

# Windows

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

## Autumn 2021

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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.

President: Mrs Rosie Stiven Secretary: Mrs Jenny Harrison  
MU Office and Shop: Church House, Crane Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 2QB  
Opening Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays: 9.30am – 3.30pm  
Telephone: 01722 333402 Email: [mothers.union@btconnect.com](mailto:mothers.union@btconnect.com)

[www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/mothers-union](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/mothers-union)  
see also: [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

## From Our President

I am writing this on the hottest day of the year – so far! It is definitely a case for keeping windows open and curtains closed! How wonderful to see such beautiful weather and how fortunate we all are to live in such an idyllic part of Britain. Praise the Lord for His wonderful Creation!



As I write, I am full of joy and hope. So many things have just sprung into life over the last few months! Our Virtual Baby programme is successfully running once again in Clarendon and Matravers Schools, thanks to Marlene, Jocelyn and Laura and their teams of helpers. Our mobile home at Rockley Park is all set up now to receive visitors from the end of the summer term, through the school holidays and into the autumn. Thank you to Sheila, Chris, Jill, Elaine and Laura for getting everything going again. What an achievement after well over a year!



Members have been keeping up a regular supply of Baby blankets and Twiddle Muffs for Salisbury District Hospital as well as your own local Hospitals. Our links with Spurgeons for the Baby Bundles are coming back to life too.

I've had the pleasure of speaking in person – YES, IN PERSON – to members and the congregation of St. Peter's, Parkstone. It was such a memorable occasion, and I was so warmly welcomed. Thank you to Revd Mike Trotman for inviting me to speak during the Sunday Service.



You have been so generous with your very kind donations to Bishop Nicholas and Helen on their retirement. I had the privilege of attending the Evensong on Saturday 3 July when I was able to present them with a handsome cheque, the MU vase and a bouquet of white flowers. Bishop Nicholas has written to me and has asked me to pass on these words-

*'The MU is the largest membership organisation in the Diocese and makes a wonderful contribution to the common good. I have very much enjoyed gaining knowledge of your work and admire the MU's capacity to adapt to change so as to address the issues of today. Please pass on my thanks to your members for the very generous cheque and their good wishes for a long and happy retirement.'*



I am very much looking forward to joining with you for our virtual Mary Sumner Day Service on 9 August. Not only is this the 145th Anniversary Year of the Mothers' Union, but it is also the 100th Anniversary of Mary Sumner's death. During the Service we will be acknowledging the service of three members. They have all been members of the Mothers' Union for 60 years – RoseMary Robinson, June Watt (*far left*) and Jan Seaman. The photos show them receiving their certificates.

You'll remember our fund raiser for this year – Go the Extra Mile? Well, if your very generous donations are anything to go by, over £1,600 has been raised already (that's before the end of July). That's amazing and thank you so much. Jo and I have been really encouraged by your generosity to keep going and to 'Go THAT Extra Mile'. However, there's still a way to go, so do please encourage fellow members and friends to support us. All the money raised is going to help fund Salisbury Diocese Mothers' Union projects.

*Walking Madonna (Rosie and Jo)*

Thinking of our projects, we will soon be swinging into action again with our Angel Tree project for HMP Guy's Marsh and HMP Erlestoke Prisons. You'll remember that last year, 55 children received Christmas presents. Let's hope that we will be able to share the joy of giving and receiving at Christmas with even more children this year. Your generosity makes such a difference to the lives of so many children.

Bless you all for the kindness, thoughtfulness and care you demonstrate in all these different ways. Thank you all for being such faithful, devoted and loving members of the Mothers' Union. It is such a privilege to be able to serve you and the Mothers' Union.

With my thanks, love and prayers, **Rosie**



# Chaplain's Chat

*"You know, I just don't seem to have the energy anymore!" And I looked. The person speaking had just, single-handedly, cleared away furniture, made sure that all the books were in place, added water to the flower pedestals and was carefully checking the vestry. And I was humbled, by the amazing amount of work that they had done, but which was dismissed as "Nothing much ..."*

How judgmental we can all be of our own efforts, considering them feeble, not enough, inadequate. Because truth to tell, there is always more to do. Another phone call, something else to tidy up, a newly discovered weed in the wrong place. We aim for a weird sort of perfection, when all is finished, completed - an impossible dream.

