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 <u>info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk</u>

MEET THE TEAM

Continuing to meet the team at St Mary's; November will incorporate Safeguarding Sunday, so hear from Clare, our Safeguarding lead this month.

My name is Clare Scriven and I have been invited to introduce myself in the *Hayes Herald* this month.

I am the Safeguarding Officer for St Mary's Church, as well as being a member of the PCC and a helper at Sunbeams.

My Safeguarding role requires me to ensure that the relevant members of the Church have up-to-date DBS checks and complete the relevant training courses, as well as ensuring we are complying with any legislation or actions given by the Diocese of Rochester Safeguarding Team. It is ensuring that Safeguarding information is available and people are aware of who to approach if they have a Safeguarding query or concern.

Contact details, posters, leaflets and information are provided on the main noticeboard in the porch of the Church, as well as on the Safeguarding noticeboard currently situated next to the serving hatch in the meeting rooms.

Safeguarding Sunday is due to be held on November 19th and further information regarding Safeguarding will be provided in the services.

At St Mary's Church we are committed to safeguarding as an integral part of its ministry and mission, promoting a safer culture and the welfare of every child, young person and adult. We aim to promote a safer environment and culture. Everyone has a responsibility for safeguarding and Clare Scriven is our Parish Safeguarding Officer and leads on our Safeguarding at St Mary's. We are very grateful for all that she does for safeguarding, among her other roles at St Mary's.

Rev'd Amanda

ANTI-SLAVERY DAY

Anti Slavery Day was held on 18th October 2023 and St Mary's Pledged to use the services in Church on Sunday 15th to make the congregation more aware of the issue of modern slavery, which is an issue across all areas of the UK.

Modern slavery is a form of exploitation which is often hidden. The Clewer Initiative calls Christians, and all people of goodwill, to become more proactive and more fully committed to seeking to notice and respond.

The term 'modern slavery' encompasses both trafficking and exploitation of men, women and children of all ages, ethnicities and nationalities. Victims are forced, coerced or deceived into exploitation, becoming trapped in a situation they can not escape. Many victims never come forward to the authorities and continue to live miserable lives with no freedom or dignity.

How can you help? By being aware of the issue, spotting the signs and reporting any queries or concerns to the relevant helplines. Further details and videos can be found at: theclewerinitiative.org

Spotting the Signs

Appearance: Showing signs of abuse and untreated injuries, looking malnourished, unkempt, withdrawn or neglected. Seeming under the control or influence of others. Wearing the same clothes every day, wearing no safety equipment if required.

Accommodation: Living in dirty, cramped or overcrowded accommodation. Living and working at the same address. Appearing unfamiliar with their neighbourhood where they work.

Seeking Help: Reluctant to seek help and avoid eye contact. Appear frighted or hesitant to talk to strangers. Fear of police or trusting people. Afraid of deportation and of the risk of violence to themselves and their family.

Travel: Rarely allowed to travel on their own. Collected and dropped off on a regular basis early in the morning or late at night. In a crowded

minibus with other workers. Have no control of their identification documents such as their passport.

Who to contact:

If someone is in immediate danger call **999.**

Report suspicious activity to local police on 101.

Ask for advice by calling The Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline: **08000 121 700.**

Should you have any safeguarding queries or concerns or wish to discuss any matters regarding the above, please contact Rev'd Amanda on **020 3940 1897** or myself on **0775 123 7577** <u>clare@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk</u>

Clare Scriven, Safeguarding Officer

SUNBEAMS

My little group of Sunbeams continues to meet once a month, or twice if there are five Sundays as is the case in October. Beginning in church with a lively song and instruments, lighting their candle, and a prayer we move to the Meeting Room for our session, accompanied by lovely tinkly music provided by Alan Hinton on the piano. We put stickers on our current picture of Hetty the hedgehog, have a Bible story and do some colouring and simple craft. I have some great helpers who keep me on track and I couldn't manage without them. Recently Amanda has invited us back into church at the end of the service to show and tell what we have been doing.

In addition we have a Sunbeam spot at the monthly Fresh Start service when we talk about the story we had last time, if either the children or I can remember it! We then sing our candle song and hopefully encourage some new children in the 3-6 year age range to come and join us. In addition we remind them about the monthly Twinkles meetings which are great fun for children from birth until they start school with lots of happy music and singing.

