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

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www.salisbury.anglican.org/mission/mothers-union
see also:  www.mothersunion.org
And so, as our final year of the current triennium gets underway, we shall, all of us, endeavour to walk ‘In Mary Sumner’s Footsteps’. This is no easy task, especially when the world around us seems to have gone completely mad. But we come from a long line of members who have never been daunted by the task in hand. We owe it to them to uphold their legacy and in order to do that very thing, we must stride onwards. Let us not be fearful but confident in our purpose and safe in the loving hands of Our Lord.

The Salisbury Law Court Café team is a wonderful example of members and volunteers who are walking ‘In Mary Sumner’s Footsteps’. You will be pleased to read that the funds being generated by our very successful Court Café are being used to support those families caught up in the Criminal Justice System. Already, the funds are being used to support the Chaplaincy work in Erlestoke Prison. Also, we are sponsoring two families to attend a local Contact Centre as well as looking to fund another family for an AFIA holiday. In addition, we are funding the replacement of toys in the families’ reception area at Guy’s Marsh Prison. None of this could be happening if it weren’t for Joanna Woodd and her team of members and volunteers who look after the Court Café. My heartfelt thanks to Joanna and all her team for their devoted service – this is magnificent outreach into a very cold, hard, secular world. The effects of simple, Christian hospitality can be far reaching. There is no doubt in my mind that the effect of Christian hospitality shown to all by our Mothers’ Union presence at the Court Cafe is already leaving and will continue to leave, a long lasting impression on everyone. Joanna is always looking for more volunteers to help with the Café. Please come forward – this is God’s work.

With our Lenten period of reflection nearly over, we all look forward to Easter which is just around the corner. At Easter we will be celebrating Christ’s Resurrection and that wonderful event will leave us feeling refreshed and renewed in our own Faith. Empowered by Christ’s Resurrection, let us look ahead to the next triennium.

You are so very well supported by our current Board of Trustees, all of whom work incredibly hard behind the scenes on yours and my behalf. But there are roles on the Board which remain empty, thereby doubling the work of others. We need more of you to come forward and continue all this wonderful work which goes on in the Diocese. Please don’t leave it to someone else to come forward.
Please don’t be afraid to put yourself forward – there is always help at hand. Please consider volunteering – your expertise and enthusiasm are needed. NOW is the time to act.

‘Mary Sumner was a woman of deep faith, with a heart for prayer and a determination to make a difference in the lives of others. She listened to God and acted upon His call’.

Let us do the same now and into the future.

With love and prayers to you all for a joyous Easter

Rosie

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Chaplain’s Chat: We are all different but the same!

As I write this newsletter, we are approaching January 27th National Holocaust Memorial Day. I found myself thinking about such things and the marginalized and actively discriminated against in society today and where do we, as the Mothers’ Union, have a part to play? Here we are 60 + years on and I do sometimes wonder if we learned any lessons at all.

Just before Christmas we shared in a service together in Salisbury Cathedral to highlight and to show solidarity with, women who are the victims of Gender Based Violence. The service was part of the 16 Days of Activism, women the world over are subjected to violence and intimidation just because they are born a woman. We even find, in some so-called “civilized” societies, that women face discrimination. Today I read a report about the Presidents Club dinners at London’s Dorchester Hotel and the covert harassment of women.

Earlier this week, someone I have known for a very long time and who is severely disabled went on a long awaited and planned trip out with her daughter.
On this trip she encountered disastrous consequences of there not being sufficient consideration of people with a disablement. It is not just physical disabilities either; Mental Health is still a taboo subject in some circles. Having our own situation at home, my own daughter, who has been diagnosed with Bi-Polar 2 (previously called manic depression) I know only too well the difficulties born out in everyday life and the struggle to progress in their chosen career with this title on their medical record.

In our global arena the discussion continues about homosexuality. In some countries it is still illegal and publicly unacceptable. Even here, in this country although not illegal and having marriage equality in the secular form, the debate rages on about their role in the Church; something I personally find unfathomable. It’s hardly a new topic, in 1 Samuel we hear that David and Jonathan kiss. In 2 Samuel 1 we read David’s lament of Jonathan’s death. He tore off his clothes and then at verse 26 we read, “Jonathan lies slain upon your high places. I am distressed for you, my brother Jonathan; greatly beloved were you to me; your love to me was wonderful, passing the love of women”. So many great and talented men and women, some of them Saints, have been persecuted and wounded purely because they have been born with an x or y chromosome in a slightly different combination to others. Why can we not give thanks for their lives, their gentleness and their strength? Why can we not treat them with grace and acceptance as another strand of the rainbow diversity amongst our humanity?