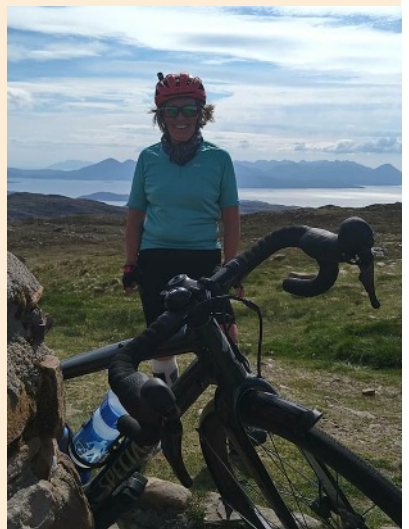
And to be tired, in need of repose somehow, we consider to be a major fault. We allow others, but not ourselves, to take rest. How frustrating it can be as well, to think of things we are no longer able to do, instead of celebrating the things that we can still manage. Our spiritual life may also be affected. We seek life in Christ - perhaps wanting to pray more, spend more time reading scripture, in reflection with others, in silent contemplation or good works. And, at a guess, there is always someone more holy, more righteous that makes us think ... "Oh dear." The Martha in us fights always with the Mary - if we spend time in quiet adoration, the chores don't get done: if we do the chores, our quiet time is reduced. Help Lord!

But think about it - Jesus, after speaking to the crowds, fed them all with "nothing much." I've often wondered if he saw just how many had been fed, or worried about how many more there were to feed? But although all he had was the minimal offering of a small boy: loaves and fishes - with Jesus it was enough. We all face uphill struggles at so many times in our lives. Some struggles are physical, some mental, some spiritual. But all have impact on our faith, on our wellbeing - and none are to be dismissed as trivial, or "nothing much." Because to God, we are precious, of immense value.

My immediate concern, as I write, is the Go the Extra Mile Ride to Iona. It has some fairly big hills on route. On one training run, I decided to tackle a mountain pass. Five miles of constant ascent from sea level to 2060 feet sounded daunting. "I can't do it!" I moaned. "Well, just go as far as you can," said my very tolerant husband. "The thing is though," he added wisely, "that you only have to cycle to the next bend and if you want to stop, stop." How right he was. I made it, one bend at a time. So, let's set off in hope and in faith. Because often, it is just as we are about to give up, that we realize that we have done enough. We may never get to see the top but taking time to rest on the journey helps us to know God's presence with us and to be affirmed in his love.

As Mothers' Union in this Diocese, we do so much. Each tiny thing, each present sent by a prisoner to a child, each woman fleeing from abuse who is able to replace things left behind or to cook a meal without fear, each young person who looks after one of our virtual babies and realizes just

4 what a great job their parents have done for them; each



family who can enjoy a few much needed days of relaxation at Rockley Park: all these, small as they may seem, are great things. Putting faith into action for others is what we do - but we must take care that we take the time to nourish ourselves as well.

Lord, use my small offering. It's all I have today, and I am now tired. So be with me, as I sit and rest, knowing that with you my "nothing much" placed in your hands, is enough. Amen.

Jo



## Nativity Set

The husband of one of our branch members has donated a lovely handmade nativity set for us to raise money for Mothers' Union Diocesan Projects. He has made it from stained beech wood, with the main figures 6 inches high.

If you would like a chance to own this beautiful set, or maybe give it to someone as a present, we are asking you to send a donation (clearly marked

NATSET) to Suzanne Waters, Diocesan Treasurer, at Diocesan Office and then your name will be entered into a draw. To give you some idea of the value, similar sets he donated for an auction night held in our parish went for in excess of £70. Donations need to be in by 22nd November and the winner's name will be drawn by the end of the month so that they will have the set in good time for Christmas.

Cheques should be made payable to Mothers' Union/SalsDioc with your name and the word NATSET (so she will know what it is for) on the back, or you can make an online payment to Mothers' Union Sals/Dioc Sort Code 309741 Account No. 00641378 with the reference NATSET. **Elizabeth Bowler**

## Meditation on Membership

Recently while searching through my prayer resources in connection with another matter, I came across this 'Meditation on Membership of the Mothers' Union', written by a member of the MU in this diocese some 30 years ago, which I'm sure some of you might recognise. It starts like this ...

I remember with sorrow the times when I treated the meeting only as a social occasion. I wanted the companionship but not the commitment; I wanted the variety of programme but not a speaker who would really make me stop and think. I wanted the company of young mothers but not the wisdom of older members; I wanted the membership without the promises; I wanted value for money without a rise in the subscription. Lord, I wanted so much.

