



# Windows

The Newsletter of Mothers' Union  
in the Diocese of Salisbury  
Registered Charity No. 249696

## Autumn 2020

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**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Mothers' Union has a vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

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see also: [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

## From Our President

Dear Friends,

What has happened to the world since we last met? Now, more than ever, our theme for this year – Building Hope and Confidence – couldn't be more relevant.

At the beginning of the year who would have thought that by mid- March we wouldn't be allowed to leave our homes for weeks and weeks unless for absolutely essential purposes – and if you were in that vulnerable category – no escape permitted. That all Churches and places of worship would be closed – no singing, no choirs, no orchestras. We would be standing on our doorsteps with pan and spoon every Thursday evening for 10 weeks applauding key workers. That all our favourite shops would be closed. No cinemas, theatres, sports fixtures, hotels, restaurants, tea- shops and NO WIMBLEDON. Our celebrations for VE Day in May would be so severely curtailed.



As lockdown gradually eased, we cautiously ventured out – making sure we kept 2 metres away from everyone else. Not so, those 500,000 who swept down to Bournemouth beach on one of the hottest days of the year. Oh! For that long-awaited haircut. What joy when we could be reunited in our 'family bubbles'. As July came, we were all heavily disguised behind facemasks of various designs and none, going about our business. Then the quarantine hit for all those holidaying in Spain and elsewhere – taking foreign holidays became a risky business. And so it goes on. We are left wondering – how much more of this can we stand? How many people will be left unemployed? When and where will the second peak happen? How many more people will be suffering silently from abuse and slavery.

As I write, who would have thought at the beginning of the year that over 45,000 people in this country alone, would have died by July – victims of COVID-19. I think that leaves us with much to pray about and reflect upon. And I think we all need to ask ourselves as members of Mothers' Union, what can we do and how can we help to bring about the healing which is needed in the wake of this terrible pandemic.

Yes, our theme this year - Building Hope and Confidence – couldn't be more relevant. This is a tough one. Probably one of the toughest we've had to face for a long time. And it's also of a very different nature from anything we have faced before and it's global. But Mother's Union can deal with this – our ability to respond to crises, as and when they occur, through our national and global networks is second to none. How do we do it? The answer to that one is really simple – the Lord shows us the way.

So, what's the way in Salisbury Diocese – I hear you asking? Well, it's going to be a bit different for the time being. Our energies are being channelled in different

directions. Because of the many restrictions imposed by the pandemic, we can't do AFIA this summer in our usual way. However, we can offer funding for needy families to enjoy a caravan holiday at Rockley Park nevertheless, albeit not in our own caravan.

We can't do the Court Café, at least not for the foreseeable future – not until the Salisbury Law Courts open up again as usual. Our VB programme was cut short in the Spring, although our babies did have a very short and enjoyable outing to Matravers School in July – please read the separate article. As the schools re-open in September, we plan to start up the VB programme again after the October half term. The VBs will be in Kingsdown School, Swindon and Sarum Academy, Salisbury. I am hopeful that the Prison Fellowship will continue with Angel Tree this Christmas and we're ready to help there. Revd Jacqui Clark is also planning to start up an Alpha Course in HMP Erlestoke. She has MU members from West Lavington Branch queuing up to give her a hand already. We look forward to Laura returning to us next spring when her maternity leave comes to an end. As well as continuing with the Virtual Baby programme, she plans to get going with the mother and child group at Salisbury Women's Refuge.

Our partnership with The Clewer Initiative continues. This is a Church of England's initiative which is fully endorsed by ++Justin and + Nicholas. Please read my article printed separately. May I ask you to ensure that the 'toilet door' poster is put up in your Church – with your incumbent's permission of course. Please do ask him/her – it's so important. Keep those blankets and twiddle muffs coming – we'll get them to SDH as soon as we can. Perhaps more important than all of this, is to keep each other going and to keep your family and friends going. Do what you can to support each other, your neighbours and your communities. It doesn't have to be the big stuff at all. A smile here – a helping hand there – a conversation, a card, a telephone call, a quiet prayer – all make a difference and will help each one of us to Build our Hope and our Confidence again. There is a lot of fear out there. People are afraid now of going out/meeting people/touching/breathing the same air – all of that. We ask ourselves, is it safe to do this or that? The big problem is that we can't see this particular enemy and we don't know where it is.

It's early days, I know, but we must also look ahead to the next triennium – 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2024, when you will have a new Board of Trustees and a new Diocesan President. There is a special weekend being organised by Marian Pope of Mary Sumner House for any member who would be interested in looking at a responsible role within the Diocese. The weekend will be held at the Christian Conference Centre over at High Leigh, Hoddesdon, Hertfordshire from 26 February to 28 February 2021. If you feel that this is something which might interest you, then please let me know. 2022 isn't far away and it would be really good for our wonderful organisation, if next year could be spent guiding and supporting our future leaders – whoever they may be. So please don't hold back. Just get in touch – you can make a difference.

Dear Friends, keep strong in your faith and strong in your hope. We can't know His plans but the Lord has this worked out and He will show us the way. His work must go on and we are here to do it in whatever way we can. Never forget that the Lord

gives us the strength and the compassion to do His work. He is always with us. He is always at our side. Open your hearts and minds and let Him speak to you.

With my thanks, love and prayers to you all, **Rosie**



## VIRTUAL BABIES AT MATRAVERS SCHOOL

During lockdown, responding to a special request from Matravvers School, Westbury, Jocelyn Short arranged for the Virtual Babies to go to a group of students for a brief period. Here are some of the comments from the students.

