

Mothers Union

11th April 8pm "Images of Enchantment"

Ann-Marie Parker will give an illustrated talk on the evolution of picture books from cave paintings to the digital age.

More information from Rosemary Bolton or Ann Stephens-Jones

Coffee Morning

Congratulations to everyone involved in the Coffee Morning on Saturday 18th March. Over £335 was raised for church funds.

Bible Book Club

Our next meeting will be on 2nd May. We will be studying Luke Chapters 7 and 8. All welcome.

Meeting re Growing the church 8:00 pm 4th April

You are all invited to join the PCC meeting on Tuesday 4th April in church at 8:00 pm.

We have now joined HeartEdge - the new network of churches formed under the auspices of St Martin-in-the-Fields.

Part of what we will be considering is the material we should send to the new network. This will enable us and them to consider how best we take advantage of the network's resources and experiences and move us towards the Kingdom model.

Now that we have joined, we have agreed to give the network:-

- Information about our story and journey as a church - what is working well and what isn't.
- Time to meet other member churches to share in the network.

- Ideas, stories, experience, knowledge, relationships, strategies and resources that can be shared with others.

As a start, we are asked to produce a snapshot of our church, so we and the HeartEdge team can consider how best to prioritise the resources. We will consider the following questions:-

- The work we are doing
- Our experience developing cultural, community or commercial activity
- The assets we have (we did some preliminary work on this at the launch)
- The obstacles and challenges we face
- The resources we need
- Our hopes and fears

We hope this will help us move forward in our efforts to create a sustainable future for All Saints.

Easter Flowers

The Flower Club works extra hard for the special festivals in the Church's year, and All Saints always looks good, although it is a huge church to decorate florally. It's "all hands on deck" and we have a busy morning sorting all the flowers.

At Christmas we still had time for coffee and a photo. If you would like to join us – no experience needed – please talk to me or one of the other flower ladies and you would be most welcome. We will be decorating on Easter Saturday morning from 9.30 am.

The Lilies in church at Easter in memory of loved ones are always special, and your donations towards these flowers are always appreciated and are a great help in making All Saints' look special on Easter morning.

If you would like to make a donation this year please give it to Dorothy Toyn or a Churchwarden by Sunday April 9th

Is God calling you?

St John's Hall, Hertford 22nd April 2017

There are all kinds of ways in which we can serve Jesus in our everyday life.

We can serve him at home, at work, at school or college, in our leisure time and with our friends — as well as at church.

We are all called by God to be his followers and to serve him and his world by using the gifts he has given us.

Our vocation — God's call to us — can take any number of forms. We may be called to teaching or marriage or a life of deeper prayer or helping people in our community (or indeed more than one or even all of these).

Some will feel a call to public ministry in God's church, either as a Reader or as a priest, or to a leadership role as church warden, youth worker or Sunday school teacher.

If you would like to find out more about what public ministry in the Church of England entails, this event is for you – and is happening right here in Hertford in St John's Hall.

Speakers will include ordained ministers (full and part-time) a Reader and a youth worker, and you will be able to talk to them individually and in small groups.

The event is free and open to anyone in the St Albans Diocese but we do need you to register in advance so we know how many are coming.

Please contact Barbara Young to register.

We look forward to seeing you!

byoung@stalbans.anglican.org
07884 736546

Is God calling you?

Are you wondering about a call to some kind of ministry in God's church?



Come and join us on

Saturday 22nd April 2017

9.30am – 1.30pm at St John's Church Hall,
Churchfields, Hertford SG13 8AE

Keynote address: The Bishop of Hertford

☺ Speakers ☺ Discussion ☺ Q&A ☺ Lunch

For more information and to book your place contact Barbara Young
byoung@stalbans.anglican.org 07884 736546



Annual Church Meetings

These will be held on Sunday 30th April from 11:45 in Church. Do please come along with your questions, thoughts and suggestions for our future.



Celebrating a special relationship – Parents and God parents



Godparents' Sunday is an innovation that sets apart a Sunday to celebrate and pray for the special relationship families have with Godparents.

It is a response to research undertaken on behalf of the Archbishops' Council looking at parents' real experiences and expectations around the baptism of their child.

One of the biggest findings of the research was that godparents really, really matter to families. Godparents are part of family life for all the years ahead, a relationship that will last into adulthood and beyond.

In 2017, Godparents' Sunday will take place on **30th April** with resources made available to help create a great day of welcome and celebration, but you can celebrate the role of godparents at any time of year if you wish.

Setting apart a Sunday is a great opportunity to share with families and ask for God's blessing on godparents and their godchildren everywhere.

Follow Godparents' Sunday on [Twitter \(@CofE_CSH\)](#) and [Facebook](#) for new posts and videos.

There is a range of resources online to help celebrate Godparents' Sunday and support them in their task throughout the year.

These are available through the Church Print Hub and cover:

- Posters, invitations and ideas to extend the widest possible welcome for Godparents' Sunday.
- Liturgy, hymns, prayers, activities and lots more to help you create a really welcoming and special service for godparents and godchildren.
- Information on just how important to families godparents are.
- Prayer resources for godparents to take away.

See churchsupporthub.org/baptisms/occasions-for-follow-up/godparents-sunday-30-april-2017/

Prayer

Brother Roger of Taizé once said 'When the Church becomes a house of prayer, the people will come' I feel strongly that God is asking us as a church to make prayer a priority and out of this will come clarity about how we move forward into growth. Any future activity should be born out of prayer. We are therefore planning four days of teaching on prayer called 'A House of Prayer'.

Beginning on Monday 22nd May at 8pm in St Andrew's the four days will culminate in our Team Ascension Day service on Thursday 25th. During these times we will explore different ways of praying from our rich Christian tradition and hear testimonies from different people from different walks of life about how they pray.

Our hope is that these evenings will inspire us and take something of the guilt or drudgery out of praying. Prayer is the oxygen of the Church, without it we die. I would therefore encourage everyone in the congregation in the strongest possible terms to make this a priority.

During these evenings, we will be thinking about four areas in which we as a church can make a difference in the world - healing/wholeness, justice, reconciliation and beauty.

Love, Jo