Reflecting on this 'Meditation' I found it very pertinent in the present culture of 'what do I get out of it, what is in it for me?' Several times now I have had members say to me "I am not going to pay my subs/tribute this year, that is belong, there is no point as I can't get to meetings". Now I am under the impression that as members

of Mothers' Union our aim is to help those less fortunate, to be God's hands and feet on earth and to love one another, to try to give something back for all the blessings in our lives, not expecting anything in return. So, should you have to make difficult decisions in regard to a branch having problems, or the attendance of meetings is getting hard, I urge you to consider ways you can still be members (Diocesan Member, Indoor Member and Prayer and Fellowship Group), and in this way continue to live out the promises made when you were enrolled. I urge you to consider why you joined Mothers' Union – are its projects worth supporting, would you want them to continue, do you value the promises made at enrolment? If the answer is yes, and I hope it will be, you can still play a full part in Mothers' Union, and its work and vision, both financially through your subs/tributes, but most importantly by prayer.

So, to the ending of that 'Meditation on Membership'

Lord, I was given so much. I was given the ability to face up to life when I was dreadfully unhappy. I was given a whole new way of life. I felt an increase in my love for my family and I discovered your peace. I had so much to be thankful for, to give praise for, to be hopeful for. I pray for the Mothers' Union, for it depends on the likes of me. Increase my faith so that in my worship and in my family, I may be true to you. Show me where the real need is and strengthen my will to do your work. Help me to obey your call to serve you in the Mothers' Union.

**Elizabeth Bowler**

## **Safari Tales** – Mary Weeks Millard

Inspired by a real-life toy monkey, this book of short stories takes you on wild adventures where you will meet hungry crocodiles, grumpy cows, and lots and lots of monkeys! With a short reflection at the end of each chapter, this is perfect for getting to children to reflect on issues that they will have to face as they grow up.

A long time ago Mary Weeks Millard adopted an abandoned monkey puppet from a box of odds and ends that had been put up for sale in the hospital where she worked. She named it Safari and took it with her when she travelled as a missionary to Africa, using the puppet as a way of teaching the children there about Jesus and how much He loves them. This is what inspired this book of heart-warming, and edifying, tales following Safari around the forest he calls home. Excellent writing paints a vivid picture of so many interesting characters, each with their own story to tell, and lessons to teach.

About the author(s) Writing is the career of my old age - in my working life I was a nurse/midwife. Most of my books are adventure stories with a Christian message for primary aged schoolchildren and young teens. Maybe because I am approaching my second childhood, I love



children's adventures! I also write biography - and I love hearing peoples' stories! I am married to Malcolm, who is a retired Maths teacher and Anglican Minister. We live at Weymouth, a lovely seaside town in Dorset - which was my birthplace. I have three adult children from my first marriage to Philip Weeks (now deceased); all of who are married and have brought five wonderful grandchildren into the family. My hobbies are (besides spoiling the grandchildren!) exploring Dorset countryside, watercolour painting; making textile crafts and relaxing with a good book. I love Africa and have lived in Uganda and the Congo and also visited The Gambia, *Burundi and Rwanda many times over the past fifteen years.*

*Imprint: John Ritchie Ltd, Audience(s): General/trade, Product format: Paperback, Price: £5.99, ISBN: 9781914273056, Extent: 66 pp, Format: 145 x 210 mm, BIC Code(s): YFC, BISAC Code(s): JUV001000*

## VIRTUAL BABIES AT CLARENDON ACADEMY, TROWBRIDGE. JULY 2021

We are back! The return of the virtual babies at Clarendon was so welcome by both students and staff. Over a period of six weeks twenty-eight students became a parent to a new-born baby for the weekend. This photo and report were sent by the teacher in charge to the local paper, Wiltshire Times. The helpers are all Mothers' Union members from Holy Trinity, Bradford on Avon and St James', Trowbridge. We went into the school on a Friday afternoon all wearing masks and so did the students. Babies and all their equipment were returned to the school's reception on the following Monday for us to pick up and this arrangement worked very well. The babies had been stripped, sanitised and all the washing placed in one big bag.

It was reported that the overwhelming reaction of the students who took part was that they are not yet ready to take on the responsibility of parenthood. A true partnership between the school and Mothers' Union in helping students think about their future and are not ready to take on the demands and responsibility of a baby. This is such an

important part of the learning process. If we can help even a small number of young people to give real consideration to the important choices they have to make in the future then the Virtual Baby Project is well worth supporting!

**Marlene Haffenden**



# Treasurer's Notes

We closed our 2020 accounts with a membership of 982 (118 D/M, 864 B/M) and even with the huge postal costs (due to the lockdown), we managed to underspend by £62. Sadly, numbers have continued to drop, several branches have either switched to P & F groups or branches closed and some members have switched to diocesan membership, we currently have 154 diocesan members and 716 branch members. Although we increased our subscription to £28 in 2021, due to having to send £20 (was £14.50 in 2020) to MSH, we expect to see an overspend. Trustees will be deciding in the Autumn, what increase will be needed, and this will very much depend on what MSH increase their portion by!

