

Rev 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

NOVEMBER 2025

This month we hear from our Curate, Rev Tim Aldred.

Loving The Stranger

Societies have wrestled throughout history with migration. This is also true today, and we are seeing a passionate public debate take place. Can Christian teaching help us think about this issue? Of course, the Bible doesn't give us an instruction manual, but it can help us think about the values we are called to uphold as Christians.

In the Old Testament, Moses taught the Israelites not to "wrong or oppress a resident alien, for you were yourselves aliens in the land of Egypt" (Exodus 22:21). This would have been radical teaching. The emerging nation was under pressure from their neighbours, but were still to treat foreigners with respect. Leviticus even states that foreigners should be treated the same as citizens (Leviticus 19:34).

Jesus also emphasised caring for the vulnerable, and welcoming strangers. He said that those who do so are caring for God's children – even for God himself. In a famous passage he said "just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me" (Matthew 25). The first Christians also followed this teaching: for example, the book of Hebrews says that Christians should offer hospitality to foreigners (Hebrews 13).

This doesn't mean that we shouldn't have questions or debates about migration. There are real issues that need addressing and it is important that there are proper laws and political discussion about managing migration properly.

What it tells us is that for Christians, everyone is a child of God, worthy of God's love and of our love and respect. This applies whoever they are, and whatever their background.

At the moment a minority have taken the opportunity of the migration debates to make racist comments and paint racist graffiti, even threaten violence, not only against migrants, but also against anyone who is not white. Astonishingly, some have even claimed to do so in the name of protecting Christianity. That is not treating others as Jesus taught. Racism is about as far as you can get from Christian teaching.

What can we do? Some simple things will make all the difference.

When we discuss this issue, we can be respectful of everyone, whether UK citizens, UK residents, refugees or asylum seekers, remembering that everyone is a child of God. If we are Christians, we can read what the Bible has to say about the treatment of strangers. Those in elected office have a special responsibility, to debate and set the right migration policy, in ways that do not encourage a racist minority.

And of course, we can pray: for refugees, for politicians, our communities, and ourselves. For our society to be one where everyone is treated as the child of God that they already are.

Rev Tim Aldred

THE BROMLEY THREE FAITHS GROUP

The Bromley Three Faiths Group, which includes among its members Bromley Synagogue, Keston Mosque, and church leaders (including Bromley's Area Dean, Rev Andrew McLellan) have launched a joint appeal for humanitarian aid in Gaza. Donations will go directly to the Disasters Emergency Committee (DEC) appeal for Gaza, who will distribute funds through its member charities. To donate, go to www.gofundme.com/f/Humanitarian-Appeal-For-Gaza or use the QR code shown.



MAKING MIRACLES - THE BIG KNIT 2025

A group of us from the St. Mary's Craft Group went down to Rochester Cathedral on Saturday 11th October. We took with us about 180 knitted squares plus 30 blankets, some knitted and some crochet blankets. We had a lovely morning meeting the organisers and other fellow knitters. We enjoyed coffee and cake during the morning whilst knitting a few more squares.

Thank you everybody who has donated wool to the group. We shall keep on knitting for next year's meet and also knitting hats and scarfs for the Mission to Seafarers.



Pauline Muggridge



I've done a lot of thinking recently. Sometimes I dread turning on the news as crises follow crises and good news seems rare. The world seems to be changing so fast and so much today seems confusing.

I realise that I was born in a very different era. A time when bought cakes were a total luxury; when shopping meant walking with my mother, carrying her wicker basket, up to Cullens in old Hayes village, armed with a ration book. We would buy bacon, sliced off a big ham. We would buy sugar carefully weighed out into a blue bag, cheese and butter, both cut off a big block, and then walk home. We wouldn't stop for a coffee or any other treat. We had dinner at midday and then 'high tea' after listening to Mrs Dale's Diary! How safe and halcyon those days seemed even though we were growing up in the shadow of a world war! How different it is when we turn on today's news. Everywhere there seems to be unrest and rumours of war. That all seems very frightening. Everything today happens at break-neck speed, so I just thank God for my Christian faith and my church family and the assurance we have in knowing that, despite everything, our hope is in JESUS and we are in safe hands.

