



Caroline Scull, Diocesan President, writes

Dear all

I love **Mothers' Day** which has become a huge event in the commercial diary, so the children can't possibly forget it! But as Mothers' Union members we can go that extra mile by helping mothers all around the world in honour of our own mothers and other maternal figures in the past. Let's light a candle, say a special thank you prayer for them and ring up Mary Sumner House and pledge anything from £6 to £100 - or text "MAMD 16 £25" to 70070. We members know that our subs are paying for the administration of Mothers' Union and so 100% of these donations go to our sister members and their communities around the world.

While we were watching the **Ebola** crisis in horror on our TVs last year our sister members were out there – look at page 7 of the Annual Report in the middle of Families Worldwide, and you will see what I mean.



Women's World Day of Prayer

Informed Prayer, Prayerful action

The 2016 **Women's World Day of Prayer** is on Friday 4 March. If you look at the donations made by Women's World Day of Prayer on page 30 of the booklet prepared for WWdoP services on Friday you will see us! The money went off to help the Ebola crisis so tell everyone you see while at the service, ask if you can draw attention to it at some point, and please put it in your parish magazine. I hope lots of you will enjoy the service, engaging with the lives and faith of women in Cuba; when you see the 'girl with the maracas' think of me!

I have enjoyed the first couple of sessions of the **Diocesan Lent Course**, mixing up the resources for Adults, Children and Youth as appropriate for my groups, which resulted this week in using a verse from Micah "Act justly, Love mercy and Walk humbly". Now this is an MU card which has been pinned on my notice board for ages gathering dust – I must give it a brush off both literally and metaphorically speaking!

I hope that whatever resources you are using during Lent are inspiring you and your experience of Passion Week and Easter is very special.

Love *Caroline*

Milford on Sea

Lady Day Service

All Saints Church

SO41 0SQ

at 10.30am Monday 4 April

All members and guests welcome

FAITH AND POLICY

Quiet Morning for Holy Week

If you're in the Brockenhurst area or are free from 11am on Monday 21st March here's a treat for you.



A Quiet morning, at what is said to be the oldest church in the New Forest, (mentioned in the Domesday Book), St Nicholas Church, Church Lane, Brockenhurst, SO42 7QD. The theme is 'Walking through the valley of the shadow of death with Jesus' and will be led by Jane Broadley. Admission is £1.50 and includes tea and biscuits. Bookings should be made through me please.

For those who would like it this will be followed by lunch at the Filly Inn, Lymington Road, Brockenhurst - choose and pay on the day.

We would be delighted to see fellow MU members.

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CONTACT US

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Nikki's new telephone number will be advised soon, in the meantime you can leave a message on 01425 483222

From our Chaplains

Many of you will be following the Diocesan Lent Course on Witness, aimed at helping us all to grow in confidence to witness to the Gospel in all its fullness. As members of the Mothers' Union we are very much called to witness to our faith through the work we do to promote the rich value of family life and to help and support families in so many different ways. Very often those we serve are unaware that we are called to do so in the name of our Lord who died to serve us and who lives in each of us. Whether they know or not is of no consequence: what we do is done to live the mission of Jesus.

During this time of Lent, perhaps we can all pray daily for the privilege of serving to build God's kingdom through the work of MU, to ask for his strength in us to continue, to give thanks for all the families whose lives we are fortunate to touch in some way in the name of Jesus, and to give thanks for each other.

**Loving God,
you have called us to go out into the world
in your service, to proclaim the Gospel,
to make disciples, to share your love, and to work
towards the fulfilment of your purposes.**

**Lord God, you are calling us now
Here I am - send me.**

Yours in Christ

Reverend Jane and Reverend Linda

ACTION AND OUTREACH

Are you 90 this year, or know some who is?

Mary Sumner House are putting together a card for Her Majesty signed by our members from around the world who are also 90 years of age this year. They are hoping for many more than they have received thus far. If you can supply a picture of the member and their signature, MSH will take care of the artwork and presentation to our Patron on behalf of Mothers' Union. Please forward any you may have to fiona.thomas@mothersunion.org



It takes two

Following on from quality time spent as a couple, which hopefully many achieved around Valentine's Day, let me recommend a fantastic evening offered by Care for the Family – at Bournemouth on 11th May - please advertise this event and the link in your parish magazines for the next couple of months - <http://www.careforthefamily.org.uk/events/marriage-events/it-takes-two>

And while couples are on the website they could consider signing up for 'the Marriage Challenge' app for great podcasts every month!

Diocesan Speakers

We welcome Neil Obbard to our team of Diocesan Speakers, and you will find his details in the new list of Speakers to be circulated with the March Archway packs. Like many AFIA Speakers Neil was first introduced to the project, with his family, by being guests at the Family Holiday. The holiday week was fundamental to him finding his way to the Lord and Neil was very happy to accept the invitation to join the team and later take on the role of co-Team Leader. Invite Neil to your meeting and hear his story and the impact we, the Mothers' Union, were able to have on his life, and of course the impact he and his family are able to have on the lives of those guest families they have already met and those still to meet.

Christine Clode Speaker's Representative
muclode@sadie2.madasafish.com

Diary Dates

7th March Diocesan Commissioning Service,
10:30 am at Wolvesey



Diocesan Council

17th March 10am to 2pm

St Boniface Church Chandlers Ford SO53 2FT

There is a no parking policy in front of the Church, but there is a large car park at the side of the Vicarage for our use. If you are disabled please display your disabled parking permit and park in the allocated bays.

4th April Lady Day
20th April Quiet Day at Wolvesey 10am to 3pm
Cathedral Prayers:
6th April Led by Odiham Deanery
4th May Led by Overton branch

We would like to fill a coach for an annual 'pilgrimage' from the Diocese. Provisionally to Canterbury on 23rd April 2016. Let Caroline or Nikki know if you are interested

National Service of Celebration

2:30pm 22nd September – Winchester Cathedral

National AGM

23rd September - Hampshire Court Hotel, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8BG

With Archbishop Justin Welby, Lynne Tembey and Beverley Jullien, MU Worldwide President in attendance.

Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning