

E-NEWS



DIARY DATES

Cathedral Prayers Winchester

- 6 Oct 10.30 am Cathedral Prayers – led by St John's Hedge End. Epiphany Chapel.
 3 Nov 10.30 am Cathedral Prayers – led by Bournemouth Deanery

Other Events

- 3rd Nov Speakers Forum – after Cathedral Prayers – **see note below**
 10-16 Oct - Prisons Week
 19 Nov Information Day 10am – 2pm at Chandler's Ford
 25 Nov (Thursday) Prayer Vigil outside Winchester Cathedral 12pm – 2pm
 25 Nov – 10 Dec – 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence

Letter from our Diocesan President

Dear Friends

I am pleased to report that the Trustees met in person on 8th September and we were joined on zoom by those trustees who were unable to get to Winchester.

We started the meeting as usual with Prayer and then before the formal agenda had a discussion on the theme 'Re-imagining Mothers' Union', our conclusions were sent to Marian Pope who is co-ordinating all the findings from across GB and Ireland.

We agreed that we would be having an Away from it All Family Holiday in August 2022.

There was concern that we don't have enough helpers for the two Basingstoke Child Contact Centres. It would be good to have more helpers to relieve the load.

We will continue to support the Angel Tree project in Winchester Prison for Christmas.

We agreed on a Safeguarding statement for the Diocese which will be put in Archway for all to read. The accounts for the year until August were presented and accepted. It looks as though we will have a small surplus this year and thanks were given to Sue for her work on the accounts.

We would also encourage all members to keep Anti Modern Slavery Day on Monday 18th October. Prayers are available from the Clewer Initiative Website.

It is rather disappointing that so far we have had very few nominations for the Trustee Board for the next triennial. At present we have four nominations and according to our Constitution we need five Trustees

to carry out the business for the Mothers' Union in the Winchester Diocese. Please do consider whether you could possibly take on the role of a Trustee. We are also working on the Fixed Dates for next year. We will be pleased to be back in the Epiphany Chapel for Cathedral Prayers on Wednesday 6th October. At this Harvest Time, may we not only thank God for the fruitful harvest, but also for the great harvest of medicine that has allowed us all to have vaccines to combat the Covid19 virus, and all medical personnel.

With Love in Christ

Stella Roberts, Diocesan President



OCT 18
#STOPSLAVERY
 ANTI SLAVERY DAY 2021

Anti-slavery day

Last month we suggested you ask your church if it could be lit up in red on October 18th; it would be wonderful if you have been successful and can send a picture! In this e-news, note Stella's highlight of Clewer's prayer resources for Anti-slavery day, and please use them even if it's not on the actual day, as it is a week-long extra effort to raise awareness of this crime.

An eye-catching sculpture of plastic punnets is being made as a visual draw to enable people learn more about modern slavery here in Hampshire. We hope it will form part of the travelling exhibition that will tour Hampshire over a period of 12 months: look out for it in either libraries or museums in Fareham, Portsmouth, Southampton, Eastleigh, Winchester, Alton and Andover! But the sculpture, requiring about 2 m cube of space, will be available at times during the year, and so please consider asking your church or local centre if they would display it. More details at Information Day, but do contact me beforehand if you would like.

Helen Pain

Speaker's Forum 3rd November

As we have not been able to find a Venue for this meeting may I suggest that we gather over refreshments in the Refectory after the service. Any queries please contact me.

Christine Clode, Speakers' Representative,
training@winchester.org.uk

THEME 2022

At the Virtual Gathering held on YouTube on 25th September our Theme for 2022 was announced. It is to be TRANSFORMATION – NOW! Resources will become available online. Your Diocesan Speakers will be discussing this subject at their Forum in November.

training@muwinchester.org.uk

Letter from our Chaplain

I have been 'helping out' at two different Churches in the past few months, because they are in Interregnums, and cover is even more difficult during the Summer months for the Churchwardens to obtain. And my experience has always been that Churchwardens, alongside Lay Ministers and other officers of a Parish give not only their time, but their energy as well. getting on with the job - or rather their particular calling of service in action. Faith seen in action and service as well as prayer; St James writes *"Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves."* (James 1, 22)

Sometimes it can appear to others that an outward show of Faith of only talking about morals and behaviour, by informing others on how they are failing or just plain wrong is all that Christians are about - just talking. It is part of the burden which Christians have to bear, being misunderstood, and accepting that we do what we do, for the sake of God, for Him alone, and His praise and glory. We are, all of us, called to serve and it does not matter if only God sees our service, for we are in the world, but never of it.

Faith seen in action can be seen in congregations all over as men and women give of their all in loving service obeying the Lord Jesus' command that we love our neighbour as ourselves. And that describes also the Organisation to which we have promised ourselves. For it stands primarily for service to others which is a reflection of our faith in God.

The Mothers' Union has always been committed to action supported by the bedrock of prayer, our stated purpose and aims, to stand alongside those in families and in marriages too help, to succour, to support and to love and care for others.

The French writer Michel Quoist has said : *"God isn't going to ask, 'What did you dream ? What did you think? What did you plan? What did you preach?' He is going to ask 'What did you do?'"* And although all those other things in themselves are good and necessary in any Organisation or situation, I concur with Quoist that underpinned and supported by Prayer - action is what God asks of us in service.

A Celtic Blessing for Autumn (St. Michael's Princetown Trust)

May the God who gives the Autumn colour, enrich our lives with His Presence; May the God who gives the Autumn Harvest, sustain our lives with His love; May the God who gives the Autumn mist, enfold our lives with His peace; May the God who in Jesus shows that life comes from death, bless us with His life, now and for all eternity. Amen

God's blessings on each of you in all you do in His service.

Lynda Mead.



AFIA in 2021

As you know, we were unable to hold our usual family holiday at Lodge Hill in Sussex this year. Instead we offered vouchers or treats up to a value of £100 to families who could benefit (including families of key workers). Thank you to those who nominated families for these treats – we were able to support 13 families with days out including trips to Marwell Zoo, Crazy Golf or vouchers for the cinema. All the families were most grateful. We received this email from a headteacher who nominated families for this scheme:

"I just wanted to say thank you so much for the vouchers that have been given for some of our families who have struggled this year. It has been a difficult year for so many, and your generosity really helped to put a smile on all of their faces, and a few tears to their eyes too. They were all so appreciative and I am sure that they will enjoy being able to have a treat over the summer."

and from another family:

"It was the best day out we have had for ages. The children behaved really well, and we walked around the Zoo hand-in-hand!"

Next year we have booked Lodge Hill for a week in August for our usual family holiday and we hope that as usual it will be a blessing for families who desperately need a break.

Sue Murphy

Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

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