

## E-NEWS



### DIARY DATES

#### Cathedral Prayers Winchester

- 4 May 10.30 Cathedral Prayers let by Odiham Deanery
- 1 June 10.30 Cathedral Prayers led by Christchurch Deanery
- 6 July 10.30 Cathedral Prayers let by Lyndhurst Deanery

### Other Events

- 9-11 May Provincial Conference
- 18 May Quiet morning at Wolvesey
- 26 May – 5 June - Thy Kingdom Come  
Global Wave of Prayer
- 9 June 11am Festival Service –  
Quire Winchester Cathedral
- 15 July Information Day – St. Barnabas, Weeke

#### Quiet Morning at Wolvesey on 18<sup>th</sup> May

This is a reminder that we will be holding an MU Quiet Morning at Wolvesey on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> May from 10.30 am – 12.30pm. The morning will be led by the Rev Canon Helen Griffiss. The morning will end at 12.30pm but we will share an Agape Meal in the Old Kitchen between 12.30 and 1.30pm so please bring your lunch with you. If anyone wishes to join us just for the Agape Meal at 12.30pm they would be very welcome. Coffee will be served from 10.00am. Helen will be leading the Morning in the sitting room leaving the Chapel available for Quiet Time. This will mean that those who find the stairs to the Chapel difficult can join us. We will have use of the Chapel, Sitting Room, and the Dining Room. Please share transport if possible or park at Chesil and walk to Wolvesey as Parking is limited. It will be good to be back in Wolvesey and I look forward to receiving your booking forms which you received a few weeks ago.

*Stella Roberts*

#### Lou (Mary Louise) Scott-Joynt

It was with great sadness that we learned that our friend Lou died on 2nd April after dealing with lung cancer for some time. Lou was a wonderful friend and colleague to members of the Mothers' Union especially in the Winchester Diocese. When Lou returned to live in Winchester, after Bishop Michael died, she became involved with Mothers' Union and

became a Trustee, she was also on the team who went into Winchester Prison to work in the visitors centre with the Open Doors project with Families visiting prisoners, organised by the Spurgeons Charity. We will miss her caring friendship, her wise counsel, and her wonderful smile. Many MU members attended Lou's funeral service on 19th April which was wonderfully uplifting and a presentation of how Lou lived her life in the love of God and service to others. May she rest in peace.

*Stella Roberts*

#### Online Safety Bill

Please continue to pray about this Bill currently going through parliament; for wording that is effective in protecting children from online pornography, and for effective implementation of the age control checks that are proposed. Here is an update from CARE: In 2018, MPs and Peers approved regulations to enact age checks on commercial porn sites as part of the Digital Economy Act.

But in October 2019 the Government U-turned and ditched the scheme. Since then, CARE's continued to push for its implementation.

Last year the Online Safety Bill was published in draft form with no mention of pornography on the face of the Bill.

However, following pressure in February 2022 the Government said age checks for online porn would be included.

During the Bill's second reading - which is where MPs debate general principles – there was clear support from both sides of the House for age controls.

In key respects, the new proposals are better than the previous age verification scheme. This time, the scheme will cover social media, user-to-user generated content and all pornography websites.

#### News from Milford-on-Sea

With the soaring prices of food and fuel, it is no wonder that many families are finding themselves in financial difficulties. On both national and local news reports we hear how more people than ever are having to turn to Food Banks. In our branch we had to admit that we knew little of how they are run, even though our churches and supermarkets here have collection boxes, and so we invited the manager of **New Forest Basics Bank, Oliver Stanley**, to come and speak to us.

He told us how the New Forest Basics Bank had been started by people from all the churches in our area and from 2005 had been able to operate from buildings at the rear of Lympington United Reformed

Church. With the increased demand for its services, larger premises were opened in Lymington in 2020 and it now has the look of a mini supermarket. It is still an independent operation with no government aid. Donations arrive from local churches and vans are used to collect surplus stock from supermarkets. The volunteer staff work in shifts and on Wednesday morning 32 parcels had been packed with £80-£90 worth of basics for a small family for a week. Four parcels had been collected and the others were delivered. To receive this kind of help, clients must be referred by the Citizens Advice Bureau, their GP, Job Centre, Christians Against Poverty. But due to the pandemic more people have been requesting help. **Oliver said, "We never turn a family away, but we try to turn a family around."**

The atmosphere in the packing/distribution area is friendly and engaging, trying to link clients with the support they need.

We were inspired to give our donations in kind, or in money, more regularly. One of our members, Sue Evans, filled her car with the donations that had been given on the day and when she delivered them to Lymington, she was given a tour of the packing area and talked with the volunteers.

Thank you, Oliver, for your inspiring talk and may the Lord bless the work of our Basics Bank and all who are involved with this much needed work.

*Val Butterworth and committee.*

### **New MU Branch**

An MU member has moved into Eling St. Mary, which is part of the Lyndhurst Deanery area, and is keen to start a new branch of the MU. This is such good news so let's keep these arrangements in our prayers.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for all the good things you do for us and for building our Union.

We ask you to keep guiding us and increasing our numbers in all the countries where Mothers' Union has a presence and those countries where we are not yet represented. We ask you to strengthen existing members that they should not tire of serving you and that they will have the strength to do more in their communities so that our presence will be felt and will help our church communities.

We pray for our MU leadership in all countries, and we ask all this through your son Jesus Christ. Amen

*Priscilla Mphande, MU Malawi.*

## **THE STORY OF GOOD FRIDAY.**



### **Jesus before Herod**

On Good Friday over 40 actors, and a choir drawn from the local community performed a Passion Play in the churchyard of St. Mary's Church in Fordingbridge.

Almost half the membership of **Hyde Mothers Union** were involved as actors, as members of the choir and in the mammoth task of producing the magnificent costumes. The play was in fact written by Jeremy Houghton Brown, the husband of our President, and a member of Hyde Branch.

It was a beautiful day and an audience of about 200 people were there to watch the dramatic story of Jesus's last days on earth.

*Marrienne Tomkies*



### **Jesus before Pilate**

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

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