

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

- 5 Nov 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – let by members from Hedge End
- 3 Dec 11am St. John's Chapel, Almshouses for monthly prayers. **Please note later time of this service**

Other Events

- 11 Nov Zoom meeting with Helen Pain
- 25 Nov Prayer Vigil outside Winchester Cathedral 12-2pm
- 25 Nov – 10 Dec 16 Days of Activism against Gender-based violence
- 28 Nov Zoom Advent Reflection with Rev Terry Roberts
- 10 Dec Charity Chalet – Christmas Market

In October our Cathedral Prayers were led by Bournemouth Deanery

The service had a Harvest theme and was led by John, Angela and Judy. We had relevant readings from 2 Corinthians 9 v6-12 and Matthew 13 v3-9 & 18v23, and sang a Harvest favourite, Come ye thankful people come. We then walked over to the Refectory for refreshments and fellowship.

Don't forget to join us in December at St. John's Chapel.



Forty years on with Mothers' Union
Harry and I have just moved to live in the Test Valley, north of Romsey. We are beginning to settle in.

Last Wednesday was the celebration of Mothers' Union Cathedral Prayers in Winchester Cathedral. I clambered onto the bus and could see the MU members sitting in the front seats of the number 66 from Romsey.

The bus clattered down the country roads and negotiated the road works in the city. We arrived at the bus station after 10 am and we were tight on time to get to the Service. "And we were off!" As fast as our sticks and legs would carry us; through alley ways, to arrive in front of the Cathedral together.

Then into the Cathedral; sanctuary, calm and hush all around us. For a precious time of prayer, praise and reflection in the peace of the ancient building. Then slowly across the giant flagstones, out into the sunshine and a short step to the refectory. For fun, food and fellowship. A pause in the busy week.

We walked together across the green to the shops. Winchester has changed since I saw it last. WH Smiths has gone, the banks have moved and audiology has arrived! A chance to indulge in a little shopping. Then back to the bus station.

A moment to sit and reflect on forty years since joining the MU. Initially in St Peter's Yateley, before moving to Hartley Wintney, St John's, via the RAF Odiham and the joy of St Gabriel's Popley, Basingstoke, to come at last to the Romsey Abbey group. Many Christian Friends and exciting times along the way - Forty years on from that first meeting.

Love, Linden

Don't forget our Prayer Vigil – Please pray even if you are unable to attend.

Prayer Vigil 25th November

16 days of activism against gender-based violence

We will mark the beginning of the 16 day with a prayer vigil by the West door of the Cathedral
12noon to 2pm
Tuesday 25th Nov



Appeal for volunteers

As you will see from our Diary dates, the MU have been given the chance to have the charity chalet in the Christmas Market at Winchester on Wednesday 10th December.

It would be really great if some of you could come and help us out at some point during the day. We will need some to arrive early (around 9am) and others to help throughout the day. If you are available and can confirm a slot you would like to cover, probably about 2 hours each, then please let Sue Murphy know at president@muwinchester.org.uk or 07514 024157.

Thank you.

Raising the Profile of the Mothers' Union

On Sunday 2nd November the MU have been given the opportunity to showcase the Mothers' Union at St. Peter's Church in Yateley. Members of the Leadership Team and MU members will be there to chat to the congregation during the services and encourage more to be aware of the work the MU carry out - and also give an opportunity for people to join up and join in the work of the MU. We will let you know in the next e-news how things went.

Information Day at Hedge End

This year our Information Day at St John's in Hedge End on 15th October fell in Prisons Week, so it was appropriate that we had a presentation from Lucy and Deb from Spurgeons about their work at HMP Winchester with prisoners and their families.

Spurgeons are there to support the family throughout the whole journey from their arrival at the prison, through their sentence, and back into the community. They run family days, homework clubs and baby visits. They link in with the children's schools too. When someone is sent to prison, the family also suffer in many ways – practically, financially and emotionally. The children are often stigmatised and may not be invited to birthday parties. Lucy and Deb shared two videos with stories from a father and daughter who have been supported by Spurgeons. Eva's story is available to watch here

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ti0sLH32_ek

Please pray for the prisoners and their families, and all the members of Spurgeons who work in the prison. They asked us to spread the word about the work they do, on social media and within our churches.

Sue Murphy, Diocesan President

Knitted Beanies



The youth pastor for our Benefice, Helen Chatfield, recently travelled out to Ukraine as part of a convoy organised by the charity Pickups4Peace to deliver much needed supplies. They took with

them 30 beanies and neck warmers made by our Knit 'N Natter group in Odiham, and we hope that they will help to keep the soldiers warm during the winter months. Let us pray that there will soon be peace and an end to the fighting in Ukraine.

Sue Murphy, North Hampshire Downs branch

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the beauty of the Autumn season – the reds, yellows and oranges of the leaves that reflect our joy in your creation, the deep blue of the sky that reflects the depth of your love for us, and the crisp cool mornings that speak of change in our lives. We thank you for your ever-present step beside us in these transitional times.

Grant us courage and peace as we move into a new season in our lives, in our faith, and in our love for you. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

**Christ Church Cathedral Mothers' Union,
Diocese of Fredericton, Province of Canada**



Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

Sue Murphy – Diocesan President & Treasurer president@muwinchester.org.uk