

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.

LEAVING LOCKDOWN

It was in the March edition of the Hayes Herald when I last wrote the opening article. At that time, I commented that the Coronavirus outbreak was 'threatening to sweep the world'. Who could have imagined what the months between then and now would bring. Just two weeks after that edition was released the country went into lockdown. As I write this article, measures are relaxing and I heard just this morning that pubs and restaurants will be allowed to open on 4th July. Should I feel jubilant? Perhaps, but I don't; I feel concerned and worried. You might be thinking, Becky is usually so upbeat and positive, why is she feeling so negative when things are getting better? Well I would dearly love to be proved wrong, but I cannot help think that we are now experiencing the calm before the storm. I am not only talking about the possibility of a second spike with relaxed social distancing measures, although this is a concern. What really keeps coming to mind when I reflect and pray, are the huge ripples that will affect the economy, peoples' livelihoods and the education of millions of children and youth. How many people in this time have also been suffering in silence with an illness, physical or mental and have not sought help? What will happen to the backlog of operations and other care that could not be offered over the last fourteen weeks? Please do not think that I did not agree with the lockdown, of course it was needed and who knows what the death toll would have been if we had not adhered to the guidelines. It just strikes me that exiting this pandemic is going to bring an abundance of problems and pain for many, for at least months, if not years to come. Later in the year when furloughs and mortgage/rent breaks end, we will begin to see more of the economic impact of the virus. When schools return, it will become apparent to staff which children had a relatively happy time at home and could be supported in their learning and which children suffered

academically, physically or emotionally as a result. Long after lockdown, I fear that we will bear the burden of this pandemic.

Britain's Covid-19 exit story is not looking to be an easy one and it brings to mind another retreat which was looking to end in disaster; I am talking about Dunkirk. Now I know that whilst challenging and devastating in many ways, the Coronavirus Pandemic cannot be compared as such, to physical warfare – although people in 'front line' professions have bravely and tirelessly worked to fight a common enemy, it is not the same. Dunkirk comes to mind not for the similarities of the actual events, but because in both situations something needed/needs to be salvaged. At Dunkirk it looked certain that more than 300,000 British and allied soldiers would be captured or killed. The hope was to retrieve around 20 – 30 thousand, the outlook was bleak. On 23rd May, King George VI famously called the country to a day of prayer. The following Sunday, 26th May, the country responded and millions of people came together to pray. As the nation prayed across Britain, the story was being played out in France and a string of 'God-incidences' in the following days took place, preventing the annihilation of British and allied troops. By the end of evacuations on 4th June, around 198,000 British and 140,000 French soldiers were rescued. It is important to mention that after the evacuations, on Sunday 9th June, there was also a national day of thanksgiving to God for answered prayer. It is impossible to do the whole story justice in this short article, so if you have never read about it, I would advise that you do. It is a fascinating insight into the power of prayer and God's supremacy over all things; a lot of the operation's success was down to the local weather conditions. It is also an inspirational reminder that God is a master of turning tragedy into triumph. This was demonstrated at Dunkirk, but isn't it also at the centre of our faith? The death and resurrection of Jesus is the ultimate story where disaster took a U-turn to victory, even death itself was defeated.

As Britain emerges from lockdown, the future is unsure and unnerving but it might do us well to hold on to a few thoughts from the miracle of Dunkirk: God reigns supreme, God answers prayer, when we pray together for the common good of a situation it is powerful and we must thank God for answered prayer. Throughout the lockdown, I have been thanking God that many more people have been attending online services than would have usually been in our churches and I thank God that people have been exploring prayer through the internet. Britain is culturally very different from the country it was in 1940 but it would seem that when the chips are down, people's innate desire to turn to God comes to the fore.

As we leave lockdown I am very concerned about what the future holds, but I am also encouraged as I recognise God at work in many ways; through communities coming together, our environment healing, people taking stock and realising what is important in life, the country coming together to support the NHS and one another in so many ways. God's hand is clearly seen and as I continue to pray through this time, I watch and wait with anticipation wondering how, and when, many more prayers will be answered.

Yours in Christ

Becky Willoughby



WELCOME TO ST MARY THE VIRGIN CHURCH

We are pleased to be able to open the church for Private Prayers

Please note Church opening times will be as follows:

Sundays 2 pm - 4 pm

Tuesdays 10 am - 12 noon

Thursdays 10 am - 12 noon

Please feel welcome to come to the church during these times, but obviously it is expected that we will all respect the social distancing rules and will follow the guidelines that will be in the church porch.

SEA SUNDAY 12 JULY 2020

On Sea Sunday we remember and give thanks for the work of all seafarers and in particular for the help given to them, both spiritually and practically by the Mission to Seafarers. This year, instead of our normal Sea Sunday Service, we have been invited to join a virtual service which is being organised by the Mission to Seafarers on that day. Details are on <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday>. Napo has kindly agreed to link that service to the Church's Youtube channel. Thank goodness for the wonders of modern technology.

Covid-19 has thrown light on the vital work of our nation's key workers and also on our seafarers who are essential in bringing in medication, medical equipment and food. Ports are vital in the global supply chain. For the Mission to Seafarers it is a very difficult time as it attempts to deal with the many issues created.

Many chaplains already maintain relationships with their seafarer network via social media but in addition the new 'Chat to a Chaplain' facility enables those who wish to talk directly at any time about their worries and their families at home to one of the 25 chaplains on duty. Seafarers' worries and anxieties have become heightened during this crisis. With many dealing with changed working conditions and reduced face to face access to chaplains in ports, this service has been welcomed. Revd Kim Kee Lee, Chaplain in Hong Kong reported on one instance, "twenty crew had their contracts extended owing to the Covid-19 pandemic, none of them could go home. They claimed mentally and physically they are drained."

The Mission is now preparing for the next stage as we emerge from lockdown. It is hoping to increase its effectiveness by a greater use of digital resources. It is still visiting ships in some parts of the world, and plans to 'loan' mobile Mifi units to ships arriving in port and return to collect them before they sail. This would open up communications for the seafarers to their families. Preparations are also being made for the reopening, when allowed, of the 121 Flying Angel Centres. Deep cleaning, hand sanitising units, perspex screens to protect staff serving at reception, shops or food serving areas, plastic seat coverings will all help to ensure a safe and secure Covid-19 free environment.

Please remember in your prayers the work of the seafarers and all those involved in caring for their needs.

Jean Wilson



As I sit at the desk in my home office, the sun is streaming in through the windows, I can hear the enchanting bird song and the wind is gently rustling the leaves of our eucalyptus tree. The house is quiet and somewhat peaceful, and one could be forgiven for momentarily forgetting the world is at war with an invisible enemy.

Throughout these past few weeks, I have repeatedly vowed to remain positive and be thankful for all the amazing things I have in my life, rather than focus on the things I don't have right now. Which is why technology has become my new best friend, and – as for many others – my portal to the outside world.

Sadly, due to the current situation regarding the pandemic our archdeaconry service was cancelled on June 17th. It is hoped that it can be planned for later in the year.

At the heart of what we do is prayer and our members come together every day at midday to focus prayers for their communities, fellow members and for those in need. We believe that the power of prayer is transformational and supports our work around the world.



Our group in 2016

Our 'Wave of Prayer' for St Mary's Hayes, is on the morning of Monday, 13th July. Whilst we probably would not be able to gather together for prayers, I have included the prayers below so that you can say them on your own. It is important that we don't break the Wave of Prayer. I have found a few photographs of our 'Wave of Prayer' in 2016 and 2017 which I thought that you might like to see.



At a central level Mothers' Union have, through the years, campaigned at local, national and international levels to bring about real change for family life, women's and girls' rights and the protection of children. But the sudden change has been as harsh as it has been sudden. Within the United Kingdom and around the world the economic fallout of COVID-19 is being felt by millions of ordinary people, with many thousands more continuing to risk their lives to protect others.

