

Listen, observe, act – in step with God [Treasure Hunt] practicing your observation skills in church!

Most of us will say we know our church well – after all, we are there on a fairly regular basis. But do we really see what is there? Having a 'Treasure Hunt' will encourage us to develop our observation skills and to discover the 'treasure' that exists in our local church building that goes unnoticed, or ignored [or covered up by something else]. The principles of looking more carefully in a 'Treasure Hunt' can equally be applied to observing the issues in our church and community to inform our action as Mothers' Union members.

Preparing a Treasure Hunt:

Start by spending some time in your church building to identify treasure items for members to find. Obviously, the detail will depend on your church building – but this list here should give you some ideas. There are plenty of treasure items in modern churches as well as older buildings. You might want to include external features, or other parish buildings on the same site.

PLEASE THINK ABOUT THE SAFETY OF MEMBERS WHEN IDENTIFYING TREASURE ITEMS TO FIND!

Possible treasure items:

- ✂ Information concerning the consecration of the building
- ✂ Details of previous clergy
- ✂ Memorial plaques
- ✂ Details on church furniture [manufacturers, donors, etc]
- ✂ People, symbols or animals depicted in stained glass windows, liturgical hangings, etc
- ✂ The number of crosses in the church (not necessarily of the 3-dimensional variety) or the number of candles
- ✂ A detail about the baptismal font
- ✂ The number of musical instruments in the church
- ✂ The maker of the sound system or other technology in the building
- ✂ On a more practical note, where to find the First Aid Box and location of Fire Extinguishers

If going outside:

- ✂ Anything about the external architecture of the church
- ✂ Names and dates on gravestones or other memorials
- ✂ Something you see when putting your treasure hunt together that you have not noticed before!

Running a Treasure Hunt:

Give everyone a list of the treasure items to find and a time limit in which the task is to be completed. Members could do this individually or in teams. At the end of the Treasure Hunt, go through the answers and where they could be found. You might want to give a small prize to the winner[s].

Highlight that we do not always use our skills of observation and sometimes do not see what is before us. An important part of the MULOA [Mothers' Union Listening, Observing and Acting] process is to become more observant, more aware of the issues in our local church and community.

As well as improving observation skills, the Treasure Hunt will also be an opportunity for members to learn about the history of their church, to appreciate the building in which they worship and the different elements that contribute to services, etc.

A Closing Prayer:

For the Church throughout the world, of which this place is a visible symbol:

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For the skills and talents of those who built and have maintained this place:

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For all those who have served you and worshipped in this place:

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer.

For this place, that we may be still and know that you are God:

Lord, receive our thanks and prayer. Amen.

If this works well with Mothers' Union members, you could adapt the Treasure Hunt as a competition for the church congregation – with an entrance fee in aid of a Mothers' Union fund.

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