*'My experience with the virtual babies was incredible, I really enjoyed it. I think the first night was the worst just because I was figuring out what each cry meant and just generally getting to know the baby. I learnt that it is a big commitment when having a child due to not being able to do things you want to do as a parent. I also learnt how fragile and sensitive the baby is which makes you as the mother always on edge to keep checking if he/she is OK. Some advice I would give to others is just give it a go because I know some people don't want to do it and that's fine but never think you're not good enough to do it because trust me, having a baby for a weekend brings out another side to you. I would definitely have the baby because even though he woke up in the night and it was a little embarrassing in shops when he started crying, I felt like I had a big responsibility that I needed to do which really brought out my motherly side. So, thank you to the Mothers' Union for letting me have this experience, it was such a great experience.'* From Caitlin, Year 10 student

*'Thank you for letting us have the babies. My favourite thing about having them was how responsible I felt having them.'* From Jasmine.

*'I really enjoyed looking after the babies because it made me a lot more responsible.'* From Alicia

*'I enjoyed in general looking after a baby and feeling what it is like to be a mother. I faced some challenges when he started crying for a nappy change or feeding at a bad time but I made sure I took care of him as quick as I could. I would love to have a go again. Many people say it puts you off having a baby but I personally found it super fun taking care of the baby. Thank you for the opportunity of taking care of one of the babies.'* From Tegan





*'I enjoyed looking after them and making them stop crying. The challenge I faced is when it wouldn't stop crying for the first hour. I would love to go again. I love them and they make me happy. Thank you for the baby it really made me happy'. From Mya*

*'I found it very hard to look after the baby, so I gave up. Next time, I would try and look after the baby for longer'. From Carl*

From the Teacher in charge:

*'The students have absolutely loved having the Virtual Babies during lockdown. They have been a real morale boost at this time'.*

## Chaplain's Chat

Sometimes though, we only have to recall the oldest stories we know, to find new help. Take for instance the

story of Jesus feeding the five thousand. St Matthew tells us we know that here Jesus is probably very sad, for he has just heard of the death of his cousin, John the Baptist. It must have been a fearful and dreadful time and understandably, Jesus goes aside, to find a quiet place. Except the crowd come too.

Now, being honest, I am not very good when I go away to find a quiet space ... and everyone comes too. But look at Jesus- he sits with the crowd, heals the sick and no doubt spends so much time hearing their stories. Jesus in his grief is right in the middle of his people - people gathered from all over the place. And, when we offer all we have - in this case, five loaves and two fish, in Jesus' hands, it is enough. Well ... as we begin to gather again, wearing masks, know that Jesus is with us: in the middle of us, sharing everything with us. And that we are still all there, in community, in prayer. And we will learn how to deal with it. On Sunday, it was lovely to see how some people had clearly chosen masks that coordinated with their outfits ... while others had gone for the highwayman look, or the "I had an old duvet cover and isn't it good to reuse it," approach. Our individuality is always precious and wonderful, all the more so when we are able to share. And I thank God for the fact that through human ingenuity and knowledge we can protect others by our care.

And I've long been intrigued by the five loaves. I know it is a comparison thing - five loaves, five thousand fed, but to take something so humble and transform it into something that shows to everyone the power of God is amazing. Jesus reveals God's glory by using a fisherman's picnic. Do you remember the story of David, a simple shepherd boy, who defeated Goliath, not with armour and great weapons ... but with five small stones? Our everyday life has within it all we need to serve God, to share the love of God with others. Two digestive biscuits and a cup of tea or even just a friendly chat may just set your neighbour up for a wonderful day.

Giving thanks for all we have been given, for the grace we receive and praying we may

**5** continue to serve and to grow in the love of Christ. With every blessing, **Jo**

## Treasurer's Notes

Well what a year it has been so far! We have seen the appeal from Mary Sumner House to avoid a serious shortfall in funds and members have been amazing in supporting the appeal.

In our Diocese, because of Covid lockdown, I have understandably received very little in donations to any of our funds.

Unfortunately, Spring Council did not go ahead and at that meeting I would have announced the proposed increase in subscriptions for 2021. I can confirm that we will increase subscriptions for 2021 to £28 or £50 for joint membership. Please can you ensure all your members are informed and particularly those who pay by standing order (I still have a few who have not increased their S/O for some years). We are still awaiting an announcement from MSH as to how much they will be increasing their proportion (which I am told will be made in September), but I anticipate that there will be more than a 50p increase (for 2020 we sent £14.50). We will have to wait and see how we manage financially in 2021.

Thank you to all branch leaders and treasurer's for getting the forms and cheques to me, and for all you do in your branches.

**Suzanne Waters**

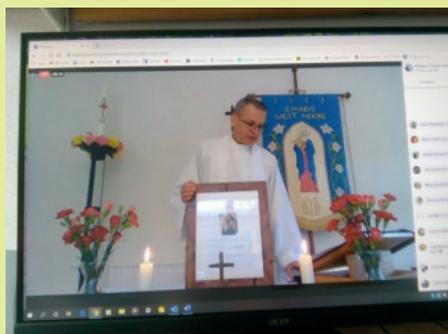
## WEST MOORS CENTENARY

MU Celebrating 100 years at St. Mary's with an On-line Service

**Lockdown did not stop our celebration.**

**We just had to adapt and celebrate virtually on-line!**

On Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June, Trinity Sunday, at our Holy Communion Service we had plans to celebrate the fact that Mothers' Union have had a branch for 100 years at St. Mary The Virgin, West Moors. As can be seen from the illustration the MU Branch was formed in June 1920 and the original badge of the MU can be seen top left, with the words 'Train up a child in the way he should go'. When I came to West Moors in 1990 younger members, some of whom worked during the day, had found it easier to meet of an evening, so the Branch had split into two groups, one holding meetings in the afternoon and the other in the evening, and it is only in the last three years, as the afternoon members became fewer and some less able to attend meetings, that the groups have combined again continuing to meet in the evening.



Unfortunately, like so many other major dates and planned celebrations at this time, due to the current restrictions we could not meet up to celebrate with our church family as intended.

However, Revd Andy Muckle, still made it a wonderful day, with our MU Banner displayed and his sermon linking loving relationships that lie at the heart of Mothers' Union to the loving relationship, which to him also lie at the heart of the Trinity. We had received cards

and good wishes, and with them was a signed certificate from Kathryn Anderson,

Provincial President for Canterbury Province which Revd Andy blessed during the service. This is to be displayed in our Church Hall, where we meet, in due course. Being pre-warned, at the end of the service members had a glass ready to raise an on-line toast to Mothers' Union - members past, present and to come.

## Revd Andy's address:

*Matthew 28:16-20*

When Liz Bowler, our Mothers' Union leader wrote an article for the parish magazine on today's centenary she quoted these words from the Mothers' Union diary:

*Working as ambassadors for Christ our goal is to see all people enjoy loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.*

I really love that statement because it says something so powerful about what lies at the heart of the Mothers' Union and also loving relationships to me are what lie at the heart of the Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Which is very apt for today because of course it's Trinity Sunday. Now I am going to be completely honest and say, one of the things that really presses my button is when I hear people say – no one wants to preach on Trinity Sunday. Red rag to a bull, why wouldn't you want to preach about God, which is what the Trinity is. It shouldn't be about trying to explain the Trinity even by illustrations like the Trinity is like an egg, shell, yolk and white but one egg. But I confess I do use one in school assemblies the Trinity is like Cadburys, Galaxy, and Sainsburys own, but they are all the same chocolate. I only use that one because I pig the chocolate afterwards. It might taste nice, but it is trying to explain the Trinity by using our own human constructs and we can't, the Trinity is a Holy mystery and something we can't fully understand this side of the grave. What we can know though and experience is the relationship of love that lies at the heart of God. Last week Revd Ruth in her farewell sermon introduced it by saying...may I speak in the name of God, Source, Servant and Sister. That was written by a mutual friend of ours Revd Sue Hart. It really caught me last week because I think that says something far more profound about the Holy Trinity than me trying to explain God by using chocolate.

Source, Servant and Sister. God was the source of life at the beginning of time and brings life into every part of creation and human existence, and so can we, if we want to. Last week we celebrated Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit and as people of faith, the Spirit calls into action to be sources of life to others, which is something that I think the Mother's Union does so beautifully. There are numerous Mothers' Union projects that bring life, but there are two local ones that really resonate with me. The first I encountered myself; before I went up north for ordination training, I was a volunteer lay chaplain at Erlestoke prison near Devizes, which is a Cat C men's prison. The Angel Tree project at Erlestoke was run by the Mothers' Union in partnership with the Prison Fellowship and they sent presents to the children of prisoners at Christmas. In their first year doing this I got to see first-hand what that meant to the prisoners to know that their children had received a present, you can't put a price on that and for some it was the first step in the journey of building again loving and flourishing relationships with their kids.

And the other project I think of many, that brings such life is the Holiday Home at Rockley Park. To provide a place of safety and rest for families who quite frankly are at the end of the tethers is just wonderful and it starts life again.

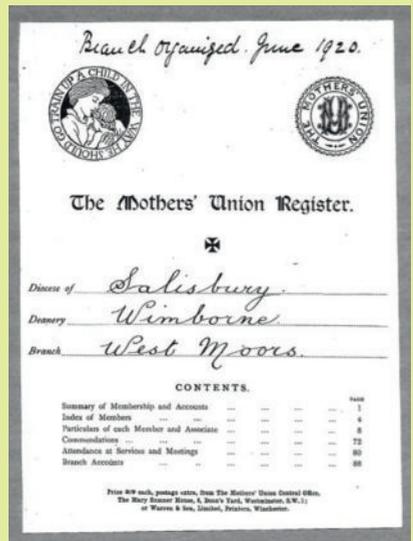
Those acts of kindness have the capacity to changes lives, but of course they come with a cost, don't they? One of the things we are celebrating today is 100 years of service and dedication by West Moors Mothers' Union, not just through the big global projects they have been involved with, but the day-by-day, week-by-week, commitment of time and love by the generations who have met at West Moors and of course our present 21 members. So this is our chance to say thank you to you, because being a member of Mothers' Union is not the walk in the park some on the outside might think it is, it is being an ambassador for Christ, as it says in your diaries, and it means being a servant for Christ, which is costly. One of the foundations of our faith is Christ's giving of himself for us on the cross, and like Christ on the cross, if we are to be a source of life for others, it means sacrifice for us as well, in time, talents and treasures and the opening up our lives and our hearts to those who are in need. Which is why the Mothers' Union has stood in sisterhood with those who are suffering gender-based violence and domestic abuse. Jesus tells us to love our neighbour as ourselves and that means having the courage and faith to stand alongside and be a sister, not just when the sun shines but when the rainclouds gather.

Mary Sumner's original vision over 140 years ago was to transform the lives of families and for children to grow up in homes that were filled with the light and love of Jesus. To me that vision is just as relevant today which is why the Mothers' Union has such a role to play here at St Mary's and across the world, by being a source of life, a servant for Christ and a sister to those in need.

St Augustine said become what you receive. In a moment we will share communion, albeit in these days spiritually, but together by faith we will receive God as source, servant and sister, so may we go out into our world refreshed spiritually, and inspired by the example of the Mothers' Union to become source, servant and sister.

Amen

Andy Muckle (vicar)



Blessing of the certificate

# Salisbury/Sudan Medical Link

Dear Friends

I really hope you have all weathered the Coronavirus well, and, by the time you read this, will be set free from confinement once more.

