

E-NEWS



DIARY DATES

Cathedral Prayers:

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| 3 April | Winchester Cathedral
Led by Odiham Deanery |
| 1 May | Winchester Cathedral
Led by Lyndhurst Deanery |
| 5 June | Undercroft, Winchester Cathedral
Led by Christchurch Deanery |

Other events:

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| 16 May | Quiet Day at Wolvesey
Led by Rev Lynda Mead |
| 31 May | Thy Kingdom Come – MU Global
Moment – Coventry Cathedral |
| 5 June | Trustees Meting
Undercroft, Winchester Cathedral |
| 14 June | Festival Service
2.30pm Romsey Abbey |

Monday 15th July
Diocesan Council
and
Information Day
 at St Boniface's Church Hall
 Chandler's Ford
 SO53 2FT
 10am to 2pm

The Quiet Day on 16th May will run from 10am—3.30pm, and the theme for the day will be 'Journeys'. Lynda will be conducting the day from the lounge area, to enable those who are unable to use the steps to the chapel to join us for the day. The chapel will be available for everyone to use for a Quiet Space and Prayers during the day. I am aware that some people may be disappointed not to be in the chapel for the talks, but it is important that we do not exclude anyone from attending the day.

Stella Roberts

Romsey Abbey Mothers' Union

Our annual programme for meetings has 2 fixed points—during Lent and in September, we have our own service of worship in the Abbey. In March, we used the year's theme to explore how best to listen to God for guidance in all we do. The Vicar, Revd. Thomas Wharton, reflected on Mary sitting at the feet of Jesus while Martha was busy with the meal for the guests. We so often assume that prayer begins with us talking to God, bringing our hopes and fears to God's attention; but this is the wrong place to

start. As the Collect reminds us - 'Almighty and everlasting God, you are always more ready to hear than we to pray.' By sitting quietly with God to listen, we can feel fellowship with members worldwide—we are part of that global listening, that worldwide chorus of prayer and praise.

Averil Bamber

Letter from the Chaplain

There is an oft quoted saying in Christian circles— "We live in this world but are not of this world", implying that whilst we live in this world, we are not living under world's values and standards. We live under God's rule. But there are times when this idea of 'not being of this world' can wrench at our compassion and sense of justice. We have seen such horrors inflicted upon innocent people of all faiths and of no faith, that it can seem both defeatist and arrogant to ignore them or behave as if it does not affect our own world, because it is of distant concern to us. One of the great strengths of the Mothers' Union is its sense of duty and commitment towards all wherever they may live, our international connections, our linking with groups far away. Jesus always made it clear to those who would hear Him, that taking this world's values as a guide was not the way of the establishment of the Kingdom of God. But He never spoke of us as being outside the world itself, only its ways. We are indeed all part of one another, we share this world, God's Creation and a common humanity. When we speak of our being 'children of God' we are affirming our status as being parts of God's great Family. We are making our way now, through Lent to the climax of Jesus' earthly life on the Cross at Calvary, but also to His glorious Resurrection which holds out the promise of hope fulfilled, and new beginnings for us all. Easter is on its way for all, my wishes for all Mothers' Union members is for a blessed and peaceful celebration (even a chocolate celebration!) and this is a Celtic Easter Blessing, by Noust from "A Book of Blessings":

Risen Lord,

**Give us a heart for the simple things: love, laughter,
 bread and wine and dreams, Give us a green growing
 hope, and make us a people whose song is alleluia, whose
 name is love, whose sign is peace**

Amen

Lynda Mead

Dear fellow MU members in Winchester Diocese

I was so happy to join Sue and the Trustees at Winchester Cathedral Choir for the commissioning service and be "at home" with them and those who had come in support, despite the weather, and I am sure that everyone there felt our mission for the next

three years was very blessed, and unexpectedly so by the presence of Mary Sumner's great granddaughter. She remembered being brought into the Cathedral by Mary as a toddler and her lasting impression was of the candles and the flowers and the smell. I want to say thank you, thank you, thank you to all of you for your love and support over the last three years as your President, and also over the last thirty years as a mother, member, and Trustee, and for your huge generosity by giving me a John Lewis voucher for £300 enabling me to welcome into my new home something that I can treasure which represents such a special time in my life. I was rather overcome first at Popley and then in the Undercroft at December Cathedral Prayers but I hope you all understood how grateful I am and that I have always been so proud to represent Winchester Diocese and all its members and our wonder-full outreach and faith-full prayer for God's kingdom, touching those around us for Christ. I will wear my MU pendant, and my scarf with so much love as I take up my membership of the Mothers' Union in Portsmouth Diocese.

Although I am happily settling down at St. Peters in Petersfield, with Mum at 8 o'clock, or at the main service if on my own, I have yet to join a MU branch meeting anywhere or have the adventure of a trip down to Portsmouth, to find the Cathedral and convenient parking and join the members there in Cathedral Prayers – it seems rather apt to finish on that note; please pray for me as I enter a new Cathedral! With love

Caroline Scull

AFIA 2019 – Fundraiser – Time Change!

On Wednesday 29th May 2019, following his testimony and talk on AFIA at the Diocesan Information Day last year, **Neil Obbard** and his wife Tina are making a return visit to our Diocese. This is a not-to-be-missed opportunity to hear Neil's life journey, and how God has led him and Tina to now be heading the AFIA holidays, amongst other callings! Bring along a family member, or friend, to hear his amazing experiences. **TO BE HELD at St Peter's Church, Reading Road, Yateley GU46 7GA at 3.00pm** followed by tea and cake etc.

Karen Jones

Diocesan Information Day at Chandler's Ford

We were delighted to welcome David Ewaku and Angela Stead from Mary Sumner House to our Information Day on 21st March. David explained the background to the new Central website and membership database. This aims to provide a better service to members, increase the efficiency of our administration both at diocesan and national level, and help to raise our profile and raise funds. I was

stunned to hear that in some dioceses the administrator had to spend hours during 2018 typing in the details for all their members, as they didn't know who they were! In Winchester the details for all the members were already in a database held by the secretary's computer, and just needed to be reformatted (thank you to Viv who typed in all our details when she created our database back in 2005). We also heard a little bit from the Trustees about their backgrounds within Mothers' Union – and we will be sharing that with you in the e-newsletter and in Archway.

Thank you to Chandler's Ford branch for your welcome, and to Romsey branch for providing the refreshments.

Sue Murphy



Helen Pain – Trustee Introduction

I joined Mothers' Union 40 years ago, and have gained a great deal from being a member, not only from friendships across a wide age range, but also encouragement in my faith life. My first Quiet day was a Mothers' Union one, and despite being assured I could leave at lunchtime if I wanted to, I stayed the whole time and wanted longer! Times of prayer and reflection organised by Mothers' Union have been a wonderful blessing.

My membership has enabled me to serve Mothers' Union in the sphere of social justice, which is an intrinsic part of my faith. I was a diocesan Social Concern rep in the days before it became Action and Outreach, was on the Family Holiday team; more recently a Social Policy officer for the diocese, and now one of your trustees.

Mothers' Union members questioning me about potential sexual exploitation at the Olympics in Poole (2012) led to my joining Stop the Traffik to fight modern slavery, and I am active in our local group. I believe the focus on supporting families and marriage in an unapologetically Christian context is as important today as it has ever been, so as one of your trustees I hope to play a small part in helping Mothers' Union to continue its mission.

Helen

Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

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