With schools, churches and many businesses closed, the beginning of a new decade has not gone as any of us had envisioned and certainly not as Mothers' Union had planned. The impact of the coronavirus outbreak is truly being felt by all corners of the world, especially by those who are most vulnerable in society or living in poverty and isolation.

While the measures being taken by many governments to protect us (such as quarantine and self-isolation) are proving to be effective in halting the spread of the virus, they come at a cost. The cost is loneliness for some, financial hardship for families and increased pressures on relationships for others. This further increases the risk of domestic abuse and prolonged hunger and isolation for many. We must remember this in our prayers and as a group we need to stay in contact with each other to avoid loneliness and depression.

Thank you to Eleanor for her knitting for the NHS. As yet I cannot say when we will be able to meet again as a branch. I will keep in contact with you all and in the meantime God Bless.

Avril Ashford

**The Wave of Prayer
St Mary the Virgin, Hayes
13th July 2020**



**Toliara
Mbale
Chhattisgarh
Zaria
Ndokwa
Rochester**

Mothers' Union: Building Confidence and Hope

Welcome and Gathering:

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer Service. We gather to give thanks for our Wave of Prayer links across the world in Toliara – Madagascar, Mbale – Uganda, Chhattisgarh – North India, Zaria and Ndokwa – Nigeria and Rochester – United Kingdom. For the privilege of prayerful support that we both give and receive. We gather to commit ourselves afresh to upholding our unity in prayer in the year ahead.

Call to Worship:

God, your name is known everywhere; all over the earth people praise you. Lord of all the earth, we come to worship with thankful hearts.

Hymn: 'Let all the world in every corner sing my God and King'
or say 'The 'Magnificat'

Bible reading: Ephesians 3: 14-22

Opening Prayer

With thankfulness and love we take our place in the family of Mothers' Union Worldwide.

Open our eyes to the significance of relationships with members worldwide; with those known to us or not.

With support and love we reach out to our sisters and brothers across the world

Strengthen our commitment to those with whom we share vision and values; wherever we may live

In unity and love we link hands with our worldwide family of God.

Unite us in worship; build us in service, as together we seek to share your love. In Jesus name, Amen

Symbolic lighting of candle:

Loving Lord, we bring you our praise for the fellowship and prayer support that we have through our Link Diocese. We thank you for the times when lack of news has driven us to pray and intercede. We give thanks for the blessing of being united in prayer and pledge to continue to remember our sisters and brothers in prayer.

Prayers for our Link Diocese

Toliara – Madagascar – Indian Ocean

MU President: Mrs Jaqueline Razafindrasoa

We pray for the work of the Mothers' Union in Madagascar. The main theme that emerged from MULOA was healthy and restored relationships, peace and safety and protection of the environment through Disaster Relief Reduction. Members want to mobilise and equip their local communities to become self-reliant and the main priorities are to see a reduction in gender based violence, sexual abuse and FGM.

We pray for missionaries Derek and Jane Waller and for Florent and his family. Florent was ordained last year by Bishop Todd and has been appointed Dean in charge of Fenoarivo (a few hours from Toliara), a parish of several churches.

Lord in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer– Or sing a Taize chant



Mbale – Uganda

Diocesan President: Mrs Biiyah Muyonga

We pray and give thanks that MULOA has had a big impact in the region. Communities have been helped as a whole rather than individuals. MU is reaching out to children and young people through schools, giving talks on hygiene and relationships. There is also counselling for parents in the community, especially on issues such as early child marriage.

Lord in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer – Or sing a Taize chant



Chhattisgarh – India – North India

Diocesan President: President of the Women's Fellowship

We pray for the biggest challenge of bringing North India into the Mothers' Union worldwide family. South India Women's Fellowship is slowly responding. The growing influence of Hindu extremism has spread widely in India and Christians have to constantly struggle with discrimination and violence. Many children drop out of school due to the lack of finances for educational needs. Within many rural villages, men are sole breadwinners and the women dominated by them and sometimes the needs of the children are not addressed by the father. Gender based violence survivors often suffer in silence because of the social stigma and also due to the lack of shelters and support for them.

Lord in Your Mercy, Hear our Prayer – Or sing a Taize chant

Ndokwa and Zaria - Nigeria

Diocesan President (Ndokwa)
Mrs Joy Obioso

Diocesan President (Zaria)
Mrs Modupe Ogugyemi

We pray for the MU members in both our Links in Nigeria. The spiral of Islamic extremism with violent attacks from Boko Haram mean that Nigeria has remained at Number 12 on the World Watch List.

We give thanks that since the inception of MULO members are now able to mobilize relevant government structures to intervene and help communities in need. For the work with Green Anglicans to combat and limit climate change and prevent or prepare for natural disasters. Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning is now a high priority. We pray for the work of MU in central Africa raising awareness of gender-based violence.

Lord in Your Mercy, Hear Our Prayer or sing a Taize chant



Rochester (Canterbury)

Provincial President: Kathryn Anderson

Diocesan President: Julia Jamieson

We especially pray for our partnership with the Clewer Initiative raising awareness of issues surrounding Modern Day Slavery. We pray for the development of members to take on Leadership roles and for the MU to become better known across society. We pray and give thanks for all our members, Branches, Diocesan Members and IMPC Members and do pray that the MU will grow in number to serve You and ask for Your blessing on us all.

Lord in Your Mercy, hear our Prayer – Or sing a Taize chant

At this time, we most earnestly pray for all nations in the battle against the Coronavirus pandemic, please be with all sick and bereaved and let them know the presence of Your Holy Spirit. **Amen**

Prayer: We pray for all members. May God be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging and leading them, sheltering and strengthening them so they may work to your praise and glory.

Pray silently for any concerns in your Branch and that any members have at this time.

The Mothers' Union Prayer –

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and for ever. Amen.

Close by saying the words of The Grace together.



RECENT FUNERALS IN THE PARISH

John Goldby
Jean Ingrey
Doreen Brenda Arnott
Alan Farrer

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY JULY 2020

The church is now open at certain times for private prayer (see p.3 for details).

At present Morning Prayers will continue Mon-Thurs via Zoom and Bible Study 8pm every second Tuesday via Zoom.

Sunday, 5th July

8am Holy Communion Service via Zoom

6.30pm Holy Communion Service via Zoom

Sunday, 12th July

8am Holy Communion Service via Zoom

Joining the Mission to Seafarer's Online Sea Sunday Service at <https://www.missiontoseafarers.org/sea-sunday> – further details to follow.

Tuesday 14th July

8pm Bible Study via Zoom

The Ministry Team are awaiting further information, guidance and advice from the Government and Church of England regarding the reopening of churches for public worship prior to publishing the services for the rest of the month. Once available, plans will be put in place accordingly and further service information shared via email and our St Mary the Virgin website.

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

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

As we reach July cast your memories back to when the lockdown began in March. We were told that people like our members – over 70 and with underlying health problems in many cases – should be prepared to isolate and stay home for 12 weeks, that is up to mid-June. The date was firmly fixed in my household as it coincided with two birthdays.

It is some kind of progress that easing of restrictions, or at least talking about the prospects, began earlier than that but, at time of writing, still no real signs of churches or pubs returning to any kind of full normality.

We have explained before in these reports, their lack continues to have an adverse effect on all our scheduled activities, which remain cancelled or at best postponed for the foreseeable future.

That's not to say that our members have remained totally inactive. We know that many have embraced technology through virtual on-line visits to world museums, galleries and concert halls. They have followed recommendations featured in our special Coronavirus Extra Newsletters and enjoyed also our puzzles and other features to keep them entertained during these strange times of lockdown. We have even held a poetry writing challenge themed on it!