As you will know, the Sudan Fete, which was due to be held on 7<sup>th</sup> June, was cancelled – along with many other fund-raising events this summer. This has had the knock-on effect that training programmes for medical staff and provision of vital medicines have had to be cut back. As you also know, what the Medical Link provides is crucial to the wellbeing of many thousands of people in Sudan. Because I head up the committee which organises the Fete, I feel this keenly and am searching for ways to recover some of the funds that the fete would normally provide. We were only able to do half of the Lent Lunches this year also, because of the dreaded virus, so this has exacerbated the shortage of funds. If any of you felt moved to make a personal donation, I know the Sudan committee would be SO grateful, as would our sisters and brothers in Sudan.

Cheques can be made payable to "Salisbury DBF Sudan Medical Link" and sent to Rosie Stiven who will make sure they reach their destination when offices re-open. Her address is 14, Harwood Road Salisbury, SP2 8DB.

Yours in fellowship, **Madeleine Tarrant - Sudan Fete Committee**

## Lockdown Prayers

Calm me Lord as you stilled the storm

Still me Lord and keep me from harm

Let all the tumult within me cease

Enfold me Lord in your peace

*(a prayer by David Adam sent in by Elaine Little, Sherborne MU)*

God of our pilgrimage

You have led us to the living water.

Refresh and sustain us as we go forward on our journey,

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord Amen

May the shield of God keep you from the harm without

And may His fire consume the harm within

*(both the above included in Rosemary Allen's letters to Diocesan Members)*

God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change

the courage to change the things I can

and the wisdom to know the difference

*(taken from a card sent to Jenny Harrison by Beryl Cox, Holy Trinity and Christ Church MU Bradford on Avon)*

## CATHEDRAL FLOWER FESTIVAL

Due to the pandemic the Flower Festival which had been planned for September 2020 had to be postponed until 2022. It wasn't possible to have it in 2021 as both Winchester and Chichester had already booked dates that year.

As was mentioned in the Spring edition of "Windows" the theme was concerned with marking the 800th Anniversary of the laying of the cathedral's foundation stones and the founding of the new city of Salisbury. Having the festival two years later may slightly alter this focus but whatever happens we shall still be decorating the St Margaret Chapel.



More details of how you can become involved will be published nearer the time.



## PLEASURE FROM PEREGRINES

One positive thing to come out of the pandemic has been having more time to study the natural world. We have all delighted in watching the seasons change in our immediate vicinity but with modern technology we could enjoy the wonders of nature from further afield.

The peregrines on Salisbury Cathedral tower laid their first egg on Mothering Sunday soon followed by three more. Some

weeks later the chicks emerged and the parents were then perpetually flying to and fro to keep them fed. The small balls of white fluff grew rapidly and eventually their feathers appeared and after five weeks were ready to fly. During this time they had given endless hours of interest and pleasure to thousands of people from around the world. We hope they will return to delight us again next year.

**Rosemary Allen - Diocesan Members' Contact**

# Lockdown letter from the inside ...

Hello All,

It is sometime now that I have been at HMP a full 9 months!! What a 9-months this has been too. Who could have expected the coming of COVID 19 and the effects it has had on everyone? Despite the terrible losses we, here in the UK, have suffered I think we may find some good that may well have come out of it.

I had been at the prison 4½ months as lockdown began. It was fine at first but as reality set in, people began shielding and so the staff numbers dropped away, a challenge for a team who are mainly over 60s. For most of the lockdown, it was our Imam and me who remained working, then joined by our Quaker Chaplain after she had a short period of self-isolation.

We coped well between us, managing all our duties between us and visiting chaps on the wings as often as we were able. In prison, without the luxury of technology, we kept contact through good old-fashioned paper news sheets. Each week we circulated, the weekly readings, a reflection, prayers, a meditation, a quiz or something of the like, Food for Thought (prepared by our Anglican LPA from home) and a Bible Study prepared by our longer serving Anglican Chaplain. We also received support from the free church Chaplain, and also various of our volunteers who sent in letters or reflections. All the faiths were equally well supported by their Chaplains from home. But for all that hard work, there is nothing that can replace good old fashioned face to face communication and now that lockdown in the prison has been going on for about 16 weeks we are now  reaching a point when this is becoming

a great need and I am glad to say that most (not all) of our Chaplains are back working as before.

It has been a whirlwind of a time and so totally unexpected! However, the one thing I have been able to rely on has been the power of God and I have seen this working in so many ways. From the guy preaching on his wing and has collected more listeners than we normally have in Chapel! To the lonely ones who just need someone to talk to. I have even dipped a toe onto the edge of deliverance ministry under the guidance of our Diocesan Minister.

All this has deepened my faith and whereas when I joined the prison service, I felt a calling to serve to bring pastoral care to those within our boundaries, and help those who wanted to find a closer journey with God, I find, it is I who has grown in faith, it is now that I see I had just a mustard seed of faith and the experiences I have had, have shown me how much more I need to trust in God and let him guide me on this incredible journey. I never in my lifetime thought I would enjoy this ministry so much. It is truly a great blessing to me to be where I am situated.

I hope over time I may be able to share more with you all on this incredible journey I am on. The things I have seen and experiences I have had, have given me a persuasive glimpse not just of the love of God but also the power of our God.

I hope this finds you all safe and well; maybe sometime soon we may all meet once again in prayer, joy and singing along with one another. Until then my friends keep yourselves within the mighty power of our wonderful God.

**Jacqui xx**



# Spot the Signs and Take Action

The pandemic and the restrictions on our movements has not deterred those involved in modern day slavery.

Members of our Mothers' Union have joined forces with The Clewer Initiative to raise awareness.