Then of course, there is still the ugliness of Racism. Both the incomprehensible anger to people of different colour and of different races; I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard people close to me complain about our European counterparts. We should all remember, “Whoever says I am in the light whilst hating a brother or sister is still in the darkness” (1 John 2:9).

So it is with great sadness that I look at the world around me today and see that we still experience the dreadful sins of discrimination and prejudice living alongside us. Don’t let them win. Let God change the way we think about things, so we can help others. “Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect” (Romans 12:2). Repentance, after all, means turning around and being transformed.

As members of the Mothers’ Union, we have a role to play. In the process of our ministry we will no doubt meet families of all different shapes, nationalities and sizes, from the conventional nuclear family to single parents, adoptive parents and children being raised by grandparents. We also need to remember that around 20,000 young people in Britain are growing up with same-sex parents and many children have lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual parents or family members. Children with lesbian, gay, bisexual and transsexual family see their families as special and different in the same way as any other young person. We should keep in our hearts the Stonewall slogan, “Different families; Same Love”. Our calling is to carry the light and love of Christ in our hearts and show His Love to all those whom we meet.
Let us look on with joy and warmth, to the friendships that have chosen to lay aside barriers to true relationships and to all those who continue to struggle through to the light. Let us look to those who spend their lives nearer to God, finding their prayers carried beyond, to where love never dies; to the place where the Lion will lay with the lamb, a place where there will be no room for prejudice, no discrimination and no hate or misunderstandings. Only there will we find peace with our God, renewed in our strength in the place where there will be no gender divides, no ethnic differences, no need for us to consider our wealth or poverty (Galatians 3:28). With God’s love and grace, we will be richer than we can ever imagine and we will be as one with our dear Lord Jesus Christ.

God bless you all this Spring/Summer. I hope you have a summer of travelling to places you have only ever dreamed of and where the stars in the sky feel near to your soul. If you are staying at home, I pray you see clear starlit skies, feel warmth to your bones, and look upon green pastures and flowers in abundance.

Jacqui

Treasurer’s Notes

Another financial year is at an end and I am busy closing the accounts for 2017. Our membership for 2017 was 1,353 compared with 2016 - 1,451, a drop of 98. We continue to see a downward trend year on year, and in recent weeks I have heard of several branches that have made the decision to close, I therefore expect to see a reduction in membership for 2018. We try to encourage members of these branches to consider becoming diocesan members but few convert to this, I wonder why!

We have kept our subscription at £25 (branch) and £35 (diocesan) for 2018, £13.50 of this will be sent to M.S.H. Unfortunately our costs do not go down but I am pleased to report that we have not overspent this year, thanks to Sarah’s Maisie’s March and a generous donation from the Court Café. We have managed to provide much needed holidays again this year, branches have been very supportive of this fund and I hope you will continue to support it in 2018. Thank you very much for all your fund raising in 2017 and for being so generous.

Suzanne Waters

Money for Nothing - You heard it here first!

Everyone likes a bargain, not least The Mothers’ Union. As all of you must be aware, the Tax man doesn’t give much away, but he IS prepared to boost the income of our charity if we let him know that we pay Income Tax on our Subscriptions and donations to the General, Overseas and Holiday Funds.

For every £1 donated I can claim back 25 pence from HMRC on your behalf, as long as I have a signed and dated Gift-Aid declaration from you. Now comes the problem.........! I have lots and lots of the aforementioned declarations, but it appears from 2017’s Branch Return Forms that a few Branch
Return Forms that a few Branch Leaders or Treasurers didn’t know that their members could Gift-Aid their subscriptions. I was unable to claim numerous members’ subscriptions because the forms were completed incorrectly; members were put down on the forms as ‘Non Gift-Aid’, even though my declaration records showed the opposite. I appreciate that the role our Branch Leaders and Treasurers take on is voluntary and involves a lot of hard work, so please could we help ease their load and tell them if we are able to Gift-Aid? This will enable them to fill out any donation or subscription forms correctly, and save me having to contact individuals directly to check their ‘Tax’ status; something I didn’t enjoy. Please could you also tell them and me if you can no longer Gift-Aid? Thanks very much