**The Court Café** is yet to open so we have had no income for 2021. Our **AFIA account** has a reasonable balance in hand, thanks due to the St Mary's Fund continuing to support us and our very generous members. The **Rockley Park** holiday home was able to open at the end of July in time for the school holidays. We are incurring extra costs as we have outsourced the cleaning and weekly setting up to a local lady who already services other caravans. The **Angel Tree project** will again take place this Christmas. We were able to send gifts in 2020 to the value of £828, this leaves us with a balance in hand of £390. So, for the first time in several years we are asking you to fund raise or donate to enable us to send gifts this Christmas. If you wish to make a donation, please make your cheque payable to: The Mothers' Union/Sals Dioc and write Angel Tree on the reverse and send to the office. Alternatively, you can make an online payment to the following account: Lloyds Bank: Account Name: Mothers' Union/Sals Dioc, Sort Code 30 97 41, Ac/No 00641378 and add Angel Tree as the reference.

As always, I thank you for your support and generous giving, especially to Bishop Nicholas' retirement and your donations so far to Rosie and Rev. Jo's - Going the Extra Mile. If you haven't yet made a donation to Jo and Rosie's fund raise, it's not too late. You can make your cheque payable to: The Mothers' Union/Sals Dioc and write Extra Mile on the reverse and send to the office. Alternatively, you can make an online payment to the following account: Lloyds Bank: Account Name: Mothers' Union/Sals Dioc, Sort Code, 30 97 41, Ac/No 00641378 and add Extra Mile as the reference.

I pray that we will all soon be able to gather at one of our council meetings in the very near future. **Suzanne Waters**

## MU Shop Information

Unless members can collect from the office in person, there is no point in ordering diaries, calendars and Christmas cards from the shop as they will incur postal charges. It is therefore more practical to order direct from Mary Sumner House. If a 'communal' order is made by a branch or P&F group, the increased amount should ensure that the order is postage free.



## West Lavington Mothers' Union Supports Climate Pilgrims

On Tuesday 20th July, the first time the UK has ever experienced an extreme hot weather warning, a group of very hot and weary walkers arrived in West Lavington after walking 13 miles from Trowbridge. Why would anyone walk this distance on such a hot day? Well, the Young Christians Climate Network (YCCN) is leading a pilgrimage from this year's G7 summit in Cornwall to the Climate Change Conference, COP26 in November in Glasgow. It is calling on world leaders to take urgent action to address climate change and on July 20th the Relay's main route passed through West Lavington as walkers made their way from Bath to Salisbury.

They were welcomed at West Lavington Village Hall by Andrew, Bishop of Ramsbury, by Wiltshire Councillors Dominic Muns (portfolio holder for education) and Tamara Reay (portfolio holder for climate change) and by local residents. West Lavington Mothers' Union and local church members provided their own welcome with tea and cakes.

Rachel Manders, one of the organisers of the relay, said, "to be clapped and cheered by about 30 people who were waiting outside the village hall for us was immensely moving and so encouraging". Rachel was extremely thankful for the gift of hospitality from the villagers. Bishop Andrew thanked the walkers and said, "We are part of nature ourselves. We are ourselves held in this remarkable balance of relationships. You are making a transformational journey. Things happen and changes will happen along the way". Devizes MP, Danny Kruger sent a letter of support and personal video to the walkers and the villagers "Thank you also to everybody that has helped to organise this trip, and everyone who has helped in West Lavington. I honour what you are doing and wish you all the very best".

After an overnight stop, a refreshed team continued on to Shrewton before the relay reached Salisbury the following day to be welcomed by Bishop Karen.

If you would like to know more about the Relay and how you can get involved, go to the YCCN website [www.yccn.uk/rise-to-the-moment](http://www.yccn.uk/rise-to-the-moment).

*Cllr Dominic Muns (left) and Cllr Tamara Reay (right) with Bishop Andrew and MU's organiser Anne Wilson (kneeling right) welcome Youth Climate Change Network Relay's Rachel Manders (standing with flag) and other YCCN walkers*



*Walkers, led by MU's Anne Wilson, leaving West Lavington for Shrewton at 6am on 21st July*



## **In this thought-provoking article, the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally DBE, Bishop of London shares her thoughts on what today's modern slavery activists can learn from the abolitionists of the 18th Century.**

By drawing on the lives of prominent campaigners like Wilberforce and Olaudah Equiano and lesser-known abolitionists including Quobna Ottobah Cugoano, Thomas Clarkson, Elizabeth Heyrick and James Ramsey, she identifies five key elements and challenges us to apply these characteristics to our own fight against exploitation.

