

Mothers Union

Wed 18th February

Count your Blessings Calendar

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

February Meeting

With John Earle. Date and time TBA.

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

Special Treat at Soundbites Festive Finale

Did you know that one of the world's most famous Christmas hymns has a Hertfordshire connection?

Adeste Fideles, or "Oh Come all Ye Faithful" as we know it today, is a carol close to our hearts at St Edmund's College.

On Wednesday 3rd December the Headmaster of St Edmund's College, Paulo Durán, proudly took the original manuscript written by John Francis Wade, whilst studying at the English College, Douay, to All Saints Church, Hertford to be displayed throughout a Christmas concert performed by our orchestra.



The College's orchestra was invited to play at the festive finale concert of the Soundbites series. The performance started with a sparkling concert overture of traditional Christmas songs composed by Leroy Anderson before the audience joined the orchestra in singing Adeste

Fideles with the manuscript proudly on display.

The concert also included Kathryn Salter Kaye and Michael Stephen Jones playing a suite from The Snowman, pieces from the Nutcracker, the Hallelujah chorus and the concert culminated in the a toe tapping rendition of Sleigh Ride.

Through donations from the audience, we are pleased to be able to donate £180 to the Teenage Cancer Trust. The church also raised £500 for the All Saints' Music Development Fund.

"A penny for them..."

Our thoughts often seem quite random, even unconnected. Things come into our minds we are not expecting, and sometimes these thoughts are unwanted, sometimes just irritating. At other times, they are repetitive and intrusive – we just want to be rid of them.

We also have creative thoughts giving us ideas for projects, plans for the future, ideas for holidays, solving problems, finding solutions for remedying difficult relationships. There are so many ways of thinking. We tend to feel our best thoughts are the ones we control and develop; the worst seem uncontrollable and intrusive.

I am sure there are occasions when God plants thoughts in our minds. People pop into our thoughts. National and international situations come to the fore. I believe that this can become a way of praying. We do not have to get down on our knees to pray (although this can be a good discipline.)

The next time a person or some situation comes into your mind, try presenting that person or situation to God. Ask God to be in that place, to come alongside that person.

There are times when we realise we should be taking action, or become involved ourselves – God answering our prayer through our own activity.

Our thoughts are not always serious. God loves it when we say thank you however briefly. When our spirits soar in beautiful countryside, or when listening to wonderful music, thank God!



This is what we do in our Prayer Group. We don't spend an hour on our knees. We mention people and situations that concern us, believing that God is with us as we speak, and then those people and things are presented to God. We sometimes use music, pictures or objects based on a theme or passage of Scripture to help focus our minds.

We would love more people to join us, just for one hour at 10.30 am on the third Tuesday of the month. We meet at my home, 1 St Johns Court, St Johns Street (opposite the Catholic Church.) Coffee or tea is served at the end for those able to stay a little longer. Come and join us – Pause for Thought!

Helen Harvey-Wright

Conference: Caring for God's Earth

We say we care about the poor and vulnerable, particularly in the global south, we say we care about our children's and grandchildren's futures, we say we care about our local environment, and yet we continue to ignore the warnings of 98 percent of the world's scientists that global warming and climate change are happening.

Aren't we burying our heads in the sand? A few churches are taking measures to reduce the impact of their carbon use in their community life as well as in their personal, professional and public lives; but the numbers are very small in this Diocese compared to other English Dioceses.

The Diocese has organised an Environmental Conference on Saturday 25th April 2015 at St Albans Cathedral. You may wish to attend this Conference, to hear from the experts, to be inspired and to be equipped with the confidence and tools to become climate champions for the parish and wider community.

The Conference fee (a donation of £7.00 at the door) has been kept as low as possible so that all who want to attend are able to. It starts with Registration at 9.30 am and concludes with Evensong at 4.00 pm. You will need to take a packed lunch.

If you would like to attend the Conference please contact Helen Hutchison, Environment Officer, St Albans Diocese on 01727 869645.

All Saints Art

All Saints Art meet every Thursday 7.30-9.30 pm in the church meeting room. We have an interesting and varied programme planned for this term. Among other things we are going to practice drawing portraits and Leon Ajao is sitting for us. At another session we will be visited by tutor Lyn Bruce who is coming to teach us more about using Acrylic paints.

As our special talk in Lent we have Dr Roger Aubery with slides on depictions of John the Baptist through history. We know from experience this will be interesting and invite visitors to join us for this. **Thursday March 12th 7.30 – 9.30 pm** - £2 per person includes coffee and biscuits.

We would also welcome new members to join us to paint and draw. We often do crafts as well. Beginners or experts welcome.

If you would like to know more contact:

Gillian Harman on 01992 422042 or email gillian.harman@ntlworld.com

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