Alison Oakes - 5 Townsend Road, Corfe Castle, BH20 5ET

Overseas Report - Joanna Woodd Writes:

Our link with the Mother’s Union in Marsabit northern Kenya is very special and Alice Mwangi is an amazing woman, working tirelessly against all odds. She is an example to each one of us, living out her faith in very difficult and thankless situations. As mentioned previously, most of her members’ husbands are not Christian, and the women themselves still follow their traditional cultures, which include FGM. I have recently learnt, not from Alice, that she has recruited 75 new members in this last year, and I know that MSH have sent some of their overseas funds to the Marsabit Diocese. If we choose, we can ask that some of these funds are directed into some of the needs which Alice mentions in her letter below.

‘Hi, my sister Joanna it has always been a blessing to share with you something about myself and about our mothers. Thanks for your continued support through prayers. We appreciate your encouragement, friendship and concern in the Lord. We’ve come this far because of such. Please continue praying for us, this year seems a bit more challenging, especially because of the prolonged drought. Our women are now more challenged, but we still trust in the Lord. You and our sisters there have known us for quite some time now; please pray and stand with us. It is our humble request that, any support you give towards MU activities in our diocese, please specify. This can help us to continue with our seminars, meetings and other women forums that bring us together for training, awareness, encouraging and strengthening each other. May our good Lord keep us all safe and bind us more together this year.

Last Sunday and yesterday I led our MU members to visit 2 members in hospital one with cancer and the other with a premature baby in the incubator. We’ve also been involved so much with family reconciliation, making strategies to reduce Christian girls marrying Muslim men, and various health issues. MU have started literacy classes, etc. We hope, if we get the funding to bring together for the first time our women at MU conferences with our 3 Archdeaconries. Please walk with us. Recently, we’ve seen girls drop out from school and child marriages increase at an alarming rate in our diocese. As MU, we want to be more involved to stop this or reduce it, by talking to the communities. We have a lot to do, please pray with us.’
The Salisbury Court Café has been offering a service now for just over two years and this is very much appreciated and spoken about by all its users. ‘Oh, we don’t have this sort of service at..........’ ‘Why don’t you offer this at..........’ These are the sort of comments we are hearing more frequently from lawyers as they attend trials at Salisbury.

Although this is complimentary for us, it is also sad to realise how others elsewhere are missing out on one of the essentials of life. Courts can be traumatic places and to manage a full day with no sustenance is not good for anyone’s health. Although we did not set up this service to make a profit, but only to serve our customers and cover our expenses, we have in fact made a profit of almost £9,000.

The Trustees have decided that half of this will go into Mother’s Union funds, of which a third is going to overseas, another third going towards the holiday fund and the last third going into the general fund. The other half is to be ploughed back into the Criminal Justice System. To-date we have made a grant to the Child Contact Centre in Salisbury, as they enable children to meet with their non-resident parent. (This project was recommended by one of the judges.) Some money has been given to the art teacher at Earlstoke Prison, to cover some of her expenses for materials. Some of the prisoners have already sent a lovely card of appreciation.

Following a request from the prison Chaplain a third grant has been made to cover the costs of a garden shed, so the prisoners can meet with the chaplains in a quiet safe space. We are waiting to hear from Guy’s Marsh Prison as to how we may be able to assist with any of their needs.

Joanna Woodd

Salisbury Women’s Refuge

Just to update all members – Our Manager at the Refuge, Sandra Horner, has been with us since September 2017 and is a breath of fresh air. She is willing and able to take care of the day to day running of the refuge and contributes thoughtfully and with insight to the forward planning at management meetings.

In April this year our funding regime will change and, although we will still be an independent entity, we will be part of a group funded to take care of all the Domestic Abuse issue across the County. Unsurprisingly, the amount we get will not be as much as we need, so there will be some cut backs and a lot of fundraising. You may be aware of some imminent changes to Housing Benefit, but possibly not aware of how much this will impinge on Women’s Refuges country-wide. The bald facts are that many would close!!
I have printed below a small part of the response to this proposed action by the Government and ask you all to support refuges by awareness at any opportunity.

