

E-NEWS



DIARY DATES

Cathedral Prayers:

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

Other Events

12th May 11am Quiet Morning via Zoom led by Revd Lynda Mead

Letter from our Diocesan President

Dear Friends

It was good to meet so many of you at the Zoom Lady Day Service on 25th March. Even with the technical hitches we were able to worship together and even sing thanks to the pianist who came to the rescue and played her piano in her lounge. (I am sorry I didn't catch her name). The Spring Information Day (on Zoom) was also well attended. We learned from Helen Pain about how "County Lines" drug dealers were using vulnerable young people as supply chains. Helen also talked about the need to be aware of Modern Day Slavery hidden in our communities. I do hope that you have received the Modern Day Slavery poster to put in your Church toilets. Please laminate it and ask permission of your churchwardens or vicar before displaying it. Lou Scott Joynt gave us information on the work of Spurgeons charity in the Winchester Prison Family Centre. Regretfully, we were unable to supply Mothering Sunday cards this year because of the difficulties getting them to the prisoners. At present prisoners are unable to have visitors. It is with sadness that the Trustees have decided to cancel the Away From It All family holiday this August owing to Covid19 and the uncertainty over whether Lodge Hill would be fully open and challenges with social distancing with the families we take. I have learned that several other Diocese 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 few days or an Activity Day out. Please send any names to Sue Murphy or Jane Chick by 1st May.

We will continue to record Cathedral Prayers for Facebook and YouTube for the time being until we are sure it will be safe to be back in the Cathedral to worship. We are looking at how we

might organize our Festival Service on 10th of June. Please look out for news on this in the next eNews.

RAF Odiham Family Fun Day will take place on Saturday 10th July and the Mothers' Union has been invited to have their usual Cake and Drinks Tent. Information about how to get cakes to collecting points to be taken to Odiham will be available in next month's eNews.

I was pleased to learn that many branches are managing to hold their meetings on Zoom and others are keeping in touch with telephone calls. Thankfully, there is light at the end of the tunnel and from April we should be able to meet in Church or in gardens (weather permitting). I am so looking forward to being able to see my family again even if we do have to gather in the garden or a park. We also say a big thank you to all NHS and Key workers who have worked tirelessly to keep the country running and the sacrifices some have made to help keep us all safe.

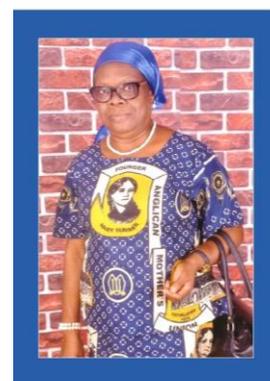
As we thank God for the blessings we have, let us use this Holy Week to remember those around the world who find life difficult and pray that they too will be able to rejoice in new beginnings.

May God bless you and those you love this Eastertime

Stella Roberts

Diocesan President

Diocese of Kumasi – The Installation of Mother Georgina Mintah Godfrey, President 14th March 2021



A day of celebration for our MU sisters!



Calling all Diocesan Members

Our Theme for 2021 is **Re-Building Hope and Confidence**. Branches have been offered a Speaker on the Theme via Zoom but we would now like to offer a separate session for Diocesan Members. This would also give us an opportunity for some Fellowship and discuss some plans for the future. As a Diocesan Member myself I have missed the regular contact which I understand some of our Branch members have had so I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you.

I can offer a Zoom session on **Tuesday 13th April at 10.30 a.m.** OR **Thursday 22nd April at 2 p.m.** depending on your response.

Please contact me if you are interested and state which date would be preferable to you.

Christine Clode. Speakers' Representative
training@muwinchester.org.uk

Letter from our Chaplain

I am sure that many of us have favourite Prayers, or prayers that we always go to in certain situations in life - both joyful or sad. We probably use certain forms in our own personal Prayer time, I use 'Celebrating Common Prayer' adding to these some favourite Prayers which I have collected over the years. In the morning I use two particular prayers which I would like to simply share with you all now. They come from very different writers, times and arose out of different situations. Both are quite short,

succinct and I think to the point. Both are men and of their times and cultures, but that is by the way, it is what they say, why they say it, and how they say it which I think matters most. In chronological order only, first there is the Prayer of Sir Jacob Astley - he was a soldier commanding troops in the English Civil War. He wrote this on the Eve of the Battle of Edgehill in 1642.

Lord, Thou knowest how busy I must be this day.

If I forget Thee, do Thou not forget me. Amen

The other Prayer was written by Father Mychal Judge, an American catholic Priest who was Chaplain to the New York Firefighters. He considered it part of his duty to be with the Firefighters wherever and whenever they were in action, and could be seen alongside his charges at many emergencies. He was with them at the Twin Towers atrocity in 2001, and indeed died there alongside the men and women Firefighters he served.

Lord, take me wherever You want me to go;

Let me meet who You want me to meet;

Tell me what You want me to say;

And keep me out of Your way.

I also like to say Father Mychal's Prayer before any sort of meeting, especially one which I think will be difficult or challenging, and I think it offers us ideal words to pray in many aspects of our service to others as members of the Mothers' Union.

Wherever you go today, tomorrow and beyond, in whatever you do, may God go with you.

Revd Lynda Mead

Brockenhurst Branch

Several members of our branch have been knitting/crocheting mini baskets for distribution to residents at their two local care homes and to elderly folk living alone to brighten up Easter and show they are not forgotten. The project has been co-ordinated by Revd. Canon Diane Webster, an MU member for many years, and over 125 baskets have been made, filled with mini Easter Eggs and with a gift tag from MU attached.

Lesley Munt



Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

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