*I hope that you all had a Christmas of hope, peace, joy and love
and that the blessing of Jesus born in a manger,
keep you in hope of God always with us,
the blessing of the good news of the angels,
keep you sharing the love and peace to all our community and the
world,
and the blessing of the faithfulness of the wise men, keep you joyful in
seeking,
now and forever, Amen.*

Rev'd Amanda



HAYES COMMUNITY FOODBANK COFFEE MORNING

A wonderful morning of outreach and fellowship was held in the meetings room on December 1st. The charity coffee morning in aid of 'The Hayes Community Foodbank' was arranged by Mary Ann for this very important cause. There was plenty of coffee, tea, homemade cake and

conversation enjoyed before a very detailed and inspiring talk by Darren Street, the Pastor of the Deep Water Baptist Church. Darren is a trustee of the foodbank and took a major part in setting up this charity together with our dear friend Becky Willoughby. He explained how and why the foodbank was set up and how it has evolved over the two years it has been running.

Darren has sent me a bullet point summary of that talk:

- The foodbank started in March 2020 as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- We already had a very good relationship with our local schools through the work we already did (e.g., school assemblies, mentoring, etc.)
- The school was concerned about families who relied on free school meals. With the schools being forced to close, how would families cope?
- The initial idea was for the church to give out food vouchers. But these are very limited and it was felt it wouldn't be enough to provide for families.
- Various ideas were discussed and the idea to set up a foodbank emerged.
- The head teacher at Hayes Primary School offered a classroom (as the school was closed) but he wanted to ensure that we had food to give before writing to vulnerable parents, offering support.
- A small team of volunteers came together to fill the classroom with food (a difficult task at the time as supermarket shelves were empty and food was rationed).
- But we had a classroom full of food and a small team of drivers to deliver to families in need. So the foodbank was started.

- By the summer of 2020 it looked like schools would be able to reopen. This meant that Hayes Primary School needed their classroom back.
- The foodbank had to find a new home.
- Hayes School kindly gave us use of their Dance Studio.
- This was a bigger space, which was great, but the summer was very hot and keeping food (and our volunteers) cool was a challenge.
- At this time we also started to use FareShare (a charity that captures surplus food from supermarkets and redistributes it to charities). This was done through a partnership of churches across Bromley working together. The partnership is called "Transform Bromley Borough" and consists of around 60 churches across Bromley. Among them we had about 12 foodbanks which were put under one umbrella called "The

Transform Bromley Borough Food Partnership". This made an enormous difference to the food we were able to give each week (including a lot of fresh fruit and vegetables).

- By the end of the summer as schools and other venues reopened, the foodbank once again needed a new home.
- At this time Hayes Free Church opened their doors to us, offering the main church sanctuary as a space to operate from.
- The Free Church have been absolutely amazing and we could not do much of what we do without their support.

- Since we started the foodbank, the need has steadily grown.
- We currently serve an average of 35 families every week (that amounts to around 150 individuals).
- Most of our families come to us as referrals from one of the local schools but people can also contact us directly.
- We provide food for the entire family. Every delivery is tailored to the size and needs of the family.
- We became an official registered charity earlier in the year. Our charity number is 1198866.
- In addition to food, we also try to help families who are struggling to get the support they need.
- We have helped a few people who were living in inadequate accommodation to move home with the help of good social workers.
- We have helped to signpost people to CAP (Christians Against Poverty) who can help them to manage their budget and find work.

- For Christmas we are offering every family we serve a whole fresh chicken with vegetables and all the trimmings so all of the families we serve will be able to celebrate Christmas properly.

If you wish to support The Hayes Foodbank please look at the flyers on pages 15-16, also sent by Darren, which show how you can contribute in a small or large way to help others in need. We were delighted to raise £229 from donations and a raffle at the coffee morning. Thank you to all those that attended and donated.