“Salisbury Women’s Refuge is calling on the Government to urgently rethink the model of funding announced on 31st October 2017 for refuges, as part of the reform of funding for short term supported housing. We are warning that this model will lead to refuge closures, more women and children turned away from life-saving support and the disintegration of our world-leading national network of women’s refuges. We are asking the Government to urgently halt these plans until the review of refuge funding has been completed in November 2018 and work with Women’s Aid to create a suitable and sustainable future funding model.”

As always, we are grateful for your continued generosity and support by prayers.

Madeleine Tarrant - MU Rep on the board of Trustees of Salisbury Women’s Refuge

News From Branches

The Great Harnham Bake Off - Our Daily Bread

This was a change from our usual meeting as we were up to our elbows in flour and dough. To save some time and in the spirit of Blue Peter Katharine Callard had earlier mixed the flour, yeast and water together to make a dough and we were each given a portion to knead. This is excellent therapy, especially if you want to forget all your troubles. Lots of different shapes were chosen, plaits, rolls, cottage buns and even an M and a U. While the bread was baking we had a service of prayers and readings from the bible about bread ending with a passage from Acts. “The early Christians devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and to Fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. They broke bread together in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God.” It was then time to eat and what a feast. There’s nothing quite like fresh baked bread with butter and lots of homemade jam.

Wilton MU - Ann Hindley presents Rev. Mark Wood, Rector of Wilton Parish Church, with a collection of children’s New Testament story books. These complete a set of a dozen Bible storybooks paid for by Ann’s innovative “Book Swap” scheme. At monthly meetings, MU members bring along a book they have enjoyed reading and if anyone else wants to read it, they put a donation into the Book Tin. Unchosen books are taken back by the original reader.
Not only has this idea helped the local church but also any money left is given to the MU Literacy and Development fund, helping women overseas to learn to read. Members of Wilton MU collected around £50 worth of items for Salisbury Women’s Refuge which were taken to the “16 days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence” service in December.

**Urchfont with Stert MU**
Urchfont with Stert Mothers’Union celebrated its 95th birthday with a lunch on 22nd September 2017. Guests included Diocesan President, Secretary and Treasurer. Here is a photo of everyone who attended. The ladies are wearing hats as requested by our enrolling member!

**Mere MU members marry**
Is this a first in the diocese? On a beautiful sunny day in September last year, Isabel Howell and John Page were married in St. Michael’s Church, Mere with many members of their respective families and friends from far and wide as well as from the local Church, to witness their happiness and commitment to each other.

John and Isabel had both been widowed after long and happy marriages, and met through Church and at various events in Mere, including Mothers’ Union of which they both became members in December 2014. As there are not a lot of male MU members (there are three in Mere) it may be that this is the first marriage of two MU members?

Having met on many occasions, their earliest ‘dates’ together were to a concert and an Advent service at Salisbury Cathedral. They write: ‘This was when we realised how much we have in common and felt we would like to get to know each other better. Our love blossomed until we knew that we wanted to spend the rest of our lives together.’

**The St Peter’s Parkstone Branch** of the Mothers’ Union has been busy! Here is what we have been up to over the Autumn:

**Travelling Trends** - This was a really fun evening of catwalks, ladies fashion and bargains! St Peter’s was transformed into a stage where the audience saw a show of nearly 100 pieces of clothing in the Autumn/Winter range, from a wide number of well-known high street brands. The models swallowed their fears and had great fun swirling down the length of the aisle, showing off their garments with (hopeful) style and panache. Our hostess for the evening presented the show and gave a
detailed account of the clothes, dropping some significant hints about where they came from.

After the show, everyone was able to browse through beautifully laid-out racks of clothes of all different sizes and then try them on in the changing area. The clothes were such good value, much gentler on the wallets, so they sold like hot cakes. The tickets sales and raffle raised a huge sum, approximately £1000, which will be split between church funds and projects in South Sudan. It was a sell-out event and a really enjoyable evening.

**Light Party**

Our branch decided to join in on a new phenomenon, the Light Party. This is an alternative to Halloween and trick-or-treating and seems to be growing in popularity. St Peter’s was transformed into a huge open space adorned with fairy lights, disco lights and four UV lights. Anyone who wore neon, white or glow-in-the-dark clothing lit up like giant beacons. There was colourful face paint and hair gel which all ages seemed to enjoy, and there were also games such as ‘find-the-doughnut-on-the-string-whilst-blindfolded‘. This was made very entertaining by an enthusiastic confirmation group.

