

Mothers Union

John Earle kindly led a most memorable MU meeting centred around theatrical games and much fun was had by all. We recited and projected, breathed and enunciated, zoofered and zapped, caused small and large ripples with our voices and laughed until we cried, some of us even got headbutted mid-hysteria. MUCH fun was had by all, thank you John!

Our next MU meeting is as always open to everyone, and we hope that many of you will come and join us to listen to David Dewey talking to us about his life, aptly titled "Not all clergymen are boring – look at me!" I'm sure many of you remember David and would like to hear more about his interesting and entertaining life.

Please come and join us in the Church Meeting Room on Tuesday 29th March at 8pm. As usual there is no charge, just turn up and you will be made very welcome. If you need a lift please contact me.

Hope to see you there.

Make a Mother's Day 2011

The Mothers' Union ethical gift leaflets for Mothering Sunday are at the back of Church for anyone who would like to pick one up. The gifts start from £3 and for only £3 for the "What a Relief" gift you can help pay for food, blankets, cooking utensils, mosquito nets or whatever is needed at the scene of a disaster.

MU Relief Fund

This year our MU Deanery is supporting the MU Relief Fund, which makes such a huge difference to the lives of ordinary people in times of crisis.

The Mothers' Union Relief Fund provides emergency financial help for communities affected by natural disaster or conflict. Although an internationally renowned organisation, the grassroots nature of Mothers' Union means that it is exceptionally

well placed within communities to quickly obtain food, materials and medicines for immediate distribution where most needed.

MU wires funds directly to local members and they buy grain, medicine, blankets or whatever is needed as nearby as they can and then they take it to the people who really need it.

It is that simple. Ordinary people doing extraordinary things, but they need our support.

Rosemary Bolton 01992 589535.

View from the Pew

With so much going on we must not forget that **Lent will be starting on 9 March**. Ash Wednesday services will be held at Holy Trinity and St. Andrews at 8pm. There are a variety of Bible Study groups meeting on different days and details are on pages two and three of this magazine. The group being led by All Saints will be on Monday nights starting on 14th at 140 North Road.

It is now confirmed that Elliott James (married to Nina Villa, the Clerk to Hertford Town Council, and whom many of you will know) will be joining us after his ordination on July 3 at the Abbey. More on this in the coming months. He will be spending about a year with us and then moving on to the other churches in the Team for a period at each. These are very exciting times and certainly whilst I have been at All Saints (about 20 years) we have never had a Deacon or Curate. Elliott and Nina have already been to a couple of our 10.00AM services. Please give them a very warm welcome when you see them.

The "January Jolly" again proved to be very successful and popular. There were about 65 present and incredibly you gave nearly £500, which was more than our wildest dreams – thank you all for your generosity. It resulted in a profit of about £350. Thank you to Janet, Dorothy, Viviane, Denise, Renee and all who helped in any way.

The 'Outreach' meeting on 26 January came up with some excellent ideas and I would ask that if you have not returned your questionnaire please do so ASAP to Jo, Dorothy or me. It is important to us to know which ideas you would be willing to support with offers of help. We have already decided to start having tea parties on a Sunday afternoon for the elderly in the parish and the first will be on **29th May** with further ones scheduled for **31 July** and **23 October** – please put these dates in your diary – lots of help will be needed.

At the time of writing it is little more than 3 weeks from Jo starting her sabbatical. So that we can wish her a peaceful and restful 3 months we are holding **a lunch on Sunday 6 March at 12 noon**. Although this is a little early, the idea is so that we can move directly from coffee and chat in church after the Family Service without going home. It will be "bring and share", but please sign up in church with your contribution. Jo and Doug will visit Nepal and Tibet in late April for about 3 weeks.

While Jo is on sabbatical, a large number of the services will be covered by clergy from the Team. In addition we are very fortunate to have Archdeacon Trevor with us through Holy Week and on Easter Sunday. To cover other services we have Gerry, who needs no introduction and welcome back David Dewey (Thursdays 11.00), Ann Voss, who will celebrate communion on a couple of occasions, and Rod Higham.

Andrew Povey-Richards

Christian Aid Walk 2011

This year's Christian Aid walk will be on Saturday 7th May and will be starting from St John's Hall – conveniently for us! As usual All Saints' is responsible for manning the initial checkpoint and I would really appreciate some help as usual. As you probably know it is an early start but at least we finish at 9.30am and are then free for the rest of the day. We cannot run this checkpoint without helpers like you and Christian Aid is a well

known and well respected charity that does a huge amount of good across the world.