It's hard to believe that I am writing for the November magazine and Christmas will be upon us before too long when our children will be involved in telling the Nativity story. This involves a lot of preparation by a number of people but fortunately we work well as a team. None of us can do anything alone – we need each other and we need God's help.

Hilary Burtonshaw





'Let our hearts be full of both, thanks and giving.'

.... and that sums up just how we felt as we loaded our car with the gifts from St Mary's after the Harvest Service – somewhat overwhelmed yet extremely thankful for your generosity.

Since we gave out our first bag of food at the start of the national lockdown in March 2020, St Mary's has been part of the foodbank's journey. Your support – whether it's been giving financial or food donations or giving time through volunteering – has been a constant force and always seems to come just when we need it the most!

Your Harvest gifts are no exception; the many gifts we took away will help to keep the shelves full for several weeks and, as well as being good news for our families, for the volunteers it is an important reminder that the work of the foodbank is truly a community effort.

Our sincere thanks to all at St Mary's for the warm welcome we received at the Harvest Service and for their generous support.

Hayes Community Foodbank Lead Team

£258.72 in cash plus another £30 in vouchers was raised at the Harvest Service.



I would like to share a REALLY BIG THANKYOU to those who were able to share their food with others. Although the shelves are filled at Harvest, please do remember the Hayes Community Foodbank throughout the year. There is a donation box in the porch of St Mary's, the contents taken to the Foodbank weekly, as well as opportunities to volunteer throughout the year.

It has also been a privilege to have taken assemblies at Hayes Primary school, with Rev'd Alison from the Free Church and to have taken a service at St Mary's church, for St Mary's pre-school, where local children and families

found out about Harvest and the Hayes Foodbank, bringing their generous donations for those in need in the community.

Rev'd Amanda





As members of Mothers' Union, we must all be looking at the horrific news coming from Israel and Palestine. Like me, you must be wondering how to pray and what to pray for. Many of our Christian friends with links to Israel have been giving us suggestions for ways in which we can pray. It is heart-wrenching to see what is happening in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks that took place more than a week ago. At times like this we can have such a desire to pray but wonder "How?". So, we asked some of our friends in Israel to give us prayer points which we can use.

This is what they came up with:

Please pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalm 122:6).

Please pray for the terrorists to be caught and stopped.

Please pray for God's protection for civilians and army. For God to be their shield, rear guard, and a wall of fire around them. Please pray for the faith of believing soldiers to be strengthened (Psalm 91). Please pray for protection and rescue the hundred or more who have been kidnapped by Hamas (1 Samuel 30).

Please pray for protection within communities in the South who have been infiltrated by Hamas terrorists.

Please pray for protection from the 1000s of Hamas rockets (Psalm 44:4-8).

Please pray for the salvation of Jews and Arabs (Romans 11:26-27, 2 Peter 3:9)

Please pray that God would rescue His people and that the nations will know He is Lord (Psalm 83, Psalm 2).

Please pray for courage, hope, peace, strength for the people – that God would bring his help with the trauma and fear impacting so many (2 Timothy 1:7, Romans 15:13)

Please pray for the families of the soldiers lost and for recovering soldiers and civilians.

Please pray for the Israeli governmental leaders to make wise and Goddirected decisions. (1 Timothy 2:1-2)

Please pray that this situation does not escalate into a regional war and affect innocent men, women and children.

Please pray that Christians around the world would fully wake up to the reality of rising, demonically inspired anti-Semitism; that as God's people we would commit to bless the Jewish people and pray for God's purposes for Israel to be fulfilled.

Mothers' Union Meeting on Monday 25th September was very well attended. It was opened with a prayer. Tina Futcher-Smith, Bromley and Bexley Vice President, was welcomed as our guest speaker.

Tina spoke of the MU Liverpool Conference she attended earlier this year. The main focus was on re-imaging MU & attracting younger members. If we cannot achieve this MU will cease to exist by 2026! How to attract young/new members is difficult, but one way is to speak to young mothers whenever you can and advise them of what we do, where we meet etc. Engage with members of your local community and invite them to a meeting. Offer hybrid meetings. The thought is to offer the MU magazine and reduce the membership fees to attract more members. We are urged to use Mary Sumner House; they are there to assist us, so please highlight our need for extra resources, for example posters to advertise what we do. AFIA has now become very expensive so to reach out to more families; days out are offered instead and are very popular. Tina advised that slow cookers have been given out to members in need by the local council. This is something we could pass on to members in need. Tina was thanked for her time and presented with an indoor plant.

