

Mothers Union

Wed 5th March

Count your Blessings Calendar

Calendars will be available from Ann for us to count our Blessings during Lent, proceeds to MU Projects.

Fri 7th March 2pm

Women's World Day of Prayer

Hertford Methodist Church – Egypt

Sat 15th March 9.45am

Sharing Day Welwyn

Weds 26th March 7.30pm

Lady Day Service in Stapleford Church

Sunday 30th March 10am

Mothering Sunday Service

"Make a Mother's Day" – Mothers' Union ethical gift catalogues available from the back of the Church.

Mon 31st March 7pm Lent Meditation

Ginni Dear will lead us in a Lent reflection based on the Easter Journey in the Church at 7pm.

For more details see either Rosemary Bolton or Ann Stephens-Jones.

Celebrating 20 years of Women in the Priesthood.

You are invited to join in the celebration Eucharist on **Thursday March 13th at 7.30pm at All Saints' Church Hertford.**

The celebrant will be the Venerable Christine Hardman; the Bishop of Hertford Paul Bayes will preach and we will be joined by the Archdeacon of Hertford Trevor Jones. The Revd Jo Spreadbury, a member of General Synod and the Liturgical Committee is preparing the Liturgy.

There will be celebratory refreshments after the service.

Do you have a Heart for Hertford? Lent 2014 'Serving the Community'.

**Methodist Church, Ware Road, Hertford
7:50p.m. for 8:00 p.m.**

It is clear that Churches and voluntary organisations are being called on to provide a range of services that not only meet the spiritual, but the physical needs of the community, and being part of what is now called 'The Third Sector' responding to the needs of groups and individuals in the community, in a manner that is appropriate, measured, and true to our calling. Please reserve your Monday evenings in March for four special audio visual events that promise to inform, challenge and get you thinking about 'Serving the Community'.

Monday 10th March. Rev. Johnny Douglas. From **the London Institute of Contemporary Christianity.**

Johnny will provide us with a practical and biblical grounding in 'Serving the Community'. Part of the LICC's mission statement includes the following:- We believe that the answer lies in a radical, but simple, re-focusing of our understanding of mission. The UK will be transformed when the church envisions and equips 'ordinary' men and women to make a difference wherever they are.

Monday 17th March. Phil Martin. Royal Voluntary Service. *'Serving the older generation and the home bound'.*

Phil is based in Hertford and is the Locality Manager for the Royal Voluntary Service in Hertfordshire. Phil travels widely around the county to look after all of the services provided by the RVS, which include Hospital cafes and shops, community transport schemes and lunch clubs. Hertfordshire has over 450 volunteers who provide vital services to support older people in living happy, healthy and independent lives.

Monday 24th March. Peter Hill. From the **Samaritans.** *'How do we serve the lonely and listen to the depressed'*.

Peter is Deputy Director at the Ware branch of Samaritans and responsible for Outreach. Peter is the Regional Schools Officer; working to promote schools talks and education through the use of the Samaritans product 'DEAL' (Developing Emotional Awareness and Learning) across the east region. Peter also delivers talks, influences the County Council, and has reached into the farming community, along with Schools and the University of Hertfordshire in his effort to raise awareness towards reducing suicide in our communities.

Monday 31st March. Sue Jeppesen. Lay Chaplain to the Isabel Hospice. *'Serving the sick and the bereaved'*.

Sue is a Counsellor and has for six years been Lay Chaplain to Isabel Hospice. Prior to her appointment had spent 14 years as part of the day services team. During this time Sue became increasingly aware that spiritual questions often come up for people at times of crisis. This realisation, together with her own faith journey as a Christian, led her to further study at Heythrop College of Theology and Philosophy, and an MA in Pastoral Studies.

The talks are no more than an hour, with the opportunity to renew connections with friends over a coffee or tea. There is no charge for these events but your generous donation for each event will be put to good use by each of the speakers.

Lent Lunches

Once again Churches Together in Hertford invites you to support the Christian Aid Lent Lunches which will take place in the Quaker Room, every Wednesday in Lent, beginning on March 5th.

Coffee is available from 11.00 and lunch (soup, sandwich, fruit and tea or coffee) is served from 12.00 – 1.45. The cost of a

lunch remains at £3 as money is tight for so many people. However, we hope that those who are able will give a little more.

This is a great opportunity to support the important work of Christian Aid as well as meeting new people from other churches.

Parents with young children are very welcome.

Ginni's e-mail address

Please note that Ginni has a new e-mail address; it is: revginni@gmail.com

All Saints Art Italian Religious Art

Everyone is invited to join the Art Group for a talk with pictures by Dr Roger Aubery on Thursday 6th March at 7:30 p.m.

Christian Aid Walk 10th May

Volunteers needed to help out with the starting checkpoint of this year's walk which starts from Wodson Park.

The format this year is slightly different, with walkers checking in from 8:00 am and starting between 8:30 and 9:00 am. A separate, later time for runners is planned.

If you are available to help at any stage please let me know. Thank You!

