



Mothers' Union

This year's Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer is at Bramfield Church on Tuesday July 7th at 1pm. We have no meetings in July and August.

Ann Stephens-Jones/Rosemary Bolton

Women's Fellowship

At our meeting in May we had a very interesting talk by Miss Helen Gurney, the curator of the Hertford Museum.

Helen told us about the work being done on the building and, using slides, showed us parts of the museum as they used to be and drawings of how they will be. It is expected that the Museum will re-open in March next year.

This month's meeting is on Wednesday 22nd July at 2.30 p.m. in the church meeting room when we shall have a talk by Mrs Audrey Randall on badgers.

Mary Geering

Festival of Music & Flowers

Friday 2nd, Saturday 3rd & Sunday 4th October

Plans are going well for the Festival of Music and Flowers in October, and we had a good Cheese and Wine Evening with people from Keech Cottage.

The musical events will involve local schools on the Friday, Soundbites style lunch recitals each day, various other musical interludes and Compline / Evensong in the early evening.

On Saturday there will be some dance in the morning, and in the evening the Simon Ball Big Band will be holding a concert. Sunday sees a Family Service in the morning with a Choral Festal Evensong to finish.

We will be having a Raffle each day, rather than our Grand Prize Draw, and will be looking for good raffle prizes over the next

weeks. We will also be having our usual tombola and any contributions gratefully received!

Other events include an Art Exhibition, a Treasure Hunt, a display about the "Living Churchyard", a Children's Colouring Competition, a Quiz to sell, Craft Demonstrations, and a Fair in St John's Hall on the Saturday including cakes, books & bric-a-brac.

Janet is in charge of catering for the event and is looking for people to join her team of helpers. We will also need helpers for all the different things going on, and a chart will go up in church soon with all the events. Please sign up early and often!

However, the main thing needed now is **sponsorship for the flowers**, including help getting the sponsorship forms around the town. There are some forms at the back of the church if you would like to contribute to the cost of the flowers, or to sponsor a specific arrangement. This could be in memory of a loved one, to commemorate an event, or just because you would like to contribute! Sue Gilford and her team are planning the flowers and would love to hear from you.

If anyone has any ideas or any items suitable for any of the stalls / raffles please let Dorothy know, and if anyone can help with the sponsorship within the town please contact her. Look out for notices in church over the next few weeks to tell you more!

Are you being called to serve at the Lord's Table?

Jo would very much like to have servers at the main 10 a.m. communion services. This is something that young and old alike can undertake – the minimum age is probably 14.

I know of a few people who are already interested, and I would like to hope that we could find enough to form a rota such that any turn came round only about every 6 weeks.

No previous experience is necessary as I am happy to provide all training needed. Please contact me on a Sunday morning or call me on 01992 587125.

Andrew Povey-Richards

Cow Corner

Junior Church news



A visit from Send a Cow

On Sunday June 14th Jan Lowe from "Send a Cow" came to tell us about the work of the charity and to receive a cheque for £2,000 – the sum raised so far.

Using simple visual aids - a red pen, a gift box and a pair of slippers – Jan explained the charity's approach: Educating; Giving; Supporting.

To illustrate this, she told us about Fidel from Rwanda. His parents were killed when he was 15, making him responsible for four brothers and sisters, one only six weeks old.

First Fidel was **taught** basic farming skills, both dairy (milk production) and arable (growing food), over a period of eight months.

Then he was **given** a cow – which he named Kirabou – which means 'gift from God' in Rwandan.

With **help and support** from Send-a-cow he was able to use the cow in four ways:

Firstly, to provide milk for the family to drink with enough spare to be able to sell to buy vegetable seeds.

Secondly, the cow's manure helps the crops grow well.

Thirdly, a mixture of the Cow's urine, chilli powder, ash and soap acts as an insecticide. This has allowed Fidel to create a banana business.

Fourthly, the cow produces calves – and one of Fidel's proudest moments was when he gave another family the first heifer – allowing him to help someone else.

Jan told us that Send-a-Cow operates in seven countries providing cows, chickens, bees, fruit trees as appropriate to the climate and conditions.

She told us that £160 is enough to provide the training, the cow and the support for a whole family, so our gift helps 12 families immediately – and many more over time as more and more heifers are passed on.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Kath Oates

Watoto Children's Choir

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the recent visit of the choir such a success.

The total sum donated was just under £4,000 excluding Gift Aid.

Incident at the Gates

On the evening of Thursday 4th June, I was assaulted by a young man with a metal bar, close to the main gates of the Churchyard. After a very short stay in hospital and two days of bed rest, I have gradually returned to a normal way of life, though it has taken some two weeks for bruises and lacerations to heal.

Hearing about the incident, many members of the community throughout Hertford have expressed their shock and dismay that such

an aggressive attack should occur in Hertford, let alone at the entrance to our churchyard. People have been very kind to me, with cards, wishes for a speedy recovery, and their thoughts through prayers; from young choir boys, church members, the extended clergy and the Mayor and Town Council.

For all this I am extremely grateful. My wounds will heal; my memories of the incident will fade. Such incidents are, thank goodness, extremely rare!

We have been concerned for sometime about people using the car park for parking whilst at work, or shopping and sometimes it has become so full that people who attend services cannot park. This is a great problem especially for people who cannot walk too far. We have, therefore, following the advice of church authorities, decided to close the gates to discourage such parking.

The closure of the car park will cause some inconvenience. There will also be gains, there will be fewer hazards and potential accidents and less harm will be caused to the surfaces of the paths and grass areas. The Churchyard will be an even safer place to be in when passing through or taking a few moments of rest or reflection.

Richard Toyn

Churchyard car park

You may recall that I wrote a piece in the February about the church yard and the parking in particular. Events of the last couple of weeks have moved things forward faster than anticipated, and so the Standing Committee have decided that we must lock the car park when not in use for All Saints events and services

There is now a new padlock on the gates and all church key holders have access to the gates. The Town Council, who were as shocked as the rest of us about the assault, have very kindly offered to install a bollard in the near future, which can be lowered to allow cars into the church yard. This will

mean the gates can re-open which will look much friendlier, but still keep cars out.

All key holders have been informed of the changes, and those that organize meetings / events have also been given guidance. The gates will be opened in good time for all services and events but will be closed at other times and I would ask for the co-operation of everyone to make this successful. Anyone wishing to visit a grave that needs access by car (e.g Blue Badge holders) is welcome to make arrangements with the Churchwardens for entry to the churchyard.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding over this matter and I hope it will run smoothly over the next few weeks while we all get used to it.

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**Bedfordshire & Hertfordshire
 Historic Churches Trust**

Sponsored Bike 'n' Hike Saturday, September 12th 2009

In September you can raise money for Beds & Herts Historic Churches Trust AND All Saints' by cycling or hiking to visit as many churches as



you can. You can visit local ones but you could use the opportunity to discover somewhere new – a walk through St Albans perhaps or another area of the county. The day is really enjoyable – you can go through some fabulous countryside and it is exhilarating see God's creation in all its wonder. You meet some lovely people who are manning various churches proudly showing you "their church".

All Saints raised the most money in the Deanery with just a couple of people – imagine what we can do with more and don't forget that half the money you raise comes directly to All Saints. You can visit 9 churches just by walking around Hertford and Bengoe so do book the date and start

to plan your route. Sponsorship forms are available from me.

Dorothy Toyn

Coffee Morning in Church

**on Saturday 12th September
10.00am – 12.00 noon**

Cake Stall, Treasure, Books, Raffle etc.

Proceeds to go towards the Flower Festival to be held at All Saints on 2nd/3rd and 4th October in aid of Keech Cottage Hospice.

If you can help in any way by providing cakes to sell, second hand, good condition books, unwanted gifts and bric--a-brac or raffle prizes, or can lend a hand with the setting up, selling, washing up or clearing away afterwards please speak with Denise Dilley – 01992 587113 or Renee Booker – 01992 303314 or leave the donated items at the back of the Church. Cakes should be brought along on the day please.

Do come along and support us and bring your friends.

Produce Stall

During the year 2008-9 the produce stall raised a total of £780. As usual, this was divided three ways with £260 going to All Saints, and the same amounts to the schools in the Pipar valley in Nepal and to the Okhuldunga Hospital in Nepal.

We have visited the schools four times in the past and they are in a poor, remote area north of Pokhara. The Hospital is in a remote part of eastern Nepal, in a very poor area that is not easily accessible.

We would like to thank you all for supporting the stall. Your support is vital in enabling us to continue raising these sums and we are very grateful. Money goes much further in Nepal than here - £260 is nearly the annual salary for a teacher and some of them have to walk an hour or more to get to work!

John & Fiona Earle

Is your faith a bit shaky?

Here's how to grow it...

From time to time we may come across people who say to us 'I wish I had your faith'. We may know deep down, however, that our own faith is rather shaky, not to say downright weak. So the challenge is: how can we build up our own faith to be a solid basis for how we live our lives?

We can grow as Christian disciples in a number of ways – prayer, attending church, and especially fellowship with other believers. But what about reading the Bible? Bible reading can become one of those things we know is good for us, but we can't quite get round to. We may feel we don't have enough time; we don't know where to begin; and when we do actually pick up a Bible, we can't make head or tail of it!

Bible reading is not a chore like weeding the garden, but essential for spiritual health and well-being, rather like a well-balanced meal. If we're really busy, it may seem too much bother to stop for a decent meal. Or we may be tempted to grab something on the run, which ends up giving us indigestion.

What practical steps can we take to do something about this? First of all, we should admit to ourselves that reading the Bible may well be more than simply a matter of opening the book and reading it. Some parts of Scripture are very accessible to most people.

Secondly, we can make use of the wide range of Bible reading aids available. Study Bibles, commentaries, daily notes and other resources all teach us about the Bible and help us apply it to our lives.

As we become more and more familiar with God's written Word, almost imperceptibly we find the presence of the living Word transforming our walk of discipleship.

There are many Bible reading resources. For just some, talk to Denise Dilley or visit: www.biblereadingnotes.org.uk.