Members were asked if they could bring a small raffle prize for the next meeting. Monies raised will be held as petty cash for the time being. Carol made a note of this and has retained it until Avril is well enough to resume her position as MU Leader.

Members were advised of the MU Christmas lunch on Monday 11th December 12.00 for 12.30. Cost £26.95 with a £10 deposit. Many members have signed up and deposits given which Carol Crouch has retained. It is hoped that we can close the books at the next church MU meeting and pay the deposit at the next meeting.

The MU coffee morning at the New Inn on 10th October at 11am followed by lunch was well attended and enjoyed by all. The next meeting for coffee, and if desired lunch, at The New Inn, will be **11.00am on 7th November.**

Our next meeting will be in the Meetings Room at **10.30am**, on **Monday 20th November**. Please put the date in your diary.

Thank you to John for driving five members to the Autumn Members' meeting in Sevenoaks. A report on the meeting will be made in the next magazine.

MU members who have joined the penpal scheme with Hayes Primary School have been invited to afternoon tea on November 1st to meet their penpal.

Thank you again to Mary Ann and Christine for all they are doing to keep MU running whilst I am incapacitated.

Avril Ashford

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY NOVEMBER 2023

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

All Saints' Day				
Wednesday 1 st	10.00am	Holy Communion		
-	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**		
	2.45pm	Men's Fellowship in OCS		
All Souls' Day				
Thursday 2 nd	10.00am	Holy Communion		
ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY				
Sunday 5 th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP		
	10.30am	Morning Praise		
		Sunbeams** (age 3-6)		

		Sumbeams (age 5-0)
	4.00pm	Service of Commemoration
Wednesday 8 th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Friday 10 th	10.30am	Mothers' Union Coffee
-		Morning**

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 12 th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Remembrance Day Service
		Blaze Session ** (age 6-10)
Wednesday 1	15 th 12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Friday 17 th	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT Safeguarding Sunday

Sunday 19 th	8.00am
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Holy Communion BCP

	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise
Monday 20 th	10.30am	Mothers' Union Meeting**
Tuesday 21 st	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**

CHRIST THE KING

Sunday 26th8.00am
10.30amHoly Communion BCP
Parish Communion CW
Blaze Session** (age 6-10)
Illuminate** (Bible Study age
10-15)

*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.



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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 <u>ocs.hayes@hotmail.com</u>

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

November in the calendar is very much about remembrance with Armistice Day and Remembrance Sunday itself. This theme is reflected in our talk on 1st entitled "West Wickham in WWII" followed on 15th by our outing to the Imperial War Museum's site at Duxford, the home of several historic aircraft including a Concorde to walk through.

Duxford was initially an RAF Fighter base during the Battle of Britain with the first Spitfire squadrons based there and fighter ace Douglas Bader flew from there. Later, in 1943, the airfield was handed over to the United States Army Air Force which operated fighters such as the P-51 Mustang to protect Allied bombers involved in raids over Europe. As the official site map shows, there are eight distinct areas to visit, most of which are obvious from their titles. They are listed as Airspace (home of the Concorde); Flying Aircraft; Historic Duxford; Air and Sea; Battle of Britain; Conservation in Action; American Air Museum; and Land Warfare. The large site can be visited on foot or by using a free bus service which stops at all the main areas throughout the day and has capacity for wheelchair users in our party. We are anticipating a full coach for this trip and a full report will appear next month.

As usual, we now turn to our reports on activities which have taken place already.

Our October meeting is always different. A meeting of two halves; our Annual Service at St Mary the Virgin followed by our normal get together at the Old Church Schools (OCS).

The Annual Service is an opportunity for us to worship together in a dedicated service at the church with which the Fellowship is linked. The service was led by the HMF President, Rev'd Amanda Spence, and the HMF Chairman, Allan Evison. The overall message from the service was about community and a sense of belonging which was very much reflected within the activities of both the church and the Hayes Men's Fellowship. The 27 members present sang some excellent hymns including "Abide with me" and "Make me a channel of your peace". The service was also an opportunity to say farewell to members who had died over the last year. Our Pastoral Care Officer, Colin Vivian, gave a pen picture of each member we had lost. We were grateful to Alan Hinton for playing the organ.

Then off to the OCS for an abbreviated version of our normal meetings – no speaker but the usual tea and biscuits as well as plenty of time to chat. One of the main aims was to highlight the first of our Diamond Jubilee Session activities and enable members and friends to book seats on the outings. That got off to a good start with the first outing,

to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, almost achieving the level of bookings needed to break even that afternoon. Also on the financial front, it was announced that the retiring collection at the Annual service had raised another £166 for the Hayes Community Foodbank.