There were a couple of quieter corners where people wrote prayers on post-it notes and stuck them on a giant candle. Others enjoyed making bright, neon-coloured crowns and glowing, sparkly lanterns. The refreshments were plentiful and went down a treat. And we finished the evening with a disco where we all had a boogie. Not wanting to miss out on the sweets, we gave these away at the end.

It was very special to be able to open up the church to those who otherwise might not come in, and to give children a safe space where they could come and have fun. It gives a more hopeful, brighter message than the scary ghouls of Halloween. Most tickets were sold beforehand, but ten or so families stumbled upon our illuminated doors, decided to have a look and then joined in the party.

A huge thank you to the many MU and non-MU volunteers who made both these events possible. **We could not have done it without you!**

**St John the Baptist Broadstone - Mothers' Union, (Prayer and Fellowship Group)**

Congratulations to three members, **Hilma Fisher** 60 years, **Barbara Nash** 63 years and **Ruth Hurren** 66 years, who in December received certificates for Long Service to Mothers' Union. All very faithful members.
Belle of the Ball
by Mary Weeks Millard

Mary is an MU member living in Weymouth. She has spent many years working in Africa, and still travels to Uganda and Rwanda! Mary’s book is a page-turner of a Young Adult novel that explores issues as diverse as teenage image, relationships, the power-play associated with the people-trafficking of refugees and FGM. Is there more to beauty than simply how you look? It is a challenging time maturing into adulthood and our physical looks are how we judge ourselves and others. Mary challenges this. She asks her readers to look deeper, inside a person, to discover their character. Kindness, generosity of heart, and empathy are true beauty and will never age.

The story features a young woman called Lydia left for dead in a horrific accident that has sinister undertones. She is left with a badly scarred face. Taken on holiday to recover, she discovers romance, but more importantly is thrown into the unfolding refugee crisis that has overtaken a paradise island. Here she meets a Ugandan girl whose terrible story unfolds before her. Finding friendship both lives change. However, danger still looms large for the family.

The storytelling is contemporary, thoughtful, challenging but full of hope. The courageous author does not hold back on exploring the suffering of so many young women. She also writes delightfully about a family, the core of which is faith and prayer. A positive and thought provoking read for us all. Available from Amazon £7.99

Virtual Baby News

Since I joined the Mothers’ Union in September there have been ten people who I have been working closely with to reach out across our schools and communities, and these are our virtual babies. If you haven’t heard of the virtual babies before, or aren’t sure what they actually do, they are a life like doll, which weighs as much as a newborn and can be programmed to wake up as much as one too! They are an extremely clever piece of equipment which requires the ‘mother’ to respond to the needs of their baby with either a nappy, bottle, cuddle or a burping motion, with each of these actions recorded by sensors within the baby. The data of each response is then recorded and we are able to use this at the end of the program to see how the baby was handled by their carer.

Currently, the virtual babies support learning for Year 9 to Year 12 students within either PSHE or Health and Social Care Lessons in schools across the diocese. Students are encouraged to consider the reality and responsibility of parenting, as well as experiencing how they cope with pressure and caring for something other than themselves. Their experience of using the virtual babies is supported by introductory and debriefing lessons, taught by myself and our valuable teams of volunteers for each school. Volunteers also strongly support the mechanisms of the program by
organising the distribution of the equipment when the students take the baby home on a Friday for the whole weekend and collect the babies on Monday before preparing it again for the next weekend. I am so grateful for the help of each volunteer, and please consider joining us if you would be interested.

So far the babies have been to Matravers School in Westbury, Kingsdown School in Swindon and Sarum Academy in Salisbury. Students have reported wanting to wait until they have a career before having a baby of their own, and it has been interesting to see students consider the timeline of their future and their choices. We have been warmly welcomed by each school for being able to provide this experience for students and every student has been incredibly eager to take part and grateful for the opportunity provided by the Mothers’ Union. Shortly we will be going to work in Royal Wootton Bassett Academy, Wellington Academy, Stonehenge School, Moyles Court and Fairfield College. So, look out for a virtual baby somewhere near you!

Laura Kachale - Community Development Coordinator

Every year, Mothers’ Union has an annual theme that focuses members’ prayers and actions on particular aspects of our work and faith.