Rosemary Bolton

St John's Hall

2013 has been a disappointing year for the Hall. Our income fell by about 8% over the twelve month period and expenses rose significantly, resulting in our having to report that our surplus for the year fell by over 40% to £2696. Income from the letting of the Hall fell but this was only one of several reasons for the disappointment. In the early part of the year we lost three of our regular Groups and it was not until the

last quarter did we manage to attract two new Groups to replace them but the main cause for the decline in the surplus must, as usual, be blamed on the rising cost of hiring out the Hall.

On the expenditure side, most of the costs rose. With the price of gas and electricity rising significantly, the cost of the lighting and heating up the Hall rose by approximately 20 on the previous year and repairs and maintenance rising by almost 50 during the year. In addition we had to replace the motor mower this year which resulted in an additional £1400 of unplanned capital expenditure. The final result showed expenditure for the year rising by 20% and, as previously mentioned, our overall surplus declining significantly.

Looking to the future, the Hall is now being advertised on the Church website which we hope will increase demand and reduce the work load of our Hall Manager. It allows prospective hirers to check when the Hall is free and what facilities are available and make a provisional booking all on-line.

However, despite the fall in the surplus for the year we took sufficient from our current reserves to make a £6,000 contribution to the All Saints PCC towards the cost of managing the Church as promised and we are planning to make a similar payment in 2014.

Outing to Polesden Lacey

via horse – drawn narrow boat cruise and, Guildford Cathedral, for lunch.

Saturday 5th July 2014.

Cost: £21 National Trust members.

£31 Non National Trust members.

Coach pickup: -

08.15 - The Avenue Shops, Bengo. -

08.25 – Hagsdell Road, Hertford.

08.35 – The Goat, Hertford Heath. -

08.45 – John Warner School, Hoddesdon.

We arrive in Godalming for our approx. 2 hour horse drawn narrow boat trip (tea and coffee available on the boat).

We then board the coach for our short drive to Guildford Cathedral where we can have lunch in the refectory of this interesting building.

We then re-join the coach for our 25 minute drive to Polesden Lacey, the National Trust honeymoon destination of the Queen Mother. The house has stunning interiors and glorious views from the beautiful gardens and there is a tea shop. We re-join the coach at 5.30 for our journey home.

Please contact Val Worboys, 01992 730565 to reserve a place.



The team behind the Hertford Passion have taken the difficult decision to

postpone performances of the play until Easter 2015. Our director stood down and we felt that we could not do justice in the time we have left to what is a very powerful script.

The good news is that we now have a new director on board who has some wonderful ideas about how to progress, particularly in the area of community involvement.

Hertford United Reformed Church present:

**RIDING LIGHTS THEATRE COMPANY
"The Inheritance"**

**Thursday 3rd April 2014
7.30 pm**

This new Passion play 'Inheritance' is touring this Lent. The narrative at its heart was commissioned by Margaret Sentamu (wife of the Archbishop of York) and Jane Williams (wife of the Archbishop of Canterbury) for performance at the 2008 Lambeth Conference. The play weaves together a number of stories from the gospels, exploring some of Jesus' encounters with women. 'Inheritance' holds onto the original narrative, but re-examines it in the shadow of the Cross, which falls on the lives of men and women alike. It asks its audience to take a dramatic journey into Christ's Passion, through the experience of women whose suffering He connects with most intimately as well as through the character of Jairus, whose commitment to law and tradition stand in opposition to the example of Jesus.

The development of the piece and the tour of Inheritance are being supported by Margaret Sentamu, who shares Riding Lights Theatre Company's vision for bringing this Passion play to a broad and diverse audience in 2014. It is a communal experience of theatre and worship. The performance is structured to ensure that the audience has the time and opportunity to reflect on Christ's Passion and, finally, their own response at the foot of the Cross.

The URC had postponed this production from Riding Lights until next year because of "The Hertford Passion Play". As the Hertford Play is now scheduled to take place in 2015, we have been lucky to secure a last minute booking for this year. The official publicity is being obtained and details on how and when to buy tickets at £10.00 each will be circulated to churches when received. In the meantime, please put this date in your diaries to share this well received and clearly moving experience.

**Hearing God's voice for
Career and Life
Direction,**

with Charles Humphreys
10am 26th to 4pm 27th March 2014.

This 2-day conference is particularly suited to those facing the challenge of mid-life career and other life change. For over 12 years Charles worked as a careers guidance practitioner working with schools, the long-term unemployed and professionals wanting to redirect their careers, before being made redundant himself. Now assisting individual jobseekers in the community through a joint-led agency and through one-to-one coaching, he brings a practical and spiritual dimension to the question, "Where do I go from here?" His creative and practical approach will be helpful to churches and organisations, as well as people seeking support and a sense of God's direction in changing or challenging circumstances.

Day delegates are very welcome, and you are requested to bring a laptop or tablet PC with you to the workshop.

- Residential £125.00 per person (including meals and overnight accommodation).
- 2 Day delegate non-residential £50.00 per person
- 1 day delegate non-residential £27.50 per person

Bookings at earliest opportunity advisable, particularly for residential candidates.

Pastoral Team, Pastoral Centre, Mulberry House, Chelmsford Road, High Ongar, Essex CM5 9NL

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