Calling on all MU members in the Diocese to "take action today", Diocesan President Rosie Stiven said:

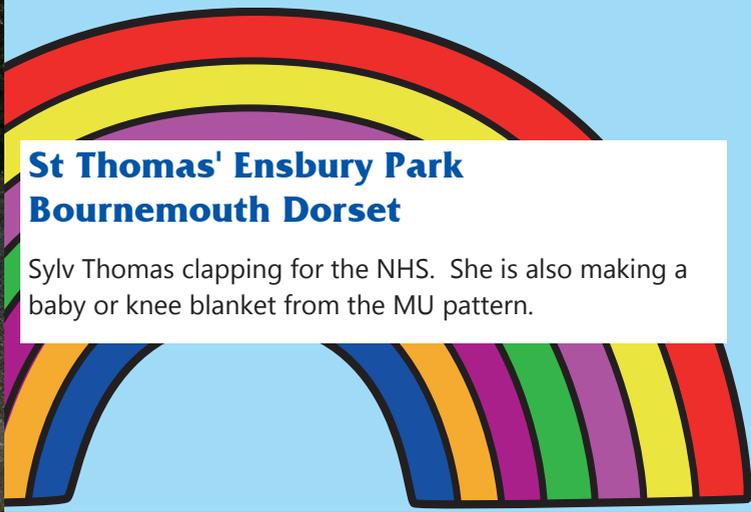
"Recently, both on the TV and in the newspapers, there have been many reports about those who were involved in the heinous slave trade of past centuries. There have been nationwide protests; people have expressed their anger and disgust at this crime against humanity. We have also been told about plans to eradicate the names of those associated with past slavery from our towns and cities. Statues have been defaced and some, either removed or toppled. "However, sadly, we have heard little about the millions of victims who are caught up in Modern Day Slavery right now.

There are over 40 million men, women and children of all races and creeds who today, are the victims of Modern-Day Slavery in this country and world-wide. They cry out in pain and suffering but no one hears them. They are hidden away – they have no voice. As our beautiful Cathedral and churches begin to reopen, please can we all begin to raise awareness of Modern-Day Slavery. This is an insidious and ever present evil in our society. Modern Day Slavery, in its many forms, is both a national and a global scourge.

You can take action today. Please display [this poster](https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/posters-and-leaflets-1) produced by the Clewer Initiative <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/posters-and-leaflets-1> in our newly opened places of worship and help, not only to raise awareness of, but also to eradicate, Modern Day Slavery from our Diocese and from our world.

I ask you to pray that all the energy and anger demonstrated against past slavery can be channelled and focussed into condemning and rooting out the slavery of today."

## News From Branches



### St Thomas' Ensbury Park Bournemouth Dorset

Sylv Thomas clapping for the NHS. She is also making a baby or knee blanket from the MU pattern.

### St James Trowbridge

We lost our oldest and longest serving member at the end of May. Lily Sephton joined the MU in 1956 and has died at the age of 98.

In 2016 we held a fund-raising Cream Tea to celebrate 140 years of the MU. At this event, Lily received her 60-year certificate from Marlene Haffendon (now Archdeaconry chair) and cut the cake with Cath Senior who was then our leader.

She was an amazing lady with a great knowledge of the Bible.



### Harnham

Harnham MU are making three kneelers for St George's. The near one was completed earlier this year. The far one has been completed and assembled in lockdown and the third is currently being worked by Katharine Callard.



## Wilton

Here are photos of a few of the 20 baby blankets and 10 Twiddlemuffs that have been created in Wilton during lockdown and delivered to Salisbury District Hospital.

We really wanted to show our love and support to new mums who will have so many extra concerns about keeping themselves and their baby safe at present and unable to show their families their new arrival in person. We also wanted to give something to comfort those with dementia who would not understand why visits from their loved ones have stopped.

All items have been delivered via an outside hub for the staff, not to the wards directly, and with time for any potential virus to become safe.

**Christine Matthews**

## Eunice Stride, Dilton Marsh

Being very old and living alone, the thought of staying without human contact for any length of time was horrifying, but life at a distance has been very social thanks to a neighbour who contacted me daily, a friend who delivered me regularly a home-made loaf and a little extra something every week, and to a grandson who is a house-dad to a 2 year old little great granddaughter who face timed me three times a week, regularly at coffee time, when I am greeted with her plastic mug raised to my coffee cup with 'cheers' and ending with a screen kiss and a quick flip of the switch.

Every Sunday I have been able to attend the same church service as my daughter who lives at Lee-on-the-Solent on You Tube from her church, and I must say the services have been excellent.

On the first day of lock down I was given a packet of sunflower seeds unexpectedly, so I divided them between the family with a note to each, saying we would meet up later and discover who had been the most successful gardener. And now 14 of us are meeting up for a long weekend in September! So, what could have been a really miserable time wasn't too bad.



## Wimborne Minster

We were delighted to congratulate Joyce Sargent on reaching the wonderful age of 100 on June 13th!

She has been a faithful MU member for 76 of those years. Apart from visiting with some flowers we were sadly unable to celebrate with her as a group due to the lockdown. We plan to do so as soon as we can!



## St James Trowbridge Meeting in Lockdown

St James Mothers' Union Trowbridge has had a meeting each month during lockdown by email or paper copies. We even went on a virtual outing in June to Coventry. Our leader Wendy Darwin taught there for many years and knows it well, so with the aid of photographs and videos we saw the ancient mediaeval part of the city, heard about the history up to modern times and visited the modern cathedral built when the old building was destroyed in a bomb raid. Two charred roof beams were formed into a cross and placed at the east end of the ruined cathedral with the inscription "Father Forgive" behind. Amongst the ruins 3 large mediaeval nails were found and formed into a cross. The Cross of Nails became a symbol of reconciliation and the Cross of Nails Community works for peace, diversity and reconciliation across the world through churches, charities, peace-building centres and schools. Archbishop Justin Welby wears a replica Cross of Nails as his Pectoral Cross. At the end of our outing the worship included the Litany of Reconciliation, prayers for the Community of the Cross of Nails, Coventry Cathedral and the MU, concluding with a recording of "O Lord my God when I in awesome wonder" sung by the choir of the school where Wendy taught when they won Choir of the Year in 2008. A lovely "Day out" with no worries about coach or car journeys or the weather!





