

## M.U. NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2021

Dear Members and Friends,

As we leave behind 2020, we give thanks that we have overcome many difficulties and that our faith and hope has remained strong. Circumstances has made us take a fresh look at all we do and encourage us to think outside the box. We have been blessed that John, Diane, Ian, Julie, Sue, Barry and the Pastoral Lay Worship leaders have made it possible to reach out to so many.

Although we have not been able to be inside our church building, we have still managed to continue our good works.

I hope that you all had a peaceful happy Christmas and are all well and ready to take on the challenges of this new year, when our theme will be Rebuilding Hope and Confidence. This is the last year of the triennial and my last year as your Branch Leader and Jill McPherson's last year as Deanery Leader. These posts need to be filled so please consider this. I would really welcome someone to shadow me this year ladies.

We give thanks too for the time that we have shared with Ian, for his spiritual guidance, love and support. We pray that he will have a long and happy retirement with Sue, Joel and Brack and the opportunity to follow his heart's desire.

The Christmas gifts to our Indoor members and friends were very gratefully received and those that received a DVD of our Carol Service were so pleased.

The Branch received cards from Jill, Sally and Painscastle ladies. Thanks to Diane for her card, letter and DVD sent to Painscastle.

Update on our Indoor Members: -

Sadly, Glenys Bevan has had Covid and has been treated in the home. She was poorly but has improved. Shirley Minney is now

home after several stays in hospital and has experienced mini strokes. Her son has moved in with her to help care for her and she was thrilled with the cross we sent.

Sue is joining our Zoom Church services. It is great to have her with us and she is isolating.

Maria and Freda are battling on with great faith and courage.

Jean Stocking is in good spirits although she is very arthritic.

Carol celebrated her Birthday on Christmas day as did Mary Taylor.

Betty is well and very comfortable with her daughter Anne and I had a chat with them both today and hope that they might join us on Zoom in the future. The gift we sent arrived in tact and it was so lovely to hear her voice again.

The members who are unable to come onto Zoom are all well at present and I have seen most of them during December.

We are grateful that John Campbell, Peter Prevel and Rita (hairdresser) are recovering after their recent surgery and pray that Viv Hughes will soon be feeling better after breaking her hip. Please remember Lynda Reynolds in your prayers as she has been having tummy problems and Cath and Allen Jones who are recovering from Covid and Carol Lock who has been unwell and also had a fall earlier in lockdown. We must remember all who are struggling with loneliness or mental health.

We send our heartfelt condolences and love to Phyllis and family on the loss of her dear brother.

We have some exciting news too as Rev. Peter Letson got married to his beautiful bride Clare and a double celebration in the Letson household on the birth of their first grandchild, a little boy, mum and baby are doing well. Love and congratulations to them all.

Congratulations to Sue Lloyd and Brian on their recent marriage and send them our best wishes.

Congratulations to Andrea and Mike on the birth of their new Grandson, Odin and best wishes to mum and dad on their firstborn.

You may have heard the news of Bishop John's retirement in May. He has been a wonderful advocate and supporter of the Mothers' Union and we wish him a happy retirement.

Our first zoom meeting will take place on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> of February at 2pm. Hopefully there will be a speaker. The 7<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> of February is Marriage Week and the Wave of Prayer will be on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of February 1.30 to 2.15pm. Sally has left the decision to the Branch Leaders regarding this time of prayer and as it is the first Sunday in Lent and owing to the preparation and time spent on the Sunday service I feel it's unfair to give more work to others so I have taken the decision that we mark this time individually, where ever we feel more comfortable. If those of you who will join me in continuing this wave of prayer will let me know and I will send you information and any prayer requests. Please could you let me know at Feb. meeting.

We usually hold our Annual General Meeting in February but decided last year that it would be held in June instead. However, we will have to accept the audited accounts in February's meeting and discuss if we can afford to subsidise our Indoor members or not.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to fundraise for the Branch last year so we really need to get our thinking caps on ladies to do so this year.

The subs for this year are £25 and will be grateful if you could send them to our treasurer Mrs Debbie Williams, 39 West Winds Close, Waunarlwydd, Swansea. SA5 4RD or to Mrs Margaret Holland, 1 Ffordd Alltwen, Gowerton, Swansea. SA4 3HG. The cheque should be

made payable to St. Barnabas Mothers' Union, Waunarlwydd. Please could we receive payment no later than 28<sup>th</sup> of January and if you do not wish to renew your membership please let me know as soon as possible as subs and all Branch information has to be sent to Brecon early in February. If unable to post and you wish me to collect, I will do so.

Projects: - The family we gave the baby layette to are doing well and I met with them the week before Christmas, outside, on Amra's request as she wished to give me a piece of her Christmas cake, a recipe from Shrilanka. Amna had made a beautiful Christmas card and wrote a lovely message inside. I asked if they had a Christmas tree and they didn't. I offered her a small one and some decorations which she was pleased to accept and by the time I returned home she sent me a picture of it all dressed up and the little girl loved it. Thanks to Gwen for her donation to the family. During that week the whole family attended a second interview and are awaiting news, so please pray for a good outcome for them.

Shanique has a beautiful little girl and hopes to be back in Swansea soon. Debbie has been a huge support to her for many years and if any of you wish to knit for the baby, I am sure that she will be very grateful. She has sent a message of thanks and photos of the baby; all gifts were donated not taken from funds.

I look forward to our meeting on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of February and the year ahead, with all its challenges and the opportunities of "Rebuilding Hope and Confidence". Thanks for all the support that you have given me and the kindness that you have shown each other and those in need in our community. I wish you love and many blessings in 2021.

Margaret.

I alone cannot change the world,

But I can cast a stone across the waters  
To create many ripples.

Mother Theresa.