

## Holy Baptism

4<sup>th</sup> January: *Annabel Lucy Munro Armstrong* daughter of David Armstrong and Helen Birch of 53 Fordwich Rise, Hertford.

## Holy Matrimony

31<sup>st</sup> December: Philip George Brown of 1 Tudor Court, High Street, London Colney and Susan Jane Pike of 15b Talbot Street, Hertford.

## In Peace

17<sup>th</sup> December *Karen Anne Ruskin*  
 18<sup>th</sup> December *Roy Stevens*  
 19<sup>th</sup> December *Robert 'Bob' Harding*  
 23<sup>rd</sup> December *George Warner*  
 7<sup>th</sup> January *Leslie Charles Saville*  
 8<sup>th</sup> January *George Goddard*



## Mothers' Union

At our meeting on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> February at 8pm in the Church meeting room, John Earle will be presenting a talk with slides on Shetland. This promises to be a very entertaining evening & we welcome everyone to join us.

Our programme for the remainder of 2009 will soon be available. Please take one & see whether a meeting is of interest. We welcome visitors on a regular or occasional basis; you do not have to be married or a parent!

Catalogues for the Mothers' Union Alternative Mothering Sunday gifts are now available at the back of the Church & from Rosalie Barron or me. Gifts start from just £6 & last year this campaign raised £159,000. Please consider "making a mother's day" by helping mothers in need at home or abroad. "In Memory" gifts are also available to give thanks for mothers no longer with us."

*Ann Stephens-Jones*

## Women's Fellowship

Our Christmas afternoon meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> December was very enjoyable. We had readings of Christmas poems and listened to records of choirs singing Christmas carols.

It was very disappointing that so few members attended.

We shall have our Annual General Meeting as part of our meeting on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30 pm in the meeting room. This will be followed by holiday slides.

*Mary Geering*

## The Sounds of Silence

Not the well known Simon and Garfunkel song, but the sound coming from the tower before most of the Christmas Services.

So why was this? Well, part of the explanation is that it was not possible to ring for midnight Eucharist at both St Andrews and All Saints on Christmas Eve – the start time of these services was separated by just 15 minutes, which is simply not enough time to close one belfry, cross town, and climb another set of stairs.

But just a few years ago on 1 January 2000 when all towers in the country were encouraged to ring at 12 noon, we managed to ring at both churches simultaneously.

On that occasion we were able to muster a total of 13 ringers. Since that date one of our ringers has died and six others have moved away and/or given up ringing, while just one additional ringer has joined the band. Of the seven, three were away for Christmas visiting their families, leaving just four ringers in Hertford over the Christmas period. Not all four were available on Christmas morning, so that the only Christmas ringing was for the Midnight Eucharist at St Andrews, although we would have liked to have done more.

So what can be done? As I write, another traditional pastime, Morris-dancing is in the spotlight with a similar problem – lack of recruits, most particularly young recruits. Certainly when the youngest person in the tower is in her 40s, we do have to be concerned for the future of bell ringing in Hertford.

However the purpose of this article is not simply to recruit more ringers (although this would be welcome), but rather to ask for help. If anyone has undertaken a similar sort of recruitment drive and been successful, we would like them to tell us what they did and how they did it.

We can hopefully take things from there and avoid having any more churches in Hertford like St Mary, Hertingfordbury where there is no local band to ring on Sundays.

Please respond to me at  
Alastair.stracey@ntlworld.com.  
*Alastair Stracey*

## **Church maintenance**

Our eight regular volunteers did about 108 hours during this year, which was very generous, and they managed to carry out some essential works such as the removal of yew berry seeds from the gutters, together with the cleaning out of the road gullies and blocked rainwater hoppers. One on the south side had a bird's nest! There is still one to do on the north side.

As usual we also removed, cleaned and reset wood blocks within the church. One major benefit of the work party was the fact we discovered that the lead had been removed from the south porch before we had had too much rain! This year we have spent a lot of time and effort on St. John's Hall and the Annex, including repairs due to vandalism

We shall have many similar jobs for this next year, together with other jobs we have not yet had the time or labour to start. These include some re-pointing of stonework, repairs to lead flashing, treatment of the

oak doors.

It is fairly easy for me to find the work and make notes. What is not easy is to find the workers to do these tasks. Next year will find us short of volunteers due to other commitments so, I am asking that some new people come forward to give a few hours to All Saints, not only because it helps the church but it also becomes quite a social event particularly if I remember to take along the tea and biscuits!

We usually meet once a month (normally the third week) on a Saturday, any time between 9am and 12.30pm. You do not need special skills for much of these works and so 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 an eye open and, at the same time, please contact me so that I can include you on the list of helpers and notify you personally at the time.

*Derek Westwood Tel 01992 558071*

## **Donations for Flowers**

The 2009 Flower Guild calendar sets out the dates on which flowers can be placed on the memorial book or altar in memory of a loved one. This calendar can be found on the board at the back of the church.

Please note that you cannot have flowers on the altar during Lent (when we have no flowers in church) or Advent (when we have only greenery); but you can still have flowers on the memorial book at these times.

Please write your name against the dates for which you wish to donate flowers. At the start of the month for which you wish to donate them, please contact the team leader of the team arranging the flowers that month; this can be found in the list in the rotas file on bookcase near the meeting room. The team leader will then organize the flowers for the chosen date using your money donation.

If you are unsure who to contact, please get in touch with me, as below.

Gillian Harman  
Secretary All Saints Flower Club  
01992 422042 gillian.harman@ntlworld.com

## **Cow Corner**

**Junior Church news**



### **Fundraising News**

The "Coppers for a Cow" bucket has received lots of loose change in the few weeks since it was launched. We have already banked £77! This is an ongoing project; the bucket will be at the back of church every Sunday morning so please keep saving your coppers for us.

The sales of bulbs, planted by the children have totalled £114 and have helped bring our fundraising total to £320. We need to raise £750 in total to get our cow so we are busy planning further events.

With this in mind, we were delighted to win a prize in the children's category of the Christmas Tree Festival with our "Send a Cow" tree. We plan to buy seeds with our Riverside vouchers and grow the plants for our summer plant sale.

### **Family Service 1<sup>st</sup> February**

The Junior Church will be leading this service so do please come along and support us. We shall also be selling cakes, biscuits and buns after the service in aid of our project. Be sure to bring along a little extra money so that you can take home some cake to enjoy with your afternoon tea.

Thank you for all your support.

Kath Oates

## **Coffee Morning**



**A coffee morning with bring and buy, books, cakes, raffle etc will be held in All Saints Church between 10.00am and 12.00 noon on SATURDAY 21<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY.**

**Do come along and join us for a friendly welcome, a coffee and a chat. Bring your friends too!**

**Proceeds to All Saints Church.**

**HELP!!** If you can spare an hour or two to lend a hand at the coffee morning please contact Denise Dilley – 01992 587113 or Renee Booker 01992 303314

We should also be very grateful for items suitable for the bring and buy stall, unwanted Christmas presents etc., second hand books (in good condition), raffle prizes and cakes for the cake stall. Items can be left at the back of the Church or contact Denise or Renee as above. Many thanks.



Hertford Museum is now closed for refurbishment until Spring 2010. However, the Museum will be having a stall at Soundbites each week, starting on Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> January. We shall be selling an array of items including minerals, local books, greetings cards and traditional toys, so do come along and see us and enjoy a pleasant lunchtime of music and refreshments too!