

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

MEET THE TEAM

Feed the hungry,

and help those in trouble.

Then your light will shine out from the darkness,

*and the darkness around you will be as bright as noon. Isaiah 58:10
(New Living Translation)*

This month I have the opportunity to share another team at St Mary's. This team was operating for some time without me even knowing, and I am aware of many at St Mary's who serve different community groups in many different ways, not only the varied groups at church. As people of God, I believe we are given the strength and encouragement by Him, who calls all of us to shine a light into the dark places. Elizabeth now shares one of those ways.

Rev'd Amanda

St Mary's and Bromley Homeless

In May's edition of the 'Hayes Herald' I wrote about the long association St Mary's has had with Bromley Homeless providing homemade cooked food in a variety of formats depending on the pervading circumstances. Originally we provided and served food on the premises where we were able to have interaction with our guests. During Covid we were restricted to delivering our food to Bromley United Reformed Church where guests were able to collect it individually on the evening. Following Covid we provided food in individual containers which could be used on the day for people attending the Advice Centre or frozen for future use.

I also wrote in my previous article about Bromley Homeless's new venture to run a Supper Club four times a year to help grow their team of supporters. St Mary's was able to take part in this by providing the dessert

course and by helping on the night. This gave the opportunity for those of us there to work with some of the Bromley Homeless team and their guests and former guests who had sought their help. It also gave the chance to hear more about the work being done, of how wrong perceptions of homelessness can be and to hear a moving personal account of what it is like to be homeless. Unfortunately, this new venture has had to be 'parked' to allow people time to concentrate on the work involved with the new winter shelter.

The winter shelter is at Bromley United Reformed Church where a disused flat is being transformed into a five-bedroom winter shelter to help the most vulnerable rough sleepers have somewhere safe to sleep this winter. Volunteers are needed to fulfil a variety of roles in helping to keep the shelter running. These are breakfast volunteers to help the guests get ready for the day ahead; cook team volunteers to help with cooking, meal planning, budgeting and ingredient procurement; sleepover volunteers to make sure the guests feel safe at night when sleeping over in the shelter. The specific recruitment dates have now passed but should you be interested in knowing more about volunteering then please do contact me (ebarclay@hotmail.com) or Amanda (info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk) for more detailed information about the roles mentioned above. We can also give you the contact details of the Volunteer Co-ordinator at Bromley Homeless.

With thanks from both Amanda and myself to everyone who has worked on the cook team over the years for their amazing loyalty, support and adaptability.

Elizabeth Barclay



DR ROBERT PARRY-JONES

Dr Robert Parry-Jones has died at the age of 97. Some members of St Mary's will remember him as an active member of the congregation during the 2000s, until he moved in about 2008 to Salisbury, after his wife Brita had died. During his time at St Mary's he was a PCC member and sidesman. His funeral will be on **Friday 8th November** at 12 noon in St Thomas's Church, Salisbury.

ST MARY'S CHARITY GIVING SATURDAY 23 NOVEMBER, 10.30 AM

Your PCC are visiting our Charity Giving – that is the support we give every year from Church funds and that which the congregation directly support, i.e. their favourite charity, perhaps by holding a coffee morning or monies collected at a Sunday Service.

We would like you all to be involved in going forward with this initiative and so we are holding a get together on **Saturday 23 November at 10.30 am. in the Meetings Room**. We can discuss and air our views and bring suggestions for support of worthy charities.

It will be a worthwhile opportunity to look at St Mary's charitable contribution, globally, nationally and locally, so put the date in your diary and do come along. Of course there will be welcoming refreshments available.

If you are not able to be present but have a contribution to make then please contact me on **07973 483557**.

Mary Whytock



CHILDREN'S

SOCIETY

I have now a selection of Christmas Cards for sale on behalf of the Children's Society. If you would like to buy a pack or two, please ring me and I can come to you with the cards when it is convenient for you.

I shall be collecting the Children's Society collecting boxes in the next month please let me know when it will be convenient for me to collect your box.

Thank you all for supporting a much-needed charity.

