

The ministry team would appreciate it if anyone knowing of illness or any other trouble in the Parish would notify them as soon as possible so that 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

LETTER FOR NOVEMBER

Dear Friends

Well, here we are in November and finally our new incumbent, Revd. Amanda Spence is joining us this month – I promise! (**9th November 2022 at 7pm in church**). It seems like an age since Napo retired and the Ministry Team took control of the reins. However, by God's grace we are now at last preparing for a new chapter in our ministry to the people of Hayes. I am not going to pretend it has been an easy year and nearly 10 months, but we have been supported by so many people, and I hope I have still managed a smile.

Our local clergy, both retired and stipendiary, have been faithful in their regular presiding at our 8am services and some others. Revd Roger Bristow has been our appointed minister for our 10.30am Holy Communion services and, together with Becky, we have still been able to accept requests for baptisms, weddings, funerals and interments of ashes. Our Area Dean, Revd Canon Victoria Pask, has been another hand on the tiller and has guided us in our decision-making and has also helped with services.

So, November, a month of remembering. By the time you read this we shall have held our annual Service of Commemoration when we invite those who have been bereaved during the last year to attend. This is followed by our Remembrance Sunday service when we remember those who gave their lives in the two World Wars and other conflicts since. This will be Revd Amanda Spence's first 10.30 am service with us, so do pray for her.

Sadly, we have also, in the last few weeks, been reflecting on the life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. What an example to us all – a life of total commitment and service to her people, sustained by her deep

Christian faith. All the services and activities that followed were profoundly moving and also to see members of the royal family, and especially our new monarch, King Charles III, coping with all that was required of them and beyond, whilst also grieving their tremendous loss, I am sure led many of us to empathise with them. I, personally, found it rather touching when at the Proclamations they referred to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II *of happy memory*. How lovely to be recalled that way. The funeral service itself has been hailed as tremendous outreach and expression of our Christian faith, and our Archbishop of Canterbury grasped the nettle on that.

Who would have thought (how many times do we say that when something unexpected happens?) that in the space of a few weeks, we would have a new Prime Minister, a new Monarch, a new Bishop of Rochester and a new incumbent at St Mary's? Well keep thinking, because there will be more changes to come no doubt. Our new Bishop of Rochester, The Right Revd. Dr Jonathan Gibbs has charged us to "**Grow, Change, Serve**" – **grow** both spiritually and numerically, be ready to **change** as we seek to grow and be ready to **serve** our communities in the wider world" was part of his message to us.

So, faithful friends, please pray for Amanda and Stuart as they continue to settle in their new home and us as a congregation as we welcome Amanda as our new minister. Our prayer is that together we will be equipped and enabled towards 'building the body of Christ (Ephesians 4.12) here in Hayes.

God Bless

Yvonne Pickford
Churchwarden



CHARITY ONLINE PRESERVE SHOP 2022

We are running our Charity Online Preserve Shop again as there will not be a Christmas Fayre this year. More details about ordering and a stock list will be sent to the St. Mary's e-community via the church office but orders can still be placed through the office if you are not online. We have our usual selection of marmalades, jams and chutney and all proceeds will go to charity. It has worked very well over the last couple of years so we hope our loyal customers will continue to support us this year too!



Many thanks

The Blaze Team

REMEMBERING THE QUEEN

In July 1991 my husband and I were invited to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace in connection with his work. The Palace wasn't open to the public then so it was very special to go inside and see some of the official rooms before being ushered through to the garden. We saw The Queen, the Duke of Edinburgh and several other members of the Royal Family, but we weren't quite brave enough to be put forward to speak to any of them! It was a lovely occasion, an honour and a privilege that we will never forget.

I also saw The Queen when she came to Bromley, although on that occasion I was with about 120 junior school children, walking from Beckenham into Bromley in the rain, not quite so glamorous. Fortunately, by the time The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived it had stopped raining and we were able to see them both as they drove past. Hopefully all the children will remember the day they saw The Queen.

In June 2013 I was also fortunate to be invited to a Medal Presentation and Reception at St. James's Palace when our son was presented with his Afghanistan Military Tour Medal by the then Prince of Wales, Prince Charles, as he is the Colonel-in-Chief of the Regiment. As you would expect, it was all beautifully done, with a very genuine short speech of acknowledgement and gratitude by the Prince for all their sacrifice and service. There was an informal reception afterwards, and

on that occasion, I was in a group next in line to speak to The Prince, but he was whisked away by his Equerry before he got to us!

