



Windows

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

Spring 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.

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see also: www.mothersunion.org

From Our President

Dear Friends,

REBUILDING HOPE AND CONFIDENCE – What a fantastic theme for 2021 and how appropriate! You will remember the reports in January of how Salisbury Cathedral was in the forefront of the vaccination programme. Those who came for their vaccinations, were surrounded by the comfort of 800 years of prayerfulness; the sheer beauty and grace of the Cathedral, and the calm of beautiful organ music. What could be a more reassuring experience for those who were feeling frightened, lonely, and isolated than to be welcomed and cared for in such a unique way.



This is what 2021 will be all about. Seeking out the lonely, the frightened and the isolated and supporting them in whatever way

we can, in order to help them rebuild their hope and confidence. As I write this, I am mindful that Mary Sumner, not only knew the horrors of the First World War, but also lived through the Spanish 'Flu pandemic which claimed circa 228,000 lives in Britain alone. A century may have passed since those terrible times, but the challenges remain the same. Firmly grounded in our faith, we will show the same strength and resolution to overcome this, as our foundress did, all those years ago.

For sure we are prevented from doing all the 'big stuff' at present, due to the restrictions on our movements. Nevertheless, we can really focus on helping those who are close by in our Branches, Church groups and local communities. We can't have a physical presence at the moment; but a phone call, an email, a card dropped through the letterbox, a wave and a smile through the window – we can give the little signs of care and concern which go a very long way in helping our friends and neighbours get through this. You are going to say that I wrote all this to you before, back in the Autumn edition. Absolutely and arguably, it is even more important now (with 100,000 deaths and rising, as I write this) than before Christmas. So, keep doing it. Don't give up. Together we'll help each other to get through this.

I know many of you have embraced new technology to keep in touch with your families and fellow members. Thanks to our inspiring and resourceful Chaplain, Revd Jo Naish, we have come together 'virtually' as a Diocese for those Special Services to mark Anti-Slavery Day and the 16 Days Campaign, as well as for our AGM. We have the ability to host zoom meetings and if any Branches wish to meet by zoom – please let me know and we can arrange it.



Now on to some very good news. Many of you may already be aware that the Channel Islands have joined Salisbury Diocese. I am delighted to report that there are members of Mothers' Union on Guernsey. I have been in touch with the group and we have received applications from them to become Diocesan Members. Also, I have had the pleasure of speaking with the Dean of Guernsey, The Very Reverend Tim Barker and his wife, Judith. Both are members of Mothers' Union. You may be interested to know that Judith was DP of Chester Diocese. Our friends in Guernsey will of course receive their copies of Windows from now on and I hope that they will contribute articles to future editions.

A very warm welcome to our brothers and sisters in Guernsey. We are absolutely delighted that you have joined the Mothers' Union in Salisbury Diocese and we look forward to hearing from you and, hopefully, to meet you at some point, sooner rather than later.

2020 was an incredibly difficult year for everyone. It was so disappointing that due to COVID, we could not hold our Council meetings and deliver our projects – with the exception of ONE. Yes, in partnership with Prison Fellowship, we were able to deliver The Angel Tree Project for HMP Erlestoke and HMP Guys Marsh. Some 50 gifts were bought; wrapped and posted to prisoners' families. All Safeguarding and COVID-safe regulations were followed throughout the process. During these difficult times, this was nothing short of a miracle. In my view, this project is appropriately named 'The Angel Tree'. We could not have done any of this without the inspiration and guidance of Our Loving Lord. He gave us the will and the ability to do it. Having said that, I will commend to you our ground-based angels who put the cunning plan into action - Liz Goater, Sandra Gamble and Brenda Birt together with members from West Lavington and Sturminster Newton – thank you for making it all possible. Looking ahead to The Angel Tree for Christmas 2021 – we need to begin fund raising for this once again. I ask you to make this project the focus of your fund raising in this Diocese for 2021.

And now a call to ACTION. You all know about the falling membership of Mothers' Union in Salisbury Diocese. Sadly, this has been going on for many years and it is heart breaking to see our numbers reduce year on year. What is also heart breaking is the fact that members are not coming forward to take on leadership roles. I urge you now to pray for and to seek out your new leaders for the next triennium – your new trustees and your new DP. As members of Mothers' Union, we pride ourselves on being a grass roots, member led organisation. Our members are the foundation and beating heart of everything we do. Your new leaders need to come from you. Time is running out. Please PRAY and ACT NOW.

Be assured that you are all in my thoughts and prayers. It is my hope that this year, we will be able to meet again – for real – and, together, look forward to the years to come full of Hope and Confidence.

Rosie



After the snowstorm overnight in January, by mid-morning these three snowmen, all warmly dressed in matching scarves, appeared on the driveway of one of our young families who come to Mainly Music in Holy Trinity Church. Three young boys live there, twins and their big brother, so each boy had made their own snowman.

Marlene Haffenden
Wiltshire Archdeaconry

Chaplain's Chat

Today was marmalade day. Marmalade always seems semi-magical; that out of those sour and unpromising rinds, myriad of pips and bitter juice, something wonderful can be made. It always takes me more patience than I bargain for – it feels like a real test of endurance. The “Is it all worth it?” question isn’t ever far from my lips.

As the pandemic has continued, we have faced bitter milestones in the statistics of people whose lives have been lost to Covid. In all these numbers, I’m aware that each and every one of these people is someone beloved by families, friends and colleagues. How conscious we are of the suffering this year! Perhaps like me, you have found that patience can be hard, at times and that hope has seemed dim. But hope is never far away. St Paul writes about suffering and how even suffering can help form us into a people of hope. “Suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.” Romans 5. 3-5

At the “pip and peel’ stage of marmalade making though - I’m really challenged. Why oh why Lord, do Seville oranges have so many pesky pips? Cutting the fruit is an irksome task because the juice makes the rinds slippery and it seems to take forever. But the thing is - that it is just at this moment of shredding that the wonderful smell begins to fill the kitchen and you trust that all the effort will bring something wonderful. Because we have God’s love in us, because we trust in it, wonderful things can happen. And the love inside us, that love of God we share runs over in caring for others. More than this - because we love each other, we remain patient and trust and through this grows hope.

