

Sheffield Mothers' Union Newsletter May 2020

Our President writes...

I hope that you are smiling as you read this Newsletter. Times are very strange at the moment and have been for the last two months. We can all think of times when we have felt sad, lost or angry, nneeth19 BUT, we are part of an amazing organisation: Mothers' Union. Our members have been sewing, knitting, crocheting, writing, phoning, and, even, talking through doors or windows. We are a caring group and there are many people who have been made to feel special and not alone. **So SMILE!** Think of the good things that are happening all around you. Times are strange at the moment but life is wonderful if you can see it.



I am enjoying Facetiming my grandson, Joe!

Vice President's, Moira and Liz write...

Nobody would have wished the Coronavirus pandemic on the world BUT, despite the impact on our day to day lives, somehow the human race has shown, that we can rise above it. We have been challenged to find new ways to worship together and deepen our faith, Technology has helped us greatly. Moreover we have seen countless acts of kindness and generosity that will help us out of this crisis and hopefully into a better future. And we know that the Mothers' Union have been rising to the challenge too

In our isolation we as Christians know that we are never alone, Jesus promised "I am with you even to the end of time".

Trustees have met via Zoom- a steep learning curve for us all!



St John's Abbeydale has a project to make a Community Quilt and has asked for contributions of 10" squares. This is Margaret Minns square. as she thought it would fly the flag for MU.



VP Liz Paver collected a dozen or so Palm crosses that had been blessed by the vicar and delivered them to some **St Wilfrisd's Cantley MU** members and others who live close by wearing her yellow rubber gloves!!

Thoughts from Revd Hilda Isaacson – Chaplain (designate!)

Through all the changing scenes of life,

In trouble and in joy,

The praises of my God shall still

My heart and tongue employ.



This hymn, a version of Psalm 34, reminds us we have all had to make changes in the way we do things.

Little did I know, back in January, when I was asked to become Chaplain to the Mothers' Union that we would have had such a dramatic change across the world.

Self-Isolation. Social Distancing. New phrases in our vocabulary that now slip off the tongue. Clapping for the NHS and doing VE Day from home are just a few of the news items that have caught our attention during this time and inspired us.

With our Churches closed and Sunday Worship accessed online, or the TV or radio, via Zoom or YouTube, we have discovered and shared our faith in new and varied ways.

I did not anticipate having to create short worship and reflection YouTube videos to connect with people but, surprisingly, I have found it rewarding. Preparing and delivering short meditations, or thoughts, reflections and prayers helped me through the end of Lent, those early days of the Lockdown.

Through learning the technology for creating videos I have not only been able to share these with a wider group of people it has provided an opportunity for me, with my husband, Alan, to share ministry together in this way.

Psalm 34 and the hymn I referred to above remind us that through all our life there would be changes. These recent changes will continue to challenge us but I pray that we will stay firm in our faith and stay safe.

God bless you. Hilda

Greetings from Ecclesall Deanery Leader Sally Wood

After watching 'The Big Night In' I tried to think of what I could do for the 2.6 Challenge. It then came to mind, that I could walk 26 laps of the road near me. I walked for 3 Charities- Christian Aid, Mothers' Union and Sheffield Baby Basics.



Each lap was 0.4 of a mile so by the end I had done 10.4 miles in 5 hours! I kept count of each lap using a bucket and buttons, I'm not sure if it's a record, but it is for me! The total raised for M U was £256.00 Thanks to all who gave.

St Francis, West Bessacarr MU is quite a large branch of 38 members, run by a Committee of 9 members. The branch has been divided into small groups with each Committee member having 3 members to keep in touch with by phone / text / email during the lockdown, so we know that all members are staying safe and coping. We are there to help if necessary. There is a lot of knitting going on in Bessacarr and wardrobe sorting for the Women's Refuge! Members of the MU are involved in the Community project organized by the church for the collection of prescriptions and shopping for the elderly and vulnerable by taking phone calls from the people in isolation, writing shopping lists, contacting the wonderful volunteers and having lovely chats!! We had a successful Zoom meeting when our president, Gill told us all about herself and her work as President. We are coping but really looking forward to the end of this crisis and meeting each other again. As Vera sang, **"We'll meet again, don't know where, don't know when, but I know we'll meet again some sunny day."**

Love... being shown in the community

Offering... friendship and help

Care... for the vulnerable and lonely

Knitting... blankets... church mice... jumpers

Donating ... time to helping others

Organising ... shopping and prescriptions for the elderly

Willingness... to learn new technology...Zoom

Never giving up... on the situation... keeping positive.