Rosemary Smith

Working as a guide several years ago when Buckingham Palace began to open its doors to tourists, our daughter was with a few other guides when Queen Elizabeth happened to come along (this was unusual - when the Palace is open to visitors the monarch is normally not in residence). The Queen began chatting with the group. Someone mentioned that they had been asked why when they built Buckingham Palace they had not installed central heating. The Queen, whose sense of humour was of course well known, then recounted how she was once asked by an American why they had built Windsor Castle so close to Heathrow!

David James

I have only seen the Queen once and that was when she visited Bromley, I think circa 2012 and I watched her drive down the top of Bromley High Street.

I do however remember the Coronation - I was just three years old and we had a television which my Dad built into an old washstand, so our front room was packed with the neighbours. I was allowed to sit on the very back of the settee with my legs dangling between everyone with this flickering screen in the corner of the room and plates of sandwiches being passed around.

HM Queen did drive down Gipsy Hill, Upper Norwood soon after she came to the throne and I was standing by the kerb and remember seeing my reflection in the black shiny car - someone forgot to pick me up in all the excitement!

Yvonne Pickford





By the time you read this I will be in Canada attending my grandson's wedding. Unfortunately, my husband is not well enough to join me. Doubtlessly you will hear more about my trip when I get back.

Meanwhile, we are all looking forward to Rev Amanda Spence being installed on 9th November and wish her excitement, peace and joy as she prepares for her move. I am just so sorry that I will not be present as I will still be in Canada. Please remember Amanda in your prayers as she starts her ministry here in Hayes.



Fourteen members and friends met for coffee and lunch this month. We were joined by my sister Jill and her husband John who are now back from France and dividing their time between their church in Cheltenham and their other church in Bromyard. Over lunch they shared stories of their work with families who have escaped from domestic violence or war. Over the years Jill and John have talked about their ministry and work in France, and about their adopted daughter Becky. Several of us have shared holidays with them in France and Spain.

Our next meeting will be on **15th November 11.00am at The New Inn** for coffee and then lunch for those who wish to stay on.

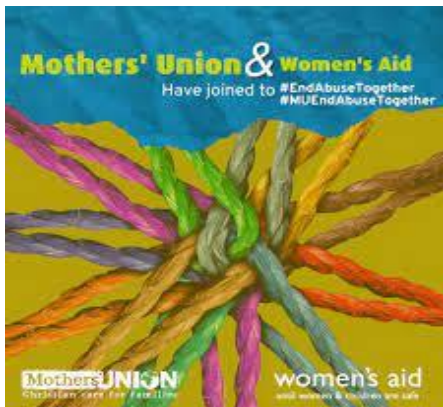
The last few weeks have been difficult for us all – the death of Queen Elizabeth felt personal to many of us and we rightfully took some time to mourn her loss and pay our respects. Mothers' Union also recognises the continued importance of the work it does worldwide, and the lives that it transforms on a daily basis. As we slowly begin to recover from the loss of Her Majesty, I'd like to shed light on some important developments currently underway at Mothers' Union.

Mothers' Union Annual Gathering, held in Belfast on 23rd and 24th of September, went well and provoked some important

conversations that will hopefully lead to some exciting changes. We are also thrilled to announce that we are partnering with Women's Aid in the 'Come together to end domestic abuse' campaign, that was officially launched on 11th October. The Annual Gathering followed a packed programme dominated by members' stories exploring the theme of Transformation – Now! The weekend closed with a sublime concert by the Clare Chorale

Next year's gathering will be in York if anyone would like to attend.

October 9th to 15th was Prison Week. Not only are Mothers' Union one of the sponsors of Prisons Week, our members consistently work in Prisons to support those incarcerated and their families to build and sustain better relationships. One of the programmes that MU want to highlight is called 'Being Dad', currently being run in a prison for young offenders in Lichfield diocese.