All of us have such stories of hope from our communities this last year to tell - tales of food delivered, calls made, money found to support those who’ve run out, letters sent. Endurance is a part of it - but such love is present too. And here hope grows. How poignant and how wonderful it was when we heard that vaccines were available and that people could be helped.



And in the meantime, the trivial and everyday tasks remind us that ‘normal life’ is still there. Still all very much worth it – even if, like the marmalade, it has some very tiresome and sticky patches. Those moments when you think that, after all the slicing and chopping and weighing and watching that the marmalade is not going to set. Well - the

truth is, it sets because of the pips which caused such a lot of hassle that I tied up in muslin, have worked their magic and released just enough pectin to make the batch of marmalade complete.

Just as the pan was coming to the boil nicely - I realised that that we had more than I expected and that we hadn't enough jam jars. And the phone rang. “Jo - did you say you are making marmalade?”, asked a wistful voice. “Because I have spare jars ...” Hooray! Thank you Lord for friends - the final ingredient to make this batch special - to share those sticky moments together. Something very ordinary, but very wonderful as well. Anyone who has read or watched “Paddington” will know some of the joy that this brings!



We are people of faith. This pandemic will end. We need each other, especially in tough days. And we believe in Jesus, son of God, who shared our earthly life with all its difficulties and walks with us in all our trials, the sticky bits, the hard times as well as the celebrations. And the love of God is never ending, never ceasing, overflowing, eternal. This is news that is much too good to keep to ourselves – let's share that love in all we do, in deeds, in prayer, and in joy.

Every blessing, Jo



Harnham & Malosa

We sent a gift of money out to our link branch in Malosa, Malawi and they used it to buy presents for all the patients in the hospital at Christmas. Here is a note from Mildred Undulu Head of Clinical Services and a photograph of their members

worshipping prior to going round the wards. She talks about a lot of deaths from the virus and asks for our prayers. The photo was taken on 24th of December 2020 when all mothers from Likwenu Parish visited the sick at St Luke's Hospital. The day started with prayers before they went into the wards to cheer the sick with Christmas gifts.

Zooming, Angel Tree and a New Constitution

According to Thesaurus, “to zoom” is “to move very quickly”, “advance”, “progress”. The opposite is “to dawdle”, “be idle”, “fall behind”.

Despite these challenging times, members of West Lavington Branch, of which I am one, have been able to take advantage of Zoom – meeting virtually as a branch monthly, adhering to the branch’s full 2020 Programme, and attending weekly benefice services. Of course, this would not have been possible without relevant technological know-how, and we are blessed in our branch to have Anne who knows how to set up and manage online gatherings. The rest of us have merely had to click on the link she sends us.

Now as 2021 begins and we are again in lockdown, we continue to Zoom. Our branch AGM has not had to be cancelled or delayed. Our annual plans for Mothering Sunday - when ladies in the congregation are normally presented with spring flowers - are on track, and we have finalised our 2021 Programme, including services of meditation and communion together with guest speakers on such subjects as: gardening with nature in mind; journeying to Lourdes; a Prison Chaplain’s work; and Chernobyl children in 2021. The Angel Tree project, which provides Christmas presents for children of prisoners at HMP Erlestoke is also in the diary.

In *Windows Spring 2020*, I wrote how West Lavington Branch members had gathered in West Lavington Village Hall to wrap Angel Tree presents for HMP Erlestoke prisoners’ children followed by a festive lunch of soup and mince pies and a communion services led by our vicar. That was Christmas 2019. Christmas 2020 was certainly different. Meeting up in person was out. We couldn’t gather as a group, even social distancing, in the Village Hall as the pandemic regulations changed from week to week - even day to day! Nevertheless, where all other 2020 diocesan projects had had to be cancelled or postponed, Angel Tree 2020 has been a success story! Liz Goater in Salisbury, who for years has participated in the project, ordered and wrapped presents at her home. I liaised by email with the prison Chaplaincy and Prison Fellowship, collected the wrapped presents from Liz’s doorstep, addressed the parcels and posted them to families at our local post office. Similar arrangements took place regarding the project at Guy’s Marsh led by Brenda Birt. The result, circa 50 Angel Tree presents overall were bought, wrapped and posted. Project delivered!

Although it will be a great joy when we can all meet again in person, Zooming where available has been of enormous benefit. It has kept us in touch and moving forward both personally and in the corporate sense. It facilitated holding the charity’s AGM, permitted the 16 Days of Activism annual service and others to go ahead and allows the Board to function and progress its agenda. For example, a new draft Constitution worked on in 2020 and agreed by Trustee in September is with MSH and our Provincial President for endorsement before a general meeting of our membership will be asked for its approval - its aim, to reflect the changing structure within our diocesan organisation and provide a revised up-to-date constitution that will be workable

6 into the future.

Sandra Gamble - Trustee

Treasurer's Notes

I expect you have had, either in your Christmas cards or at the end of a correspondence received so far in this new year, the salutation 'Wishing you a peaceful New Year', I know I have. But this new year has begun anything but peaceful, another lockdown, many more Covid cases, many more deaths.

Few shots have been fired in aggression, but shots of a different kind are being made and hopefully will continue to be made well into the Spring and Summer. What am I going on about you ask? Shots!! Yes, shots in peoples' arms, (a different way to express the word for an injection, inoculation, there has been a lot said in the media of the use of the word – jab!) being given to many of our members as I write this piece. Hopefully when you read this, all of you will have received your vaccination and will be beginning the very slow task of getting back to normal.

What will that mean for the Mothers' Union? I'm not sure! I and the MU have had a very painful 'shot in the arm'. Last year we saw very little financial activity, the Court Café closed, Holiday Home at Rockley Park closed (but we still incurred expenses), office closed. We have missed the fellowship of our members, although Elizabeth's prayer and intercessions leaflet arriving in our inboxes each month has been so welcome – 'Thank You' Elizabeth. As a consequence of not being able to meet in our branches, fund raising just hasn't happened. Thank you to those branches who did manage to fund raise in the brief time the lockdown was lifted.

Membership last year was 982. 864 in branches and 118 diocesan members. Worrying for me is this year a lot of members are not renewing their membership to our wonderful organization. I have already seen a good number of our members cancel their standing order. Branch leaders and treasurers have phoned me to tell me members have decided not to pay their subscription "as they have not had their meetings". Surely the Mothers' Union is about more than 'Monthly Meetings' isn't it? I so hope I will be proved wrong and that our membership will remain strong.

Angel Tree – One thing we did manage to do (socially distanced) was send gift this Christmas. For several years we have had enough in hand to pay for the gifts, postage, etc., we currently have £390 in hand. Please can I encourage you, when you hopefully are able to fund raise, that you support this very worthwhile project. Donations can be sent to the office, cheques made out to Mothers' Union/Sals Dioc.

I pray that we shall soon be able to meet our friends and most especially our families. I expect there are many of you like me, that have a significant birthday or family celebration waiting to be celebrated with our loved ones.

Suzanne Waters - Diocesan Treasurer

News From Branches

Wilton Branch

Christine Stott, who was once the Diocesan MU Secretary, celebrated her 90th birthday on New Year's Day 2021. She was presented with a birthday card and a plant from the Wilton MU group, and a card signed by a large number of the congregation at Wilton Parish Church, where she still attends regularly.

Wareham

50-year membership certificates:

On Lady Day March 2021 two Wareham members will have earned their certificates: both have made outstanding contributions to MU and Church life.

Pat Cherrett organised the annual five-day Flower Festival in Lady St Mary Wareham, for 32 years, with the help of NAFAS friends and local ladies. She also headed up a team of local NAFAS ladies who won a Gold medal at the Chelsea Flower Show in 2017. The exhibit was entitled 'A walk through time.' It encompassed the Jurassic coast, fishing, farming and oil. Pat has recently retired from being Churchwarden.

Beatrice Smith is our MU and Parish poet! She has had many poems in Windows, Family First and other MU publications, always with a pertinent message. 'Beatrice' means 'bringer of joy', which she wonderfully exhibited in spite of recent ongoing health challenges.

St John's Upper Studley

Patricia Shepard (nee Cameron), and one of its founding members. Pat developed vascular dementia and became very ill in a comparatively short time. Her death will leave a huge gap amongst the MU at St John's and as with so many others at this time it was impossible to give her the funeral that we would have wanted.

Calne

We didn't meet from March to August 2020 but then began meeting on Zoom. In September we had an informal gathering, finding out how everyone was getting on. In October we had a recorded talk from a speaker from Leprosy Mission. In November one of our members spoke on the theme of 'There but not there' with personal reflections on Remembrance and in December our team vicar Rev Linda Carter led us in an Advent Reflection. We held our AGM on Zoom and have our next three meetings

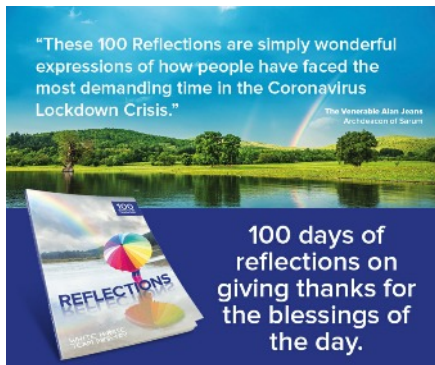
8 planned.

Westbury and Dilton March

Reflections - Today I am grateful for...

In March 2020 we, in the parishes of Westbury and Dilton Marsh from the White Horse Team Ministry, ran daily posts on our parish Facebook pages, as outreach, to help all readers through the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic. For 100 days we posted 'Today I am thankful for...' articles with photos and inspirational words. From the everyday to the unusual. We have now collated these posts together, in a splendid glossy book format, for everyone to enjoy.

As we enter the third national lockdown, we would like to spread the news of this uplifting, good read and resource into our local community. The Venerable Alan Jeans, Salisbury Diocese, very kindly wrote a wonderful endorsement for us. We are running this as an outreach mission to help people during this frightening, invisible, war that we are fighting. The more people we can reach the better. It doesn't stop there either because one of our parishioners made a wonderful contribution entitled What Next? There are also several pages for people to record their own thankful thoughts or future dreams.



We are currently using a Facebook platform for sales, but I can also be contacted on this email address and Ruth Hann is also taking orders on the cc address. A perfect gift for any occasion, or simply for yourself, at only £8.50 a copy. Packing and posting will be dependent upon the number of books ordered, but only at cost price. Free local collection or delivery can be available, where lockdown compliance is achievable.

www.facebook.com/groups/456966978599184/
media/"

Blandford

For several years Blandford Parish Church has hosted a Christmas Tree Festival in the church which of course could not happen this time, so instead we organised a Christmas Tree Trail in shop windows and similar places round the town - we had 26 trees from schools and community groups which is almost as many as normal and we were thrilled to bits. The businesses were all very pleased as it brought people into town to look in windows. We made a video of the trees which was watched on Facebook by 1800 people. It was mentioned on the Salisbury Diocese advent calendar online too.

Here is a photo of our Christmas Tree 2020. Our theme was Comfort and Joy and the little socks and teddies are Comfort and the Angels are Joy.