From the Archives

While dipping into the archives to research for our afore-mentioned Diamond Jubilee – sixty years and still going strong! – we have come up with some thoughts on how changes have occurred, or not! For example, ups and downs in our membership numbers, costs now and then, long-serving officials and members, even "Honorary Gentlemen" when we are still a men-only members organisation. The eyes were first focussed on the actual <u>appearance</u> of the records as influenced by the march of technology.

The Minutes of meetings (Committees and Annual General Meetings) were recorded at first by handwriting in a book. As perhaps attributable to the educational standards of the day they are all in a clear, flowing and readable style right up to 1980. Financial Accounts, however, have always been typed, in that characteristic typeface with some worn characters. The new millennium (2000) sees the almost universal use of computerised script with an occasional emergency lapse into handwriting of a less disciplined nature than in those earlier days! More from the archives whenever space here permits.

Normal service will be resumed next month as we write about our forthcoming activities: a talk about West Wickham in WW11, a visit to the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge and our usual walk.

Updates to our arrangements can always be found at our website (www.hayesmensfellowship.org) which is the place to go for any retired or semi-retired men, of any faith or none, to find out more about joining us. Even better, we always welcome personal approaches; our contact details are below for a friendly chat or just drop in to one of our regular monthly meetings to get to know us and you can even enjoy a free tea and biscuits! Joining is easy, just one simple form when you are ready, and payment of our very reasonable £20 subscription.

See you here in print next month or hopefully in person in the future.

Allan Evison, HMF Chairman Graham Marsden, HMF Secretary

e-mail: secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org phone: 07764 153383

St. Mary's Church, Hayes

CHARITY FAIR

SATURDAY 18thNOVEMBER

1.30 pm – 4 pm

OLD CHURCH SCHOOLS Hayes Street

Entrance £1 Adults – Children free

Cakes/Preserves- Gifts - Raffle -Books - Jigsaws - CDs Children's Activities - Face Painting

Refreshments

Supporting: St Christopher's Hospice, Children's Society, Christian Aid and CASPA

Donations of new gift items, jewellery, jigsaw puzzles, CDs and books will be gratefully received. These can either be taken to the OCS on Friday afternoon or brought to church AFTER 1st November (as storage space is very limited).

STATEMENT BY THE ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY, THE MOST REVD JUSTIN WELBY:

'Pray for the peace of Jerusalem: they shall prosper that love thee' (Psalm 122)

Our grief and shock only grows greater as more devastating news and images emerge from the abhorrent terrorist attacks in Israel. The agonising suffering endured by those who were targeted and their families can scarcely be imagined. Our hearts are broken open by the grief of Israelis and our Jewish brothers and sisters around the world, for whom this trauma and loss stands in the dark and terrible shadow of the worst days of their history.

I beg that those who have been taken hostage are set free into safety, that they and their loved ones might be released from the horror of their captivity. The anger felt by the people of Israel at the cruelty they have experienced is entirely justified. Many around the world share in that anger.

But in the face of a ground offensive in Gaza, I plead that the sins of Hamas are not borne by the citizens of Gaza, who themselves have faced such suffering over many decades. The price of evil cannot be paid by the innocent. Civilians cannot bear the costs of terrorists. International humanitarian law recognises that, for the sake of everyone's humanity, some acts can never be permissible in the chaos of warfare. I pray that Israel does everything it can to limit the harm caused to innocent civilians.

Over two million civilians in Gaza, half of them children, are facing a catastrophe. A humanitarian corridor and convoy are needed as rapidly as possible, as set out in the Geneva Conventions. I pray particularly for the Anglican-run Ahli Arab Hospital and all those caring for the injured, who need medical supplies and generator fuel.

I join with the US Secretary of State and others in urging the Israeli government to exercise their right of defence with the wisdom that might break the cycles of violence under which generations have struggled. Amidst the chaos and confusion of war, and as much as is possible, I join the calls for Israel's military response to be proportional and to discriminate between civilians and Hamas.

Pray for the people of Israel, Gaza and the West Bank. Pray for the future of the Holy Land. Pray for those who will weep, and fear, and die tonight.

Lord God, we pray, by your great mercy, defend your children from all perils and dangers of this night.

