

E-NEWS



DIARY DATES

Cathedral Prayers:

- 5 December Undercroft, Winchester Cathedral
Led by Overton
- 2 January Winchester Cathedral
Led by Trustees
- 6 February Winchester Cathedral
Led by Bournemouth Deanery

Other events:

- 3 February Commissioning Service

There are other events around the diocese to draw attention to this campaign – Yateley branch organised a prayer stream using an illuminated globe. You can take part in a prayer vigil on Fri 30 November 10am to 11am in Brookley Road, Brockenhurst, or one on Thurs 6 December from 7:30pm to 8:30pm at Ascension Church, Thorold Road, Southampton.



Information Day in Popley

We had a fantastic day at Popley on 9 November when Marian Pope talked to us about MULO and gave us all a taster session. Her role at Mary Sumner House is to enthuse and motivate members, and to encourage new thinking in branches.



What is essential for a MU meeting? Marian suggested the acronym SNAP:

- S for Social
- N for News
- A for Awareness and Action
- P for Prayer which underpins everything.

If you feel that prayer should be at the beginning of the list, then you could use the acronym PANS instead, but SNAP is so much more dynamic and exciting!

A big thank you to Revd Arthur Botham and all the members of Popley branch for their wonderful hospitality.

Sue Murphy

New member for our team of Speakers

I am pleased to welcome Doreen Walker to our team of Speakers. Doreen lives in Romsey, is the trustee for AFIA and she is happy to speak at your branch about our family holiday. She does not have internet but can be contacted on 01794 651764. It was agreed that each Branch may now have two Free Speaker sessions on the Theme as it was felt that a follow up session is advisable after the initial meeting.

An updated Diocesan Speakers List is circulated with this e-newsletter.

Christine Clode, Speakers' Representative

muclode@sadie2.madasafish.com or 01425 275398.

**Sunday 3 February
Commissioning Service at
Winchester Cathedral
at 3:30pm during evensong**

**All are welcome
Please note the change of date
for this service**

16 days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence



We held our usual prayer vigil outside Winchester Cathedral on Sun 25 November and gave out well over 100 of our reflection/information leaflets, and nearly as many candles. Helen Pain also suggested to a few people that they could contact their Councillor or MP to ask for increased funding to organisations that support victims of domestic violence. Perhaps you would also consider writing such a letter?

News from the branches

Yateley Christmas Market

Yateley branch had a stall at their local Christmas market on Sat 24 November and sold cakes and bric-a-brac. They had a very successful day.



Christmas Crafts at Bursledon

Bursledon branch made these fabulous Christmas table decorations using bottles and paper napkins! While they were doing that they thought about how Mothers' Union brings light into the lives of so many families.



Looking forward

Winchester Deanery will hold their Wave of Prayer Service in St Lawrence-in-the-Square Church, Winchester at 10.30 am on Mon 14 January. The Service will be Led by Deanery Chaplain, Revd Mike Gardner and the Invited Guest Speaker is Winchester Area Dean, Revd Karen Kousseff.

Brockenhurst branch are holding a Gift Swap/Coffee Shop on Sat 12 January, with unwanted gifts used to help those in need. Brockenhurst are also continuing their offer to provide a ploughman's lunch or a cream tea at a very reasonable cost.

Arle Valley branch will hold their usual Celebration of Marriage Service on Sun 10 February at St Mary's Old Alresford at 4.00pm followed by cake and tea. We hope there will also be a display of wedding photos and dresses in the church over that weekend.

Christchurch Deanery will be holding their Wave of Prayer service on Mon 14 January at 2.00pm at St Georges Church, Christchurch. The service will be led by Revd Nicky Davies, Christchurch Deanery Chaplain.

From your Secretary

We will all miss Caroline as she leaves us and moves to Portsmouth diocese. However, she will continue to be involved with the Contact Centres and is available to visit branches to lead MULO sessions. Thank you, Caroline, for all you have contributed to Mothers' Union in this diocese over the last 3 years, and we wish you all the best for your future.

On a sadder note - I have just heard from Mildred Bromelow, who was our Diocesan President some years ago, that her beloved husband Alan died on 21 November. Alan had been ill for some time following a stroke. Please pray for Mildred and her family at this difficult time.

Sue Murphy

Letter from our Chaplains

As I write I have just made my Christmas cake – only three days after Stir Up Sunday! Advent is almost upon us and we are well on the way to Christmas. We took our little grandson into Basingstoke yesterday and, at almost two years old, he was enchanted by the pretty lights and the decorated shop windows. Last year he was too young to really understand anything about the meaning of Christmas but he already loves his 'Baby Jesus' book with the woolly sheep, the shiny angel and the 'mummy with a baby in her tummy' – just like his mummy!

This is the point at which I always feel a mild sense of panic at all the things that need too be done in the next four weeks! But I really want to try and make the most of Advent this year and prepare myself spiritually before it all gets too festive – but that is never easy. Sr Catherine Wybourne (Digitalnun of the iBenedictines website) suggests that we try to find just a few minutes to read the Bible, to pray and be silent each day, but that we keep it simple and keep it kind. Maybe the world does want to celebrate Christmas before we have even begun Advent – but we shouldn't get too worried about that - 'a mince pie or two is not going to lead to eternal damnation'! And she also says 'try not to worry about the commercialism of it all, or your inability to meet some of the demands made on you. God did not come into the world to make us sad or unhappy. He knows our weaknesses; he knows our strengths, too. As we get older, we begin to appreciate that giving is a surer way of finding happiness than amassing things for ourselves. We may think we have nothing to give, but a kind word, a few minutes of our time, even a smile can be a precious gift to share with another.'

This is the last piece I shall be writing as your Diocesan Chaplain and it is lovely for me to be able to draw this privileged time to a close by wishing you all a fruitful Advent, a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year. I know that Linda, joins me in those good wishes too.

God bless you all

With my love

Jane – and Linda too

Diocesan Chaplains until the end of 2018!

Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

Sue Murphy – Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer secretary@muwinchester.org.uk