

## HAPPY NEW YEAR

### DIARY DATES

#### Cathedral Prayers Winchester

- 3 Jan 10.30 am Cathedral Prayers – let by Trustees  
7 Feb 10.30 am Cathedral Prayers - TBC  
6 March 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Overton members – Venue TBA

### Other Events

- 13 Jan Saturday - Provincial Conference via Zoom  
13 Jan Saturday – 2pm Welcome service for Bishop of Winchester – Right Reverend Philip Mounstephen  
12-14 Jan Wave of Prayer  
7-14 Feb National Marriage Week  
10 March Mothering Sunday

#### Cathedral Prayers on 6<sup>th</sup> December were held at the Chapel of St. John and led by Winchester Deanery.

We enjoyed a beautiful Advent Service followed by the hospitality of Winchester Deanery members who offered us a generous supply of sandwiches and cakes!



### A Date For 2024

The new Bishop of Winchester the Rt Rev Philip Mounstephen will be officially welcomed to the Diocese on Saturday 13th January 2024 at 2.00pm in a service in Winchester Cathedral. All the Trustees, our Chaplain Rev Terry Roberts and our Secretary Mrs Sue Murphy are all looking forward to being present at this special service. Everyone is welcome to attend this service but be sure to **arrive early to get a seat.**

*Stella Roberts, Trustee*

### News from Branches

On December 7<sup>th</sup> St. John's Hedge End held their MU Carol Service followed by a festive tea. My husband stayed at the back of the church to welcome any latecomers.

Just after the service started, the door opened and a very wet and bedraggled Year 10 lad from the local secondary school appeared. He said he was sorry to interrupt and started to walk away but David said he was welcome to stay which he did. We also invited him for tea afterwards and he sat at a table, enjoyed the tea, and chatted to others.

Such a joyful story to shine light into the darkness when we hear so much gloomy news!

*Sally*

### Mary's Men – Christchurch Deanery

About 40 members of the Christchurch Deanery gathered for their annual Advent Service. It is traditional at this occasion to collect gifts of warm clothing, toiletries and treats of chocolate for the Homeless looked after by the Salvation Army at Winton in Bournemouth. The Workbox group at Highcliffe fill many bags with knitted items of mittens, hats and scarves. The recipients are known as Mary's Men.



Officer Mary Randell always attends to receive our donations and regales us with amusing tales of her work. At the centre on a Monday evening

visitors can take a hot shower and collect new clothing, followed by a hot meal. Mary is a trained Podiatrist and she tends to their feet. She asks us to provide her with cheap shower gel which apparently makes so many bubbles that the men can't see how dirty the water is. Bless her. Our collection and the proceeds from the raffle amounted to some £220 which will be sent for the AFIA fund.

*Christine Clode, Co-ordinator,  
Christchurch Deanery.*

### **Some Priory MU members making Christingles for the service at Christchurch Priory.**



#### **In Memoriam – Barbara Clarke**

Barbara was a long-time member of the Yateley Branch of Mothers' Union and a committed member of St. Peter's Church Yateley. Barbara passed away on December 11<sup>th</sup> and will be greatly missed but has left us all with such fond memories of a really lovely and

talented lady. She regularly played the piano for children's groups and the MU, all without music and she always knew the hymn or song requested. Her husband was also a musician and they enjoyed a long and happy marriage until his death. Barbara always spoke of her love for Jesus and her family – and the Mothers' Union!

### **Making knitted toys**

Back in 2017 a needle was found in a soft toy that had been made by a member and been sent out by the Mothers' Union. Following this, MSH asked members to follow strict procedures when making toys to give to children including rigorous testing and adding a CE label. This has not worked well, so **Mothers' Union have issued updated guidance for groups who wish to make craft items:**

Best practice is for the branch/diocesan/community craft group to meet up and for everyone to check the items. Since different people all have different priorities, the items should be thoroughly checked by the end of going round the group. Any items going out should be checked; twiddle muffs, teddies, stars, nativity characters, squares - we don't want any going out with a choking hazard for example. Once checked a luggage type of tag with a Mothers' Union label can be attached, and the suggested wording is 'This item was made with love, with new wool and stuffing. It is not made to Toy Safety Standards but has been checked prior to being given this tag'. If you wish you can add 'with love from your branch/diocese/group' on the label to make it more personal.

Please can you record how many items your group has made and let me know, so that I can include that in the figures I input to MU Live.

*Sue Murphy*

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name.  
Amen

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

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