Towards the end of the eighteenth century in 1787, approximately three quarters of the people on Earth lived under some form of enslavement, serfdom, debt bondage or indentured servitude.[1] It was the year the popular movement against the British slave trade suddenly ignited. Yet sadly, three centuries later, there are more victims of slavery now than at the time when William Wilberforce fought to end the slave trade. In fact, UNICEF estimates there are around 21 million people trafficked for modern day slavery across the globe. This includes about 5.5 million children.

I have had the opportunity to speak to people caught up in slavery and have experienced first-hand the sense of helplessness that vulnerable people, often very young, are enduring. I have also met countless volunteers who serve tirelessly, caring for victims of modern slavery and trying to drive change. These volunteers don't always get seen but they are making a huge difference to those whose lives they are able to touch.

In some ways, it was the same in the eighteenth century. Although prominent campaigners like Wilberforce and [10](#) Olaudah Equiano are well known,

there were many other people, often unsung heroes, who played important roles in that pioneering movement. These unsung heroes of the past can offer us some helpful reminders about our work to combat Modern Day Slavery and can encourage us to persevere in this often unseen and yet eminently valuable work.

First, the reasons that we engage in this work are rooted in deep theological conviction. In the eighteenth century, the fight to end the slave trade was not the latest public hobby horse or a way to win votes in parliament. It was grounded in an understanding of what it means to be human.

Quobna Ottobah Cugoano's story illustrates this well. Born in Ghana, he was kidnapped at the age of about 13 and sold into slavery for 'a gun, a piece of cloth, and some lead' and shipped off to the West Indies. After several years of enslavement there, his master brought him to England.

In 1787, he published a book, 'Thoughts and Sentiments on the Evil and Wicked Traffic of the Slavery and Commerce of the Human Species'. Although one of the first pieces of writing by a black Briton about slavery, surprisingly few pages of the book are about Cugoano's own experience. It mostly consists of religious and philosophical argument. He writes:

"and so it was when man was first created and made: they were ... pronounced to be in the image of God, and his representative ... brother and a sister together, and each the lover and the loved of one another."

In other words, it was his theological conviction about the worth of every human being, made in the image of God, that drove his desire for change.

Kevin Bales, Professor of Contemporary Slavery at the University of Nottingham, explains in his popular TED talk on modern slavery: "The average price of a human being today, around the world, is about 90 dollars ... People have ... become like Styrofoam cups. You buy them cheaply, you use them, you crumple them up, and then when you're done with them you just throw them away."

It is as important today as it ever was in the past to say that we reject this view. Our convictions about slavery find their roots in what we believe about being human. Christians believe that all people are priceless.

Secondly, to defend the cause of the needy, we need help and organisation at local and national level. Thomas Clarkson, another unsung hero of the past, was central in this regard. He helped put together the first, crucial meeting of the interdenominational abolition committee in London in 1787, and as the committee's travelling organiser, he covered, he estimated, 35,000 miles by horseback during the first seven or eight years of his campaign. Because of his efforts, 'whole Coaches full of Seamen' from up and down the country testified about the slave trade before parliament.

Organisations like The Clewer Initiative, the Church of England's response to modern slavery, follow in his footsteps. The Clewer Initiative exists to mobilise the Church and communities to take action against modern slavery. It aims to bring together different groups to share

learning and signpost best practice as well as contribute to policymaking and more effective legislation. It has an important role to play, asking questions at a national level about structural sin, how society, law and order is shaped and how effective best practice can be developed in local communities.

Thirdly, one voice that is sometimes lacking in our discussions is the voice of the victims themselves. Often, even when trying to escape terrible situations, victims remain at high risk of being exploited again and real care is necessary around this. It is so important that the stories of victims are told so that we address the ways our response needs improving from their perspective.

'The History of Mary Prince,' which was published in 1831, told the story of a woman born into slavery in Bermuda who was eventually able to describe what had happened to abolitionist sympathisers. Just as this helped to influence the movement for change back then, my hope is that present day stories might aid our efforts now.

In the Diocese of London, we are working with the managers of various safe houses to enable the real experiences of victims to be heard. One area where we are aware that victims need special support are those who, for various reasons, do not want to enter the National Referral Mechanism – this accounts for about 52 per cent of people identified as at risk.[2] Their experience can be particularly unpredictable and I'm thankful that the safe houses we are liaising with are able to accept people from both within the NRM and outside it.