## Bradford on Avon and Christchurch

At the start of the lock-down, Jill suggested that each committee member should regularly keep in touch with three other members. They were to be the committee's "Godchildren". It has been a lovely way to keep in touch, lift our spirits and get to know each other better. Also, we have been spiritually nourished daily by Joanna, our Rector, and musically by our Organist, Martin. Before lockdown - Rosie attended The Clewer Initiative Conference at Lambeth Palace - with Bishop Alastair Redfern centre.

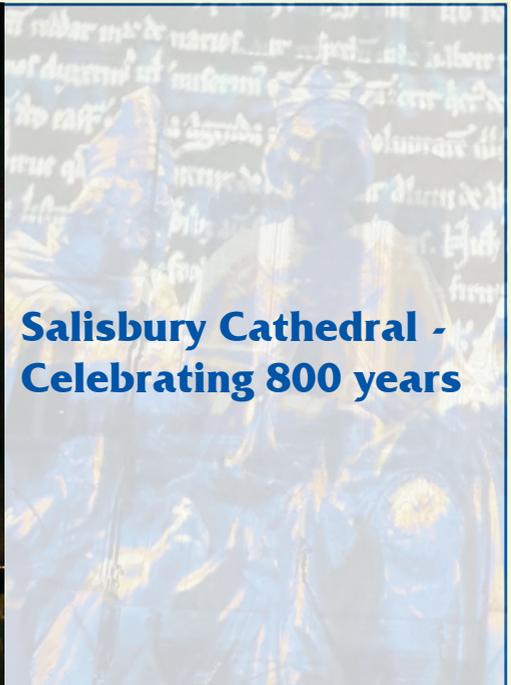


Before lockdown - World Day of Prayer - Zimbabwe. Wilton MU join with Wilton Baptist Church for the annual ecumenical service.





**Wilton** - The projects we do.



**Salisbury Cathedral - Celebrating 800 years**

## A Reflection from Rosie

Dear Friends,

I know that some of you have already seen this short reflection of mine. But for those who haven't, I thought our Autumn 2020 edition of Windows would be an ideal time to share it with you. As the focus for my reflection, I have used my favourite painting. This is a piece which I prepared during my studies for the St Aldhelm's Certificate. I hope you find it interesting and helpful.



This is a reflection in response to the question - *'If you needed to describe your experience of God to someone who had never heard of Him, would you use a story, a poem, or a picture?'*

If I were to describe my experience of God to someone who had never heard of Him, I would use a specific painting to help me in my description. The painting I would choose is *The Light of the World* by Holman Hunt 1827-1910. A postcard reproduction of the painting is attached to this paper.<sup>i</sup> I would use this painting to talk about Jesus Christ, the Son of God. I would describe who He is, why Christians follow Him and why He is so important to me in my life. I consider that Hunt's painting demonstrates all of these key points.

The painting depicts Jesus Christ, whom, we, as Christians, believe to be the Son of God. As Christians we believe that God, who is the Creator of all things, sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to earth in human form to save us from what is evil within us and to show us how to live good lives in fellowship with the rest of mankind in order to gain life beyond death. God had already provided us with a moral

code by which to live. The code was written down for us in the Old Testament part of the Bible. The moral code is known as the Ten Commandments and has been adopted as the foundation of many social and legal systems throughout the world including our own. ii

With the Ten Commandments God had provided a code of rules for mankind. The rules were very clear and told us what we should and should not do. More importantly, by sending His Son, Jesus Christ, to live amongst us on earth, God provided us with a living example of how to live a good life in harmony with others. The key message delivered by Jesus Christ to mankind during His time on earth was a message of love. This message has come to be

**18** known as the eleventh commandment 'love your neighbour as yourself'. iii

This message was quite different from the harsh tone of the Ten Commandments which clearly set out what mankind must not do. By contrast, here was a very positive message for us all. Jesus Christ showed us by his example how to live a good life through love, humility and forgiveness. This is the example by which all Christians, the followers of Jesus Christ, try to follow in their lives.

The title of the painting *The Light of the World* is taken from the New Testament part of the Bible.<sup>iv</sup> Jesus Christ used these words to describe His mission on earth 'I am the light of the world. No follower of mine shall wander in the dark; he shall have the light of life.'<sup>v</sup> Already we see how beautifully the painting captures Christ's words. The background of the painting is dark with only a suggestion of distant moonlight. The source of light in the picture is from the lantern held by Christ. The light dispels the darkness. In the painting the darkness represents evil and the light represents good. Christ is bringing light into the darkness of the world, leaving the darkness behind. It is not a brilliant and harsh light which would dazzle but a light which has a subtlety and warmth of its own, an enticing glow. The light from the lantern illuminates the foreground of the painting and in so doing, suggests a path ahead, which shows a way forward out of the darkness. Christ in providing the light to lighten the path ahead is providing a future for all of us, which does not end in death.

The subject of the painting is based on a verse taken from Revelations in the New Testament.<sup>vi</sup> The verse is '[...] I stand knocking at the door; if anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and sit down to supper with him and he with

me.'<sup>vii</sup> In the picture Christ is knocking on a door. The door has no visible means of opening from the outside. We conclude that it can only be opened from the inside. The door has not been opened for a very long time as it is overgrown with dead weeds and vegetation. Also, there is evidence of fallen and rotten fruit on the ground. Perhaps they are apples, linking Adam (the fallen man) with Christ, the new and resurrected Adam.

The darkness and dead vegetation in the painting give a feeling of neglect, desolation, the absence of life. The painting is showing that without the love of Christ in our lives there is no life, only death. Paul, an early follower of Christ, in his letter to the Ephesians says 'dead in your sins and wickedness'.<sup>viii</sup> As Doctor Eric Hayden says in his reflections on the painting 'a life without Christ is no life at all. There is spiritual death although the person is physically alive and well.'<sup>xi</sup> Christ, although the Son of God, and capable of doing all things, does not force the door open. He knocks and waits for the door to be opened from within. He waits for the invitation to enter to be given from inside.