CREATION CARE and CLIMATE CRISIS

Everyone is aware from the news of the critical state of the environment, the impact of climate change, and the loss of biodiversity but we wonder if you have ever stopped to think about how this is related to your Christian faith and the impact it has on the wider membership of the Mothers' Union?

Members of West Lavington Branch have begun regularly writing in their parish newsletter to raise awareness of small, conscious steps in everyday life that can help reflect on the call to care for creation—and make an impact on the environment. They believe that even small steps can help in bringing about greater change.



The fifth mark of mission in the Anglican church is: *'To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.'* God tasked us with caring for his creation and this is explained a little more by the Lausanne Global classroom:

Stewardship of God's creation (creation care) is a clear biblical command and an integral part of what it means to follow Jesus as Lord. "If Jesus is Lord of all the earth, we cannot separate our relationship to Christ from how we act in relation to the earth. For to proclaim the gospel that says 'Jesus is Lord' is to proclaim the gospel that includes the earth, since Christ's Lordship is over all creation. Creation care is thus a gospel issue within the Lordship of Christ." (The Cape Town Commitment I-7-A).

But that's not all: God's creation is in the midst of a crisis that is 'pressing, urgent, and that must be resolved in our generation' (Jamaica Call to Action). This crisis, of which climate change and massive biodiversity loss are just a part, represents an existential threat to the future of human society. This Global Classroom helps fulfil the goal of engaging the church in various aspects of creation care, and seeks to inspire young leaders, established leaders, churches, organizations, and movements to understand the importance of creation care in all their ventures.

The following website has some readily accessible short talks which unpack and explain this in more detail: www.lausanne.org/lausanne-global-classroom/creation-care-episode

Bishop Nicholas, when taking on the role of lead Bishop for Environmental Affairs, said, "My hope as I take on this new role, is that this work will energise the Church of England and everyone who cares for creation." His keynote talk at the 12th Assembly of the European Christian Environmental Network (ECEN) in Katowice,

Poland, 7 October 2018 can be found at: www.salisbury.anglican.org/whos-who/bishops/the-bishop-of-salisbury/sermons-articles-and-media/a-keynote-talk-on-climate-change-october-2018.

As a Christian organisation, Mothers' Union can understand the biblical and spiritual basis for the church engaging in caring for our planet and its people. Mothers' Union's vision is of a world where everyone prospers. It demonstrates its Christian faith through actions that seek the transformation of families and the sustainable transformation of communities worldwide. One of its aims is to bring about an end to injustice; as climate change impacts poor communities more than the rich it is a key area to focus on if we are to help reduce injustice. Many of the Mothers' Unions around the world are in areas which are unfairly affected by the impact of climate change. USPG has interesting information about climate justice www.uspg.org.uk/about/climate-justice/

Caring for the creation, our faith and our work are interlinked. What effects will climate change have on the Mothers' Union's family nurturing mission? – on our children and grandchildren and for future generations? At its meeting on 28 January 2021, following a presentation originating in West Lavington, Trustees agreed to adopt the theme "promoting an eco-friendly environment" as part of MU Diocese of Salisbury's work during 2021 – and to consider what we as a charity can do to encourage and promote care for creation. The aim will be to raise wider awareness through publications (beginning in this edition of *Windows!*) and talking to friends but also, as well as prayer, to suggest practical individual and group actions that can be taken in the home and local areas to reduce carbon pollution. The *Count Us In* campaign, launched internationally on 1 January 2020 and endorsed by Bishop Nicholas, recommends 16 such steps: www.salisbury.anglican.org/news/count-us-in

Members will also be encouraged to ask their local councillors and MPs about these issues, especially this year in the lead up to the United Nations Climate Change Conference, COP26, which is to be held in Glasgow in November. In the autumn, during the Season of Creation (1st September- 4th October), the proposal is to hold a Mothers' Union Diocese of Salisbury special eco-focused service to celebrate creation.

Anne Wilson and Sandra Gamble - Members West Lavington

St Luke's Church, Parkstone, Poole

During lockdown we wanted to let those people who were self-isolating or shielding know that we were still thinking of them. One of our Committee suggested knitting mini prayer shawls with a cross in the middle. These were put inside a card with a prayer and message and delivered to anyone that we thought might appreciate one. Nearly a hundred were delivered locally or posted to those further afield.

Anne Roberts



MUe and the Shop

At the end of last year Mary Sumner House had to make several decisions to ensure that MUe (Mothers Union Enterprises) could continue to trade profitably under the current circumstances. It was decided that the best solution was to outsource their warehouse and dispatch off site. They have also launched a new online sales website. All this should ensure that in future members will benefit from an even higher standard of service. They reopened the online shop and sales office on 1st February and are now up and running with their new Spring Range of goods and greeting cards. You can contact them:

by post - The Sales Office, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB

by telephone - 020 7222 5533

by email - enterprises@mothersunion.org

by the website- www.mueshop.org

Mere

The members of Mere Mother's Union have been extremely busy over the last couple of months. We held a Zoom Christmas Carol Service and were joined by our own members, plus members of St. Michael's Church and MU members around the Deanery were invited.

We decided that as the usual Christmas Meal, normally offered to people who would have Christmas Day alone could not go ahead, we would ask our members plus the Mere Community if they would like to cook extra portions of Christmas Dinner to deliver to people's homes on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. After much organisation and lots of baking Forty-three Christmas Day lunches with all the trimmings were delivered by a team of drivers with facilities to keep the meals hot with extra special treats including, mince pies, brownies, chocolate and crackers. These were delivered to some of our Food Bank families including ten children and people spending Christmas alone, we were offered such generosity that we were also able to provide fifty-four meal vouchers from our local public house and nineteen tea boxes from our local tea-room. Somehow with lots of prayer it all went ahead without a hitch.