Mary Stannard



I would like to wish you all a very happy, peaceful and healthy New Year. I look forward to the year ahead and that we might grow in faith and fellowship together. The start of a new year is for some a time to make resolutions, to turn over a new leaf and make changes for the better in our lives. For those that have made resolutions I hope that you are able to fulfil them, but mostly I pray that we may all find the new year a one of blessing and opportunity for us to share our faith as Mothers' Union members within our parish.

I am having to write this early in December as on 13th December I am undergoing knee replacement surgery and will be out of action for a few weeks.

I trust that you have all had a blessed Christmas. Nineteen members and friends enjoyed a festive meal at The New Inn where, once again, there was plenty of laughter and friendship. We are delighted to learn that John and his friend Wilma have said that they would like to join "The Mothers' Union" at St Mary's.





We will next meet informally for coffee at The New Inn, 11 o'clock on Tuesday 17th January 2023. By then I hope to be mobile enough to join you all.

The MU theme for 2023 continues to be 'Transformation - Now!

- Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith
- Transform the churches and communities we work with and of which we are a part to reflect Christ's kingdom
- Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st century life.

This will be so relevant to our branch as we change and transform the focus of our group and how we can work within our church. Christine, Barbara and myself have already met with Rev'd Amanda to discuss the way forward and how, we as a group, can best serve the needs of St Mary's. We have discussed several exciting ideas. We are so blessed to have Amanda as she is an enthusiastic member of Mothers' Union and will support our branch. In the new year I will be asking if there are any members of the congregation who would be willing to do some knitting and sewing. Please pray for us as our group transforms and moves forward.

Gracious God, we put our trust in you.
Give us open hearts and minds
to discern your perfect direction for our Mothers' Union:

*Affirm us in your love
that we may be bold to seek your face.
*Strengthen us with resolve
to embrace new ways with confidence.
*Unite us in heart and mind
that we may move forward with gladness.
*Inspire us in our faith
that all things are possible with God.
Transform us into a people
empowered by the Spirit, overflowing with hope,
to effectively serve our communities. Amen

I am hoping that Carole Crouch can collect your subs in the first half of January. It will be £36 for the year, which is not a great deal of money if you consider the good work that Mothers' Union does both in England and world-wide and how many lives we touch and influence for the good. If possible, it would be easier if you paid by direct debit. I have the direct debit forms if you need them. To help ensure you are all kept better informed about the work of Mothers' Union at home and abroad you will continue to receive a new publication twice a year as part of your subs.

If you would like to find out more about Mother's Union, or would like to join us, please contact me on 0208 468 7785.

Have you spotted the mistake: the logo should now have 2023!

Avril Ashford

HALLS FOR HIRE

The Old Church Schools, Hayes, has 3 halls – two large and one medium, and a committee room available for hire.

For further information please contact Julie Clark on 07538 254508 or email ocs.hayes@hotmail.com

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY JANUARY 2023

Morning Prayers take place at 9.10am Monday to Wednesday (except Bank Holidays) in church and on Zoom*

1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Sunday 1st	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Service of Reflection, Worship and Prayer
Tuesday 3rd	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 4th	10.30am	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	2.45pm	Men's Fellowship in the OCS
Thursday 5th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers

EPIPHANY

Sunday 8th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
Tuesday 10th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Thursday 12th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers

2ND SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Sunday 15th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Christingle Service
Tuesday 17th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Thursday 19th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers

3RD SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Sunday 22nd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	5.00-6.00pm	Illuminate
Tuesday 24th	10.00-12.00 noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 25th	10.15-12.00 noon	Charity Coffee Morning**

Thursday 26th 10.00-12.00 noon Church open for prayers

4TH SUNDAY OF EPIPHANY

Sunday 29th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am All-Age Youth-led Service

** denotes Meetings Room

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

We have much to look forward to as we enter the new year this January. Our forthcoming programme of events is fully restored, encouraging our sense of normality. Growing attendances at meetings and participation with near full coach loads on our monthly outings are all positive indicators of progress from previous years, together with increasing membership numbers, including several new members, and enthusiasm for our Annual Lunch this January. If this whets the appetite of any retired or semi-retired men of any faith or none, why hesitate to join us for the modest annual subscription of £20? Full details of how to join are available on our website www.hayesmensfellowship.org. or ring one of us for a friendly chat either on 020 8249 0070 (Allan) or 020 8654 0872 (Graham).