In England and Wales, victims of modern slavery do not have automatic entitlement to housing, financial support, or any other practical support that would assist them post-abuse and enslavement. After escaping the offender, they often become homeless and extremely vulnerable to further exploitation and abuse. That is why I'm supporting Lord McColl's Private Members Bill (currently making its way through the House of Lords) to make provision about supporting victims of modern slavery a legal requirement, Fourthly, with a global crisis as large as this, not only do we need manpower and mobilisation, but also fresh thinking. We need people who can challenge both the status quo and the lengths that we can go to, to bring about change.

In the early 1820s, the national anti-slavery movement's leaders, all men, were very cautious, believing that only by advocating the gradual emancipation of enslaved people could they get a bill through parliament. It was a woman, Elizabeth Heyrick, who contradicted them most forcefully, in an 1824 pamphlet called 'Immediate, not Gradual Abolition', which sold hundreds of thousands of copies. A former schoolteacher from Leicester and a convert to Quakerism, Heyrick believed that a woman was especially qualified 'to plead for the oppressed'. Seventy British women's anti-slavery societies sprang into being. Unlike the men, they usually called for immediate abolition. Fresh thinking

**12** changed the strategy and pushed abolitionists to go further, faster.

In London, I have set up a steering group, bringing together some of the leading practitioners and trainers working on the ground in the hope that it might produce this kind of fresh thinking.

Finally, our desire for all people, is that they might know even more than freedom from the evils of human slavery. Our desire is that they would discover the spiritual freedom available in Christ.

James Ramsey was the only navy doctor brave enough to board a slave ship in the Caribbean Sea to treat an epidemic of dysentery that had killed many slaves and crew. He was shocked by the sight of the slave decks covered with faeces and blood. Soon after, he left the sea and became an Anglican minister. Before working with Wilberforce and others in England, he spent more than a decade as a clergyman on the Caribbean Island of St Kitts, preaching to enslaved and free people and teaching them the bible in his home.

Let us continue to hold out the hope of freedom in Christ that he offered to all - freedom for all those captive to sin (Psalm 61) that we might serve a risen Saviour. And let us pray for new prophetic eyes to spot the sometimes-hidden signs of injustice in this world, condemn kidnappers (1 Tim 1:10) and encourage and support people to gain their freedom (1 Cor 7:20-24).

# 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary



Congratulations to **Rev Bernard** and **Judith Hughes** who celebrated sixty years of marriage on 25th March 2021.

Due to pandemic regulations, they had to wait until July to celebrate with family and friends. Judith is a member of the Holy Trinity with Christ Church Mothers' Union, Bradford on Avon. Our love and best wishes to them.



## LONG-STANDING MU MEMBER, ALICE MOODY

Alice has been a member of Holy Trinity Mothers' Union, Bradford on Avon, since it was formed in 1979/80. This is a picture of her outside Holy Trinity Church on Sunday, 25 July, the actual day of her 100th birthday. She has always been sprightly, always smiling and volunteering her help in many ways and for many organisations. It was unfortunate that a couple of days before her birthday she developed a nasty infection in her leg and ended up in a wheelchair. Up to then she was just using a stick for support when walking.

She had been attending our MU meetings regularly in spite of her hearing and sight deteriorating. Just

before COVID-19 shutdown, she loved to come along to watch & interact with our preschool children & parents enjoying fun at Mainly Music on a Tuesday morning. She loved children and seeing families together. She has written many times to Prime Ministers & Members of Parliament on social issues. Alice retired in 1981 from Staverton Junior School, Trowbridge, where she had been headteacher since 1960. She had also taught at Christ Church, Church of England Primary School.

Alice was widowed in 1982 after thirty-seven years of marriage. She celebrated her special day with her daughter, son-in-law, three grandchildren and seven great-children. We look forward to seeing her back at our meetings in September just as sprightly and smiley as ever.

# Wilton MU Prayers in the Park

Our first 'real' meeting in May took the form of 'Prayers in the Park' – a prayerful walk around Wilton and we had a fantastic day! Here are some of the prayers to share.



## The Dragon's Teeth and Fountain

The 'teeth' either side of the bridge were made in WWII as a tank trap to protect the town from an expected enemy invasion.

The Wylde was dredged deeper to form a protective 'Stop Line' all along the valley which continued down the Avon to the coast.

The Home Guard guarded the bridge, the main entrance to our town.

## A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

We thank you, Lord, for safely bringing us together today think of those of our Mothers' Union branch who are still shielding or cannot join us for other reasons too.

We think of MU members worldwide, and especially in India, during this pandemic and pray that you will protect each one and keep them and their families safe.

We ask this in Jesus's name. Amen

*Pauline Mahony*



## A PRAYER FOR OUR RIVERS

We thank you, Lord, for the rivers of our country, especially the two which flow through our town of Wilton, the Nadder and the Wylde.