Hayes Food Bank: We invited team members of Hayes Food Bank to give a talk to our October Mothers' Union meeting on what they do. We were delighted to hear from Alison and Claire, who are a senior part of a 40-volunteer team. It really was an eye opener as to all the jobs they cover. Hayes Food Bank has more than 30 families who receive help. The guest speakers advised they have created a list which incorporates the number of family members, any allergies, gluten free, vegetarians to name but a few of the things they need to take into consideration. Families are treated with respect and anonymity. It



just takes a set of circumstances to be in the position where one might need help. The team deliver the food to the families and apart from their time they use their own cars, fuel etc. Team members order the food from supermarkets with the monetary donations they gratefully receive. Upon delivery the team put the stock on the appropriate shelves, fridge or freezer. It sounds like a mini supermarket! The carrier bag of food might just be what is needed to see a family through the week. We were able to give them a donation of £85 for the food bank.



On Saturday, 25th October there was the Autumn Members' Meeting at St Justus Church, Rochester. John, Cilla and myself attended the meeting. There was a 'Rainbow' table sale there in aid of Mothers' Union charities. Bromley and Bexley table was yellow and blue. A report on the meeting will be in next month's magazine.

In 2026 we will be celebrating 150 years since Mothers' Union was founded in the small parish church of Old Alresford, Hampshire by Mary Sumner. She was a young vicar's wife with a bold vision that women could come together to support one another and to strengthen families. Since then, MU has grown into a global movement with over 4 million members in 84 countries. To mark its 150th anniversary, Mothers' Union is planning a global gathering in South Africa in October 2026. Here in the UK a celebratory service will be held at St Paul's Cathedral on **10th June 2026 at 5.00pm**. The tickets for the service at St Paul's Cathedral are on sale now. They are £15.00 plus Eventbrite booking fee. If you would like to go please let me know and I will try and purchase them. The tickets are limited; each province has an amount based on membership, half are on sale today, second release will be on 16th December and all remaining tickets will be released on 16th February 2026. There are instructions for buying and attending, please read carefully. Be sure to buy in the Canterbury (CAN) allotment; you have to say which diocese you belong to and each ticket requires a name and an email address.

Tickets for the Annual Gathering at The Emmanuel Centre (next to Mary Sumner House), which is on 11th June 2026, 10.30 am – 4.30pm, will be released on 16th November. Again, if you would like to attend, please let me know.

On November we look forward to welcoming James Townsend who will be telling us about the work of Operation Agri. There will be a plate for donations towards this charity.

Our next meetings are:

Tues 4th November 11.30am Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes

Mon 17th November 10.30am James Townsend is talking about the work of 'Operation Agri'

Tues 2nd December 11.30am Social gathering at 'The New Inn' Hayes

Mon 15th December 12.00 for 12.30 Christmas meal at The New Inn.

If you are interested in finding out more about Mothers' Union, please contact Avril Ashford on **0208 468 7785** or just come along to one of our meetings. You will be most welcome.

Avril Ashford

FOR HOW MANY MINUTES CAN YOU CONCENTRATE?

Most of us can watch television for only about 15 minutes, or read a book for about 14 minutes, before we lose our concentration. Most of us blame our social media notifications as the reason.

A recent survey by Perspectus Global for Lingo by Abbott, found that Instagram, Facebook, WhatsApp and message alerts were named as the main culprits.

It seems we can focus for only 11 minutes on a virtual work call, or 13 minutes in a face-to-face meeting, or 12 minutes writing a work email. We even seem to lose concentration at family gatherings after only 14 minutes. Overall, four in five of us say that we get distracted easily, and that we lose our focus around eight times each day.