Our Outings Sub-Committee is wasting no time by meeting, within current guidelines, to put together a programme of outings for our next season due as usual to commence in October. In these most challenging times, any event we arrange will be subject to change or cancellation. However, we will endeavour to pick venues which allow members a degree of safe distancing and as for lunches we will try and obtain venues or rooms where we can have exclusive use. Our usual coach operator will arrange for their vehicles to be deep cleaned before every day, curtains will be fitted between each pair of seats, hand sanitizers will be used by all before boarding the coach and face coverings may be required. We will make every effort for us to have a safe day out once again but as long as this virus is around there is always a risk which we will do everything to minimise.



Walmer Castle

Although a poor substitute for the real talks or outings, our additional mid-month Coronavirus Extra Newsletter again includes write ups on the activities we have cancelled so far:

- For the Deal and Walmer outing we have included some

background on the rich history of these coastal towns we were scheduled to visit, including their role in the Confederation of Cinque Ports with Walmer Castle still being the official residence of their Lord Warden.



- For our Wembley Stadium Talk, we have included some of the history of this famous sporting venue. This began with the Old Wembley Stadium, known originally as the Empire Stadium when it was built in 1922/23 for the British Empire Exhibition. It followed with the successor, New

Wembley Stadium, with its huge arch instead of its predecessor's iconic Twin Towers. These have not just been football stadiums but have hosted Olympic games and a myriad of other sports as well as music events too.

This Extra Newsletter also included photos of past events to remind us of what we used to do – but also what we hope to do again in the not too distant future. We share some other photos with you here:-





Outing – Chichester Harbour, August 2019

By the time you get to read this report, the Government is set to announce the result of any further review of restrictions. We hope sincerely to bring you positive news in August. Until then, keep safe.

Allan Evison, Hon. HMF Secretary

Contacts: 020 8402 7416; secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org

MINT JELLY FOR THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE

I have started to make Mint Jelly for sale at the Christmas Fayre in November, which I hope will take place if the lockdown for Coronavirus is over by then.

I need 2 ounces of Mint Leaves for each batch. I am requesting donations of Mint Leaves and also small jars suitable to bottle the jelly.

Please get in touch if you can help.



David Rowedder

020 8462 3968

ANGER

Do you think there is more anger in our society now than there was, say, ten years ago as well as a greater willingness to ignore rules or break the law?

It seems to me to have gradually increased with the years and since the pandemic started it has got even worse. We have become reluctantly used to road rage which often leads to people shouting obscenities. Sometimes this escalates to physical violence or even murder. Now we hear of random attacks on innocent people with no motive except a desire to hurt or even kill somebody. When a peaceful demonstration occurs there are people who are pleased to turn up to disrupt it with violence and attack the police who are trying to keep the peace. Sometimes even looking at somebody in the street can be met with aggression and questions such as 'What are you looking at!'.

All this is a sad reflection on our society. Add to this the frequently destructive attitude of some of the press who are happy to focus on anything which provides a headline or story. Social media provides a place where some add fuel to a fire or write cruel things about others which they probably would not say to their face. Some people so affected have been driven to suicide.

All of this arises from anger in the human heart. I experience anger frequently when I hear or see bad things in the news. Anger is a strong emotional trait which we all have in varying degrees but it can damage our spiritual lives. We may wish to confront people who break the law in minor ways but it always ends up with an argument. This is not helpful and will disturb our peace of mind. The exception is serious crime which obviously does have to be challenged by whoever sees it. So what does God tell us about anger and how should we deal with it?

Jesus said first remove the plank in your own eye before you try to deal with the speck in your brother's eye. He also said judge not that you be not judged. There is only one judge and that is God who is totally just and knows the circumstances of everyone. We should recognise that disobedience, lawlessness and anger are part of man's sinful nature and we should make allowances for people because we are not perfect ourselves. We have been called to love and not to judge. We should watch our tongue because it can start a big fire. Paul says we may be angry but it should not lead to sin. It's almost impossible to be angry with someone without thinking ill of them and thereby sinning. We are here on earth to love God and our neighbours. Losing our temper is not a good witness to God's love. I think I am trying to learn this big lesson every day as I see people not observing social distancing rules! I believe

though that observing the words of our Lord Jesus is the only way to overcome anger and know the peace he promised us every day of our liveslove people as God does and do not be their judge.