We held our first meeting of 2021 once again on Zoom. Instead of our Christmas Meal we had a very friendly afternoon with prayers and a reading but importantly a chance to chat to each other, it was so nice to see familiar faces again and all in the comfort of our homes and we were able to include our indoor members listening in on their phones.

We pray for everyone and do hope that gradually as we can meet again, we will at least have the memory of our special Christmas including so many people in our community.

TWO NATIVITIES



For Christmas 2019 Salisbury Cathedral made the decision to retire the Peter Rush nativity figures which had adorned the building for many years and replace them with something altogether different, three huge photo banners which hang suspended over the crossing showing the Holy Family, the Three Kings, the shepherds, sheep and a few other spectators. All those depicted are members of the cathedral family and everyone who sees it marvels at its beauty. It was wonderful that it was able to be reinstated in 2020 as it has now reached a worldwide audience. I was fortunate to be able to attend the cathedral when it was open up to its final public service on 20th December. It was on the evening of that day that I flew to Scotland

for my planned Christmas visit to my daughter. Thanks to the wonders of modern technology the cathedral and its services are still available to me and, as my daughter's TV has a large screen, I can almost feel that I'm in the building itself.

The second Nativity is the exact opposite. Before leaving Salisbury, a kind friend gave me a present which, as it was so small, I brought with me. Inside was a bag and inside the bag, carefully protected were the Holy Family and a donkey. They are made in India of a very light wood and their design is as simple as it is charming. The manger is the size of a ten pence piece. We placed them on the end of the kitchen table, and they were with us at every meal until making their departure on Twelfth Night. This differs from the cathedral whose Nativity is always in place until Candlemas.



Over many years I have celebrated Christmas in Europe, Australia, Asia and America, in hot climates and in cold. Each time this special celebration comes round I rejoice in the good news it brings and its message of hope for the future and from now on my little Holy Family will travel with me wherever I go. But will streaming the cathedral's services continue when the pandemic has passed? It would be wonderful to think that it might still continue to broadcast to the world and so keep the online congregation that has been acquired over the past months. The benefits of online services should not be underestimated, a fantastic outreach opportunity. It is my hope that for Christmas 2021, no matter as to where I happen to be, I shall be able to reunite my two Nativities.



Colehill

Madeline Spatchet received congratulations from the Queen on her **100th Birthday** which she celebrated on 23rd December 2020. Madeline has been a valuable Member of Colehill Mothers' Union for 30 years playing the piano to accompany the singing at the Monthly meetings. Her Membership means a great deal to her for the friendship and supportive atmosphere and feeling part of a World-wide Organisation which does so much good universally. She also sang in the choir at St. Michaels' Colehill. For a while she ran the Sunday

School and would walk miles round the Parish delivering cards to mark the anniversaries of any who had been recently Baptised at the church. In Lockdown she joins the Meetings with her Son on Zoom.



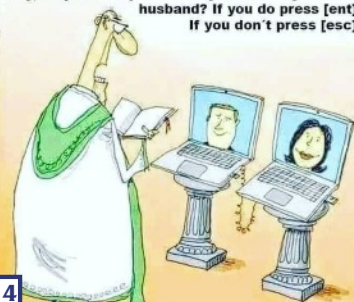
Ferndown MU Prayer & Fellowship Group

We have wanted to share with MU members in the Diocese the happy news of the celebration in marriage of two of our members, Rosalind and Derek who had met here in Ferndown. They both became active in our group early in 2019; later last year Derek became our groups Chaplain and is very supportive to us in this role also.

We became a Prayer and Fellowship Group in April 2019 when our Branch was not able to form a Committee. The general consensus of our members since has been that we are pleased to have a more informal flexible programme schedule at our Meetings (those 'since' Lockdown) with more time for member participation and with fewer speakers. We have enjoyed open discussion - member led or in small groups - on subjects and issues related to family life and the work of the Mothers Union. At present we have 18 members and in current circumstances we are valuing appropriate opportunities for contact with each other and, developing from this, having the time to pray and think about meeting the new and exciting challenges of 2021.

Rita Bretzke

Mary, do you accept John as your lawfully wedded husband? If you do press [ent]. If you don't press [esc].



"Until now, I never understood why you got so excited when someone walked past the house."



This article sent by Carole Jones is about one of the areas we are linked with - the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Usually, we hear absolutely nothing about them, so this article, published in a German paper last October is particularly interesting.

Endangered Andaman & Nicobar Tribes Threatened by Coronavirus

Some of the world's most isolated tribes live on these Indian Ocean islands and have almost no immunity to disease. New pathogens like SARS-CoV-2 are a dire threat.

In late August, 11 members of the Great Andamanese Tribe (GAT) tested positive for COVID-19. The isolated tribe's population is only around 50. The GAT live on one of the 37 inhabited islands in India's Andaman and Nicobar archipelago, which consists of over 570 coral reef-fringed islands located 1,200 kilometres (750 miles) east of the Indian mainland where the Bay of Bengal meets the Andaman Sea. "There are only just over 50 Great Andamanese, so with 11 testing positive, already about 20% of the population has been affected by COVID-19," Sophie Grig, senior researcher at Survival International, a London-based tribal rights group, told DW.

The GAT numbered over 5,000 when the British colonized the archipelago in the 1850s. Sexually transmitted diseases, mainly syphilis, have brought the GAT, which was once among the archipelago's main tribal groups, to near extinction. "Many members of the community suffer from long-term health conditions. Tuberculosis is rife in the community and many suffer from the impact of heavy alcohol use," Grig said.

Other tribes in trouble

Along with the GAT, the indigenous tribes of Andaman and Nicobar include the Onges, Jarwas, Shompen and the

dangerously reclusive Sentinelese. Their numbers are also dwindling. Only 238 members of the Shompen tribe remain. The Jarawa tribe numbers approximately 520. The Onge have around 120 and the Sentinelese 150.