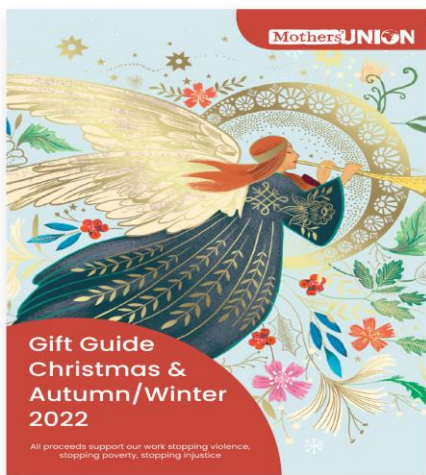
Mothers' Union has partnered up with Women's Aid for a campaign against domestic abuse. An estimated 1.6 million women experience domestic abuse every year. Though that's only the tip of the iceberg, as many women don't report abuse due to fear of being judged or not believed. It's shocking to hear that one in seven children and young people under the age of 18 will have lived with domestic

violence at some point in their childhood. Three women are killed each fortnight by a current or ex-partner highlighting that so much change is needed before women and children are safe. **Mothers' Union and Women's Aid are working together so that no girl has to be a victim of domestic abuse.**

Mothers' Union is the first national charity to partner with Women's Aid Federation of England in this new campaign demonstrating how we can make a difference on this important issue if we all come together. There is no magic wand, as domestic abuse affects people throughout society and at every stage of life, but by coming together Mothers' Union Members are committing to raise awareness, dispel myths and take action to End Domestic Abuse.

This year, Women's Aid Federation of England launches the 'Come Together to End Domestic Abuse' campaign. Mothers' Union is committed to ending domestic violence and abuse, expressed through its year-round activities and campaigning as well as specific focuses (such as participating in the annual 16 Days campaign to end gender-based violence). By joining together with Women's Aid, Mothers' Union are able to raise even more awareness, dispel myths and create safe spaces. As members of Hayes Mothers' Union, we can remember the 'Come Together to End Domestic Abuse' campaign in our prayers.

Three members attended the Diocesan Autumn meeting and AGM. I will report on this meeting in the next issue.



Our Mothers' Union Gift Guide Christmas & Autumn/Winter 2022 features lots of wonderful Christmas cards and gifts. There are a few catalogues on our notice board.

I trust that you have now all received a copy of 'Connect'.

Please remember Dorothy in your prayers. She has been very poorly and was admitted to hospital. I am pleased to say that she is feeling a little better, but would welcome your prayers. Also please remember Faith in your prayers as she starts a new chapter in her life in a care home near her daughter and grandchildren in Suffolk.

If you would like to find out more about Mothers' Union, please contact me on 208 468 7785. Thank you.

Avril Ashford

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY NOVEMBER 2022

Morning Prayers take place at 9.15am Monday to Wednesday and on Zoom* on Thursdays throughout the year (except Bank Holidays).

Tuesday 1st	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 2nd	10.30am	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	2.45pm	Men's Fellowship in OCS
Thursday 3rd	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers

3RD BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 6th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 8th	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 9th	7.00pm	The Licensing and Installation of Revd Amanda Spence
Thursday 10th	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers

2ND BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 13th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Remembrance Day Service
Tuesday 15th	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
Thursday 17th	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers

LAST SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 20th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Tuesday 22nd	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
Thursday 24th	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT

Saturday 26th	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
Sunday 27th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
	5.00-6.00pm	Illuminate**
Tuesday 29th	10.00-12.00noon	Church open for prayers
Wednesday 30th	10.15-12.00noon	Charity Coffee Morning**

*for Zoom link contact the church office

** denotes Meetings Room



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## HELP YOUR HEDGEHOGS THIS AUTUMN

With our warmer British autumns, hedgehogs now tend to begin hibernation later – in December or January. In the meantime, it is critical that they build up enough body weight to get them through those lean, bleak weeks of January to April... so now is the time to help them, by feeding them.

The hedgehog is carnivorous and, in the wild, lives on a diet of beetles, earthworms and other invertebrates. But in the winter, the bugs are dead or buried, and the worms deep underground. So – a hedgehog would appreciate your help! But don't put out milk and bread – both are actually bad for hedgehogs. Instead, they will thrive on tins of dogfood or non-fishy cat-food and water.

And while your spiny guests are noisily munching their dinner, you can prepare a bedroom, should they decide to move in. A nice deep compost heap will keep a hedgehog warm. It is also possible to buy hedgehog hibernation nests.

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

Going into November we retain our sense of confidence and optimism for the future activities of HMF. The Annual Service in St. Mary's in October launched our new season with a good turn-out of 32 members present. This compares well with the average percentage attendance of members in the years before covid interrupted proceedings, given that our retained membership had fallen from 100 to 80 in round terms.

My declared theme in leading the service was based on the well-known passage of contrasting life choices in Ecclesiastes, chapter 3 verses 1-8, which begins "For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven". It is the new season for Hayes Men's Fellowship and our time to choose to thrive in unity and friendship.

The service seemed well-received, perhaps because it was very much a team effort in at least three ways:

1. Colin Vivian, our former Chairman, continuing his role as Pastoral Care Officer, spoke movingly of the members who had passed on since our previous such service (which, you may recall, was held a year ago as a "Celebration of Life" of the thirteen members who had passed during the two years of covid restrictions when services were restricted). Then as now we honoured their memories with a minute's standing silence.

One of the names mentioned was Kenneth Baker and it was an additional privilege, just as this report was being prepared, to join with other HMF members in a large congregation which filled Coney Hill Baptist Church to celebrate Ken's life, as a musician and skilled accompanist to Hayes Philharmonic Choir for fifty years alongside a career in engineering which encompassed major infrastructure works across the country and in London, including London Bridge Station developments and Underground renewals. It left me thinking what a fascinating choice he would have made for a President's Afternoon guest speaker in March!

2. The Bible reading was then delivered eloquently by our Deputy Chairman, David Rowedder.

3. The retiring collection amounted to £173.92. This amazing generosity from our assembled HMF members has been donated to the Hayes Community Foodbank to help it continue its vital work in support of the local community. This is in line with our policy to collect monetary donations rather than actual goods for the Foodbank at our monthly meetings during the year.

When we moved over to the OCS for an informal meeting to present our new programme and to encourage re-enrolment, our members present increased to 38: the total included two new members. This is an encouraging boost to our recruitment campaign which, at the time of writing, has already produced a running total of 41 paid-up members. More are expected and others are welcome. Our simple criteria is to welcome men of any faith or none who are retired or semi-retired yet looking for a regular social life now free of a working routine.

It is encouraging too that some of our newer members have volunteered to undertake specific roles in our activities. For example, Bill Hudson will be assisting Tony Archer, our Walks Organiser, to lead monthly walks. This month he has proposed a new route in the Swanley area, which Tony described as “delightful” when they conducted the usual practice walk together. Our walkers are looking forward to joining Bill later this month for his second walk. Hopefully this will be some recompense for the cancellation at very short notice of September’s walk due to Tony’s ill-health. No doubt his intended walk in the Westerham area will feature later on in the season.

This is always a quiet period for HMF reports with no planned outing, but it was quieter still this year with no walk either. Nevertheless, a full programme of activities (meetings, outings and walks) is in place for the new season proceeding according to plan. So watch out for reports next month about our outing to the New Forest and our first guest speaker of the season, as well as the Swanley walk. Full up-to-date details can be viewed on our website at [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org) and these reports will continue month by month here in *Hayes Herald*. Why not join us rather than just read about what we get up to? Pop along to a meeting and give us a try – no obligation but you will get a warm welcome to go along with the tea and biscuits! HMF is what our members bring in their participation and help us all to thrive and enjoy life in each other’s company.

**Allan Evison, HMF Chairman**

**(e-mail: [chairman@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:chairman@hayesmensfellowship.org))**

**Graham Marsden, HMF Secretary**

**(e-mail: [secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org](mailto:secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org))**

## **PRAYERS FOR REMEMBRANCE**

Remembrance Sunday will be especially poignant this year, as Russia's war on Ukraine continues to cast long shadows over Europe. But Remembrance is also a time to remember those whom we have loved and lost, from Queen Elizabeth II to members of our own families. So, these prayers may help direct your thoughts as you think back...

### **For those who have died**

Almighty and eternal God,  
from whose love in Christ we cannot be parted,  
either by death or life:  
hear our prayers and thanksgivings  
for all whom we remember this day;  
fulfil in them the purpose of your love;  
and bring us all, with them, to your eternal joy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **For those who have died on active service**

O God of truth and justice,  
we hold before you those men and women  
who have died in active service:  
in Iraq, in Afghanistan and elsewhere.  
As we honour their courage and cherish their memory,  
may we put our faith in your future;  
for you are the source of life and hope,  
now and for ever.  
Amen.

### **On a bereavement**

Father,  
you know our hearts and share our sorrows.  
We are hurt by our parting from those whom we loved:  
when we are angry at the loss we have sustained,  
when we long for words of comfort,  
yet find them hard to hear,  
turn our grief to truer living,

our affliction to firmer hope  
in Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Lord, do not abandon us in our desolation.  
Keep us safe in the midst of trouble,  
and complete your purpose for us  
through your steadfast love and faithfulness,  
in Jesus Christ our Saviour.  
Amen.

## THE SMALL BELL

I was in Bromley this week, trying to find a warm jumper and a comfortable pair of shoes. Having failed in my mission, as usual, I was walking along the wide paved area of the High Street towards The Mall when I heard a tinkling bell, rather like the sound of a small bell on a Christmas tree. I glanced around to see where it had come from and I heard the voice of a man sitting opposite me in the doorway of an empty shop which had closed down. My immediate thought was that he was homeless and asking for money but I walked closer and saw him ring a small bell, just once, and then held out something to passers-by. Then I heard the name Jesus. I approached him and heard him say “Give Jesus your heart, and he’ll bless you” while offering a small yellow leaflet. Most people just walked past but I decided to talk to him and said “I gave my heart to Jesus many years ago but thank you for your courage.” He looked at me with loving eyes and said “Take the leaflet anyway and give it to someone else.” He was sitting in an electric wheelchair and told me he was 84 years old and had been doing this for many years in spite of poor health. He was the founder of the ‘Street Evangelists Association’ which has many members. He used to worship at Westminster Chapel where Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones used to preach in the 60’s and 70’s. He was doing what the early disciples and St. Paul did, preaching everywhere to the people.



Not everyone can do it but we are all parts of the same body of Christ, and this has been his ministry. I wondered if he received abuse or physical threats for what he was saying and doing, especially in this now violent and extreme society where law and respect are often ignored. Then I thought of the tinkling bell and it reminded me of the bell

sounding the presence of the Holy Spirit during communion in the Catholic church and it occurred to me that the bell was not only drawing people's attention but a call to the Holy Spirit to bless his work and protect him, just as he protected Paul in the early church.

I felt humbled and blessed to have spoken to him. I used to take part in street evangelism as a young Christian and felt a bit ashamed to be reluctant to take part now but God has given me different paths to tread as the years have unfolded. The next time I hear a tinkling bell I shall think of this dear man and look for God's Holy Spirit in that moment, remembering what he said: "Give Jesus your heart and he will bless you". You won't find a simpler gospel than that.

I have his leaflet if anyone wants to read it. It is entitled:

CHRIST  
Is the  
ANSWER  
To your  
EVERY NEED

**David Langford**

## **6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER – JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE PERSECUTED CHURCH**

Churches and Christians across the UK are being invited to remember the suffering of Christians persecuted and imprisoned for their faith in countries around the world.

According to Open Doors, the 2022 rankings are as follows. The top 20 countries where it is most dangerous to be a Christian are: 1 Afghanistan; 2 North Korea; 3 Somalia; 4 Libya; 5 Yemen; 6 Eritrea; 7 Nigeria; 8 Pakistan; 9 Iran; 10 India; 11 Saudi Arabia; 12 Myanmar; 13 Sudan; 14 Iraq; 15 Syria; 16 Maldives; 17 China; 18 Qatar; 19 Vietnam; and 20 Egypt.

For the full list of 50 countries, please go to:

<https://www.opendoorsuk.org/persecution/world-watch-list/>

*PP News Nov22*

## CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF BROTHER ANDREW (1928-2022)

Brother Andrew, the founder of Open Doors, died on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2022, aged 94.

Famous around the world as ‘God’s smuggler’, he began his ministry in 1957 by smuggling Bibles across the Iron Curtain in a blue Volkswagen Beetle. That trip was the beginning of Open Doors which, more than 65 years later, is now supporting persecuted Christians around the world.

The remarkable story of his Bible ‘smuggling’ was told in his best-selling autobiography *God’s Smuggler*.

After the fall of the Iron Curtain, Brother Andrew turned his attention to the Islamic World, saying that the rapid spread of Islam posed the greatest challenge yet to the Christian church worldwide. He travelled to the Middle East and South Asia and had private meetings with leaders of several Islamic fundamentalist groups. However, Brother Andrew preached against retaliation – repeatedly declaring ‘I sincerely love all Muslims’ as a counter to the rising Islamophobia in the west.

Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands knighted Brother Andrew in 1993. In 1997, he received the World Evangelical Alliance’s Religious Liberty Award, recognising his lifetime of service to suffering Christians.

But Open Doors UK reveals that “perhaps the recognition that pleased him most was the copies of KGB reports, which he obtained after the fall of the Iron Curtain. There were more than 150 pages about him, detailing his work in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. Despite this, they were still unable to stop his work.”





*...love the new notice board, Vicar...  
...just not quite so sure about the wording...*

Items for the December magazine by 16<sup>th</sup> November please. Copy to the Editor – see below.

December magazines will be ready for distribution on 27<sup>th</sup> November.

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