

## E-NEWS – Winchester Diocese

### DIARY DATES

#### Cathedral Prayers Winchester

- 1 Nov Cathedral Prayers 10.30 am – led by Bournemouth Deanery
- 6 Dec **11am Cathedral Prayers at St. John's Chapel, Broadway, Winchester SO22 9LN**



#### Other Events

- 9 Nov Thursday: Information Day, St. Barnabas' Church, Weeke SO22 6DS 10am-2pm
- 29 Nov Prayer Vigil at Winchester Cathedral (using Charity Chalet)
- 25Nov – 10 Dec: 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based Violence)

### October MU Cathedral Prayers

In October, it was the turn of St John's, Hedge End branch, to lead the Cathedral Prayers.



Left-Right  
**Lynn Colman**  
**Carol Watson**  
**Sally Lloyds**  
**Daphne Dimmick**  
**Kathy Moore,**  
**Anne Green**  
 (centre)

We chose Literacy as our theme as we wanted to highlight the work of Mothers' Union literacy programmes in the world. This also tied in with the Education theme in the MU Prayer Diary for the week coinciding with Cathedral Prayers.

We had various elements in our service to show the link with literacy. Our Bible reading taken from Luke 4:16-21 was chosen as it showed us that Jesus himself could read. We also had the song from the New Hymns & Worship Songs book: 'The ink is black, the page is white.' Fortunately, several of us remembered the tune from when it was popular several years ago! We heard readings about women in Sudan, Ethiopia and Burundi who have benefitted enormously from attending MU literacy programmes. To show how it might feel to be confronted with the written word but have no idea how to read it, we gave each person a slip of paper written in Chinese script.

It is a sobering fact that 775 million people across the globe are illiterate. Two thirds of those who can't read are women. 155 million children around the world don't attend school. Mothers' Union literacy programmes are making a huge difference to

people's lives in countries where many are illiterate. Where people have had no opportunities to work, they are now starting businesses and are able to send their children to school but most of all, they have been given hope for the future thanks to the work of the Mothers' Union.

*Sally Lloyds*

### News from Winchester Prison

The Children's charity Spurgeons have recently been awarded a contract to deliver services to the families of the prisoners. It is the only prison where Spurgeons work in the country as most of them have awarded similar contracts to a charity called Pact. It therefore shows how much they are valued as Pact don't ask so much money for their services. Before this the charity relied on Lottery Funding which they are still applying for to cover some work that the prison will not fund. This is chiefly the work that they do with prisoners to keep them in touch with their families. This includes video calls, arranging for fathers to read their children bedtime stories and for them to help their children with homework. There is a café in the Visitors' Hall and the management of this has also recently become Spurgeon's responsibility. As you can see there are many opportunities for volunteers who would be warmly invited.

On a monthly basis Family Days are organised to take place on the Saturday and Sunday. These are organised by the prisoners for their children with support from Spurgeons and volunteers of which I have been one. On these days the prisoner can play and eat with his children and are very much looked forward to.

As we are coming up to Christmas these days are particularly special, and Father Christmas is invited! This is where the where the Mothers' Union has been asked to help. Last year we funded small presents to be given out by Father Christmas. The presents were wrapped and given to the children during the two Family Days before Christmas. I am pleased to announce that we have been asked if we can help in the same way this year. As not all children attend the Family Days, The Prison Chaplaincy Team have taken on the responsibility of organising The Angel Tree Project this year and will provide a Christmas present for each child whose father is in the prison. Please contact me if you would like to volunteer to assist Spurgeons in the valuable work that they do for the families who come to visit their loved ones.

*Gill Watkin; [gillwatkin719@gmail.com](mailto:gillwatkin719@gmail.com)*

## MU NEWS FROM MYANMAR

Dear All,

This is an extract from a recent email from Laldini at Bishops' Court in Yangon, whom I met in 2015. I think she is now heading up MU. It is very difficult for MU to function properly for the reasons she explains. I have also visited the Home for the Aged outside Yangon, which is run by Mothers' Union for any lady over 60 who has no means of support. There was a chapel in the house then.

"Our people are facing so much suffering everyday. Even though we are still strong and courageous by the Grace of God. Last week, there was flooding in the home for the age. I went there for arranged food and some basic needs. Now it is a normal situation. In that center 20 old women and 6 staff, 2 volunteers are serving.

Some of our MU members are away from their home because of conflict, Some are in Town and some are in the jungle I try to find some support for them. We need special prayers from you and everyone for our people. Please remember in your prayer. This is a special request."

I have also heard from Sittwe Diocese that MU are unable to carry out their usual MU programmes because of restrictions on travel. This means they can't do their usual outreach into the hill villages, and the villagers can't travel to Paletwa, the Diocesan centre.

In H'pa-an Diocese on the Thai border, MU is engaged in tremendous efforts to provide for the needs of the hundreds of displaced people in camps. Numbers continue to grow.

Yes, they do need our prayers! Thank you.

*Angela Bushell 20.10.23*

### **16 days' campaign against gender-based violence: Winchester Christmas market Wednesday November 29th**

Mothers' Union has accepted the charity chalet on November 29th in place of the Vigil we have had previously. Thousands of people visit the market daily. This is a showcase to raise awareness of Gender-based Violence and Mothers' Union  
***We need your help at the chalet!***

If you know a bit about Domestic Abuse (DA) or have experienced it in the past, please volunteer to be at the chalet for at least one hour. If you feel unable to say much about DA, ***team up with a friend and offer to be at chalet for 30 mins each***, just to be friendly to people and hand out leaflets or cards.

Please PRAY for good weather, for safety and for enough volunteers. Thank you. *Helen Pain*

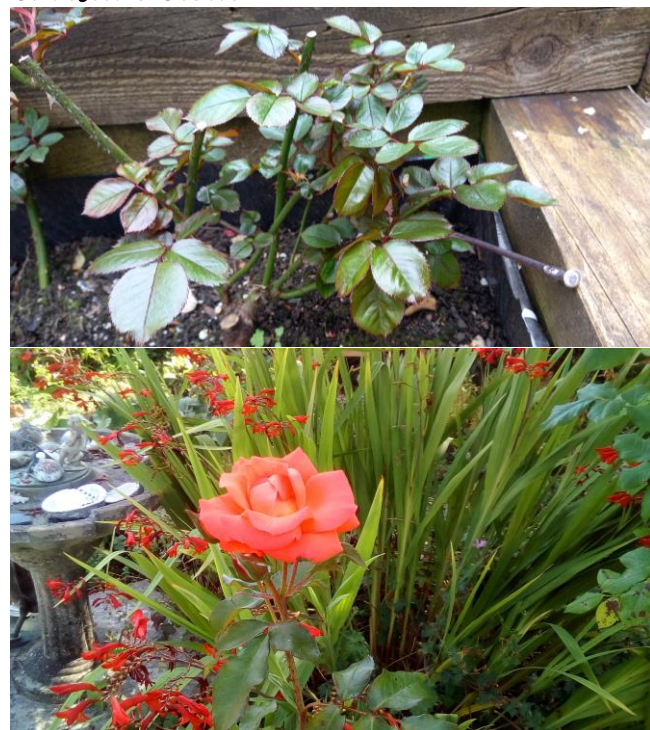
**RISE UP** (Respond Inform Support Empower – Unite Pray) is a Mothers' Union re-imagined campaign against domestic abuse. It does not replace the support for the 16 days' activism but seeks to encourage us to be aware of the scale of domestic abuse and the needs of survivors every day of the year. I am willing to come to your branch to tell you more, if you would like me to. Contact me at [helenpain@btopenworld.com](mailto:helenpain@btopenworld.com)

*Helen Pain*

### **Available at the Diocesan Information Day**

Shrub Rose, long flowering with orange/red blooms Newly grown at a nursery in Oxfordshire from cuttings from my own well established rose. 2 only available. Bare rooted for immediate planting. Available at the Diocesan Information Day.

*Christine Clode* 07905 160267



### **Little Monkeys!**

Thanks to AFIA, three families from Linwood SEN School 'Local Vocals' spent the day at Monkey World in Dorset! They had a great day



in spite of the poor weather. Next year we hope to support more families through the AFIA scheme.  
*Rev James Sharp (Pioneer Minister, WMC Parish)*

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

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