St Nicholas Bradfield MU are a very spread out branch of people so we are keeping in contact by e mails and by telephone as best we can. Thankfully all seem well although one member had the virus in March and is fine now. Pauline Reynolds phones the members who are all alone and thankfully they are all getting the help they need. All but 3 of the members are self isolating, of the 3 that aren't one is a GP, one is Rev Hilda Isaacson, Chaplain and one disabled so can't get out and about. We have been making scrubs bags which have gone to the Children's Hospital. If any members feel like knitting, Baby Basics need matinee coats and Moses basket blankets 28"x36".

Greetings from **St Mary's MU Sprotborough** and hope you are all well and keeping safe. We have been keeping in touch with each other by phone, text and WhatsApp. This has been much appreciated. Andrea came up with the idea to deliver a joy bag to each of our members who live on their own, They were thrilled to receive them, and much appreciated. What are joy bags I hear you say? Well we wrap seven small gifts, one for each day of the week, attach a prayer, and put in a gift bag. Originally we gave them to someone who was ill, bereaved or lonely.

REGRETS & BLESSINGS

We are sorry to hear of the Deaths of **Lillie Askew, Joan Dale, Jean Gray, Pam Goddard, Alma Hough, Sheila Littlewood and Mary Longdin**. May they all Rest in Peace

For **All Saints Wath Branch** members, the main priority during this time is to keep in touch with all our members. Everyone is contacted roughly once a week, mainly for a chat to keep cheerful! We have also been providing items for Rotherham and Barnsley Hospitals. Members have been making scrubs bags and toilet bags, which we fill, and others have been knitting mask straps.

We pray for all members and look forward to the time when we can get together again.



Scrubs made by members



VE Day.



St Catherine's Mothers' Union had a virtual branch meeting by phone to discuss the memories of VE Day and how it was celebrated by our older members. Lelia was 9 years old and her family had a community party on a dusty tip nearby. They sat on Tizer crates at trestle tables and ate dripping sandwiches, jam tarts and whatever people could bring. She still has a photo of her younger sister sitting on her knee. Madge was 8 and her community had a bonfire in a field and burnt an effigy of Hitler which had been in the cobbler's window for two weeks. This was followed by food in the club house. Shirley was 10 and her father was still in Burma so there were no celebrations for her family. Alice was 11 and at a boarding school for blind and partially sighted children. She remembers lessons were cancelled and pupils went into town with teachers in the afternoon and the atmosphere had totally changed and there was cheering. She was upset later though as she was not allowed to go with the older children from her dormitory into town that night. To make matters worse they woke her up when they returned at 11pm! Pat was 21 and lived at Southchurch, near Southend and remembers dancing, fun and singing. Kath was 22 and expecting her first baby. Her husband was in the army and she alone was visiting her sister-in-law in London and they had an impromptu party with neighbours.

Let us hope we can stay resilient in the current crisis and celebrate when Covid-19 has been defeated.

In **Owston & Skellow MU** ALL church members are in touch with each other, telephoning, emailing, txt, etc plus as we're a part of the Redhouse Partnership of churches (5 churches) our Vicars are very busy keeping us informed by way of internet prayers, etc., using modern day technology. We presently have a noon & a 6pm service streamed live on Facebook or we can dial on our landlines & listen in to Revd. Stephen Gardner, it's wonderful!

CONGRATULATIONS to many of our IMPC members who have had birthdays during the lockdown: **Janet McKelvey, Pat Bollington, Jean Clark, Beryl Hopkinson, Rita Turton, Kathleen Barnaby, Irene Smith, Helen Shepard, Ethel Smith, Iris Jubb, Doreen Randerson, Margaret Boor and Betty Jones**. Also to **Helen and Bill Shepard** who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary!