

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

MOVING FORWARD

There are some things in life of which we can be sure. Winter follows Autumn and Spring will follow Winter, although the weather does not seem to be able to make up its mind which season it is in sometimes! Now, there is the beginning of new growth as shoots are beginning to appear in beds, borders and pots.

The Church seasons are much the same, following on and moving through a pattern, observed and celebrated at St Mary's Church for hundreds of years, a constant place of prayer, peace and welcome.

I have previously written in the *Hayes Herald* about journeys from the old into the new. There is a sense of movement, as I learn about you and you learn about me. Last month we were moving from the anticipation of Advent to the joy of Christmas, to be renewed and ready for the season of Epiphany.

So where are we going and are we ready?

Well, maybe let's start with where we are. St Mary's Church has a long-standing role within the community of Hayes, and as part of the Churches Together in Hayes. We have worship here currently, namely on a Sunday at 8am, which is Holy Communion, taken from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Here the prayers and the word of God from the Bible are shared, as well as the body and blood of Christ, in bread and wine and blessings received. It is a quiet, meditative service.

At 10.30am there is Holy Communion on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of each month, which is more contemporary and has singing. Also, there is Morning Praise, a more relaxed service of prayer and song on the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month. Sunbeam and Blaze sessions are available for children during the 10.30am services too. Illuminate for older children meet once a month on the evening of the 4th Sunday and lead the 5th Sunday service, which I am really looking forward to experiencing.

And then there are Fresh Start Services at 9.15am on the 3rd Sunday of the month, which are for families with young children. It is a warm and friendly service, where the children and their families are able to fully participate in worship in a fun and accessible way.

There are also a number of groups and events that take place during the week, coffee mornings, including for the community, charities and ones for supporting with fellowship those who have lost loved ones or live alone.

We have Morning Prayer online at 9.15am Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays and the link details to join the 'Zoom' are available from the office; I join from church and if you would like to join me, you would be very welcome, Tuesday to Saturday. We have a Bible Study Group and hope to be encouraging Home Groups, where people will be able to meet and engage with different aspects of the Bible and key issues.

Men's Fellowship and Mother's Union also meet regularly. All these events are detailed in the 'St Mary's Church Diary', at the centre of the *Hayes Herald*.

All are welcome.

Fellowship is also shared within the community for those who are ill or unable to get out and about.

I am sure there maybe things that I have missed; I'm still learning.

So where are we going and are we ready?

What more can St Mary's be to her congregation, her communities and her parish? What groups are to build, to grow or to spring up! Who will come to join, build or be served or serve?

I am reflecting and praying as I find out more about the life of St Mary's and the parish and its communities, but also would love to hear from you. We have sung recently; 'Christ be our light! Shine in our hearts.' We have asked for a light to guide and fill our lives.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

May these words inspire us and over the coming couple of months may we all, together, be able to discern the needs of others; how we can be a light. May we see how and where is God moving in this place and where He may be leading us. Amen.

Rev'd Amanda

THE NATIVITY 2022

The roles were chosen, the costumes ironed and it was all systems go once again! The previous afternoon the Meeting Room was prepared with a chair for each child containing their costume and name label. On the table were the star, the baby, gifts for the kings and a bag of sheep. Chairs were in the chancel and the crib with its lights, and everything seemed well organised and ready.

At the appointed time the children arrived and with adult help were suitably dressed. Tea-towels and tinsel and crowns are the main problem as they seem to have a life of their own. There was time for a group photo before we all went into church and gathered in the book corner for the start of the service. I had remembered to take with me the star and the kings' gifts but there was a moment's panic as baby Jesus had disappeared. Apparently the smallest angel had kidnapped him and wouldn't let him go until a replacement doll was found and baby Jesus was hidden away. Fortunately he reappeared just in time!

The child with the star walked around the church with dignity as we all sang 'Twinkle Twinkle Christmas Star'. As the Bible readings were read so clearly by some of the older children, and the carols sung, the Nativity tableau gradually built up in the chancel. Mary and Joseph walked around hand in hand and settled on their chairs. Gabriel carried the baby and placed him in the crib and switched on the little lights and then sat near Mary.

The angels and shepherds were ready and I realised that Gabriel was also the chief angel and was to lead them, so my helper beckoned her from the chancel steps to walk them round before they all settled in their places at the front.

Next were the kings and I gave them their gifts to carry and then realised that the star, who by now was already in the tableau with the angels, was required to lead them so had to be beckoned to the back again – was I losing it? Perhaps I was because the sheep were resting quietly in their bag in the Meeting Room instead of being cuddled by the shepherds. However that did avoid the usual, annual 'let's toss the sheep around' contest!

At last they had all arrived and my task was done – or was it? Amanda and I had prepared a talk which we did together. It involved many props which Amanda had at the pulpit. I began by talking about birthday parties and realising that Christmas is Jesus' birthday. As I told the story Amanda held up the props as I mentioned various things such as a birthday gift, balloons, sheep, an angel, straw, camel, a donkey, a mallet (well, Joseph was a carpenter), a baby etc. I kept her on her toes

and she kept up with me brilliantly. At the end Amanda explained the meaning of the Gold (for a King), Frankincense (for a Priest) and Myrrh (signifying death) which she showed us, and then I ended by explaining that the Christmas story is not a fairy tale but a moment in history, and that God is a mystery and so he sent Jesus to help us.

At the end of the service the children returned to the Meeting Room with a parent and changed out of their costumes. The room no longer looked organised! My two helpers were brilliant and I couldn't have done it without their assistance and encouragement so a huge thank you to them.

Hilary Burtonshaw

WARM SPACE VOLUNTEERS

We're currently investigating the possibility of offering a warm space at St Mary's Church, Hayes. We're still looking at whether it's feasible and, if so, how and when the warm space would operate. If we go ahead, it's likely it would be for a few hours during one midweek afternoon and might possibly include lunch or refreshments. We're looking for volunteers who could help us run the sessions. Could this be you? It could be as little or as much as you like, whether that's helping to set up beforehand, clear up afterwards, serving or making refreshments, greeting and chatting with visitors. It could be on a regular or occasional basis. If you're potentially interested in helping, please contact Stuart **07917 024481**.

Stuart Spence

LENT SOUP LUNCHES?

Now we as a church are getting back to normal, I was just wondering if a group could reinstate the Lent Soup Lunches again. It was a nice friendly gathering starting at 12 noon. We offered a mug of soup, bread and butter and a cup of tea/coffee. When we were doing the Soup Lunches there was a collection plate for donations of your choice, at the time it was for Christian Aid /Church Mission Society. If one or two people are interested I have two slow cookers to give away.



Mary Rowedder



I can't believe how quickly January has passed! I have been 'house bound' for the past six weeks recovering from my total knee replacement operation and really look forward to being mobile again and able to drive. Our son Keith is coming home for three weeks to help us which will be a great blessing. As a group we met on Tuesday, 24th January, when we had the opportunity to catch up on all our news, and to discuss future plans for Mothers' Union in Hayes.

We will make our February meeting on **Wednesday, 15th February**, in The New Inn as it will be Peter's birthday and we can help him celebrate it. Some of us will stay on and join him for a birthday lunch. Hopefully our March meeting will be back in the Meetings Room in Church.

Please remember Dorothy in your prayers. She is slowly improving and looks forward to the day when she can get out again. Meanwhile, Dorothy welcomes visitors, but asks that they phone first on 0208 462 5403, so that she can open the door.

I hope that by the time you have read this you have paid your annual subscription. Thank you to Carol Crouch for organising this. Hopefully, by the end of the month, I will have a programme organised for Mothers' Union Hayes for 2023.

I note that Lent starts on 22nd February. I found the following article a thoughtful observation on Lent:

The observance of Lent retains integrity in an increasingly commercialised world. It's interesting that the season of Lent escapes most forms of commercialisation, unlike the frenzy of present and

chocolate buying around the festivals of Christmas and Easter, including by those who make no profession of faith.

One seldom, if ever, sees cards and gifts surrounding the practices of observing Lent. Perhaps it is because these forty days are focused on self-denial rather than indulgence! The call to abstain from something we enjoy is not the most sellable of concepts.

Lent today. Even today though, during this period, people of many Christian denominations and of no faith choose to go without something they usually take for granted. Some may give up meat, sweets or alcohol. Others forgo the lure of social media, or another pastime they enjoy.

It's understandable that Christians are ready to embrace the opportunity that Lent provides, not only to manage without a specific treat in life, but to use the time gained to draw close to God in reflection and for spiritual refreshment.

The idea of giving something up. Yet it is less obvious why the idea of a Lenten sacrifice has caught hold of the popular imagination. The answer may be to do with something innate within each of us. That deep down we all know that we do not need all that we have, or have all that we need.

In Ecclesiastes 3 it says that God has planted eternity in the human heart - that sense we share, whether active believers or not, that there is more to life than the here and now. St Augustine's declaration that our hearts are restless until they find our rest in God portrays a similar perception.

Final thoughts. In all its non-marketable glory, Lent is essentially a time for deep and honest reflection. During this season, where we wait and we reflect and we pray, there is an outstanding sense of hope. Yes, we may walk through the wilderness, but if we look, we find Christ with us; yes, Christ's death on the cross lies ahead, but beyond it, we see the dawning of resurrection, with its promise of eternity.

So, this Lent let's be grateful that it hasn't been hijacked by market forces but remains a precious season in which believers can renew their relationship with God and seekers may begin to find their rest in him.

On the next page is a flyer regarding AFIA holidays, please help MU find recipients of our holidays. I have been asked to ask our clergy, local food bank, women's refuge etc. if they know of families who would really benefit from a break.

Fed up with looking at the rain? Now's the time to think about summer holidays – not for you – think AFIA!



If you see a family or older couple or single person living in our parish who would benefit from a short break or a holiday nominate them to AFIA. Maybe there is a community group locally who are supporting parents and children who would benefit from a group outing but lack the funds? Could AFIA help out? To make sure we can secure a booking at a suitable holiday site and undertake all the necessary safeguarding enquiries we need nominations for holidays to start NOW!

In 2022, Mothers' Union groups raised over £1200 to fund the AFIA programme. A fantastic result! Please remember AFIA again, when planning your programme.



Last year, the best fund-raising device was the children's bucket and spade. Just the sight of a colourful bucket and spade evokes powerful memories. Hands reach into purses and pockets as nostalgic memories of past holidays are triggered. Even if you don't hold a special event for AFIA, take your bucket and spade along with the AFIA leaflets to church and community events. You might be surprised at how much goes into the bucket!

For information contact *Kate Harrison* and *Jocelyn Wright*
email: afia.rochester.mu@gmail.com phone: **07780 306866**

Lent is coming and the Clewer Initiative and Church of England have put together a Lent course called Journeys looking at Modern Day Slavery and Christ's journey to the cross and his Resurrection. As members of Mothers' Union we need to be aware of modern-day slavery and be working to end it. More about this next month.

A date for your diaries, Rochester Mothers' Union AGM will be on **22nd April** at St. Paulinus Church Hall; please let me know if you would like to attend.

As we continue to work in an ever-challenging world, why not join us in our journey and be a part of something life-changing? If you would like to find out more about Mothers' Union, or would like to join us, please contact me on **0208 468 7785**.

Avril Ashford

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY FEBRUARY 2023

Morning Prayers take place daily at 9.15am Monday to Wednesday on Zoom* and Tuesdays to Saturdays in Church throughout the year (except Bank Holidays).

Wednesday 1st 10.30am-12.00 noon Coffee morning for the bereaved and those who live alone**
2.45pm Men's Fellowship in OCS

3RD BEFORE LENT

Sunday 5th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Morning Praise

2ND BEFORE LENT

Sunday 12th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Parish Communion CW

NEXT BEFORE LENT

Sunday 19th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
9.15am Fresh Start
10.30am Morning Praise
Wednesday 22nd 10.15am-12 noon Community Coffee Morning**

LENT 1

Sunday 26th 8.00am Holy Communion BCP
10.30am Parish Communion CW
5.00-6.00pm Illuminate**

*Zoom link available from church office ** denotes Meetings Room

The church is also open for private prayer on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.00am to 12.00 noon unless there is a wedding or funeral taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets. More information about the regular services at St Mary's can be found in Rev'd Amanda's letter on pp.1-2.



A RECENT FUNERAL IN THE PARISH

Joyce Glover

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### THANK YOU

My sincere thanks to everyone who supported me with cards, phone calls and messages following Alan's death in December. It is truly a great comfort to know you are in so many people's thoughts and prayers during a difficult time.

**Janet Sladden**

## HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

These words have to be put together in mid-January ahead of printing deadlines. Maybe the situation of ongoing industrial strikes will have improved by the time you get to read this article in February but we are hopeful that our established plans will not be affected by them.

Our talk in January was well-attended and proved topically appropriate in a way given that the subject was "Industrial Relations at Fords in the 1970's and 1980's". Read more below and draw your own conclusions about any problems of "pragmatism" in today's disputes.

The main event we are all looking forward to as we go to press is the HMF Annual Lunch to be held, as is now customary, in Regan's, the Banqueting Suite above the New Inn. It's named after the family owners and may we pay tribute to John Regan who has died.

Sixty diners should be sitting down to enjoy a delicious three-course meal rounded off with tea or coffee. The booking choices statistics show that the most popular starter this year is prawn salad usurping soup from its usual top place by almost two to one; chicken breast just beats beef and mushroom pie in the mains with pan-fried salmon a good third; and even vegetable Wellington pleases a number. Cheesecake remains a popular dessert and even beats – just – the ever-popular crumble, this year with apple. Some couples have chosen separately for cheese and biscuits, perhaps to provide the possibility of a shared fourth course.

If that has whetted your appetite, it's too late I'm afraid to join in this year but there is still plenty to enjoy in the remaining months of this HMF season for just £20 subscription. See our website for full details, updated as necessary for any enforced changes – [www.hayesmensfellowship.org](http://www.hayesmensfellowship.org) .

Here now we report on the only recent event as there was no walk or outing in December because of Christmas commitments.

Our meeting in January heard a very interesting and amusing – but ultimately sad - talk by Steve Bird. The talk was almost a tale of the decline of British industry told through a series of witty but serious anecdotes – just a few of which are repeated here.

After five years in the Army, in the 1970s Steve joined the Ford Motor Company at the enormous Dagenham plant which had everything from a foundry to production lines and its own wharf. He had an industrial relations role, effectively to ensure that the production lines kept running in a pressured environment with a highly unionised and militant workforce. It was drummed into him at the beginning of his career that every MINUTE the line was stationary cost the company \$10,000 and it

was his job to minimise that down time. But this risk of lost production provided him with a measure to determine which issues were worth fighting and which were not.

He went on to work with Ford at Halewood, in Germany and eventually at their headquarters in Dearborn, Michigan, USA. At the beginning of his career, Ford in the UK had a third of the car market (plus trucks, vans, buses and tractors), 26 factories and 100,000 workers. With automation and the decline in British manufacturing, this has fallen to two factories and less than 10,000 workers. A sad tale.

As an example of the strength of the unions when he started at Ford, Steve explained that times were set for their lorry drivers for trips between the various plants. Any driver arriving more quickly than the agreed time, i.e. to the benefit of Ford, was fined by the Union. But some of the early issues faced were rather more delicate. The wharf at Dagenham was overlooked by most of the office blocks where many of the female staff worked. In the very hot summer of 1976, one of the wharf workers caused a bit of controversy by wearing all his safety equipment – but not anything else!

A transfer to Halewood saw yet more issues to be dealt with. Close to Christmas, the production line was in danger of closing because there were no seats coming out of the machinists' shop. Steve sent a member of his staff to investigate but was concerned when he did not get a prompt report back. Instead, he received a phone call from a rather tipsy shop steward in the machinists' shop asking if he wanted to see his missing member of staff. He was invited to look out of his window where he could see the young man tied to a flagpole – stark naked! The machinists were holding their Christmas party and were not impressed at being interrupted.

Later a strike was threatened when the Company was accused of trying to sell undersized bread rolls to the staff in the canteens they provided. It did indeed look as though the rolls were smaller so, to avert the risk of production being stopped by a strike, it was quickly agreed that there would be no charge for the smaller rolls. To avoid a repeat, he ended up having to contact the bakery to find out what was happening. Apparently the ingredients used for the rolls continued to be the same as always but there was an issue. The bakery usually blew some air into the dough to make it less dense - but bigger – before baking. However, the air blowing machine was broken, hence the physically smaller rolls. To avoid further trouble, it was agreed that there would be a minimum size for the rolls and Steve had a metal template cut so that rolls delivered could be assessed each day (a ritual that could be continuing to this day!). If the rolls go through the template, they are too small and the

company pays, but if they don't the workers have to pay for them in the usual way. A good example of the pragmatism needed – it was better to meet the cost of the rolls than lose production.

Another lively and interesting talk that was much appreciated by the impressive number of 41 members in attendance, followed by tea, biscuits and an opportunity for an informal chat with our speaker.

A walk was planned on January 25<sup>th</sup> along a stretch of the Thames with access from and back to Hayes by train, strikes permitting. Again, refer to our website for details including any rearrangements necessary and we hope to include a report in March.

Meanwhile enjoy life this year, especially as a member of HMF!

**Allan Evison**  
**HMF Chairman**

**Graham Marsden**  
**HMF Secretary**

## **POPE BENEDICT – A SHORT PERSONAL REFLECTION**

Pope Benedict XVI who died on 31 December 2022 aged 95 will be remembered, amongst other things, as the Pope who resigned – the first to do so in 600 years. Before he became Pope, he was the right-hand man to his predecessor, Pope John Paul II. He was seen as a conservative, one who was deeply committed to maintaining the traditional values and doctrines of the Catholic Church.

Benedict was also a leading Catholic intellectual and academic, writing a large number of books, including both formal Catholic doctrinal teaching, but also more popular presentations of the Christian faith. The latter included a 'trilogy' on the person of Jesus. The first of these was *Jesus of Nazareth: From the Baptism in the Jordan to the Transfiguration* (came out in 2007). This was also the first book written by Benedict after his election to the Papacy.

Several years ago, I happened to come across this book. I cannot now recall why it was that I came to be reading Benedict's book. But almost as soon as I started reading it, I was aware that it was a treasure house, not just because it was full of so many fresh insights into the life of Christ, but because it showed there was every reason to have confidence in the Bible's presentation of Christ and our understanding of our faith. But above all what shines through is Benedict's deep love of the Lord.

For a long time, I had tended to shy away from Catholic literature. So, I was very pleasantly shaken, when I first read the book, to find that the book was promoting not an ecclesiastical position but a Person: Jesus.

The stress from the first is that our faith is not based on formal ritual, or ecclesiastical tradition but a relationship with a Person, who we are called to know as He knows us intimately from even before we are born.

It is a wonderfully refreshing read, open, honest and, even though written by a leading academic, very clearly written. Often, deep theological terms are expressed in very accessible language. It reminded me in some ways of the famous book *Knowing God* by J. Packer, a leading Anglican academic and writer who also died recently. Packer would point to the danger of those academics who know a lot about God but do not *know* Him. Benedict would wholeheartedly agree.

In some ways this book (and the other two in the trilogy) are 'apologetic', in the sense of pushing back against misleading ideas of Jesus from both within the church and from the secular world, ideas that can so easily undermine the faith of Christians. But more than anything it is a wonderfully positive presentation of the Jesus we find in the Gospels, His mystery, uniqueness and significance for the history of the world. In the Gospels we are confronted with someone we can know and whose presence we can enjoy now, because those very Gospels are the word of God.

What does the book cover? Basically, the book is all about revealing Christ to the modern reader, focusing on the Gospels, and looking at the meaning of His baptism, temptations, and teaching with a particular look at His parables and the Lord's Prayer.

I would thoroughly recommend this book (and the other two in the trilogy) to anyone looking for a faith-encouraging book about the life of Jesus that is both Christ-centred and Biblically-focused.

For anyone who is interested, there is a copy of the book in our little church library in the book corner; you are welcome to borrow and return (and NB copies still available from Amazon!).

As a footnote it is interesting to learn that Hyacinth Bucket was a favourite TV character of Benedict; and that in 2020 he became the oldest ever living Pope.

Some quotes from Benedict's other publications to mull over:

'The world offers you comfort but you were not made for comfort; you were made for greatness.'

'Love people; use things.'

'The church in every age moves due to holiness, not management.'

'Being a Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction.'

**David James**

## **FRESH START**

This is a short, informal service for pre-school children and their families. There are praise songs with instruments, a Bible story, a colouring activity, and simple prayers, including the singing of The Lord's Prayer. A collection is taken in Lambikins, and the children enjoy feeding our lamb with their coins! The service is called Fresh Start because the idea is that we are all making a fresh start with God. The service takes place on the third Sunday of every month in church at 9.15 am and lasts for approximately thirty to forty minutes. Do come along or spread the word to your friends as we would love to meet some new families.

## **SUNBEAMS**

This is a group for 3-6 year-old children which meets on the first Sunday of each month, and on a fifth Sunday when there is one, at 10.30 am. On the third Sunday in the month we share in the Fresh Start service which takes place at 9.15 am.

The Sunbeam children begin in church and after a song, during which they play instruments, we take a candle lit from the church candle and go into the Meeting Room for our session. There we have a sticker picture (currently Hatty the hedgehog), singing, prayer and a Bible story, with a simple craft activity and a colouring sheet. A collection is taken for CASPA (a charity which helps families who have a child with autism).

We would welcome some more children to join us and if you wish to know any more about Fresh Start or Sunbeams, please contact me.

**Hilary Burtonshaw 020 8462 8214**

## MONEY

There are many cautions in the Bible about owning a lot of money. There are also many sad stories of the results of owning large amounts of money in the news stories of our society. I was shocked to read this week that a top football player has been offered £1.6 million a week to play in a top team. In one year he will be paid £83 million and could buy himself a £2 million house to live in and 540 houses costing £150,000 each for a homeless charity. It may be that this footballer is extremely generous with his money, as are many famous rich people on the 'A' list so I don't want to rush to judgement about his wealth. But I am using this amazing piece of 'news' as an illustration of how our society has become so obsessed with acquiring money. There was a powerful saying posted on Facebook last week by a former member of our church. It reads: 'Poverty exists not because we cannot feed the poor but because we cannot satisfy the rich.' It seems that the more money people have, the more they often want. This is not universally true but it is for many. Money can have strong addictive power.

I am not in the same 'league' as this footballer, nor do I wish to be, but I still consider myself to be relatively rich; I can afford a house and a car and holidays if I wish and I have a pension. Nonetheless, I have been conscious of the dangers of money since I read a book, as a young Christian, titled 'Live simply that others may simply live'. We bring nothing into this world and take nothing out.

Jesus said 'Woe to you that are rich for you have received your consolation'. 'Give to everyone who begs from you'. St. Paul wrote: 'Those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, for the LOVE of money is the root of all evil'. Some might add the love of power to this warning. We read how Judas betrayed Jesus partly for money.

Why, you might say, am I writing this? I suspect that within our church there are not many people who have hugely excess riches but I am writing it to encourage myself to reflect on what money I have and how it should be used to further Christ's kingdom. He has never asked me to give all my savings to good causes which could make me a burden to my family should I become very ill and need special care. But he has reminded me to respond to those in need whenever my conscience is stirred by something I read or hear about or a person lying on the pavement with nowhere else to sleep. I felt that sharing these thoughts might be both helpful and challenging to us all.

I believe that it is the Holy Spirit/Christ himself who speaks to our hearts individually as we travel the road of life with him. That road is different for each of us. Jesus said 'Love your enemies and do good,

and lend, expecting nothing in return'. If we can follow this wisdom from Christ I know that we will find great joy and his peace in our hearts. It is always more blessed to give than to receive.

**David Langford**

## **ST. MARY'S ONLINE SHOP**

A big thank you to everyone who supported our Online Shop again this year. We are very fortunate to have such a loyal band of lovely customers who are very appreciative and keep coming back! This year we were delighted to raise **£433.70**, which is a brilliant total. CASPA and the Companion Dioceses of Mpwapma in Tanzania (which is a Diocesan Christian Charity) are the two charities that Blaze are supporting and where the money raised will go.



Thank you again for your ongoing support and generosity,

**The Blaze Team**

*Dear Lord*

*May we find strength in knowing you are with us when challenges  
feel too heavy to bear.*

*Amen*

Items for the March magazine by 16<sup>th</sup> Feb please. Copy to the Editor. March magazines will be ready for distribution on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb.  
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