Avijit Roy, the coronavirus nodal officer for Andaman and Nicobar, told DW that six of the GAT COVID-19 cases had travelled to the territory's capital, Port Blair, for work. "Our team of healthcare officials travelled to the small strait island inhabited by the tribe, to conduct tests," he said. "The results revealed that four members of the tribe who had never left the island had contracted the virus as well."

After quarantining and receiving medication for two-weeks, the people have recovered. "They are not out of danger but entry to their islands is restricted and even if the tribe members choose to venture out they have to undergo tests periodically," said Roy.

Isolated but not immune

Indigenous tribes are among the groups most vulnerable to COVID-19 infection as they live in insulated, close-knit communities. "This is a particularly vulnerable tribal group. We are taking all measures for their safety. Medical teams are keeping a strict watch," India's tribal affairs minister, Arjun Munda, told DW. Andaman and Nicobar Islands, which has a population of over 430,000, has so far reported over 3,300 COVID-19 cases, including over 50 deaths.

Following the outbreak among indigenous tribes, authorities ramped up testing. "Of course, the uncontacted Sentinelese are always vulnerable to all outside diseases, given that they are the most isolated people on the planet and are unlikely to have immunity to any outside diseases," said Grig from Survival International. Poachers and trespassers can risk passing on the disease to the isolated tribes. Two years ago, a 26-year-old American missionary seeking to convert the nomadic hunter-gatherer Sentinelese tribe was reportedly killed after he visited the North Sentinel island. His body was never retrieved.

Reduce contact

Even on the Indian mainland, tribal areas lack basic healthcare facilities and are extremely poor. Tribes often lack communication with the outside world and

do not have the information to effectively deal with outbreaks. "It is essential to restrict the contact between the non-tribals and tribals till the pandemic is over," Srinath Reddy, president of the Public Health Foundation of India, told DW. "Essential supplies must be carried to them by COVID-19 recovered persons who test negative for the virus and preferably have high antibody levels."

"The tribes must also be the first to receive the vaccine when it is available," he added.

Author: Murali Krishnan (New Delhi)



MEMBER DIRECTORY & MORE LOCKDOWN THOUGHTS

I have now completed the verification of the Member Directory which means that every paid-up member in the Diocese of Salisbury (as at year ending December 2020) will have had their basic details entered on to the Member Directory which is held at Central MU (Mary Sumner House).

Just to recap, this Directory has been compiled by MSH based on the information collected by all MU dioceses and records not just names and addresses but also the name of the branch which the member belongs to as well as the type of membership – these details are all mandatory and are of course subject to data protection. I have been assured that it is possible for me to share this information with MSH since our charity is affiliated with theirs. Other details which can be found include date of birth, telephone number, email address and the type of information you would like MSH to send you – these are not mandatory and no-one need supply these details if they do not wish to. For those of you who do not know, from 2021 MSH will be sending out all their publications direct to all those members who are listed as "active" in the Directory. This first of these mailings is due to go out in April with Connected which is the first of this new bi-annual publication and is the replacement magazine for Families First.

16 There is no additional subscription fee for Connected as was the case for Families

First. The Prayer Diary (which replaces Families Worldwide) for 2022 will also go out direct from MSH towards the end of this year. I need hardly emphasise the importance therefore of keeping the Member Directory up-to-date and there are two options for doing this:

- (1) Members themselves (or their branch/group leader) can let me know of any changes and I will amend the Directory accordingly;
- (2) Members who use the Internet can change/add their own details themselves without the need to let me know – this means you can check and update your name and address and contact preferences. You can also see your membership details but if these need to be changed please contact me.

If you have not yet already done so you can log into My Account which can be found at the Mothers' Union Home Page at www.mothersunion.org and go to Edit my Account on the dashboard. You will need a password to log in and you will be the only person (other than specified Directory Admins) who can see and change your information. As you can see the Member Directory is a record of our membership but it can only be accurate if everyone plays a part in keeping the information up-to-date. Please let me know (or change on the Directory yourself) as soon as you move address or else you may lose out on receiving your information from MSH! Equally important is letting me know when a member has sadly died – not just for recording in the Directory and so save distress to the family if a mailing out is sent to the deceased - but also so that their name can be remembered both in the monthly Reflections & Intercessions leaflet and on the *In Memoriam* Page in Windows.

I recently sent out an email to my MU contacts which included a resource from MSH entitled *Rebuilding hope and confidence: Learning from Lockdown* (this is available at www.mothersunion.org under Resources). This resource encourages you to reflect on what you have learned through the restrictions on your daily life throughout the pandemic so I thought I would give this a go –

- What have you missed during the restrictions? The most obvious is meeting up and hugging family and friends – lunches, theatre trips, visits to the pub, concerts, art galleries, day trips to London, meeting colleagues in the MU Office, holidays abroad. And yes, visits to the hairdresser too although my husband wields the scissors to trim my fringe!
- What you have not been able to do that you *haven't* missed? Getting up to catch the early bus into Salisbury since I am more of an owl than a lark.
- The new things you have discovered/come to appreciate? As I've said before I've come to appreciate my garden more and the lovely walks in and around the village where I live.
- The new skills I have learned? I've been in charge of the hedge-cutter and the power-washer and survived both! I've learned to use Zoom which I have found a life-saver in keeping in touch.

- What dealing with the restrictions on our daily lives has taught us about ourselves? To be grateful that although the restrictions make me sad that I cannot see family and friends I am lucky that Covid-19 has not touched me in the way it has other people.



Happy Days!

My daughter and grandson
July 2020.

