

# St. Peter's Mothers' Union

## Christmas Newsletter 2019



Dear Friends,

I hope you like the jolly Christingle picture – a reminder of our fun afternoon preparing them for the wonderful service on Advent Sunday afternoon. Thank you to those who helped and a big thank you to Hannah Bird who has sent and supervised the journeys of two Travelling Nativity sets.



Now for some serious 'stuff': With regret, I have to tell you that, from the beginning of the New Year, I need to relinquish my responsibilities for the position of leader of St. Peter's Mothers' Union. Age is catching up with me and all the current committee. Whilst we remain passionate about Mothers' Union, the energy and stamina needed to sustain the life of our branch are more than we can manage these days!

I understand that we all have busy lives and I thank you for the support you already give to events. However, the bottom line is that **the branch REALLY needs your help and your ideas!** We're looking for some enthusiastic members to take an interest in leadership, finance, secretary or publicity - with some reassurance of support - as much or as little as you wish. We are happy to explain and discuss what the roles involve currently and how they could be in the future.

*"It is rewarding to work together bringing interesting events to fruition, seeing members enjoy them and raising much needed funds."*

Mothers' Union theme for 2020 is '**Building Hope and Confidence**'. As our Worldwide President Sheran said in Portsmouth in September, *"let us walk together in hope and confidence, trusting each other... and building the hope and confidence of families and communities as we reach forward as God's hands and feet"*

Wishing you all a Joyous Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Peaceful New Year

**Janet**

**News from the branch:** After the August break we met in the evening for a change with Puddings and Plonk and a demonstration of Sugar Craft from Anna and Wendy. This was very enjoyable and supported by members who are unable to join us for day time events. A big thank you to all who contributed, including our pudding makers and our hosts for the evening, Margaret and Harry.

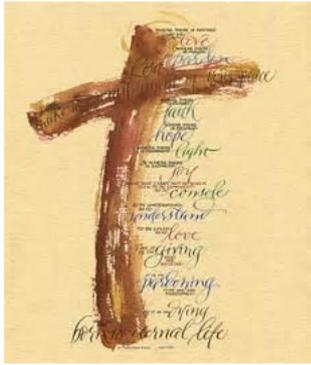
In October we were privileged to hear from Penny Wilcox about her work as a volunteer for EAPPI (Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel) and her involvement in protecting human rights in those countries - a thought provoking afternoon.

Halloween brought the Light Party where we were pleased to help serving refreshments.

November afternoon was a return visit from Liz McGee for more of her poems; a lovely time with some members also reading their favourite poems.

**Jocelyn**

*Thank you to the ten members who ordered cards and gifts from the Mothers' Union catalogue. Your support is much appreciated. You will be pleased to know that your £100+ spend enabled MU headquarters to send approximately £12 to Salisbury Diocese.*



### **A Christmas Prayer**

***At Christmas time, dear God, we remember your birth as a baby; in a manger lying on straw, the cattle and donkey close by, and Mary and Joseph looking at you in amazement and love. We thank you for coming to the earth and pray that the joy of Christmas Day may bring peace and hope to all the world. Amen***

The Prayers we Breathe 2003

### **Weddings**

A BIG THANK YOU to the Mothers' Union Marriage Team – Ann Horan, Anna Bessant, Elizabeth Wells, Janet Everett, Ruby Thompson and Sally Walker – for each supporting one or two couples married in 2019 at St. Peter's Church and at St. Mary's on Brownsea Island.

There are already eight weddings booked for 2020. The preparation weekend is Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> February and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>. Existing supporters are welcome at these sessions as well as any other interested Mothers' Union members. It's an excellent "finding out" opportunity. Please let me know in advance if you would like to attend. We recommend that you come over lunchtime on the Saturday as that gives you chance to chat to couples and helpers, and find out what Marriage Preparation is all about. If you have time, you may like to stay for the afternoon

**Margaret J**

### **News of Members:**

Several of our members have not been too well recently but hopefully are now beginning to feel a little better.

Christmas plants have been delivered to members who have suffered difficulties during the year.

At this time of year we are all aware we need to ensure none of our members are in need. If you know of anyone who needs a visit or telephone call, please let one of your committee know and we will do our best to respond so that no-one is in need.

**Ruby**

### **Coming events:**

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2.30pm – *Combined Holy Communion and AGM* in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2.30pm – *Looking to the Future* in the Parish Centre

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> March 12.30pm – *Lent Lunch* in the Parish Centre

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. Please let Janet know of anything you would like to contribute on 07788 737858