

**E-NEWS**



**DIARY DATES**

**Cathedral Prayers:**

- 6 February Winchester Cathedral  
Led by Bournemouth Deanery
- 6 March Undercroft - Winchester Cathedral  
Led by Romsey Deanery
- 3 April Winchester Cathedral  
Led by Odiham Deanery

**Other events:**

- 3 February Commissioning Service
- 21 March Diocesan Council and  
Information Day – Chandler’s Ford
- 16 May Quiet Day at Wolvesey

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March**  
**Diocesan Council**  
**and**  
**Information Day**  
at St Boniface’s Church Hall  
Chandler’s Ford  
SO53 2FT  
10am to 2pm

**Commissioning Service**

Don't forget that your new Trustee board and your Speakers will be commissioned on 3 February during evensong at Winchester Cathedral. If you are not able to join us, please pray for Sue and the Trustees as they start their term of office.

**Change of dates**

Please note that the Information Day in November will now be on Thurs 7 November and not Friday as previously advertised.

**AFIA 2019**

Once again we are looking forward to offering a fun packed week in our Away From It All holiday at Lodge Hill, from 10 to 18 August. The team are preparing activities, and all we need now are the families to come. Please put forward suitable families to your Branch Leader, and encourage your clergy to consider whether they know of a family who have not been able to enjoy a holiday for some time, and who would benefit from getting away together. If you need more information, I can be contacted on [jsmuafia@gmail.com](mailto:jsmuafia@gmail.com)

*Jane Chick*



**News from Christchurch Deanery**

The Christchurch Deanery Mothers' Union members Wave of Prayer service was held at St George's Church in Christchurch on Mon 14 January. The service was led by our Chaplain Rev Nicky Davis and the speaker was the Rev Angela Newton. A collection was taken for worldwide projects.

A Deanery Prayer Lunch will be held on Wed 13 February from 12.30 - 2.00 pm at Ringwood Parish Church. The theme for the Prayer time will be Marriage Week, when we will be praying for all couples to be married in our churches and all aspects of Marriage. Everyone is welcome to join us, please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided.

We also congratulate Stella and Terry Roberts who celebrate their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 25 January.

**News from Brockenhurst**

Brockenhurst branch are continuing their very successful ploughman's lunches and cream teas for visiting groups. If you are interested, please contact Lesley on



01590 624584 or [lesley.munt@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.munt@btinternet.com)



**Child Contact Centres**

Some years ago, Mothers' Union opened a Child Contact Centre in Hook to allow children of estranged parents to meet with their separated parent in a safe and welcoming environment. This has been a very successful project, and when the team at the

Basingstoke Contact Centre decided to stand down, Mothers' Union agreed to run that one as well. In March, we plan to open a new centre in St Gabriel's Church in Popley on two Saturday afternoons each month. Please pray for this new centre, and if you are interested in joining the team of volunteers then let me know.

*Sue Murphy*

## Booking Speakers for your branch

At their recent Forum the Diocesan Speakers noted that not many branches use the Speaker's Booking Form and request that we revert to this practice. There have been several instances recently when no confirmation has been sent from the branch and Speakers are receiving last minute phone calls to attend a branch when no further contact had been made. Therefore, attached to this Enews is a copy of the Booking Form along with a revised Booking Procedure.

Just a reminder that branches 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. Please remember to use the booking form for speakers. To book a free speaker, please contact Christine Clode on [muclode@sadie2.madasafish.com](mailto:muclode@sadie2.madasafish.com) or 01425 275398.

## New Central website

All members should now be able to log onto the new website for the Central Mothers' Union. If you want information on this or have any problems, please let me know.

*Sue Murphy*

## Alan Bromelow

Sadly, Alan died in early December after several months of ill health. Many of you will remember with great fondness what a great support he was to his wife Mildred, who held many roles in our Diocese, including branch leader and Diocesan President. Mildred set up a new branch in Torre Viejo, where she and Alan spent their winters for many years. Mildred and Alan retired to Rustington in Sussex and quickly established themselves becoming active members of the community.

Caroline, Christine and Alan Matthews (Alan being a former colleague of Alan's) and myself, all attended Alan's funeral.

May he rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

*Sue Abernethy*

## Letter from our President

My Dear Friends and fellow members,  
This is my first newsletter to you and I can't say how happy I am to be writing it.

I feel honoured to be your President, somewhat daunted, of course, but nonetheless privileged and excited by the thought of leading this wonderful organisation called Mothers' Union in Winchester Diocese for the next three years.

We've already had a Trustees training day in Salisbury, and it was interesting to meet up with members from our nearby Dioceses.

I'm off to Guernsey on 19 February and very much looking forward to meeting all their members, and

I'm also hoping to attend the commissioning service at Southwark Cathedral for our new Worldwide President at the end of February, added to that we have our first Trustees meeting of this new Triennium, which I'm greatly looking forward to, not to mention branch meetings, Cathedral prayers and our Information Day on 21 March.

So, there's lots going on to keep us on our toes, and I look forward to meeting you all at these various events.

Please continue to keep the Trustee board and myself in your prayers as we go forth in faith.

With love and blessings to you all,

*Sue*

## Letter from our Chaplain

At the wedding in Cana of Galilee when the wine was found to have run out, Mary the Mother of Jesus told the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." [John 2, v. 5] And they did just what Jesus told them to do, and the result was an abundance of 'Good Wine.' I believe that God always asks of us, always asks that we serve Him and His people, always makes requests of us that in some way we 'do something'. In furtherance of the Kingdom, in showing the love and care of God for every human being, in glorifying the Lord Jesus who came to save us and be our Friend and Guide, in glorifying the Almighty for His great love, mercy and grace for us all.

But sadly, so often, our response to God asking us to do something - and always remember that does not necessarily a physical action or deed, is to protest or deny that we can do it. The excuses come - we are not skilled enough, or clever enough, we are not able to do whatever it is we are asked, there are far better people to do it. And anyway who will take notice of our doing it? Our entirely laudable humility says quietly, 'God cannot possibly mean me' and 'I would but I don't think I am good enough to do it, I would just fail'. Even sometimes with Prayer we can be beguiled into thinking that our Prayer is of no great significance compared to great deeds.

Very human, very natural, but forgetting that anything - indeed everything that we do for God, in response to Him or because we hear His voice asking something of us is perfect to Him. It is never about quantity or magnitude, it is about a task taken up with love and to the very best of our ability, about quality- God's quality I suppose. And believing we are not equipped or good enough is to deny the grace of God and the power of the Holy Spirit in our lives. There is an old Hindu proverb which says "If God says 'Pull', He will give you a rope; If he says 'Ride', He will furnish a horse." and that is all about trust, trust in the God who is with us always.

*Lynda*

**Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning**

**Sue Murphy – Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer [secretary@muwinchester.org.uk](mailto:secretary@muwinchester.org.uk)**