

Mothers Union



At our meeting on Monday 23rd April, 8pm in the Church meeting room, Susan Roberts will be presenting a talk on the Amish community of America; "The Family Life of the Old Order". The Amish were in the news last year when they forgave the killer who came amongst them. They are a people apart, a people together and a people of God retaining a unique lifestyle in today's modern world. This talk is sure to be fascinating and may cause us to reflect on what is important in our own communities.

Susan is the MU Diocesan Vice President responsible for Hertford Archdeaconry and is looking forward to meeting us. As always, everyone is very welcome to join us and refreshments will be served afterwards.

Also, a reminder that the annual Deanery coffee morning is on Tuesday 1st May from 10.30-12.00noon. Margaret Greely is kindly hosting this at 39 Fordwich Rise. There will be a raffle, bring & buy, and an opportunity to buy MU cards & goods. Proceeds will go to MU projects. Again, all are welcome.

Women's Fellowship

Our AGM on 28th February was quite short. All the Committee members agreed to continue, so the Committee remains as: Mrs M. Geering, Chairman and Treasurer,; Miss P. Geering, Secretary; Mesdames S. Frost, E. Pile and B. Squires. Brenda and Elaine are doing the refreshments, and Stella the register.

The Chairman gave a report on last year's activities, which had been varied and interesting. This was followed by the Treasurer's Report. The year had started with £602.52 in the bank and £10.10 in cash. The surplus for 2006 was £21.73 with £627.20 in the bank and £47.12 in cash at the end of December 2006. The subscription remains at £3, and were due in March.

After the AGM Stella gave an interesting talk about *Days that changed my life*, and how

various events and experiences had influenced her.

The April meeting is on Wednesday 25th April at 2.30 p.m. in the church meeting room. There will be a talk, with slides, on Annecy, France by Pauline.

Mary Geering

A Harvest Festival of Music and Flowers

September 21st – 23rd 2007



It has been decided that we will hold a "Harvest Festival of Music and Flowers" in the autumn as an alternative to the



Christmas Fayre this year. Harvest is always a time when the Flower Club excels at decorating the Church and our Choir and musicians are always keen to explore new ventures.

Combining the two with enhanced floral decorations and musical items over an extended weekend period can open the church to a wide variety of visitors. We hope to have a craft /Aschiana type sale in the Meeting room, an art exhibition in Memorial Chapel, and refreshments throughout the long weekend – Friday to Sunday. The Prize Draw will take place at this time also.

People will have the opportunity to sponsor flower arrangements, perhaps in memory of loved ones or for another reason, and there will be plenty of opportunity for all members of the Church to participate in some way or another. The musical programme will be designed to cover a varied range of music, over various parts of the weekend to fit sensitively, and enable both flowers and music to be fully appreciated by all who visit.

A planning meeting will be held in April. Please contact Dorothy & Richard Toyn (Tel: 01992 589781) or Chris Benham (Tel: 01279 424510) for further details.

Supper and talk on Badgers

Audrey Randall, Chair of the Hertfordshire and Middlesex Badger Group, will be giving an illustrated talk about badgers, on Saturday, 28th April, 6.30 for 7.00 p.m. start, in St. John's Hall.

Tickets are £7.50 for adults and £5 for children, and include supper and a glass of wine or juice. The evening is in aid of Aschiana, supporting street children in Kabul, and a donation will be made to the Badger Group.

Please buy your tickets in advance (so we know how many to cater for) from John and Fiona Earle (01992 462467) or Brian and Denise Dilley (01992 587113) or after Church on Sunday or at Soundbites on Wednesdays.

World Vision 24 Hour Famine

This year is the 24 Hour Famine's 21st birthday, and World Vision has been targeting young people to raise money for the community in Keembe, Zambia. As an older but perhaps 'young in heart' member of World Vision, I decided to do what I have done over many years; go without food and get sponsors to raise money for the project.

Thanks to all the people who have sponsored me, I have collected £540 (£680 with Gift Aid), which will be used by World Vision to good effect.

The population of Zambia is 11.3 million who have a life expectancy of 37.5 years (in the UK it is 78.4). Average age is 16, 7.5 million live below the poverty line (less than \$1 a day) and 7 million are without clean water. 920,000 people are living with HIV/AIDS

Keembe is part of the Chibombo district and is 90km from Lusaka. The average summer temperature is 29°C and winter 20°C. The biggest problems are: high levels of poverty, uncertain food supplies, malaria and malnutrition.

The Keembe project will be providing various

types of training, tools, and seeds to families. £70 can buy garden hoes for 10 families: £30 can buy 300 bundles of Cassava stems for growing vegetable crops: £32 will provide 1000 Moringa tree seedlings.

Those knowing me will realise that I am all in favour of anything that involves plants and growing things, hence my enthusiasm. We could supply 16,000 Moringa seedlings plus garden hoes and Cassava stems.

This tree sounds a real super tree. Its leaves are high in nutrients such as calcium, iron, vitamin A, B, C and proteins, which will help in the fight against malnutrition. On top of that it is used as fertilizer, a cold remedy, an antibiotic, for water purification, treatment for liver and stomach problems and prevention of disease in other crops. Sounds just the sort of tree we could do with over here!

I have a DVD about this project should anyone like to borrow it.

I am sure that World Vision will put all the money they get from this event to very good use and again, thank you on their behalf.

Derek Westwood

Soundbites

Soundbites concerts begin again on Wednesday 18th April with a recital by Jean Patterson *Violin* and Simon Marlow *Piano*.

25th April sees a return by the ever popular Simon Balle Big Band, and our own Christopher Benham *Piano* plays with the *Anything Goes* String quartet on May 2nd.

In the meantime don't forget:

Sunday 1st April 7.30 p.m.

Mallings Sinfonia, Soloists, All Saints' Choir

Vivaldi - 'Spring' (Four Seasons)

Handel - Messiah (From parts 2 & 3)

Beethoven - 'Emperor' Piano Concerto

Good Friday 6th April 6.30 p.m

Soloists, Orchestra di Camera, All Saints' Choir

Bach - St. Matthew Passion