Please contact me if you can help (unless I have managed to see you first!), either call me on 01992 589535 or 07889 589535 or email me on rosemary@arfg.co.uk

Thank you!

Rosemary

Art Group Talk – All welcome

There will be an illustrated talk by the ever popular Dr Roger Aubery at 7.30pm in the meeting room on Thursday 10th March. As many of you will know, Dr Aubery is an excellent speaker and his talks are always well attended. He has a huge collection of slides and an endless knowledge of religious art.

This time he will be speaking on Mary Magdalene as depicted in art. If you have never been to one of Dr Aubery's talks before, do give it a try. You will be very pleasantly surprised. We can guarantee you an informative and light hearted evening with lots of opportunity to ask questions.

The cost is only £2 on the night which includes tea, coffee and biscuits; all proceeds go to the Isabel Hospice.

Fire at All Saints



There will be an illustrated talk by Sheila White in St John's Hall, at 7.30pm on Saturday 19th March entitled "**All Saints – the Disastrous Fire of 1891**". Sheila gave this talk at Hertford Museum in the summer; it proved extremely popular and entertaining as some of the members of our congregation who attended (and are coming to hear it again!) will verify. She has a good collection of slides and a wealth of knowledge on the fire in the old All Saints Church – how it started and how the money was raised to rebuild the Church etc. Tickets are available at £5 per head from the Churchwardens, Denise and Renee and

include cheese and wine. The talk and slides will begin at 7.30pm followed by refreshments and then there will be a question and answer session. Do book early as this is likely to be a very popular evening and not to be missed!

Nature Group

Twenty three members of the recently-formed All Saints' Nature Group met on February 5th for a talk on water voles by Martin Ketcher, of the Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust.

Martin is involved in a three-year project to protect water voles and help their numbers to increase. He showed us maps illustrating how widespread water voles used to be throughout the country, and how sharply their numbers have dipped. Hertfordshire is no exception, and they can now only be found in a few areas of the county – most notably along the Mimram.

He explained the many reasons for their decline – domestic cats, overgrazing of fields near the water's edge, ploughing too close, dredging and pollution. However these problems almost pale into insignificance alongside the biggest threat to water voles: the American mink! This is a non-native species, but is found along our riverbanks because they were released from mink farms some years ago by animal rights activists. The female mink in particular can get into water vole nests, and eat our poor water voles!

However, there is hope for our native species, and Martin and groups of volunteers are doing their best to help their recovery and the control of mink. They survey riverbanks for evidence of water voles and put out mink traps where they are detected.

Martin explained that water voles are very difficult to spot in the wild, but it is much easier to find evidence of their presence. With this in mind, he is taking us on a Guided Walk of King's Meads, Ware, on Saturday April 2nd starting at 2.30pm.

If you would like to join us, or would like more information, please contact me on 01992 535805, oates13@virginmedia.com, or Fiona Earle on 01992 462467.

Kath Oates

Mick Holder

We were very saddened to learn of the recent death of Mick Holder. We remember Mick as a great Christian who never ever forgot his friends and kept in touch with them all either by telephone or by his prolific letter writing. He wanted to know whether they were well and was always interested in keeping up with life at All Saints.

Brian's memories are of Mick joining the Choir, where it was quickly discovered that he could neither sing in tune or softly! He had lessons to try to overcome his disabilities but to no avail.

Mick will be very fondly remembered as founder of the All Saints Junior Choir Football Team and he arranged regular matches with other choirs and schools. His generosity and enthusiasm knew no bounds, particularly when it came to the end of season presentation evening. Everyone received an award, from the 'top goal scorer', 'man of the match', 'most improved player' etc., to the 'most regular spectator' and the 'ladies who washed the kit'! No-one was forgotten. The boys adored him and he was greatly missed when he left Hertford to move to Norfolk.

Even after his move his enthusiasm continued and he was very proud to be Cross Bearer at his Church every Sunday.

In memory of Mick, we feel that we should all accept the advice which he pronounced in each and every one of his letters to "Keep Smiling". What better tribute could we pay this unique and special man?

God bless you Mick.

Brian Bromley and Denise Dilley