Much of our strength comes from the teamwork of our well-organised and efficient committee. This was shown dramatically in December when, at less than 24 hours' notice of the sudden illness of the scheduled speaker, our Speakers' Secretary was able to find an excellent speaker to replace him, as you can read later in this report. So the stand-by quiz we keep handy continues to remain in the cupboard unused, should we need it one day!

When it comes to outings our November destination was Canterbury and a visit to its ancient cathedral, eventually problem-free despite the wet weather which greeted our departure from Hayes. Fortunately, the journey was not long – just 1.5 hours each way.

Before our organised tour of the cathedral at 11am, there was plenty of time to have a (welcome!) cup of coffee and/or a browse round the shops or the interesting Christmas market stalls in the pedestrianised

areas. Canterbury is a World Heritage Site so has plenty of history on offer. Some lunched in the Parrot Public House established in 1370!

Many of us had been to the cathedral before but we were still in awe of the sheer scale of the building with its enormous vaulted ceilings. We were quickly organised into three groups, each with their own orange sashed volunteer guide. We were told that the tour would last for 75 minutes, but the guides were very keen to share their knowledge of the cathedral and answer questions so we all had longer than that – one group had over two hours. That group included our Chairman's wife in her wheelchair, not that she delayed progress, far from it: the disabled access was superbly and thoughtfully arranged and operated. It was simply that easy access to some parts of the interior necessitated circumnavigating the outside of the cathedral so in fact that group was treated to a bonus part of the separate Walking Tour which enabled them to view the cathedral from outside and fortunately in a period when the rain stopped and the sun shone! They noted the amount of restoration work still in course at four different areas, from roof to ground level as a long-term continuous programme of restoration slackens but never quite stops completely, in some places not touched for hundreds of years!

The tours followed a set route around the enormous buildings but beforehand we were told that the Cathedral was founded in 597 by Augustine, previously abbot of St Andrew's Benedictine Abbey in Rome who had been sent to England as a missionary by Pope Gregory I in the previous year. The early Anglo-Saxon cathedral was replaced by a larger structure during the 9th or 10th century and this building was badly damaged during Danish raids on Canterbury in 1011. Eventually that cathedral was destroyed



by fire in 1067, a year after the Norman Conquest. Rebuilding began in 1070 – this being a larger structure to make a statement to the local people in the way the Normans did with numerous castles and the Tower of London. The new building, made from stone from Caen in France, was cruciform shape, with an aisled nave of nine bays, a pair of towers at the west end, aisleless transepts with apsidal chapels and was dedicated in 1077. But the cathedral has evolved significantly since then either to replace damaged facilities, e.g. after fires, or to enhance them, e.g. the nave and transepts were rebuilt (on the Norman foundations) in the Perpendicular style in the 14th century.

The Cathedral is famous, or infamous, for being the site where Archbishop of Canterbury, Thomas Becket was murdered in 1170. Becket had been a close ally of King Henry II who appointed him as his Lord Chancellor. The King decided to appoint Becket also as the Archbishop – a role he was reluctant to take on (he was not even ordained). After a long-lasting dispute in which Becket resigned as Lord Chancellor and was being prosecuted for misuse of public funds he was cornered in the Cathedral and murdered by four knights loyal to the King. This came after the King was heard to utter the words “Who will rid me of this turbulent priest?” Our guides took us through the following areas:

