

February Newsletter St Barnabas MU

Dear Members and Friends,

I hope you are all well and keeping your chins up. I know this is not all that easy sometimes but Spring is on the way despite the poor weather we are experiencing. If you look around, there are buds on the trees and I saw the first primroses and crocus in Freda's garden which filled me with hope and delight.

It was great to welcome four sister members from St. John's Gowerton, on our Feb. Zoom meeting. Mrs. Sally Freedman, our Diocesan President was our speaker. Sally spoke about her life growing up with a dad who was a minister and the countries they visited and her growing up in Brecon. It was a very interesting talk. This is her last year as President and she has always been such a wonderful support to us at St.Barnabas.

Sadly, we shall miss marking National Marriage Week in church this year but we will be praying for Peter and Clair Letson and all newlyweds and those preparing for marriage. We will be remembering those who have sadly lost their partners and those living in difficult or abusive relationships.

John is hosting a Valentine Zoom Evening so send your requests for romantic songs to him. It will be on Friday 12th Feb. so do try and be there.

We prayed for the family of Steven Bowdich and Delyth Griffiths who both lost their fight against cancer, also Sue and Barry who lost dad unexpectedly. Please remember Phyllis

who recently lost her brother. May they be comforted and surrounded by love.

I would like you to think about Mother's Day flowers and who should we gift them to? The Make a Mother's Day gift which we usually donate to, the choices are: -

Empowering classes for young girls	cost=£7
Saving and Business Skills	cost=£15
A Parenting Class	cost=£32
Passionate about Parenting	cost=£40
Trauma- Healing Journey	cost=£75
AFIA Experience Day	cost=£102

We can either donate as a Branch or individually if you prefer. The later may be the better option under the circumstances. You will have received the information from MSH regarding this and details of how to send the donation straight to them.

As you have seen from our Branch Financial Returns our account is depleted owing to us being unable to fundraise. This is the first time in 20 years that we have not been able to cover at least half of our subscriptions, so there has been a little pressure I am afraid. We need to think about how we can raise money to enable us to take on any future projects so please put your thinking caps on. However, should anyone wish to make a donation into the Branch, at any time this year, no matter how small, it would be gratefully received. Our bank details are: - St. Barnabas Mothers Union,

Wauarlwydd (Business account). Account number 03682471 sort code 30-95-46. I don't think that I need to remind you but we are actually a registered charity.

On Sunday 21st. of Feb. we will be taking part in the M.U. Worldwide Wave of Prayer and our allotted time is 1.30-2.15 pm. I hope that this will be a meaningful time of prayer that we as individuals can pray for all our members everywhere and ask for God's blessings on all projects being undertaken in such difficult times. I will ask Peter to put information regarding this onto the M.U. page on St. Barnabas Website and will be posting to members who do not have internet access. This is only a guideline as you can pray in any way you wish from any literature that feels right for you.

Three of our members have had covid. Glenys Bevan, Jean Stocking and now Betty Hodge has returned home from hospital and has the virus Anne and granddaughter Hannah who is a doctor are nursing her at home. We pray for them all.

Glenys will not be continuing her membership this year. We miss her and she has been a faithful member over the years. I assured her daughter, Gaynor that we would not forget her.

Shirley is much improved and is more mobile. Elaine, Gwen and Peggy have had their vaccinations and are well. I don't think that Kathy is having one so continue to pray for her protection. Freda and Maria are battling but have faith on their side and all of our prayers. Maria is having her jab today and is going to have chemo every 2 weeks now. Sian is well

and we are glad that Peter P. and John are recovering after their operations.

It has been a difficult year for Chris and Debbie but through it all have given me their continued support and I am very grateful. Thank you both.

At our meeting we saw photographs of the two families we helped last year. This was our Branch project. One family had a baby boy and the other a baby girl. Both babies are doing well and look healthy bonny babies. If anyone is going to part with any furniture please will you let me know as Amra has asked me to keep an eye open for a wardrobe for the children as they don't have one. She never asks for anything. She calls me every week and when I ask her if she needs any food etc she always says "I manage maam" and bless her she only wants them to be given the opportunity to be able to work and make a better life for the children. Many things she needed have been bought from the charity shops and boot sales and many like her are struggling, not having the opportunities to go these places since lockdown.

The M.U. shop is now open should you wish to order anything but please remember the postage is on top of your goods. Sally informed us that we would be receiving, by post 2 publications each year of a new magazine, the cost of which will be taken out of our subs.

We have made 100 chicks for Easter to go into the care homes. If we are unable to do this, we have a contingency plan. We now need to buy the eggs to go inside.

We were grateful that Tony and Marion Heaven audited our accounts yet again.

John Campbell will be the speaker at our next meeting on March 2nd and I look forward to seeing you.

Please will someone talk to me about replacing me next year. It is a great opportunity to go through this year from beginning to the end. This could be an epic journey for you if you so wish as there is so many opportunities within this wonderful organisation, many of which that we have not explored in our branch.

Meanwhile keep safe, love and best wishes,

Margaret.

I leave you with this prayer from our Prayer Diary 2/2/2021

May the light of Jesus be reflected in the work of Mothers' Union locally and globally. May we be inspired with his vision for whatever part of the world we have been called to serve and may we be known as light-givers in shadowy places.