In 2018, *In Mary Sumner’s Footsteps* calls us to focus on the example of our founder, Mary Sumner, and on the core principles of Mothers’ Union: Listening to God and each other, and having determination to take steps of faith as we journey together in response to his call. 2018 is a significant year for Mothers’ Union, with our triennial elections and the beginning of global conversations throughout the Provinces to inform our way ahead. As we look to the future we want to build on our heritage, and in particular, the life and vision of our founder.

To find out more call 020 7227 0620 or visit www.mothersunion.org

Angel Tree - The Angel Tree project is an enormous blessing to everyone who takes part. At Christmas we were able to distribute 50 presents to children who have a parent currently imprisoned at either Guys Marsh or Erlestoke Prison, both of which are within our diocese.

Each child was bought a gift by the Mothers’ Union which their parent in prison thought was appropriate for their child’s interests and age. This gift was then wrapped and sent by Mothers’ Union members to the child, with a gift tag written to the child by their parent in prison. We have enabled these children to know that their parent still thinks of them and would like to be a part of their Christmas day. We hope that we have been able to show to both the parent at home and in prison; that the Mothers’ Union cares for their family. Enabling this connection between a parent and child, when they would not be able to see each other on Christmas day is a very practical way of showing Christian care to families and sharing Christ’s love for each one of us, no matter our circumstances.
I would like to especially thank, Liz Goater and Brenda Birt for organising the presents, and to the Sturminster Newton Mothers Union for the morning of wrapping presents. We hope and pray that we will be able to send more presents, and reach more families next Christmas.

Laura Kachale -
Community Development Coordinator

HOLIDAY HOME AT ROCKLEY PARK

Would you like a relaxing break or a chance to get away from it all to unwind? How about a week in the Mothers’ Union Holiday Home?

The six-berth holiday home is situated at Rockley Park, Hamworthy near Poole in Dorset. From the site, there are views over Poole Harbour and there is a small beach and nature trail within walking distance. There are good public transport links to Poole where there is a bus and railway station. Many places of interest are nearby including Brownsea Island and clean, safe beaches at Sandbanks and Bournemouth.

There is a reception area with very helpful staff. Facilities include a well-stocked shop which sells a wide range of food and other items, ample safe indoor and outdoor play areas, swimming pools, bars and a selection of eating places including take away. There is a variety of entertainments. A privilege card and passes are issued for use during your stay, which entitle you to free use of many facilities as well as discounts in the shop and some other outlets on site.

The holiday home is modern and well appointed. It is connected to all mains services and has gas central heating and gas cooker. There are electric lights and power points in all areas. There is no extra charge for these services. There is a fridge with freezer compartment, microwave, toaster, electric kettle, TV with DVD player. There is a launderette on site. It is fully equipped including linen except for towels and cot linen which families are asked to bring themselves. The holiday home sleeps a maximum of 6 people (which includes babies). There are two twin beds, a double bedroom, and a pull-out double bed in the lounge area. The area around the holiday home is grass and you can park on the grass next to the caravan.

Everyone is welcome to apply and particularly families who rarely get the chance of a holiday. MU members, their friends and family are also welcome and especially outside school holidays. Costs are from £200 for referred families and other prices are available on enquiry.

For more information contact Sheila Soper mob: 07981 743627
email: murockleyholidayhome@gmail.com
Maisie’s March

Nine months ago, one April evening Maisie and Diesel the Bad Terrier walked into Guildford with Patsy, Ed, me and Peter. Peter and his wife had given us a bed for the night in their beautiful old house in Selborne where Gilbert White, the famous priest naturalist, had dedicated his life to observing and recording all things natural on his beloved Downs.

Peter, on the other hand, had spent his working life in the motor industry. He had recently recovered from a catastrophic heart attack and lost a lot of weight. As the day passed he told his tale, as pilgrims do. We walked past the house where he was born. He was surprised when we passed his school *(we had taken a wrong turn!)* Family, adventures, a terrible car accident, the long years of work and then the real surprise: He had never walked so far in his life, and he loved it. He planned to carry on. He has achieved more than three score years and ten and the Pilgrims Way beckoned to him. Family illness and busy diaries have kept Maisie and me from our March since then, but the Mother Church is patient.

Last Friday Ed, Maisie and I set off to walk the 15 Miles from Guildford to Dorking despite wet and stormy January weather. The Way is along the top of the Downs, chalk, flint and clay paths climbing steeply through woods, along cleared open ground with golden gorse promising spring....and covered in mud!