- **The Nave** – With high Perpendicular Gothic architecture, this was used as an informal gathering point for pilgrims. Now it is used for Sunday Eucharist for major festivals. The West Window is thought to include some of the oldest stained glass in Europe.
- **The Cloisters** – The covered walkway linking different parts of the cathedral. Formerly used for training and hand washing before and after meals. The ceiling has over 700 carvings – shields of benefactors or animals.
- **The Chapter House** – Together with the cloisters, this was the centre of monastic life. The monks assembled here to discuss day to day activities and each day a chapter was read to them from the Benedictine Rule book, e.g. they had to maintain a strict silence during meals.
- **The Martyrdom** – The room where the most famous Archbishop, Thomas Becket, was murdered in 1170. This now includes a memorial altar above which is a sculpture depicting the swords used in the murder but also evoking an image of Christ on the cross.

- **The Crypt** – The oldest part of the cathedral dating back to the 11th century, and a quiet place for prayer and reflection. The tomb of Thomas Becket was here from 1170 to 1220.
- **Bell Harry Tower** – This has an amazing fan vaulted ceiling with the central roundel doubling as a trapdoor providing access to the bells above.
- **The Quire and Trinity Chapel** – The chapel housed the tomb of Thomas Becket from 1220 until it was removed by order of Henry VIII after his split with Rome – and his final resting place is unknown. The tombs of Henry IV and the Black Prince (Edward Prince of Wales) are also located here – the only royal tombs in Canterbury.

There was so much to see and learn – brains were buzzing as we came out for a well-earned lunch! This was followed by free time to see the rest of the sights of Canterbury or to return to the cathedral to breathe in the atmosphere there once more before heading home. Our last outing of 2022 went extremely well with us exploring a lovely city and a magnificent cathedral. Despite the wet weather, it was another super day out with friends.

This outing was followed two weeks later by our usual walk which was in the Westerham area. Our walk leader reported that the weather was perfect for walking – cloudy, not too cold or hot and little wind. From the car park at Hosey Hill, the four walkers started along a minor road



through woods and then paths and tracks for most of the 4.3 miles to Westerham where they were provided with an excellent lunch at 'The Grasshopper on the Green'. From there it was 0.8 of a mile back to their cars giving a total distance walked of 5.1 miles.

We started our Christmas break as usual with mince pies to accompany our cuppa at our December meeting, after we had heard from our speaker Bob Ogle. His lively talk was peppered with interesting anecdotes. We were very grateful to Bob as he was a late stand-in for the scheduled speaker. He started at the very beginning for RAF Biggin Hill when its 80-acre flat site was identified initially as a wireless testing station. Shortly after that, in 1917, it was established as a fighter base protecting London from German bombers. But its late involvement in operational activity in WW1 meant "kills" by squadrons based there were limited to one German Gotha bomber before hostilities ended.

Between the wars, Biggin Hill continued to be involved in development work. Night flying was perfected there and it was involved in Instrument Design, Anti-Aircraft Defence and Searchlight development. Parachutes were also demonstrated there – not always successfully as one early instructor died when his parachute failed to open! This period also saw the reconstruction of the station with new buildings and hangars but runways were still grass.

Activities moved to a different level when WW11 commenced, initially with constant patrols over the beaches of Dunkirk. Biggin operated with a series of sector stations such as Lympne and Hawkinge. The station rose to fame and became a household name during the Battle of Britain between 10 July and 31 October 1940 by which time facilities had been upgraded, for example with concrete runways.

Throughout this period and beyond, the airfield was under frequent attack by Luftwaffe bombers. Despite the heavy damage inflicted, the station remained operational throughout the whole course of the battle.

During a major raid at Biggin Hill on 5 November 1940, a WAAF in the Operations Room continued passing on vital information to other stations despite being asked to take shelter. Immediately after the raid was over, she was seen marking unexploded bombs for the pilots who would be returning to the station. For this Sergeant Joan "Elizabeth" Mortimer became the first WAAF to win the Military Medal.