Pauline Muggridge
0208462 2118
07880793914



Last night I caught a glimpse of the full moon and marvelled how bright it was. The October's full moon is known as the Hunter's Moon as it is the time of year when leaves start to fall and animals have plumped up over the summer, ready for winter. Ancient communities would therefore increase hunting at this time of year. Again, we are reminded of the greatness of God.



I am having to write this month's contribution for the Hayes Herald before we have heard our speaker Michael Douglas, trustee of The Chartwell Cancer Trust. A report on this will be in the December magazine.

On Saturday 12th October five members attended the Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union Autumn members' meeting at St Martin's Church, Barnehurst. The meeting started with Revd Helen Reeves leading a beautiful, spiritual Holy Communion. I always enjoy these services where members of the Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union have a chance to worship together. The meeting then started with the results of the election for posts for the next three years. Mary Margaret Yates will be our

Diocesan President for another three years. However, there are still several posts where there have been no volunteers. They are especially looking out for a treasurer. Sadly, this is a sign of the time where people are reluctant to take up a post.

We then had brief presentations on some of the projects Rochester Diocese support.

AFIA

In 2024 the Away From It All holiday scheme received six enquiries which resulted in four holidays being granted. Three holidays were for families, one included a grandparent and one holiday was for an older Mothers' Union member and friend. In all, seven children and seven adults benefited from the scheme. Referrals came from parish clergy, a Mothers' Union group and a community food bank scheme. The feedback from the families who benefited from AFIA makes it all worthwhile! *"C. is over the moon about the holiday. The children's excitement was a joy to behold." "We can't thank you enough. The joy and happiness that it brings can't be measured." "Thank you so much for giving us an opportunity to have a holiday – we're all so grateful!"*

Thank you to Joceyln Wright and Kate Harrison who have run this project so ably for the past four years and have now decided to step down.

Prison Project

Jenny Beaney reported that she had enjoyed visiting MU branches to give talks on the work that MU does in the prison. She has assisted in the "Sycamore Tree Course" which is a "Restorative Justice" programme for those soon to be released, with the hope of insurance that they will not re-offend. Jenny attended a special service in the Cathedral to celebrate 150 years of Rochester Prison. She commented that it was amusing to hear the band play "The Great Escape" as they left the Cathedral!! MU usually gift the prisoners with a pair of socks and sweets at Christmas.

Rochester Diocese Mothers' Union support two "Women's Refuge" centres in the Medway towns. After Christmas we will be collecting towels and toiletries for the centre.

There was a 'Rainbow' table sale to raise money for our various projects. Each deanery is allocated a couple of rainbow colours and collects and sells items in those colours, which leads to a very colourful display. I will let you know how much was raised next month.

The photo is of Cilla, Chris, Barbara, John and myself with Valerie West, who was Diocesan President of Trinidad and Tobago in the Province of the West Indies. She addressed the meeting talking of her role in the West Indies.

We will have a stall at the “**Charity Fair**” on **Saturday, 16th Nov 1.30 – 4.00**. I am running a “Teddy Bear Tombola” for MU. If you have any books/short stories which can be used as a prize please let me know so that I can collect them from you. Please come and support our stall.

On **Tuesday, 5th November**, 11.00am, there is coffee at ‘The New Inn’.

I look forward to our next meeting on **Monday, 18th November**, when **Tim Aldred** will be talking about “**His Journey**”.

A reminder that our Christmas Lunch is on **Monday, 9th December**.

If you have any requests for speakers for next year, or indeed know someone who would be willing to talk to us, or you would be willing to speak to us, please let me know as I am beginning to put together a programme for next year. Thank you.

Avril Ashford





ST MARY'S CHURCH, HAYES
CHARITY FAIR

SATURDAY 16TH NOVEMBER

1.30 - 4.00 PM

@ OLD CHURCH SCHOOL, HAYES STREET

CAKES/PRESERVES - GIFTS - CRAFTS
RAFFLE - CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES
FACE PAINTING - REFRESHMENTS

SUPPORTING: ST CHRISTOPHERS HOSPICE,
CASPA, BROMLEY WELCARE, HAYES
COMMUNITY FOODBANK

ADMISSION:
ADULTS £1 & CHILDREN FREE

ST. MARY'S CHURCH DIARY NOVEMBER 2024

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

		All Saints' Day
Friday 1st	10.00am	All Saints' Service – Holy Communion
		All Souls' Day
Saturday 2nd	12.30pm 4.00pm	Churchyard Tidy Up Service of Commemoration

ALL SAINTS' – 4TH SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 3rd	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Sunbeams session** (age 3-6)
	12.15pm	Baptism: Arabella Wren Boenke
Tuesday 5th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 6th	10.30am	Coffee morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.00pm 2.45pm	Warm Welcome Space** Hayes Men's Fellowship in OCS

3RD SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 10th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Remembrance Day Service Blaze session** (age 6-10)
Wednesday 13th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 14th	10.30-11.30am	Craft Group**
Friday 15th	10.00-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

2ND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 17th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
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	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Safeguarding Sunday
Monday 18th	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
Tuesday 19th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 20th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**

CHRIST THE KING

Saturday 23rd	10.30am	Charity Giving Get-together**
Sunday 24th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
		Blaze session** (age 6-10)
Wednesday 27th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 28th	10.30-11.30am	Craft Group**

** denotes Meetings Room

*For Zoom link contact the church office

The church is also open for quiet space on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10.00am to 12.00noon unless there is an event taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets.



HALLS FOR HIRE

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

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

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

November in the calendar is always very much about remembrance with Armistice Day on Monday 11th and Remembrance Sunday itself on the day before this year. As often in past Novembers this theme is reflected in our outing, a visit this year to the Poppy Factory in Richmond (plus a look around nearby Windsor), and is scheduled one week earlier than usual on 13th so much closer to the aforementioned acts of remembrance. This will follow our talk by Paul Condon on 6th which also has a remembrance of much earlier military activity, "Battle of the Nile" in which the British fleet under the command of Rear-Admiral Sir Horatio Lord Nelson decisively defeated the French Republic Navy in 1798.

As, usual we now turn to our reports on the activities which have recently taken place as we came to the end of our summer recess. The only event in September was our walk around the Rushmore Hill area. The weather was excellent for walking: a light breeze, overcast but not chilly and the ground was dry and firm. On leaving Coolings, the walk went through a mix of woods, fields, a golf course and tracks to a good lunch provided by 'The Rose & Crown' at Halstead. Afterwards, they went on through woods, another golf course and along roads back to the cars. There were four walkers who covered a total distance of 5 miles, with four stiles.



Our Annual Service at St Mary's marks the beginning of our new session.

The Service was led by our President, Rev'd Amanda Spence, and our Chairman, Allan Evison, assisted this year by the newly appointed Curate at St Mary's, Tim Aldred. We look forward to seeing more of him in the future. There were about 26 members at the Service which took place at the normal time for our meetings. Colin Vivian as our Pastoral Care Officer paid tribute to the members, and former members, who had died over the previous year. This was marked by a minute's silence while the hymns included the stirring "Abide with me". Colin was also awarded his certificate of appointment as one of the Fellowship's Honorary Vice Presidents in recognition of his support for the Fellowship over many years and in a variety of different roles. David Rowedder's reading was 1 Corinthians

12.14-26 about the body being made up of many parts, but all those parts being needed. Revd Amanda picked up on this in her Reflections, where she likened this to the Church itself and indeed the Fellowship where all the members have different roles to play and support each other.

After the Service, there was a brief meeting at the OCS joined by another 12 members. Tea and biscuits were quickly served while we were given details of forthcoming meetings, outings and walks. Many bookings were made, as well subscriptions paid and new membership cards issued. It was good to meet up with friends again after the break so, altogether, a successful meeting.