If you are able, please support the JMECA appeal for the Ahli Arab Hospital to continue providing life-saving medical care: <u>www.jmeca.org.uk/get-involved/donate/current-appeals-0/al-</u> <u>ahli-hospital-gaza-appeal</u>

THREADING A SYCAMORE THROUGH THE EYE OF A NEEDLE

Those who have visited Jerusalem will know that although not far from Jerusalem (no more than 16 miles or so), Jericho is a steep and difficult climb away. These days it's easy to lose sight of just how steep and difficult it is; along the modern highway it takes just half an hour by car or coach, but in the days of Jesus it could take eight to nine hours to walk *down* to Jericho and two days to walk *up* to Jerusalem from Jericho.

Jericho of course lies in the Jordan valley, some 840 feet below sea level making it the lowest town or city on earth. Jerusalem is around 2,400 foot above sea level. For most people that would be a long and exhausting climb!

In our church Bible study in the Gospel of Luke, we have been walking along with Jesus as He makes His way to Jerusalem. The route has been south from Galilee, along the road that follows the Jordan river. Jesus will now turn west through Jericho, and make that exhausting climb before entering Jerusalem and the final confrontation with the religious leadership of Israel.

As Jesus is leaving Jericho, He meets Zacchaeus. Or rather He catches Zacchaeus by surprise, calling him by name as Zacchaeus is hiding in a sycamore tree. Zacchaeus is a tax collector, to ordinary Jews a hated Roman collaborator and thus a social pariah. He is also very rich. Throughout the gospel so far it has been clear that the rich are so often blinded by their riches that they cannot see the Kingdom of God.

Zacchaeus was short and could not see Jesus because of the crowd. He would not want to make his way *through* the crowd. As chief tax collector in the area he would have been well known. Tax collectors collected taxes on the basis of the value of goods; and of course they set the value! He would not want to be in the middle of a crowd without a protective guard!

But he just wanted to see who Jesus was. He had heard that this man who everyone was talking about was passing through. But now Jesus looks up and calls him by name. And Jesus' call is urgent: come down *now* ... I *must* stay at your house today.

Zacchaeus responds without hesitation. At home, he offers to pay back everyone and act honestly in future. But salvation came not because of what he promised to do but was rather *evidence* of the salvation that came through his initial response to the call of Jesus.

The story shows the extraordinary power of Jesus to transform lives, whatever their background. And interestingly, by His association with him, Jesus has now taken the stigma against Zacchaeus on to Himself.

It is fascinating also how Luke has now brought into his narrative the answer to the disciples' earlier question at the time they met the rich ruler – who then can be saved? It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to be saved, said Jesus. But with God, all things are possible. And no one, even the most despised in society, is beyond the love and call of Jesus.

David James

A NEW KIND OF REMEMBRANCE POPPY

For the first time in 28 years, there is a new kind of poppy for Remembrance Sunday this year: it is plastic free.

Director of the Poppy Appeal, Andy Taylor-Whyte explains: "We are very proud to introduce the plastic-free poppy. It will not only enable people to support our Armed Forces community but also continues the RBL's commitment to sustainability."

The new poppy has been three years in the development and making. The aim was to reduce the use of single-use plastic and to "be economical, sustainable, and less impactful to the environment."

The new poppy design has a 40% smaller carbon footprint, and it made from "bespoke red and green paper." The paper comes from a blend of renewable fibres, 50 per cent of which has been recovered from the waste used in the production of coffee cups.

The plastic-free poppy will be available alongside remaining stocks of the current poppy, to reduce any waste of poppies already produced. Poppies containing single-use plastic can be returned to Sainsbury's stores for recycling.

PP News Nov 2023

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

Allan Evison has kindly made me aware of a feature in the magazine of Shirley Methodist Church, in which members of the congregation who would like to send Christmas wishes can add their name to a list published in the December issue as an alternative (or a supplement!) to sending cards. This seemed to me an idea worth stealing. If you would like your name included on a 'Greetings from' page in the December *Hayes Herald*, please email me at the address on p.16; telephone me on **0208 462 7161** and leave a message on my answerphone, or sign the sheet in the church porch. Names will be published in the format John P; Mary S, etc.

Clare Wickert (Editor)



Charity Coffee Morning

and raffle Friday 10th November in the Meetings Room 10.30am to support the work of **Mothers' Union**



Items for the December magazine by 17th Nov please. Copy to the Editor. December magazines will be ready for distribution on 2nd December.

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