

E-NEWS



DIARY DATES

Cathedral Prayers Winchester

- 1 Dec 10.30am Cathedral Prayers – led by
Winchester Deanery – Epiphany Chapel
- 5 Jan 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Trustees

Other Events

- 25 Nov – 10 Dec – 16 Days of Activism against
Gender-based violence
- 1 Dec Trustees Meeting 11.30am (**Undercroft**)
- 7-9 Jan Reimagining Mothers' Union Conference
- 12-14 Jan Wave of Prayer
- 16 Jan Commissioning Service for new Trustee board
Quire, Winchester Cathedral

Letter from our Diocesan President

Dear Friends

It was good to meet up with members from across the Diocese at the Information Day on 19th November and with a few hardy members who attended the Vigil outside the Cathedral on 25th November at start of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence. I know many Branches will be using the Mothers' Union Global Day on 27th November to hold prayers and a vigil from 1.03pm for the one in three women around the world affected by Domestic Abuse. Most of you will know by now that as things stand at the moment we will not have a Diocesan President to lead the Winchester Diocese into the next Triennial and only five Trustees. The current Trustees met to amend the Constitution, to allow the Diocese to be run by a "committee of at least five trustees". These Trustees and Sue our Secretary will need the support of "sub committees" to help keep the Diocese working as a Charity with all the Projects run by Branches and the Diocese. If you can help in any way please don't be shy... ..volunteer. More information about these subcommittees will be available in the New Year. The Diocesan Trustees and Diocesan Speakers will be commissioned by Bishop Debbie Sellin at Cathedral Evensong on Sunday 16th January at 3.30pm. Please come and support them. Sue Murphy and I attended the Canterbury Provincial three-day Conference at the beginning of November. It was good to catch up with other Presidents and Presidents Elect to share news, worship together, and learn more about Projects in Great Britain and Ireland and Worldwide. The Worldwide MU will be majoring on Domestic Abuse and Modern Day Slavery for the next year as 1 in 3 women worldwide are affected by

Domestic Abuse. The COVID pandemic has worsened the situation, especially in poorer countries.

Thank you everyone who managed to have a Coffee Morning or Tea Party to discuss 'Reimagining Mothers' Union' and for the results of your conversations. These will be used at the Reimagining Mothers' Union Conference in the New Year which one of the Trustees will be attending.

The good news is that we will be organising the Annual Away From It All Family Holiday next year from 6th – 13th August. Application Forms for recommended families will be available in the New Year.

As we come to the end of this Triennial I would like to thank you all for your love and support for me as your Diocesan President and for all the Trustees over the past three years. Please continue to show your love and prayers for the newly elected trustees as they take on the leadership roles in the Diocese. As through Advent we prepare to welcome the Christ child, the Saviour of the World at Christmas, may we also prepare ourselves to be that light to others through the work of the Mothers' Union.

With Love and Blessings

Stella Roberts, Diocesan President

Please pray for: Linda Hoskins, Sue Tickell, Lou Scott-Joynt, Jane Horne and Joanna Heath as they take up the office of Mothers' Union Trustees for the Diocese in January 2022.

Letter from our Chaplain

A joke, a Christmas joke, from an impeccable source - the Salvation Army. A small boy was asked to say grace before the Christmas dinner, he dutifully folded his hands, closed his eyes and began, thanking God for his family, his presents, and then to thank God for all the food before them. The Turkey, the stuffing, the roast potatoes, the parsnips, the gravy, the Christmas Pudding and the mince pies. Then he paused, opened his eyes and whispered to his Mum "If I thank God for the sprouts, will he know that I'm lying?"

Well, I think that most of us have been there on Christmas morning -or any other time we received a present. Smiling, saying "how lovely" and "just what I wanted", when in reality we felt disappointment or even horror at what lay before us. In fact the very last thing we wanted, but we were properly brought up, have manners, are not unkind, and we are followers of the Lord Jesus, so we remember that the giver meant well, and we respond with grace and with

thanks even though like the small boy we know that we are being somewhat economical with the truth. But there is one Christmas gift which we do not have to be pretend to be gracious about, one gift which is truly perfect in every way. The Gift which our loving God gave to us - and that means every person on this earth, the gift of His Son to be our Lord and Saviour. And it really has to be the most astounding and wonderful gift of all time, the sheer audacity of self-giving, in coming not only to be with us- but one of us. Not that we deserved it, as we haven't been 'good children' at all, in many ways, and we probably haven't thought to give God much at all either. But Love isn't like that, our loving generous God only asks that we accept this gift of Himself, and that we will use this gift in our lives; to lead and guide us, to be the lodestar for many, and to show this light to the world, to all our sisters and brothers, to share in the Love, Joy and Peace God offers to us through and in the Lord Jesus.

The Light to lead us all out of darkness and into Life Eternal, now that is a gift to be really grateful for, and unlike some of the thanks heard at Christmas time, it is one we should be able to say with all our hearts, and then to go out and live out our thanks in our lives. The Baby in the manger, given now to you, to me and to all the world. In the words of the old Carol:

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas. *Christina Rossetti*

Every Blessing to you all, and all you love, this Christmas and in 2022.

Lynda Mead.

**16 days' campaign
Vigil and witness event on Nov 25th**



Mothers' Union members again stood outside the cathedral's west door for two hours' vigil to pray and witness to the 1 in 3 women world-wide who experience gender-based violence at some point in their lives.

The crowds were mainly intent on visiting the Christmas market, but we were able to engage many in conversation about this hidden epidemic, and hand them information cards with a request that they spare a thought and a prayer for both victims and perpetrators. One person shared how she had experienced violence from a pedophile, and another was pleased that the Church and Mothers' Union cared, given that she was 'non binary' and had experienced discriminatory behaviour from people on account of this.

There was also someone in the Epiphany chapel during the two hours, to hold a prayer space for any who wanted to come.

Helen Pain
Trustee



On 17th November we invited families, fathers who have been in custody and those currently serving their sentences, staff, volunteers and partners to celebrate 10 years of supporting families at HMP Winchester. It has been quite a journey and we would not have reached this milestone without the support of a wide range of people.

The event also highlighted the ongoing importance of prison based family services in reducing reoffending and resettlement and considered the need for long term and sustainable funding.

Invisible Walls Team.

Free Speaker Scheme

I am pleased to say we will be continuing to offer you a Free Speaker on the Theme which for 2022 is **Transformation – Now!** Those able to offer this subject are myself, Jane Horne, Helen Pain and Stella Roberts. Please contact me in the first instance. Expenses for these talks are covered by the Diocese. Zoom talks are also available, please enquire.

A new Speaker's List was circulated with your Archway Packs. Please note there are some changes. If you wish to book a speaker on their chosen subject please contact them direct, using the Speaker's Booking Form. Contact me if you have any queries.

Christine Clode. Speaker's Representative. training@muwinchester.org.uk

Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

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