As a result of the damage to the station, activities and personnel had to be relocated. The Operations Room was apparently moved to a local butcher's shop. Crews had to be billeted out in some of the local large houses. This gave an opportunity for the crews to hold parties! For one of them a pilot asked permission to bring his girlfriend – which he

proceeded to do, flying to RAF Tangmere to collect a WAAF and flying her back in a single seat Spitfire. The pilot was court martialled for this, but got off because it was not specifically listed as an offence in the King's Regulations!

By May 1943, the massive impact of Biggin Hill was demonstrated when the aggregate number of "kills" by squadrons based there reached 999. A sweepstake was held to reward the pilot achieving the 1,000th "kill" with the princely sum of £300. To confuse things, there was a tie for the prize with French and Canadian squadrons claiming simultaneous "kills" – very fairly the reward was shared between the two pilots involved. But the real prize turned out to be the offer of a party by the Grosvenor House Hotel to which 1,000 people directly involved with the air defence were invited. On the top table there were three large lobsters labelled Hitler, Mussolini and Goebbels. The crews had been instructed to be back at base ready for duty early the next morning but they were a lot later than planned. Fifty London cabbies insisted on driving the pilots free of charge for this celebration and their relationship with the pilots continued after the war.

Our speaker Bob Ogle is well known locally and has spoken at Fellowship meetings before (and has already been booked again!). He is the author of more than 20 books including *Biggin on the Bump* which is the story of Biggin Hill (with royalties going to the RAF Benevolent Fund) and *In the Wake of the Hurricane* about the great storm of 1987 (Bob's first book). Research for his books has led to him travelling extensively in pursuit of the information and photographs needed. A former editor of *The Sevenoaks Chronicle*, Bob was a journalist for more than 30 years before he left his newspaper to concentrate on writing books and giving talks.

Traditionally we have no outing or walk in December so that everyone can relax with their own personal Christmas commitments

I hope that the snow falling as I composed these words will not have hindered Christmas and New Year plans too much (strikes not withstanding!). By February life may well seem less challenging and then Spring will not be too far away...

Allan Evison
Chairman, HMF

(e-mail: chairman@hayesmensfellowship.org)
(e-mail: secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org)

Graham Marsden
Secretary, HMF

Photo on p10 by Graham Marsden; photo on p12 by Tony Archer



Hayes

Community Foodbank

Hayes Community Foodbank, Kent is a **registered charity (no. 1198866)** serving the needs of people in Hayes and the surrounding area to help alleviate food poverty.



Could you buy an extra item in your weekly shop for people in need?

A small donation can make a big difference when we all work together. When you do your weekly shop, how about buying a little extra of the basic items you purchase to donate to a family in need?

Our Top Five Items



5

Cereal / Porridge
Tinned Tomatoes
Dried Pasta
Pasta / Stir-fry Sauces
Tinned Tuna

Other regular items are Baked Beans, Kidney Beans, Tinned meat, Tinned sweetcorn, Tea bags, Coffee, Tinned fruit, Crisps, Biscuits, Chocolate Bars, Orange or Blackcurrant Squash, Toiletries, Cleaning Products.



Hayes

Community Foodbank

Donations can be dropped at

Hayes Free Church,
Pickhurst Lane, Hayes



Thursdays – 3:30pm - 5:30pm
Fridays – 9:00am - 10:30am

There are also collection boxes at Iceland, The Fundraising Shop, and Sainsbury's (Station Approach) and Panagua Bikes (Hayes Street)



Financial Donations

Every week we spend around £200 to buy fresh meat and vegetables and top up items that are in short supply.

Donate by bank transfer or standing order

Acc Name: **Hayes Community Foodbank**
Sort Code: **20-18-93**
Acc No: **23568946**

Or cheques made payable to "Hayes Community Foodbank" can be dropped off at Hayes Free Church.

Items for the Feb magazine by 16th Jan please. Copy to the Editor:
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