We only passed 2 churches all day, locked during the winter months. At St Martha’s church a notice told us that you could see 8 counties on a clear day. At St Barnabas (the Encourager) there was water for passing dogs and a magnificent new ecological loo in the churchyard, also locked!

Having been to see the film of Winston Churchill’s becoming prime minister “the Darkest Hour” recently the most striking aspect of the day were the WW2 pill boxes lining our path. There they stood, every quarter of a mile, all built during 1940 to slow the Germans progress to London from the coast. They are silent witnesses to the traumas of our recent history on this ancient highway.
The valleys below were partially flooded. Everything was so tranquil - rooks and buzzards, songbirds, sheep and cattle - volunteers on the walks clearing the scrub and making charcoal, also riders on handsome horses, cyclists in their Lycra, walkers and their muddy dogs - and the whispers of people down the centuries bequeathing the day to us.

This is the joy of Pilgrimage - we walk from place to place with a special purpose, and gain so much that is unexpected along the way. This time last year I did not imagine that we would be leaving the diocese in April 2018, nor did I guess what events would impact on our lives since leaving Salisbury Cathedral with Rosie and Joanne, but our lives are in God’s hands - we are all his precious children, and we are blessed in ways we do not anticipate as we walk with faith on His path.

Patsy and I will continue our Pilgrimage and I know a warm welcome awaits us in Canterbury. Maisie’s March has been a great witness for the Mother’s Union as we take every opportunity to boast of its work! I will continue to report back on our journey. Thank you for all your generous sponsorship, support and love.  

Sarah and Maisie

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

Cyril Mullett  
Ann Lewis (Indoor Member)  
Honor Gazzard (indoor member)  
Dorothy Scammells  
Verena Dix  
Tricia Ferguson  
Marjorie Toomer  
Stella Jagger  
Kath Axtell  

The Cannings in Devizes Deanery  
Calne  
St James, Trowbridge aged 92  
St James Trowbridge, Branch and Deanery Treasurer  
St James Trowbridge  
Wareham  
Chiseldon (now closed)  
Harnham  
Milton and Blandford
DATES FOR YOUR 2018 DIARY

AGM/AUTUMN COUNCIL  Saturday October 13
at Durweston Village Hall
(Church Road, Durweston, Blandford Forum  DT11 0QA)

Other dates:

Open Day at Mary Sumner House  8-9 August
AFIA holiday  18-25 August
General Meeting of Mothers’ Union  17-18 September
at Brangwyn Hall, Swansea, Wales
Each year:  1 February
Items due for Spring ‘Windows’
1 September
Items due for Autumn ‘Windows’

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL MU COMMUNION SERVICES
12 noon on 4th Tuesday of each month except August and December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Celebrant</th>
<th>Deanery</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>March 27</td>
<td>Revd Canon Ann Philp</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 24</td>
<td>Revd Canon David Callard</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 22</td>
<td>Revd Tina Fox</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 26</td>
<td>Rev. John Sweatman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 25</td>
<td>(to be confirmed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>(to be confirmed)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>The Very Revd Paul Mellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 24</td>
<td>Revd Canon Michael Goater</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

– BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2016–2018

Diocesan President  Rosie Stiven
Chaplain  Revd Jacqui Clark
Secretary  Jenny Harrison
Treasurer  Suzanne Waters
Archdeaconry Chairmen:
Sherborne  Daphne Furey
Dorset  Sheila Soper
Wilts  Marlene Haffenden
Sarum  (Vacant)
Unit Co-ordinators:
Action & Outreach (A&O)  Joanna Woodd, Sandra Gamble
Faith  (Vacant)
Fund Raising/Communications  Sarah Condry
Training  (Vacant)
Diocesan Members’ Contact
Elected Trustees
Faith  Rosemary Allen
Fund Raising/Communications  Mike Bowler (Membership)
Training  Liz Bowler
Diocesan Members’ Contact
Elected Trustees
Faith  Elizabeth Wood
Fund Raising/Communications  (Three vacancies)
Training  Alison Oakes (Gift Aid)

Trustee Meetings: all at 10am

Tuesday  22 May
Tuesday  25 September
Thursday 22 November

Please send news for the Spring edition of ‘Windows’ to: Mrs Elizabeth Goater,
17 Chiselbury Grove, Salisbury SP2 8EP  Tel: 01722 331899  Email: lizgoater@hotmail.com
by 1st September 2018