Jenny Harrison - MU Diocesan Secretary

Angel Tree, Guys Marsh Prison Shaftesbury

Sturminster Newton Mothers' Union work alongside Prison Fellowship. Because of the pandemic the prisoners hardly saw their children this year so many more requested gifts than ever before. We had a list of 30 children, so I divided the task between the four of us. We had to shop much earlier than before as 'lockdown' was about to happen and we have just one toy shop in Sturminster. In the past we have gathered together in our church hall to wrap the presents and have a cup of coffee but of course we could not do this again this year! Everyone had to wrap their gifts in their own home. When all this was done, I drove to Salisbury and handed over the gifts to Rosie.

We were delighted to receive a Christmas card from the Chaplaincy enclosing a Christmas card from a prisoner thanking the Mothers' Union for the gifts for his grandchildren.



Brenda Birt

TRIENNIAL ELECTION PROCEDURES 2022-2024

In these COVID-19 times I realise it is difficult to think too far ahead but this is what we must do since December 2021 marks the end of our current triennium and is the time when all trustees will be retiring from their roles. Nomination papers for a new Diocesan President have already been sent to current Diocesan Council Members but the deadline for receipt of applications has expired and sadly no nominations have been received. After Easter 2021 I will be sending out nomination forms to Diocesan Council Members for ten General Trustees; some of our current trustees will be eligible to continue for another triennium and can be nominated and elected. However, I envisage that there will be several vacancies to fill.

I am currently working within our current Constitution dated 2005 but our new one is in the process of being approved by Central MU so in the next triennium the new format for the board of trustees will be Diocesan President plus between two and ten General Trustees. There is also the provision to co-opt three voting trustees on to the board who are appointed by a resolution of the Trustees. Therefore, could I please ask EVERYONE to consider either nominating someone (with their permission) or putting themselves forward for the post of Diocesan President or a General Trustee. If necessary, please contact me or your local representative for guidance on how to do this as well as a role description.

PLEASE GIVE THIS YOUR URGENT ATTENTION AND CONSIDERATION!

Jenny Harrison - MU Diocesan Secretary

GOING THE EXTRA MILE!

This year, our usual activities of cream teas in gardens and coffee mornings have been rather disrupted, alas – so we thought it would be good to do something fun and healthy to raise money and awareness of our work in Salisbury Diocese. Taking our lead from the wonderful example set for us by the late Captain Sir Tom Moore RIP, why not join the MU Diocesan Chaplain Revd Jo Naish and our Diocesan President Rosie Stiven in a little extra exercise to support our fabulous MU Projects and to make others aware of the wonderful work you all do.

The Angel Tree project – helping prisoners in this Diocese send gifts to their families.

The Salisbury Women's Refuge – and other victims of Domestic Abuse, providing funding for necessities for those who have fled violence.

Holiday Funds - for those families in need for whom a short break would provide much needed respite.

The Virtual Baby project – bringing the experience of parenting to young people throughout the Diocese

Can you join in this summer? Perhaps you might like to aim for a total distance in your Mothers' Union local groups and get people to support you all with a sponsorship pledge. Or you might like to do something individual; a single event

or a promise to cover a longer distance over a month on your regular walks. Sponsorship forms will be available from May and a funding page will be set up online, but you will be able to send in money by cheque or bank transfer as well.

Revd Jo is planning a Big Ride – aiming to cycle from Tisbury to Iona in October, or if infection rates prevent this, then to cycle the equivalent in miles around the local area.

Rosie is aiming to walk 1,000 miles in 2021 – either round and round Salisbury or, pandemic permitting, further afield.

All money raised will go to the projects we support to make sure our work continues in 2021 and beyond. Thank you all in advance – **Watch this space!!**



Tribute to Bishop Nicholas and Helen

from Rosie Stiven
Diocesan President,
the Mothers' Union
in the Diocese of Salisbury

Bishop Nicholas announced his retirement on 2 February 2021. It is expected that the Bishop's final Service will be Evensong on Saturday 3 July 2021.

Bishop Nicholas together with his wife, Helen, have been great supporters of the Mothers' Union and all that it does. We have heard and been inspired by the Sermons Bishop Nicholas has preached at our Festival Services. 'You are an amazing organisation. I am proud of the MU in this diocese'. Bishop Nicholas said these words during our Festival Service on 1 June 2019. His words still bring a lump to my throat.

We all have our own memories of Bishop Nicholas and Helen. Those involved in the Salisbury Law Court Café have seen the mountains of chocolate cakes which Helen has baked and provided to be sold. So many of us have enjoyed afternoon tea in the South Canonry Garden during the fund raising Fetes for Sudan and South Sudan. Throughout my time as your Diocesan President, Bishop Nicholas has supported, encouraged and guided me in my ministry. In him, we have an inspiring leader and a loving and compassionate shepherd.

On behalf of the members of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Salisbury, thank you Bishop Nicholas for your guidance and support and may you both enjoy a long, joyful and peaceful retirement.

PAT KITCHEN

Pat Kitchen would have been 100 years old this coming July but sadly she died in November 2020. Pat was a member of the Mothers' Union for many years. Prior to coming to Bradford on Avon, Pat was a leader and Young Families Representative in the Bath & Wells Diocese. She would often travel many miles around that diocese giving talks and attending conferences beyond the diocese. She loved talking about her role and encouraging other members to help in one capacity or another.

On moving to Bradford on Avon, Pat began a branch at Holy Trinity Church in early 1980. When I moved to Bradford on Avon, Pat was my second visitor, welcoming me to the town and to Holy Trinity Mothers' Union. As well as chairing monthly meeting in church, Pat would invite young families with small children to her home, once a month, for a short bible study while the children played. Through her leadership and friendship, I later became the Branch Leader of Holy Trinity.

Later, Pat set up a new group at St John's Church, Upper Studley, Trowbridge, under the leadership of her daughter-in-law. That group flourished and is still quite a large group which strongly supports many projects in the Salisbury Diocese.

When Pat was in her late 80s/early 90s, she would help, together with Ann Hawke, once a month on a Tuesday in the Salisbury Office. She loved being of use and enjoyed much laughter with Jenny in the office as well as getting some jobs done.