We praise you for their beauty and appreciate both the opportunities they provide for recreation and quiet contemplation, as well as the wealth of plant and animal life which they support. We are entertained by the ducks and enjoy the glimpse of a kingfisher or fish, but much of this life is unseen and yet essential to the complex web of interdependent organisms.

We give thanks that Wilton is protected from flooding, by the water meadows and flood

defences, together with good management, and pray for those who live near rivers where flooding causes loss of property and sometimes even life.

Please help us to treasure the resource of clean water and not to take our easy access to it for granted. Where possible may we support schemes which help to give all people the precious gift of clean water.

Finally, we ask that you show us ways to conserve our rivers for the benefit of all, not only by our prayers but by our actions. In Jesus's name. Amen.

*Julia Williams*

## The Stone Memorial Seat

Marks when Lord Pembroke generously gave the people of Wilton this land to use as a park in 1910.

The rear of the seat is also carved to mark the visit by King Edward VII and Queen Alexandra to Wilton in 1908, passing this spot on their way to Wilton House with crowds of people by the roadside. During their visit the royal couple also worshipped in St Mary and St Nicholas Church.



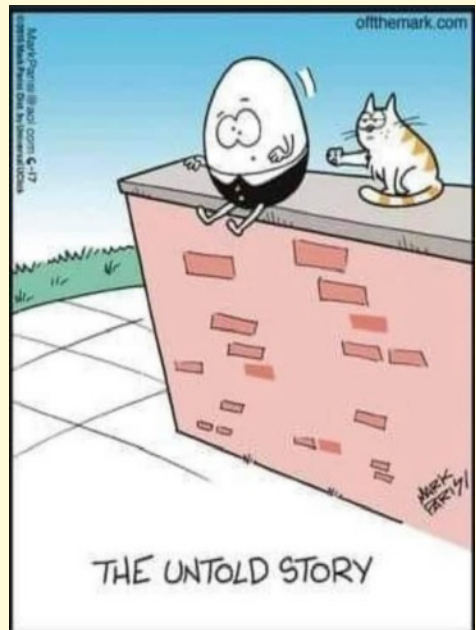
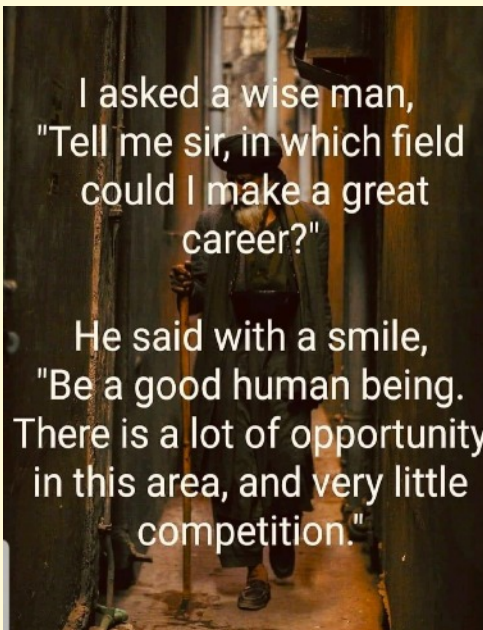
## A PRAYER FOR GENEROUS GIVING

Dear Father

Give us generous hearts Lord. We know that everything comes from you and to live in your love is to share and to give freely. We praise you and we thank you for our countless blessings. We pray for all those suffering and in need at home and abroad. This Christian Aid week, we pray for all those in need around the world - many in need of the basics of clean water, food and shelter. We pray for the Mothers' Union members working here in the UK and in countries where there is drought, hardship and oppression. Thank you for their generous hearts and the work they do to overcome inequality. We ask you to bless the Mothers' Union initiatives taking place throughout the world, not least the work with the United Nations.

We offer you these prayers in the name of your son, our saviour Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

*Annie Hotton*







Through the back gate of the park, we reach the Old Courtyard of Wilton Carpet factory. This year marks the 280th anniversary of the first patent for Wilton Carpets in 1741 which were woven at first in the centre of town near Kingsbury Square.

The buildings here are over 200 years old, rebuilt after a fire destroyed what was then a textile mill making luxury fabrics. There is an old stone from one of these older building above the lower door with the date 1655.

Wilton sent its intricate hand-woven carpets all over the world. One, it is said, even went down in the 'Titanic'! Some were made to order and were so big they would nearly fill the courtyard.

Although the factory still weaves carpets, this area is now part of a new project called 'The Guild'. Here there is a mix of factory made and artisan made items such as soaps, cheese and preserves, other handmade gifts and home-made cakes, on sale in the 'Herbs and Wild'.

