

**DIARY DATES**

**Cathedral Prayers Winchester**



**A reminder that the MU have a regular monthly booking in the Epiphany Chapel from 10-11am for Prayers (although we choose to start at 10.30am) and we have been asked to ensure that we have finished our service by 11am in time for the Winchester Cathedral prayers which are said on the hour, every hour**

- 2 April 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led Christchurch Members
- 7 May 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Odiham Deanery
- 4 June 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Romsey Members
- 2 July 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Lyndhurst Deanery

**Other Events**

- 28 Apr Diocesan Council and Information Day  
10am-2pm : Special General Meeting at 10.30 am - St. Gabriels Church, Popley, RG24 9DU
- 13-15 May – Provincial Conference
- 19 Jun 11.00 am Festival Service – St. Lawrence’s Church
- 25 Jun Diocesan Synod Meeting
- 27-29 Jun – Leadership conference in Liverpool

**In March our Cathedral Prayers**

were led by Overton Members and although we do not have any photos this time, it was good to catch up with friends and enjoy fellowship in the Refectory after the service.

**Commissioning Service 2025 of the Winchester Diocese Leadership Committee**



It was lovely to see so many members at the Evensong Service in Winchester Cathedral on 9<sup>th</sup> March to support me and the other members of our leadership as we were commissioned by Bishop Philip. It was a lovely service, and a very memorable occasion. I am looking forward to working with our leadership team over the next 3 years, and to meeting as many members as I can.

*Sue Murphy*

**Visit of WWP to Salisbury**



Our new World-Wide President, Kathleen Snow, was commissioned at St Martins in the Fields on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March, and then spent several days in meetings with the new Central Board of Trustees. After that, she is spending 4 days visiting Canterbury Province. Her first stop was Salisbury, and Diocesan Presidents from the dioceses in the South West Cluster were invited to join her. The photo shows Kathryn Anderson (Chair of the new SW Cluster Charity), Sandra Gamble (DP Salisbury), Comfort Fearon (our new Provincial President), Kathleen Snow, Julia Jamieson (the Zonal Trustee for Canterbury), and Steph Nunn from MSH.

We met at Sarum College, and were made very welcome by members of Salisbury Diocese. Kathleen gave an inspiring talk encouraging us to have joy in our activities within Mothers’ Union. After her visit to Salisbury, she will be visiting

other areas around Canterbury Province before returning home to Canada.

I hope to include a fuller report in Archway.

*Sue Murphy*

*One of the prayers used in the service in Salisbury*

### **Change to our Constitution**

We are making good progress towards merging the eight dioceses in the South West Cluster to form a single Charity call Mothers' Union South West. However, before we can complete this merger, we need to modify our constitution to allow us to dissolve the diocesan charity. You should shortly receive a letter about a Special General Meeting to be held in Popley on 28<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30am to agree this change to our constitution. I should emphasise that we are not dissolving the charity at this stage – but we need to change our constitution to allow us to dissolve the charity when we wish to do so.

You should shortly receive a letter inviting you to the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> April. If you are not able to get to Popley, then you can join the meeting via Zoom – the details about how to do this are included in the letter.

*Sue Murphy*

**Festival Service**

Please come and join us for this service at  
St Lawrence's Church,  
Winchester  
Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> June at 11am

**Preacher:**  
Bishop of Southampton



### **Gender-based violence in South Sudan**

On 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025 the Anglican Communion raised South Sudan's plight at the 58<sup>th</sup> Session of the Human Rights Council of the United Nations in Geneva, raising the human rights of women in the country;

*An extract from the statement.....*

The Vienna Declaration remains a major achievement for human rights, recognising the

dignity of each person, which we believe reflects the image of God in them, but rights mean little when the world allows atrocities against women and girls to continue.

As an example, 14 years ago, the world welcomed the birth of South Sudan, yet today women and girls continue to be abducted, raped along ethnic lines, subjected to sexual exploitation by captives, and gang raped.

### **Can you help Brockenhurst?**

#### **HYGIENE KITS FOR GIRLS**

Following an inspiring talk by Christine Clode, Brockenhurst Branch would very much like to begin making hygiene kits for girls, but are having difficulty finding where the need is. If anyone has links with a branch in Africa or knows of places where girls would welcome these kits, and equally importantly, knows of someone visiting who could deliver the kits, please email Lesley Munt at [lesley.munt@btinternet.com](mailto:lesley.munt@btinternet.com) Any help would be much appreciated.

### **RISE UP Campaign**

There is a petition started via Restored to urge our government to make Relationship and Sex education compulsory for all 16-18 year olds in education. This is partly in response to the recent Adolescence series in which a teenager kills a female school friend, and mostly because this age group experiences the highest rate of domestic (ie intimate partner as well as family) abuse than any other age group.

As part of Mothers' Union's support of the RISE UP campaign, please publicise this link with a request for people to consider signing <https://chnng.it/z7BvsjqCwq> The link is to Change.org and is quite safe.

### **A prayer for Myanmar**

*Lord, we pray for all the people of Myanmar following the recent earthquake. Comfort those who are injured or bereaved, and let them feel your healing touch. We pray for the emergency workers, and all who seek to help those in trouble.*

**AMEN**

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

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