PP Nov 2025

[For all our sakes, let's hope brain surgeons, air-traffic controllers, long-distance lorry drivers etc. have higher than average reserves of focus! – Ed]



ST MARY'S CHURCH, HAYES
CHARITY FAIR

SATURDAY 29TH NOVEMBER

1.30 - 4.00 PM

@ OLD CHURCH SCHOOLS, 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 2025

Morning Prayers take place daily at 9.15am Monday to Wednesday on Zoom* and Monday to Friday in Church (10am on Saturday) throughout the year, except Bank Holidays.

Saturday 1st 10.00am All Saints' Service

ALL SAINTS' DAY

Sunday 2nd	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Parish Communion CW
		Sunbeams session** (age3-6)
Tuesday 4th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 5th	10.30am-12.00noon	Coffee Morning for the bereaved and those living on their own**
	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
	2.45pm	Hayes Men's Fellowship in OCS
Saturday 8th	12.30pm	Churchyard Tidy Up

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

Sunday 9th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	10.30am	Remembrance Service
		Sunbeams and Blaze session** (age 3-10)
Tuesday 11th	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group**
Wednesday 12th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 13th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE ADVENT

Sunday 16th	8.00am	Holy Communion BCP
	9.15am	Fresh Start
	10.30am	Morning Praise: Safeguarding Sunday

Monday 17th	10.30am	Mothers' Union**
Tuesday 18th	11.00am-12.15pm	Bible Study**
Wednesday 19th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Friday 21st	10.00am-11.00am	Twinkles – singing, story, snacks**

CHRIST THE KING

Sunday 23rd	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion CW Blaze session** (age 6-10)
Tuesday 25th	10.00-11.00am	Prayer Group**
Wednesday 26th	12.30-3.00pm	Warm Welcome Space**
Thursday 27th	10.30am-12.30pm	Craft Group**

ADVENT SUNDAY

Sunday 30th	8.00am 10.30am	Holy Communion BCP Morning Praise Sunbeams session** (age3-6)
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*For Zoom link contact the church office ** denotes Meetings Room

The church is also open for quiet space on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 10am to 12.00noon unless there is a wedding or funeral taking place. Details of these will be given in the weekly pew sheets.



RECENT FUNERALS IN THE PARISH

Dorothy Cynthia Burrows

Alfred James Rudduck

HAYES MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

November is always the month for Remembrance and some of our activities from October through to December reflect that theme in various ways.

Our annual service which always starts each new session of HMF in October, and this year was held actually on the first day of that month, is the opportunity for existing members to remember those who had died in the twelve months since our previous service.

This is the customary role of our Pastoral Care Officer (PCO). The retiring holder of this office is Colin Vivian, who is making a remarkable recovery from serious health problems which did not prevent him from making an outstanding contribution at the lectern with his rich memories of friendships cultivated over many years with the members to be remembered: Peter Leigh, Brian Bugler, Philip Sheardown and Jim Rudduck. Colin started his address by briefly outlining his medical problems which had kept him out of circulation and adding a declaration he likened to Arnold Schwarzenegger of "I'm back!" This helped to add to the applause he received before his successor as PCO, Allan Evison, who was supporting him with names and dates of membership, asked the congregation to stand in a moment of silent reflection. A remarkable retiring collection of £99 was achieved in favour of the Hayes Community Foodbank, the regular charity supported by HMF. Total attendance, in church and in the subsequent informal meeting in the OCS was 32. And a final note of remembrance was added by our organist, Alan Hinton, who, in addition to three scheduled hymns, added a closing voluntary of the 'Dambusters' theme music!

