



Mothers Union

"On Wednesday 9th January we shall review our year & plan our programme for 2008. Please come with good ideas.

As we approach Valentine's Day, Margaret Greely will be presenting a talk for us on Monday 4th February entitled "Marriage through the Ages". She will include the history of marriage from early times & consider how customs have changed over the centuries. Please bring a photograph or memento of your wedding or a wedding you have enjoyed so we can share some personal memories!

Refreshments will be served before both meetings which are at 8pm in the Church Meeting Room. As always, everyone is very welcome to join us."

Ann Stephens Jones

Womens Fellowship

We were delighted that the Rev Jo Loveridge was able to come to our tea-party in November. We did two word puzzles before having tea-cake and biscuits. It was a n enjoyable afternoon.

There will not be a meeting in January. The AGM will be on Wednesday 27th February, followed by a Lenten Talk by Rev Jo Loveridge.

Best wishes for the New Year to everyone

Mary Geering

Volunteers please

Are you feeling good about 2008? Do you feel needed and valued? Might you have some time to spare? Would you like to help other people maintain independence and dignity in their homes and communities, particularly in later life?

If so, call Pauline on 01992 552069 to find out about volunteering for the WRVS Good Neighbours scheme locally

Christmas Fayre

Having held the Festival of Music and Flowers in September, the Christmas Fayre was planned as a low-key event with a target of £500. In the event some £950 was raised; congratulations to the team and thanks to all who contributed.

Mothering Sunday

"Make a Mothers' Day on Mothering Sunday"

Following the success of last year's campaign which raised £120,000 for Mothers' Union projects at home & abroad, the MU is again offering an "alternative" gift selection for Mothering Sunday on 2nd March. The new catalogue has a fresh range of gifts starting at just £6 which all support mothers in need worldwide.

Purchasers receive a card detailing the gift, which they may personalise and send. Alternatively gifts can be purchased in memory of a Mother as a tribute and a card will be sent recording this. If you are interested, please take a catalogue from the back of the Church or ask me for one. All orders must be received by 18th February."

Ann Stephens Jones

All Saints Art

We are very pleased to announce that Dr Roger Aubery will be coming along to the Art Group once again on 14th February, 2008. This time he will be giving an illustrated talk on art depicting the Resurrection. Previous art talks given by Dr Aubery have proved to be very popular with non-members of the Art Group as well as the regulars and everyone is very welcome to attend.

The talk will be held in the Church meeting room beginning at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be held during the interval and there will be a charge if £2.00 for non-members and £1 for Art Group members. A donation will be given to the Isabel Hospice from the proceeds of this evening.

If you need any further information please speak to Denise Dilley - 01992 587113

Church maintenance 2007

The end of yet another year in which we did about 150 hours of essential works not only on the church but on St. John's Hall and the Annex.

Some of the usual works included:-

- ✓ Removal of Yew berry seeds from the gutters, a never-ending task!
- ✓ Remove, clean and reset further wood blocks within the church.
- ✓ Re-pointed flashing to gutters and other minor works.
- ✓ We also cleared blocked drains and rainwater down-pipes.
- ✓ External doors also received attention and we have cleared several items from the Quinquennial report.

On our last work party in December we also had the 'excitement' of discovering that the lead on the South Porch had been removed and attempted removal of the Vestry lead guttering, perhaps the more adventurous members of the congregation would like to join us on these works!

As I have said previously, there will be many similar jobs for 2008, together with other jobs we have not yet had the time or labour to start.

I do little else except to find the work and make notes so if anyone else would like to take over, step forward. We do need to find the workers to do these tasks.

The time that has been given this year by our eight regular volunteers has saved All Saints maintenance fund a lot of money and it is a social event if I remember to take along the refreshments!

Some of our most regular workers have been finding it difficult to turn up lately due to pressure of work and some are moving, so I am asking for new faces to come forward and give a hand for this essential work. We usually meet once a month on a Saturday, any time between 9am and 12.30pm.

You do not need special skills for this work but it is nice if you can give me ideas about

present day thoughts and, as long as you can stand up, we can usually find a job to suit everybody.

Dates and times are always noted on the boards in the back of the church and in the Vestry so keep eyes and minds open and, at the same time, please contact me so that I can include you on the list of helpers and notify you personally about the time especially if I need to change dates.

Derek Westwood. Tel. 01992 558071

Job Vacancy

Mothers' Union in St Albans Diocese is seeking to appoint a part-time salaried DIOCESAN SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATOR to work in St Albans. Office hours and Annual Leave are negotiable. The applicant should be computer literate.

Please contact the Diocesan President Mrs Eileen Smith 01767 260583 for further details.

A New Year reflection

Norah Anderson

As we take down the decorations and consider the presents we have exchanged, it is a good time for thought.

In the Book of Ruth we are asked "What have we gleaned today?" What indeed did we glean in the year just gone? Have we loved our neighbours as ourselves? Have we thought of those in less well-favoured parts of the world who are starving and homeless? Nearer to home, have we tried to care for the poor and the disadvantaged? One doesn't have to look far to see that the lessons which our Lord taught us have not been fully learnt and applied.

A friend reminded me that every new day is a bonus and we easily forget the daily blessing of life which is given to us.

2008 presents us with a clean sheet, every day, perhaps this year we can write something worthwhile on it.