With our programme of events back to full schedule from October, we shall have much more to report in December including a preview of our Annual Lunch in January at a different venue! If that tickles the taste buds even more to join our friendly membership and you are a retired or semi-retired man of any faith or none (or someone in your life fits that description) please use the contact details below or browse our website at www.hayesmensfellowship.org.

Allan Evison, HMF Chairman **Graham Marsden, HMF Secretary**
Contact details: secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org
or phone 07764 153383:

FROM SANCTUARY TO SAVIOUR

“How dare you come here drunk like this!”. Hannah had been deep in her own thoughts, pouring out her heart in silent prayer, oblivious to all else around her. Old Eli the priest had immediately jumped to conclusions when he had seen the silently moving lips; surely she had over-indulged with the wine. After all, thought Eli, she had nothing else to do with her time. Most women of her age would be busily distracted by noisy children demanding a mother’s complete attention. But Hannah was not a mother. Yet, oh, how she longed to give her husband Elkanah children. And there was no doubt that Elkanah loved her but his efforts to comfort her had been a little clumsy. “Isn’t my love enough for you” he had asked gently. Well-meant perhaps but in the circumstances not terribly helpful. But then in reality there was probably little he could say to give her any comfort.

Hannah’s pain was intensified by Penninah, Elkanah’s other wife, who lost no opportunity to tease her about her failure to have children. And so, at the time of their annual trip to worship at Shiloh, the main Israelite centre of worship, the anguished prayer to the Lord just poured out of Hannah at the entrance to the sanctuary.

The Biblical story of Hannah is striking. And spoiler alert: yes, she does in due course have children. And her first child, Samuel, will play a pivotal role in the history of Israel.

We all love stories of course, whether telling them or just listening. The Bible is just packed full of stories. Some like Hannah's are very moving. Some are page turners. Some are pacey, others move with rising dramatic tension. Some have slices of humour which we read with a wry smile. And some make us angry (they are meant to). Some are difficult to grasp. Or accept. They make us think deeply (they are meant to). But they all involve to some extent or another, the lives of, most often, ordinary men and women who experience some extraordinary engagement with the living God.

And of course they are all part of one larger story, the story of God working through history, to bring salvation to mankind, the first page of which starts in the Old Testament and reaches its climax in the gospel story, and the cross of Jesus, Israel's Messiah.

In our central Bible Study sessions*, we have recently been exploring how these stories in the OT help us to understand the New. We began with the story of Abraham, called by God and promised that through him all nations would be blessed. Next, the story of Moses whom God called to lead out God's people from slavery and captivity in Egypt.

And recently we looked at the life of Samuel. Beginning with the story of his family, we reflected on how his mother Hannah had thrown herself on to the mercy of God, the God of her fathers, the God of Moses and of Israel; and as we read her prayer, of thanks and praise to the God who had answered her deep hunger, we were struck by echoes of another mother, Mary, who one thousand years later, inspired by the same Spirit, rejoiced in the same God who "has filled the hungry with good things" (Luke 1:53).

And thirty years later Jesus Himself, the incarnate God who had answered Hannah's prayer, also said "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied" (Matthew 5:6).

The temptation for us today is to hold these stories at arm's length, to see them as someone else's story. But we each have our own story. That fits into the larger story. And our own journey. And as Jesus said to Peter, when Peter tried to question his friend John's story: 'what is that to you? You must follow me'. (John 21:23).

David James

**Meet 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the Church Meeting Room, 11am -12.15.*

DOGS

A dog can be the truest friend,
No moods to spoil friendship,
Only love.

Some bought in haste are never loved,
Given names but never family,
Then moved on.

Others, loved beyond words,
Leave behind such memories
And broken hearts.

Their eyes display no malice,
Just love that longs to be
Yours forever.

Man can be so cruel,
Not fit to own a dog
Or be its friend.

Some dogs, abandoned as rubbish,
Have eyes that died
With no love left.

I want to take them home
And hold them to my heart
Till love returns.

Our dog can stare at me sometimes.
She'll try so hard to fix my eyes
As if to talk.

It's such a special moment
And I see the love of God,
Both joy and sadness.

David Langford

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY HERITAGE FUND AWARDS NEARLY £5 MILLION FOR CONSERVATION IN C OF E

The Church of England has been awarded nearly £5 million to fund a “much needed” expansion in work to conserve cultural and historical heritage in parish churches in a grant from The National Lottery Heritage Fund.

A further £85 million is expected to be awarded through The National Lottery Heritage Fund’s National Lottery Grants for Heritage programme over the next three years, with any place of worship in the UK, of any religion or denomination, encouraged to apply.

Eilish McGuinness, Chief Executive of The National Lottery Heritage Fund, said: “Places of worship are some of the UK’s most historic buildings often at the heart of communities. There are many challenges facing these places, some new and others long-standing.

“We are delighted to be supporting the Church of England’s conservation grants scheme and we are looking forward to working with other organisations across the UK to develop their own strategic interventions for places of worship of all denominations to tackle the problems they face.”

Emily Gee, the Church of England’s Director of Cathedrals and church buildings, said: “We are hugely grateful to the Heritage Fund... It will enable us to expand our support to parishes in their crucial work to preserve our treasured cultural heritage, including the conservation of stained glass, wall paintings, clocks, bells, paintings and monuments.

“It will also provide a programme to enable churches to partner with educational institutions in the training of a new generation of heritage craft skill specialists, who are vital to the ongoing preservation of this diverse and rich heritage.”

Details of how to apply to the scheme will be announced later this year. For further enquiries please contact the [Church of England’s buildings team](#).

PP News Nov24

HAYES LIGHTS 23RD NOVEMBER

St Mary’s has been invited to sing as part of Churches Together in Hayes this year at 4.25pm. If you are able to join us please let Rev Amanda or Gail know. They are also looking for volunteers in the lead up and on the day. Please help if you are able; just let us know:

info@stmaryshayeskent.co.uk

SHOULD CHRISTIANS GO TO WAR?

Have you ever wondered how people of peace, like Christians, can contemplate the use of force? Certainly, the violence of the first quarter of the 21st century is staggering. Terrorist activity and military conflict worldwide – the resulting loss of life is never be something of which the human race can be proud. No wonder such mayhem causes us distress – and this distress should ideally drive us to prayer.

As for what Christians should do, here are some questions to consider:



1. Do we believe in the validity of punishment?

The answer, surely, must be Yes – if there is such a thing as objective truth and a given morality by which human life is ordered. If this were not so, we would have to remove from our vocabulary such words as ‘reward’, ‘merit’, justice’ and even ‘forgiveness’.

Punishment is not a popular word in circles that dislike the language of retribution, and who speak rather of ‘corrective punishment’. However, St Paul said that secular authority is “God’s servant, an agent of wrath to bring punishment on the wrongdoer.” (Romans 13:4, NIV). So, the treatment of wrongdoing must have a retributive element in it, if it is ever to be corrective.

2. Is there a difference between force and violence?

The use of force is the disciplinary exercise of lawful authority – as seen, for example, in a well-run police force. This is a valid part of God’s order. St Paul said: “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities...he who rebels is rebelling against what God has instituted....” (Romans 13:1,2 IV)

Of course, ‘force’ can become ‘violence’ under a repressive authority. Revelation 13:5-8 depicts such authorities as a blasphemous “beast”. Then the call can indeed be for civil disobedience. The earliest Trades Unions themselves were begun through Christian influence!

3. Do we assent to the depravity of the human heart?

People are selfish. We can't be trusted to behave well towards others. So, our societies need to agree rules for our order and survival. Without such restraints, and the power to apply them, chaos and anarchy are the result.

A Christian is called to shun all violence, but to also be committed to the disciplined use of force. Sadly, a lot of muddled thinking takes place (especially during times of international conflict) when the debate fails to take account of the difference between violence and force. Force is concerned with the upholding of law. Violence is concerned with the overthrow of law.



Items for the December magazine by 22nd November please. Copy to the Editor: Clare Wickert, 3 Hayes Garden, Hayes.

December magazines will be ready for distribution on 7th December.

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