David Langford

THE CURIOUS CASE OF MRS JONES

In 2001 I was listening to Woman's Hour on BBC Radio 4 when I caught the end of an interview with the journalist Audrey Whiting. She was reminiscing about the biggest story of her career – the strange case of the Virgin Mother.

In 1955 she had come across a lecture by a geneticist, Dr Helen Spurway, who had studied cases of parthenogenesis (virgin birth) in guppies, reptiles and birds. Dr Spurway had suggested that it was not beyond the bounds of possibility that spontaneous parthenogenesis might occur – rarely – in humans and that if women knew their claims would be taken seriously, they might be persuaded to come forward for testing. Audrey Whiting, then a reporter for the *Sunday Pictorial* decided to follow this up and the paper launched a search for a virgin mother with the headline, '**It doesn't always need a man to make a baby.**'

Any woman who had given birth to a daughter who strongly resembled her, and firmly believed that no man had been involved in the creation of the child, was invited to get in touch. (Male offspring proved the genetic contribution of a father and were therefore discounted.) The article finished with the admonition, '*GIRLS MUST NOT GET SILLY ABOUT THIS.*'

Nineteen women came forward and all were eventually ruled out apart from a German woman, Mrs Emmimarie Jones. She had written to the paper, 'For ten years I have been wondering and worried about the birth of my daughter. I honestly belief [sic] that she has no father.' During the months when conception must have taken place, she had been an inpatient in a sanatorium staffed only by women.

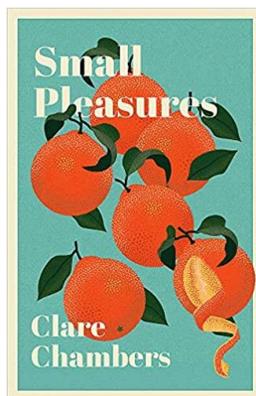
Over the next six months Mrs Jones and her daughter Monica were subjected to such tests as were available in the mid-1950s by a team of doctors. Analysis of their blood, proteins in the serum, and saliva showed mother and daughter to be a perfect match. The final and decisive experiment was a skin graft. The expectation was that in the case of parthenogenesis, the graft from the daughter would contain no genetic material foreign to the mother and would not therefore be rejected. Confusingly, the graft from mother to daughter lasted six weeks,

while that from daughter to mother lasted only four weeks before failing. Despite this, the doctor leading the tests felt that the results of the skin grafts were ambiguous, and the evidence of the other blood tests combined with Mrs Jones' testimony, meant that they had failed to disprove her claim.

That was good enough for the *Sunday Pictorial* who splashed the story in June 1956 with photos of Mrs Jones and Monica under the headline '**My Baby Born Without a Man**'. It ran for five weeks and doubled the paper's circulation to 6 million.

This struck me as a good springboard for a novel, but I was working on other things at the time, so I just left the idea hanging up in my mind like a bit of flypaper to see if anything stuck to it. In 2016, while researching the history of this area to see if it would do as a setting for the story, I came across a reference to the Lewisham rail crash of 1957 in which 90 people died. I had been commuting on that line for years without ever knowing about this significant tragedy. This was the fly that stuck. The result, after a few years' work, is my novel *Small Pleasures* which is published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson on July 9th.

It is set in the Hayes area and contains, for period flavour, some of the household hints from 1950s editions of the *Hayes Herald* that some of you might remember I reprinted in more recent issues. St Mary's Church (the building rather than the people) also has a cameo role on page 328!



Clare Wickert (Chambers)

Items for the August magazine by 22 July please. Copy to the Editor – see below.

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