The message is clear. You and I are the only ones able to open the door of our lives to Christ. Christ is not forcing Himself upon us. We have the choice to accept Him and open the door or to refuse Him and keep the door closed. If we keep the door closed, we continue to live our lives in darkness and sin. If we open the door, we open our lives to the light of Christ, which is the message of love.

The painting is full of images. The lantern with its stars and planets is thought to be casting light on the whole world including the Judaic and Islamic east and not just the Christian world.<sup>x</sup>

Christ is depicted wearing the robes of a priest as well as two crowns upon his head. In past times a priest was perceived as a mediator between sinful humans and their God. Christ, in wearing the robes of a priest, is taking on the role of mediator between God and mankind.<sup>xi</sup> As this verse from the New Testament says ‘there is one God, and also one mediator between God and men, Christ Jesus.’<sup>xii</sup>

The two crowns remind us that Jesus Christ, although a man, is also the Son of God who has come to earth in human form to save us. The crowns are symbols of His kingship. The golden crown reminds us of His deity and supremacy over all. The crown of thorns reminds us of the cruel mockery He suffered at the hands of His persecutors. He was an innocent man made to suffer a criminal’s death. A death by crucifixion which was preceded by scourging and crowning with thorns. Even in His agony, whilst He lay hanging and bleeding on the cross, He forgave His torturers. Even at the moment of His terrible death Christ demonstrated God’s love for mankind.

Interestingly, Hunt painted three versions of *The Light of the World*. The first version, completed in 1853, is at Keble College, Oxford. A second version is in the Manchester City Art Gallery. However, the third and arguably the most famous version is the huge painting which was first displayed in 1904 and which now hangs in St Paul’s Cathedral, London.<sup>xiii</sup> The St Paul’s version of the painting went on display around the world between the years 1905 to 1907. It was said that many of those who saw the painting were deeply moved by it. Hunt was more than aware of the painting’s spiritual power.

Hunt is reported to have said that he was

converted to Christianity whilst painting the first version of the picture.<sup>xiv</sup>

I cannot remember exactly when I first saw this painting, or rather, a reproduction of it. It would certainly have been during my childhood. As there was an abundance of art books in my home, I would spend many happy hours as a child just looking at the lovely pictures in the books and wondering what they meant. *The Light of the World* was my favourite picture. I have often wondered why I felt so drawn to this particular painting. Although rather dark, the colours provide a warmth, a welcome. The eyes of Christ are loving and compelling. I find myself unable to look away from them. In the painting the image of Christ is gentle, loving and non-threatening. The painting speaks to me of Christ as the embodiment of love. By opening the door to Christ, I choose to put my trust in Him who is love itself. By trusting in Him who is love itself, I choose to follow in the path of love where sin and evil no longer cause me to be afraid.

For me the power of this painting is that it makes me feel as if Christ is alive and tangible and about to step towards me out of the picture. The feeling is that of being in the presence of Christ. I think the nature of the painting and perhaps its attraction is that it invites an immediate and spontaneous reaction to it. The feeling is one of a very real, magnetic presence, which cannot be resisted and indeed, as the presence is so compelling, there is no desire to resist. Christ’s eyes are looking at me and in to me. It is as if He is seeing all my thoughts and feelings. I have no desire to look away. Christ’s eyes are loving eyes and they convey Christ’s message of love for mankind.

- i Source: The Light of the World by Holman Hunt 1827- 1910. The postcard is published by Tim Tiley Ltd, Bristol.
- ii Exodus 20: 1-17.
- iii Mark 12: 31.
- iv Susanna Avery-Quash, 'The Light of the World, about 1900-1904' in The Image of Christ The catalogue of the exhibition SEEING SALVATION (National Gallery Company Ltd: London, 2000), pp.32-35.
- v John 8:12.
- vi Christopher Wood, The Pre-Raphaelites (Weidenfeld and Nicolson Ltd: London, 1981), p.43.
- vii Revelations 3:20
- viii Ephesians 2:1
- ix Doctor Eric Hayden, Some Reflections on the Background and Message of Holman Hunt's Picture (Tim Tiley Ltd: Bristol, 1993), p. 8.
- x Avery-Quash, 'The Light of the World, about 1900-1904' in The Image of Christ The catalogue of the exhibition SEEING SALVATION, p.32.
- xi Hayden, Some Reflections on the Background and Message of Holman Hunt's Picture, p. 7.
- xii I Timothy 2:5,6.
- xiii Wood, The Pre-Raphaelites, p.43.
- xiv Avery-Quash, 'The Light of the World, about 1900-1904' in The Image of Christ The catalogue of the exhibition SEEING SALVATION, p.34.

#### Bibliography - Primary Sources

- Christopher Wood, The Pre-Raphaelites (Weidenfeld and Nicolson Ltd: London, 1981).
- Doctor Eric Hayden, Some Reflections on the Background and Message of Holman Hunt's Picture (Tim Tiley Ltd: Bristol, 1993).
- Susanna Avery-Quash, 'The Light of the World, about 1900-1904' in The Image of Christ The catalogue of the exhibition SEEING SALVATION (National Gallery Company Ltd: London, 2000).
- Source: The Light of the World by Holman Hunt 1827- 1910. The postcard is published by Tim Tiley Ltd, Bristol.

## WORKING FROM HOME AND LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS

I never dreamt when I closed the MU Office door on the 17th March 2020 that I would not be re-opening for many weeks to come – in fact four months and more as I write this and counting! The thought was that the Office would remain closed until perhaps after the Easter Break but as everyone knows this was not to be the case.

However, thanks to the patience and support of both Rosie and Suzanne in particular, working from home - WFH – is mostly do-able and productive. No need to say the thing missing is the physical contact with Members although I have been able to keep in touch via email, phone calls and Jitsi video conferencing.

