

## E-NEWS



### DIARY DATES

#### Cathedral Prayers:

10.30 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday each month keep free for Cathedral Prayers at home via *FaceBook*

#### Other Events

12<sup>th</sup> May 11am Quiet Morning via Zoom led by Revd Lynda Mead

20<sup>th</sup> May 11am Coffee and Chat via Zoom

### Letter from our Diocesan President

#### Dear Friends

I am sure you are all looking forward to being able to hold your Mothers' Union Meetings in person very soon. I know many of you have managed to meet via Zoom and have kept up with each other by telephone but there is nothing like a face-to-face conversation with friends.

As far as the MU Diocesan events go the Cathedral Prayers will be back in the Cathedral from Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> July.

The Diocesan Festival Service will take place on 10<sup>th</sup> June at 11.00am in Winchester Cathedral. The Dean, The Very Revd. Catherine Ogle will be the Celebrant and will give the address on that day. This service is planned to take place in the Quire. We will not be processing Banners, please DO NOT bring them with you. Having to arrange Social Distanced seating we would like to know how many people intend to attend the Service. Please let Sue Murphy (the Diocesan Secretary) know the names of those hoping to attend the Service by 27<sup>th</sup> May and whether some will be in "bubbles". Regretfully, we won't be able to sing in the Cathedral but one of the Cathedral Singers will lead the singing parts of the Holy Communion for us.

Many of you will already know that due to Covid 19 we are not able to organise the usual AFIA Family Holiday this year. However, if you would like to recommend a family for a short holiday break or a Day Out please send the names to Sue Murphy and we will try and accommodate them. Especially those working in the NHS, Teachers, Carers or Service Industries.

You may have already heard that Diocesan Offices at Old Alresford Place are closed and along with the Bishop of Basingstoke's House are to be sold. Regretfully, we have made the decision not to hold the Mary Sumner Day Service at St Mary's Church, Old Alresford this year, which is a shame as we will be commemorating 100 years since Mary Sumner died

and celebrating her achievements and that of the Mothers' Union members across the world. On Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> August Helen Pain and the Southampton Deanery will lead Cathedral Prayers on this theme and afterwards we will lay flowers on Mary Sumner's Grave. I would like to suggest that Branches find a way of commemorating and celebrating Mary Sumner Day in their own way on 9<sup>th</sup> August, perhaps with a tea party, prayer time, or Songs of Praise service.

Don't forget to book your place on the Quiet Day on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> May. It will be led by our Chaplain Rev. Lynda Mead. As we cannot use the Chapel in Wolvesey owing to the covid19 restrictions, it will take place on Zoom from 11.00am – 1.00pm. Please let Sue Murphy know if you wish to attend and she will send you the contact numbers to join Zoom. The Mothers' Union will be supporting RAF Odiham Family Day on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> July and we will need cakes to serve to the families. Linda Hoskins and Sue Tickell will be informing us what they need and where to take the Cakes for delivery to Odiham on the Day.

The Mothers Union will be Live Streaming their Thy Kingdom Come Service on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> May at 2.00pm ( the date in the Connect Magazine is incorrect) The address will be given by the MU Central Chaplain, the Rt. Rev'd Dr Emma Ineson Bishop of Penrith. This service will also be available on Face Book and YouTube.

I will be attending the Canterbury Provincial Presidents Conference on Mon 17<sup>th</sup> and Tues 18<sup>th</sup> May, again via Zoom. The Conference starts at 2.30pm on 17<sup>th</sup> and ends on the 18<sup>th</sup> at 8.00pm. At least I get to sleep in my own bed!!

I look forward to meeting up with all my MU friends at one or more of these events but I do understand that for many it may be difficult to attend owing to social distancing and any ongoing conditions that make it unadvisable to mix with other people. May God Bless you in all you do in His name.

With love

*Stella Roberts*

*Diocesan President*

**"Coffee and Chat"**

We know that some members (particularly diocesan members) have been feeling very isolated and would like more contact with other Mothers' Union members – so we are offering a "coffee and chat" session via Zoom on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> May at 11 a.m. Please let me know if you would be interested in taking part in this.

*Sue Murphy*



## Earth Day and creation care

Earth day was April 22<sup>nd</sup> ; the world leaders' conference reminded us of the need to work together across the globe to mitigate the effects of our industrialization, greed for possessions and disregard for God's creation.

We know that the effects are felt keenest by those who are poor, by those living in environments already degraded by human activity and already threatened by climate change, and it is exactly in these places that so many of our Mothers' Union sisters live. From members in sub-Saharan Africa finding it harder and harder to grow crops or graze their cattle, to Vanuatan members at risk of their whole country disappearing under the ocean, we cannot be complacent in the face of these inequalities.

The scale of the crisis can easily leave us thinking that we cannot make a difference, but this is just not true. Think and pray about things that you can do, however small; talk to other Mothers' Union members and your church members, and start an action plan. I will share some practical suggestions next month and perhaps you could submit yours too, so in combination we make a still larger difference!

*Helen Pain, Trustee*

## A Reflection

God, help me to live,  
as the rock set in rushing waters,  
Buffeted, worn, cleansed, caressed,  
Lying easy at last in your waiting hand  
As a smooth pebble in the hand of a child.

And help me to die,  
as the golden poplar, reaching toward the sky,  
shining till the last leaf swirls ground-ward,  
dying outwardly in glory  
that the inner tree might live.

Help me to see the world  
with eyes that refuse to carve the wisdom of trees  
into board feet of timber

Help me to listen to the world  
with ears that strain to learn the language of the river  
before its flow of words is stopped  
by concrete walls,  
its voice drowned in the roar of turbines.

Help me to touch the world  
with fragile hands  
knowing that only the rocks will remain to hold our  
stories, when the sun has gone out  
and the earth drifts dark and empty through the void  
God I have walked miles  
from the innocence of your garden.  
Help my heart find the teachings that will always  
guide me back  
to where the forest floor yields gladly beneath my  
feet  
and your smile dances on the waters of my soul  
**Linda Adams, St. James' MU, Vancouver, Canada.**

## AFIA 2021



As Stella mentioned in the last e-newsletter, the Trustees felt that we had to cancel our usual Away From It All family holiday in Lodge Hill in August. We were unsure whether Lodge Hill would be fully open this summer, and there are challenges with social distancing with the families we take. Several other Dioceses have also cancelled their residential holidays. However, if you know of a family deserving a break we will try and find suitable accommodation for a long weekend or an Activity Day out. We have identified caravan sites with facilities in the New Forest, at Highcliffe and near the beach at Mudeford. **Please contact Sue Murphy or Jane Chick by 16<sup>th</sup> May if you would like to recommend a family for a long weekend break at one of these sites.**

*Sue Murphy*

## Connected 2021

All members should have received their copy of the new Connected magazine from Mary Sumner House in early April. I have a number of spare copies, so if you haven't received one please let me know and I can post one to you.

*Sue Murphy*

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

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