

## APRIL 2021 M.U NEWSLETTER

Dear Friends,

I hope that you are all well and in good spirits as we start to see family and friends again. We must pray for caution as we try to move forward.

We were spiritually blessed through our Lent journey which led us to a very special Tenebrae service led by Barry and Sue on Good Friday and an equally special Easter Day service led by Ian and Julie. For those who missed these please try and see the recordings on the Church Website. I hope you all had a blessed Easter.

Many of our members are in need of our prayers at this time. Prayer is our most powerful gift and tool and it is so important that we uphold each other, especially in difficult times. Please remember Maria, Freda, Pat, Chris, Debbie, Glenys, Sue, Shirley, Jean, Barry, Sue and all who we miss who are unable to attend our Zoom meetings.

After our last meeting Julie received the sad news of Betty's passing. Since her return from hospital she has had a few setbacks but is now at peace. We pray for Anne, who had lovingly cared for her for many years and her brother Ian and both their families as they grieve their mum, grandmother and great grandmother.

My first meeting with Betty was when she came to St. Barnabas as a Girl Guide Commissioner and enrolled Jen and I when I was about twelve. Little did I know that our paths would cross in the future and that I would have been proud to have travelled a little way with her on life's journey. Betty

was a gifted sewer and crafter and always worked so hard for the Autumn or Christmas Fairs, filling her parlour with beautiful gifts to raise money for our church. Betty was generous, gentle and kind to everyone, always having a great sense of humour and a glint in her eye. Mabel was her great friend and neighbour and she missed her. When she was able she regularly attended Wednesday communion and shared a taxi with Glenys and Doris and after the service would share fellowship with Rene and would enjoy a chat. Betty always had our backs and constantly upheld us in prayer. When dementia made life difficult her loving family were there for her. Julie and Felice were very close to Betty and also must be feeling a sense of loss at this time.

As Christians we have hope and we know that Betty is now at rest, no more struggling and is at peace in the light of the Lord. However she will be greatly missed by all who loved her.

Sue Letson was our speaker at April's meeting when she gave us part two of her Welsh Women Saints talk, which was very interesting. It inspired us to think about a pilgrimage to some of the churches that she spoke about; so watch this space.

I would like to say a big thank you to Chris Hedley for the beautiful chicks that she made for the care homes. Chris and I made 50 each and she also donated the eggs to go inside them. Freda and Kathy Davies also donated money which went into the branch and we have had a generous donation from Jean Stocking. Thank you all so much for your generosity. These donations will enable us to make a difference.

The family that we have been in contact with are all well. Amra has recently had a birthday and I took her flowers. The children also received Easter eggs and on Mother's Day Amna the little girl, was able to give mum a gift and made a card for her, thanks to us. Mum was overwhelmed. Aman is now getting very busy and is crawling and demanding attention. He is a lovely strong boy now.

Shanique is settling in her new home and is awaiting carpets. Debbie says that baby is doing well.

The five care homes were so grateful to receive the eggs. They were delighted that someone had thought of them, so I feel it was a worthwhile project.

Birthday wishes go to Liz and Jean this month.

Elaine and Gwen are well and Meta has returned from her daughters safely. Pat is having good days and some off days so we hope that she will soon be feeling much better. Peggy and Kathy were well last week when I saw them. I have not had contact with Sian lately but I left her a message re. Betty. They are planning to relocate so I hope all is well. Shirley has managed to go out twice and she was so pleased and its great to see Sue on Zoom on Sundays. Maria and Freda have had a tough few weeks and need our prayers.

Our thoughts are with our dear Queen as she and the nation mourn the death of her husband Prince Phillip Duke of Edinburgh. We give thanks for his life and his work with young people and for raising awareness of the plight of our animal kingdom and environment. We pray for peace and

reconciliation within their family as they come to terms with their loss.

I reminded everyone that our Project Box money needs to be in by the end of May. If anyone wishes to contribute you can send a cheque to St. Barnabas Mothers' Union and put Project Box money on the back and send to Debbie or me. Alternatively you can pay it into our M.U. account. The details are:- Lloyds Bank

Sort code- 30-95-46

Account No- 03682471

If you pay into our account please could you text or phone Debbie to let her know. We usually send between £40 to £60 in total from the Branch, as it is the small change that we have usually collected throughout the year, so please do not think we are expecting large amounts, as at present we are also donating to U.S.P.G. via our church and most of us support other charities too and at present most charities are going through a difficult time.

Text 07749710970

House phone 01792 872759

We will need a new branch Leader in 2022 so don't be shy, why not give it a try. If you wish to know more give me a call on 01792 879463

Many thanks to John for the Zoom Services and our meetings and to Peter for the M.U. and Church Website.

I hope that with God's help we can bring light and love onto our homes, our parish and the world, through the work of the Mothers' Union.

Our next meeting will be on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> of May so hope to see you then.

Love and best wishes,

Margaret.