Hopefully I have been able to keep branches/groups and the majority of Diocesan Members up to date with communications sent out by the Diocese and Mary Sumner House. There have been a couple of challenges to overcome – firstly the distribution of Families Worldwide but thanks to teamwork this has now almost been resolved. Suffice to say that we should never under-estimate the value of good communication between Members > branches/groups > MU Diocesan Office > MU Central at MSH. Could I please ask that you play your part by letting me know of any changes to membership as and when they happen.

This brings me to the second challenge – the Member Directory! I am currently working with Marian Pope, Membership Support Manager at MSH, on getting this Directory up-to-date and am in the process of going through the workshop videos; a learning curve I am getting to grips with. The target date for producing a complete Diocese of Salisbury (DoS) Member Directory is October 2020 which will be just in time for the distribution of the 2021 edition of Families Worldwide!

WFH gave me the opportunity to help with re-vamping the DoS MU Constitution and the trustees will be finalising and approving the amendments at their meeting on the 22nd September 2020. We are very fortunate to have the legal expertise of trustee Sandra Gamble to guide us in this process. In order to reflect the shifting nature of MU certain changes have been made to the Constitution which will of course be shared with Members when this document has been approved by both MU Central and the Charity Commission. Watch this space!

On a personal level, lockdown has, and continues to have, its ups and downs. Apart from the obvious downside of not being able to meet up with family and friends (how I long to give my young grandson a cuddle – a sentiment which I am sure many of you share), I miss theatre trips, concerts, meals out, outings to London, local village activities - the list goes on and no doubt you all have similar ones. The upside is that I have spent more time with my husband and also learned to love my home and garden more and appreciate them. I've also been feeling quite nostalgic these last few months and have enjoyed re-visiting the music of Paul Simon and other 1970's and 1980's music. TV is also feeding this nostalgia with repeats of long-ago Wimbledon Tennis and Glastonbury which for me has filled the gap of these events not actually happening in 2020. On a whim I joined Face Book at the beginning of the year and have joined various Groups including the MU Group and keep up with their latest posts and daily Midday Prayers.

So, for the foreseeable future I shall continue to work from home. In the meantime, please keep in touch and stay safe and well.

**Jenny, MU Diocesan Secretary, July 2020**



**VE Day - Nick and Rosie**

**IN MEMORIAM** - We give thanks for the lives and dedication of the following members, all remembered with love.

**Hilma Fisher** - St John the Baptist Broadstone P&F Group.

Hilma died age 97 and had been a member for 65 years at first in Devon where she held various positions in the Mothers' Union in the Deanery and in the Diocese. She came to Dorset ten years ago and was an inspiration to us all. She spent the last 2yrs in a care home. Sadly, no one from MU was allowed to attend the funeral, but I was delighted to see the service sheet and the prayers ended with the Mothers' Union Prayer.

<b>Hilma Fisher</b>	Broadstone P&F Group
<b>Rosemary Hall</b>	Wilton
<b>Barbara Pearson</b>	Colehill
<b>Vi Cullingford</b>	Colehill
<b>Vicki Kane</b>	St Peter, Parkstone
<b>Elizabeth Airey</b>	St Peter Parkstone
<b>Lily Sephton</b>	St James Trowbridge
<b>Audrey Lloyd</b>	Calne
<b>Mary Tigwell</b>	St Peter Devizes
<b>Faith Greenman</b>	St John and St Mary Devizes
<b>Richard Reed</b>	Dilton Marsh
<b>Rachel Hopkins</b>	Diocesan Member, Winterbourne Earls
<b>Margaret Jones</b>	St Peter's Parkstone

## **DATES FOR YOUR 2020 DIARY**

MU Annual Gathering (formerly the General Meeting) 2021	
Saturday 25 September	ICC Belfast (Service in the Cathedral on Friday 24 September)
Tuesday 1 December 2020	Service for 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence in Salisbury Cathedral at 12 noon.
Monday 18 October 2021	Anti-Slavery Day
Autumn Council	17 October 2020 CANCELLED
Spring Council	Thursday 22 April 2021 at Durweston Village Hall
AGM/Autumn Council	Saturday 16 October 2021 at St Francis, Salisbury

## **Salisbury Cathedral MU Communion Services**

All to be confirmed

12 noon on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month except August and December

October 27	Revd Tina Fox	Chalke
November 24	Revd Becky Roberts or Revd Julian Poppleton	Salisbury with Alderbury

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019 – 2021

Diocesan President  
Chaplain  
Secretary  
Treasurer

Rosie Stiven  
Revd Joanna Naish  
Jenny Harrison  
Suzanne Waters

### Archdeaconry Chairs

Sherborne  
Dorset  
Wilts  
Sarum

Jo Higgs  
Sheila Soper  
Marlene Haffenden  
Vacant

### Unit Co-ordinators:

Action and Outreach (A&O)  
Finance and Central Services  
Faith  
Fund Raising, Communications  
Training  
Diocesan Members' Contact  
Elected Trustees:

Sandra Gamble  
Mike & Liz Bowler  
Elizabeth Wood  
vacant  
vacant  
Rosemary Allen  
Daphne Furey  
5 vacancies  
Alison Oakes (Gift Aid)  
Carole Jones (Speakers)  
Laura Kachale

Co-opted Trustee:

Community Development Co-ordinator

## Trustee Meetings: all at 10am

Thursday 19 November

Thursday 28 January 2021

Tuesday 23 March

Thursday 17 June

Thursday 23 September

Thursday 18 November

**Please send news for Spring edition of Windows to Mrs Elizabeth Goater,  
17 Chiselbury Grove, Salisbury SP2 8EP,  
Tel: 01722 331899, Email: [lizgoater@hotmail.com](mailto:lizgoater@hotmail.com)  
by 1 February 2021**

