



Stella Roberts, Diocesan President, writes

If it is not too late may I wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year. I am sure you will all be praying for peace in the world as we are confronted with the tragic news of the fighting in the Middle East and acts of Terrorism in France and Africa and other parts of the world

As always, I felt very humbled to see my name in the lists of MU presidents and workers in Wave of Prayer Group for 11th - 14th January in the Families Worldwide booklet. Our Diocese is prayed for with our Link Diocese by the Mothers' Union Worldwide. Please continue to pray for all the MU Diocese linked with Winchester. The Families Worldwide Booklet gives us news from around the world on which to base our daily prayers

May I thank you all for giving so generously to the Angel Tree Project enabling Prisoners in Winchester Prison to send Christmas presents to their children. It is important that the fathers keep some contact with their children if they are to keep a loving relationship with them under difficult circumstances.

The 7th- 14th February is National Marriage Week.



During this week, please hold in prayers all who are married, those preparing for marriage and those whose marriage has met with difficulties. I know some branches will be holding special prayer times but if you can't get to one of these please pray in your own home. You will find prayers for marriage on the MU Diocesan Website.

This Spring we will be nominating Trustees for the next Triennial, please ask yourselves "*is God calling me to take on a position of responsibility for the Mothers' Union in this Diocese*" and prayerfully consider it. Several of the Trustees will have completed a six year term of office and will have to stand down. It is time for the Trustee Board to be refreshed with new members and new ideas. This could be an exciting time for us all.

With love in Christ

Stella Roberts

Marketing and Communications

Isn't it wonderful when a plan comes together?

Many of you will recently have had your 'Wave of Prayer' services in your branches and deaneries. Hopefully you used the really excellent resources that Mary Sumner House (MSH), our headquarters, provided. In these you will have heard about our new links across the world.

This will link in well to the 'free speakers' theme this year which is 'United in Prayer'. Also on **Wednesday 10th June** there will be an **MU Overseas Day** at Wolvesey where we can celebrate our links around the world.



Just a thought

Why not treat the **Overseas Day** on **Wednesday 10th June** as your monthly meeting? Come and enjoy the fellowship, finding out about our new links and sitting in the garden at Wolvesey - there will be a marquee just in case we do not have a 'flaming June'! Using this as your monthly meeting means that there is one less speaker to find and your committee can sit back and enjoy someone else organising things.

A few reminders

Many of you have booked your 'free speaker' but if you haven't please do so as soon as possible. You may find that a nearby branch is having a speaker and you could join them. If you would like a taster of what your free speaker will be doing do go to the national MU website mothersunion.org and put 'United in Prayer' in the search box.

Have you got into the good habit of using our new prayer for membership in your daily prayers and at your meetings? It was in the last issues of the e-news and 'Archway' but an 'us' was omitted so here it is again!

Thank you, Lord Jesus, that membership of the Mothers' Union has been a real blessing to me and my family. I pray that you will guide me today to new people who will benefit from the blessings that come through the work and membership of the Mothers' Union. Help me to encourage them and let me discern their needs and their gifting. We pray that you will build up the worldwide membership of the Mothers' Union to complete the mission that you have set before us. Refresh, renew and revive us, I pray. In the name of Jesus, Amen

'Make a Mother's Day' – 15th March 2015

All branch leaders will now have received details of this and included in the pack is a readymade family service for Mothering Sunday. Why not offer this to your vicar or parish children's leader? People really do like gifts that help them save time! Also tell them that if they go to makeamothersday.org they can download all the resources.

Please encourage all your members to buy an ethical gift or donate in memory of their mother.

Juliet Rees julieterees@hotmail.com

Now let's hear from Christine Clode – Archivist....

Since taking on the role of Archivist some of you have already told me that you have a box of papers for me. At the moment I do not have the physical and mental space to cope with any more! By all means contact me but I will call you when I can deal with more papers. The fact that we are considering knocking another hole in our roof is purely co-incidental!

muclode@sadie2.madasafish.com

AFIA – Away From It All Family Holiday

I have just had a super morning with two ladies from Brockenhurst branch. From their recent coffee morning they have given me lots of prize gift items for ladies and children, also lots of "smellies" to put in the rooms as a welcome pack so we only need a small amount of these items for this year. I think the men are also well catered for. So, if your branch wants to donate items towards the holiday I would suggest small outdoor toys and gifts suitable for family prizes.

Many thanks to you all

Sue Brinkman

And now something a bit different

Some of you will have seen in articles in Families First that the Damaris Trust produces resources to accompany the latest film releases and we suggest that you could plan a meeting around their information.



Well, MSH have just sent us the following exciting news.

On Monday 23rd February 2015 there will be, in conjunction with the Damaris Trust, a Rotary Red Carpet Gala Screening of 'The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel' at the University of Southampton. All details are at www.damaris.org/rotary. PS If you go make sure you wear your MU badge!

There will be a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Marriage at St. Mary the Virgin, Old Alresford, at 4pm on Sunday 15th February followed by tea and cake in Old Alresford Place. Couples are invited to bring photos of their special day. For further information contact Carol Beetham, Branch Secretary 01962 732997



Old Alresford Branch meeting Tuesday 5th May at 2.30 pm. There will be a presentation by the Rev. Amanda Grant on her visit to Myanmar in October last year. All welcome! Please let us know if you plan to come so that we can be prepared!



Carol Beetham Branch Secretary 01962 732997

First Wednesday of every month - Cathedral Prayers in Winchester Cathedral 10.30 am and afterwards in the Refectory.

2015

15 March	Mothering Sunday
16 March	Diocesan Council and Information Day St. John's Hedge End 10.00 am – 2.00 pm
20 May	Quiet Day – Wolvesey 10.00 am – 4.00 pm
10 June	Overseas Day in the garden at Wolvesey 11.30 am -3.00 pm MU Worldwide Fund Raising Day
7 July	Information Evening - St Margaret's, South Wonston 6.00 pm – 9.00 pm
9 August	Mary Sumner Day
15-22 August	AFIA - Family holiday
19 September	Festival Service Winchester Cathedral 11.00 am
7 November	Information Day - Crosfield Hall, Romsey 10.00 am – 2.00 pm