The only other activity to report on is a walk in the Foxendown area which seems to have been rather eventful. Our group enjoyed perfect weather for walking – ideal temperature with a mix of cloud and



sunshine. From Camer Park they soon left the minor road and went through wooded areas, across and alongside fields and some minor lanes. Despite severe difficulties, such as the footpath being completely blocked on two occasions, obstructed by massive brambles at other times necessitating climbing over a few fences, they managed to stay cheerful! Arriving at 'The Cricketers' in Meopham Green much later than planned, they were provided with an excellent lunch before the 1.7 mile walk back to their cars. The total distance covered by the eight walkers should have been 5.7 miles but forced diversions made it nearer 8 or 9 miles – rather longer than planned!

On Wednesday 15th October the first outing of this new session will have taken place. This promised (at the time of writing) to be a packed coach towards Ramsgate, but first visiting the Kent Battle of Britain Museum at Hawkinge. This is on the site of RAF Hawkinge which served as a crucial front-line fighter station and a forward refuelling base for RAF Fighter Command during the Second World War. On this year when we have remembered and celebrated eighty years of relative peace since the end of WW2 the planned detailed report here in December's issue should stimulate further thoughts of those earlier times, which many of our current members lived through.

Looking ahead, this calendar year we have two meetings and one further outing to look forward to:

- On **5th November** we have a talk by a visiting speaker Lara Murphy about the history and work of the Dogs Trust;
- On **19th November** we have an outing to Guildford Cathedral (including a tour) and then time in Guildford itself; and lastly
- On **3rd December** we have a talk by another visiting speaker, Nick Gibson, about life in the trenches in WW1.

We hope our monthly reports in these pages whet the appetite of any retired or semi-retired men who may wish to join HMF. Contact details below or take a look at our website; www.hayesmensfellowship.org, or even drop in at one of our monthly meeting and enjoy a free tea and biscuits as you get to know us. We meet on the first Wednesday of most months from 2.45. Next dates are 5 November and 3 December.

Until then or in these pages every month, bye for now.

Allan Evison, Asst Secretary

Graham Marsden, Secretary

**Contact details: secretary@hayesmensfellowship.org
or phone : 07764 153383**

PRAYER TABLE AND TREE

Some years ago the Cameo Bible Study Group set up the prayer table and tree as a space for visitors and our Congregation to use for prayer, reflection and remembrance, and also for support information to be available for those who wished to access it.

At a PCC meeting earlier in the year, it was decided to refresh the space to make it more noticeable when entering the Church. Stuart Spence spearheaded a funding application to the Diocesan Missional Property Fund for a grant to revamp and update the Children's and Family area at the back of church as well as the prayer area.

We were very fortunate to have our application granted, and the prayer area was refreshed in time for the Open House weekend in September. The Children's and Family area is a rather larger project and is still a work in progress.

Particular thanks go to Stuart for a successful grant application and to Melita for the beautiful table covering she has made for the prayer table.

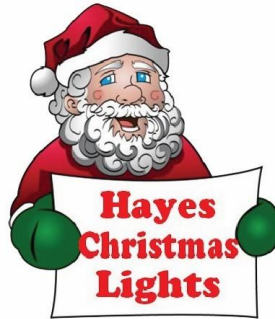


Ann Lawrance and Rosemary Smith



Hayes Christmas Lights Committee

Working together to support the local community



Saturday 22nd November 2025

**From 2:00pm to 5:30pm
Lights switch-on at 5:00pm**

**The New Inn
59 Station Approach, Hayes, BR2 7EA**

Free Admission!

Festive Stalls | Santa's Grotto | Carol Singing

An event proudly sponsored by Boots Opticians Hayes

Boots Opticians

November 1918-2018

When Will They Ever Learn?

*Favoured children, born to peace;
This happening, this bloody curse.
As they trundle home from school
Someone blows the final call.
A hundred years ago these boys
Left their families and their toys,
Took the ticket over sea
To fight for king and country.*

*Now one of their own chose to end
A life: school-mate, could-be friend.
Round a corner, lay in wait,
Blade at ready points to fate;
Running off, another life
Writhes in agony to a knife.
A century re-lived, a last breath,
Urban street or battle: signals death.*

*Children, understanding nought
Of what killing fields have wrought
Re-enact a senseless game
Inflict suffering and pain
Oblivious to a double dare:
Mirror what went on 'over there'.
Whatever reason, fair or foul
A lesson should be learnt by now.*

*What took place that November,
Poppies worn to remember
Reflects youth's blithe aggression,
Today's spirited cutthroat passion,
Adding their names to the past.
Proud men lost their lives to fight,
Left home and family, to pay,
So fools can kill again one day.*

Mary Glover Bandy

FROM DANIEL TO MARK.

In our previous series of Bible studies* we had been studying the OT book of Daniel. We have now turned to the New Testament gospel of Mark.

Daniel, writing at the end of the sixth century BC had outlined in detail the rise and fall of the global empires that were to come. Yet, five hundred years later, when Mark writes his gospel, the situation of the people of Israel had not changed. Though they had now returned from exile, living once again in the land of Israel, their ancestral home, they were still under the rule of a foreign power. Roman might now dominated their lives much as Persia had in the latter days of Daniel.

But one thing had changed. The world had changed. The one Daniel referred to as son of man had appeared. A seed had been sown. The mighty empires of Persia, Macedonia, the Ptolemies and Seleucids, Rome all ruled through the exercise of naked power. They could not be challenged except by power. But now a new power had arrived in the world that would change people's lives not through the power of the sword but the power of God's love poured out for all men and women in the death of His Son Jesus.

Crazy? The Roman authorities thought so. Those who opposed their power had to be dealt with through intimidation and force. Rome's success was built on organised and systematic brutality. Pilate was told that Jesus was a threat because He claimed to be a king. Pilate knew all about threats to Roman power, and he knew one when he saw one. That was his job. But Pilate knew that Jesus was no threat. At least not in the sense that Rome feared. But clearly Pilate was unnerved in Jesus' presence. But he was also unnerved by the hatred the religious authorities had towards Jesus.

Your accusers say that you claim to be a king. Is that right? demanded Pilate. Yes, said Jesus. But not as you imagine. My kingdom is not of this world.

The gospel of John fills out for us the brilliant interplay between Pilate and Jesus. But in Mark, the simply and starkly recorded question and answer resonates because of one of the striking motifs in his gospel. The question on the lips of all who meet Jesus: **Who is this man?**

For His three ministry years Jesus walks amongst His people. He is the sovereign Son of God but He serves the people in humility and with compassion, teaching about righteousness and healing those who need help. He sides with the vulnerable. And He teaches with authority. The people are puzzled but captivated. Who is this who forgives sins?

Who is this who commands the wind and the sea? Where did he get these powers from?

We the reader are let into the secret from the start. As the gospel opens, John the Baptist points to Jesus and a voice from heaven declares and confirms Him as the Son of God. But who do the people believe Him to be? He is veiled yet not to the eye of faith. Eventually His own disciples get it: 'You are the Christ'.

In the end Pilate the Roman deals with the perceived threat in the only way he knows. For Romans the ultimate expression of their power was crucifixion. The cross.

After Jesus' ascension, His disciples preached the cross as good news. But that the death of God's own and only Son, was the means through which humanity was being saved, was to the Romans pure foolishness, as Paul later explained (1 Corinthians 1:22). Worse, it was offensive.

Yet ironically, it is left to a pagan, a Roman centurion at the foot of the cross when Jesus died, to point to the future and the universal scope of Christ's saving death. Witnessing the last moments of Jesus and His death, for him the evidence was overwhelming: Truly this man was the Son of God.

David James

**All are warmly invited to join us. We meet first and third Tuesdays in the Church Meeting Room, 11am -12.15pm.*

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**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](mailto:ocs.hayes@hotmail.com)**  
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Photo on p.10 by Tony Archer

Items for the Dec magazine by 16th Nov please. Copy to the Editor. December magazines will be ready for distribution on 30th Nov.

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