Pat illustrated what it means to be a Mother's' Union member in the strengthening and support of marriage and family life and living up to the mission and values of the Mothers' Union. She firmly believed in the importance of families, supporting families and nurturing faith within her community and giving support worldwide. She really was a good example of following in Mary Sumner's footsteps and as the Archbishop of Canterbury says of our organization, 'Simply the Best'!

Marlene Haffenden



VIRTUAL BABIES

We have not been out much lately! We expect that is the same situation with you. However, we keep each other company by being tucked up in bed in Bradford on Avon. We do look forward to seeing you and the students again soon!

Margaret Jones 1943-2020

Our dear friend Margaret died peacefully on 30th July 2020 after a prolonged illness.

Margaret and her family had lived in Solihull from 1974 to 2005 where she served as Branch Leader at St. Alphege Church. Whilst in Solihull, she trained as a Parenting Facilitator and attended the National Marketing Committee. With her husband Harry, she wrote one of the first Marriage Preparation Courses in the UK. Wedding couples who have attended such courses appreciated Margaret's wise and gentle counselling and until her recent illness she had helped over 1000 people learn how to sustain a good relationship in marriage. During Ann Howard's term as Salisbury Diocesan President, Margaret served as a Trustee. After meeting and hosting Archbishop Moses on his first visit to Poole, Margaret inspired our annual fundraising for Mothers' Union in Wau, South Sudan.

Margaret was an outstanding Branch Leader in Parkstone from 2007 to 2013. She was organized and capable yet displayed gentle sensitivity. Margaret always led by



Parkstone -

After serving the maximum six years allowed under current rules, **Margaret Jones** stood down as Branch Leader at our AGM on 8th January 2013. As Leader Margaret has worked tirelessly to inspire, attract and encourage new members to join the Mothers' Union and to promote its vision and she will be greatly missed in this role.

During the Candlemas Service on 3rd February 2013, conducted by the **Reverend Pat Southgate**, we joyfully welcomed and admitted three new members into our Branch, **Rachael Wilkin, Amanda Vaughan** and **Derek Moore**



example, inspiring and encouraging all who worked alongside her. She showed great courage through her health problems and remained on committee until the end of her life.

Margaret encouraged many to follow her dedication to Mothers' Union and become members. Her passion for Mothers' Union embraced all her fine qualities of loving kindness, patience, compassion, generosity, hospitality and deep faith. Margaret was a very special lady who will be greatly missed.

Janet Everett

Two of the poems read at her funeral to help you remember Margaret.

Do Not Weep

Do not stand at my grave and weep

I am not there, I do not sleep

I am a thousand winds that blow,

I am the diamond glints on snow, I am the sunlight on ripened grain,

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the soft uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight,

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there, I did not die

Mary Elizabeth Frye

She is Gone

You can shed tears that she is gone
Or you can smile because she has lived
You can close your eyes and pray that she will come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all that she has left
Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
Or you can be full of the love that you shared
You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday
You can remember her and only that she is gone
Or you can cherish her memory and let it live on
You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what she would want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on
David Harkin

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

Patricia Shepard	St John's Upper Studley
Brenda Pitfield	Preston Team MU
Margaret Gunson	St George Oakdale
Bertha Hewlett	Wilton
Muriel Withers	Sherborne
Betty Newiss	Wareham
Ethel Alexander	Wareham
Jo Johnson	Wareham
Patricia Shepard	St John Upper Studley
Bill Vince	Calne
Ida Mundy	Sarum St Francis P&F Group
Pat Kitchen	Upper Studley
Jean Northover	St Luke's, Parkstone
Vikki Barnes	Ferndown P&F Group
Enid Carter	Dorchester St Peter
Pamela Coventry	Bride Valley
Gladys Hills	Bradpole

DATES FOR YOUR 2021 DIARY

Spring Council will now be held virtually on Zoom on Thursday 22 April starting at 10.00 am. Details will follow by email nearer the time.

AGM/Autumn Council	Saturday 16 October at St Francis, Salisbury
MU Annual Gathering (<i>formerly the General Meeting</i>) 2021	
Saturday 25 September (<i>please check nearer the date</i>)	ICC Belfast (Service in the Cathedral on Friday 24 September)
Monday 18 October 2021	Anti-Slavery Day

Salisbury Cathedral MU Communion Services

Sadly, our usual monthly Services are currently suspended and will not start again until Salisbury Cathedral re-opens. Branch and Group Contacts will be informed via email by Jenny Harrison when Services are due to resume.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2019 – 2021

Diocesan President	Rosie Stiven
Chaplain	Revd Joanna Naish
Secretary	Jenny Harrison
Treasurer	Suzanne Waters
Archdeaconry Chairs	
Sherborne	Jo Higgs
Dorset	Sheila Soper
Wilts	Marlene Haffenden
Sarum	Vacant
Unit Co-ordinators:	
Action and Outreach (A&O)	Sandra Gamble
Finance and Central Services	Mike & Liz Bowler
Faith	Elizabeth Wood
Fund Raising, Communications	vacant
Training	vacant
Diocesan Members' Contact	Rosemary Allen
Elected Trustees:	Daphne Furey
	5 vacancies
Co-opted Trustee:	Alison Oakes (Gift Aid)
	Carole Jones (Speakers)
	Carrie Walsh
Community Development Co-ordinator	Laura Kachale

Trustee Meetings: all at 10am

Tuesday 23 March	(<i>probably virtual via Jitsi</i>)	Thursday 17 June
Thursday 23 September		Thursday 18 November

Please send news for Autumn edition of Windows to Mrs Elizabeth Goater,
17 Chiselbury Grove, Salisbury SP2 8EP, Tel: 01722 331899,

Email: lizgoater@hotmail.com

By 1 August 2021