Lord, thank you for all those at The Guild who use their hands and skills to make the things we buy, from cakes and cuppas to chutneys, carpets and collectables.

We thank you that there are people in these shops who are keeping up the old traditions of producing quality goods that brought Wilton world-wide fame. We pray that future plans for the old site will bring employment opportunities for the younger generation and prosperity to our town. AMEN



St Peter's church, Fugglestone, lies opposite the park gate. This was where the 17th century poet, George Herbert, was the parish priest.

HERE THE GROUP JOINS IN SAYING GEORGE HERBERT'S FAMOUS POEM - **'THE ELIXIR'**

Teach me, my God and King,  
In all things Thee to see,  
And what I do in anything  
To do it as for thee.

A man that looks on glass  
On it may stay his eye,  
Or if he pleaseth, through it pass  
And then the heav'n espy.

All may of Thee partake  
Nothing can be so mean  
Which with this tincture  
'for Thy sake'  
Will not grown bright and clean.

A servant with this clause  
Makes drudgery divine.  
Who sweeps a room  
As for Thy laws  
Makes that and th' action fine.

This is the famous stone  
That turneth all to Gold,  
For that which God  
Doth touch and own,  
Cannot for less be told.



# Welcome Back

It doesn't seem possible that I have been working from home for over eighteen months with only the occasional trip into the MU Office during that time.

However, I am now pleased to say that normal service will be resumed (or perhaps more accurately "new" normal) with effect from 7 September 2021. From that date the MU Office and Shop will be open every Tuesday between 11.00 am – 5.00 pm and I will work from home the remainder of the week.

Initially any visits from members will be by appointment only and everyone will be required to sign in. I would also advise that if you are after any goods from the MUe Shop that you ask me in advance since, although we do have some stock, no orders for new items have been placed since before lockdown.

I would like to reassure everyone that we have a robust COVID-19 Risk Assessment Policy in place which includes the regular sanitising of surfaces and adhering to social distancing rules.

Please do not hesitate to get in touch – I look forward to hearing from you.

**Jenny Harrison**

MU Diocesan Secretary 01722 333402

[mothers.union@btconnect.com](mailto:mothers.union@btconnect.com)  
[jennifer.harrison@btinternet.com](mailto:jennifer.harrison@btinternet.com)



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

**Gwen Pilling**

**Josie Spackman**

**Deidrie Light**

**Gaye Monk**

**Madeline Spatchet**

**Marianne Williamson**

St Thomas' Bournemouth  
Holt

Gillingham P&F Group

Avon River Team and Diocesan member

Colehill MU P&F Group

St John's Broadstone P&F Group

## **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:

Co-opted Trustee:

Community Development Co-ordinator

Sandra Gamble

Mike & Liz Bowler

Elizabeth Wood

vacant

vacant

Rosemary Allen

Daphne Furey

5 vacancies

Alison Oakes (Gift Aid)

Carole Jones (Speakers)

Carrie Walsh

Laura Kachale

## **Trustee Meetings: all at 10am**

Thursday 18 November

Thursday 22 March

Thursday 22 September

Thursday 22 January 2022

Thursday 16 June

Thursday 17 November



## DATES FOR YOUR 2021 DIARY

### AGM/Autumn Council

Please note our AGM/Autumn Council scheduled to be held at St Francis in Salisbury on Saturday 16 October 2021 will now be on Zoom. Details will follow by email nearer the time.

### 16 Days of Activism Service

12 noon, Tuesday 30 November 2021 in the Cathedral

### Spring Gathering

(formerly Spring Council)

Thursday 5 May 2022 at Market Lavington Village Hall

### Autumn Gathering

(formerly Autumn Council/AGM)

Saturday 15 October 2022 at St Francis Church in Salisbury

The date and location of the 2022 **MSH Annual Gathering** will be announced at the end of September 2021.

### MU Diocesan Festival Service

Saturday 21 May 2022 in the Quire at Salisbury Cathedral

### Wave of Prayer

5-7 February 2022

### Feast of the Annunciation

25 March 2022

### Anti-Slavery Day

18 October 2022

## Salisbury Cathedral MU Communion Services

Tuesday 28 September 2021

Revd Canon Jeremy Oakes Purbeck Deanery

Tuesday 26 October 2021

tbc

Tuesday 23 November 2021

tbc

Tuesday 25 January 2022

Revd Jane Dunlop

Alderbury Deanery

Tuesday 22 February 2022

Revd Jeffrey Hall

Blackmore Vale Deanery

Tuesday 22 March 2022

Revd Andy Muckle

Wimborne Deanery

Tuesday 26 April 2022

tbc

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  
by 1 February 2022