

## St Barnabas MU Newsletter May 2021

Dear Friends,

Hope that you are all doing well.

It was lovely to welcome Ruby Hayden, our Away From It All representative, to our last Zoom meeting. We enjoyed her talk and as usual her zest for the Mothers' Union.

We were grateful to John and Diane for taking time out of their holiday to host this meeting.

We prayed for Simon Lewis of Victoria Road who was very ill and lost his fight shortly after. Please keep his and Betty's family in your prayers. Sadly in recent days we learned of dear Glenys passing. We all have wonderful memories of her and the amazing work she did for charities but above all she was a wonderful mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, aunt and friend and was never happier than when she was surrounded by family. Glenys loved to come to church and everyone loved her and she will be sadly missed. We were next door neighbours for many years and we had strong family connections from Swansea road. Vilma and Glenys did their courting together and both married Reynoldston lads. Bill and Glenys had many happy years together and are finally reunited after all she has endured. Her funeral will be on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> of May at Llanelli Crematorium at 10 am. and the cortege will stop at the foot of St. Barnabas Church hill at 9.30 am. Should parishioners and friends wish to pay their respects. Ian will be taking the service.

Amra and family has had their Visa denied. Please pray that they have hope and strength as they prepare to go to court for their appeal. They are all well and baby Aman is thriving and Amna has been accepted in Bishop Vaughan this September if all is well.

Shanique is taking good care of her baby despite a few problems with the house and both look well . Debbie has baby sat for her to have a break which is good. Parenting is hard when there is little support from family and its hard for her without her mum.

We decided to postpone June's Annual General Meeting until September by which time we could possibly meet safely in a suitable, safe environment. Therefore we will meet on Zoom for a Social afternoon in June and make it a Strawberry and Scone treat as we break for the Summer Recess.

I received a lovely letter from our Deanery leader Jill McPherson. During the lock down she has made over 30 cardigans which were donated to Baby Basics and to Gorseinon's over sea's project and her branch are knitting squares for blankets for the homeless.

We have recently received a substantial gift to the branch from one of our Indoor members and many others have also given donations for projects. Thank you all for keeping us running at this very difficult time. Debbie will be sending the Project Box Money to Mary Sumner House at the end of the month and she will let you know how much it is in our June meeting.

Our best wishes goes to Sian on her recent retirement and hope that it will be a long and happy one. Pete and her are looking forward to an exciting time as they change location and we hope that all will go smoothly for them. They say moving house is one of the most stressful things in life so take care and hope you will be very happy in your new home.

Our members who we miss on zoom are well, however many are in need of our prayers, especially Maria ,Freda, Chris, Sue, Debbie, Sue and Barry, Ian, Kathy Davies and Linda Reynolds.

We had a few birthdays this month:- Jackie, Phyllis and Douglas who celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday and had a wonderful day with his family

and met their great grandchild for the first time. Love and best wishes to you all.

During the coming weeks I would like us all to think about fundraising and projects for the Autumn. I am sure that if you dig deep that you will come up with some great ideas and perhaps different things to do at our meetings. I thank the faithful that have supported our meetings through these difficult times. I have been saddened by the lack of courtesy when members have not sent apologies when not attending , especially when I have organised a speaker. One afternoon a month is a small commitment if your heart is in, if not perhaps honesty is needed? I would appreciate a call from each member over the next 2 months to discuss the way forward for the Branch. I ask this, as it is easier for you to ring me at your convenience rather than me impose myself on you. As you appreciate I am out quite a lot during the day but am in most evenings. I pray we can be filled with positivity.

At the weekend I had a very spontaneous meeting with a homeless gentleman who stopped near our house , he was pushing quite an hefty cart containing all his worldly goods. On the side of it he had a sign saying “ please don’t steal from me this is my home”. It hit me how much we take for granted. The day previous we had torrential rain! On the top of the cart was canvas and plastic pipes which he improvised as a tent. He was all smiles when we dropped some essentials to him and very engaging. He surprised me when he told me that 71% who gave to him were men and he asked me why I had stopped and why I was so surprised about those figures. What do you think ? I would have thought that women would have had a motherly instinct and would have hoped that if it were one of their family that someone would be willing to help them. He then told me that he never asks for anything as he does not know others circumstances and wouldn’t want to put anyone into a difficult position. Then he started talking about Pontious Pilot washing his hands of Jesus when they were calling for his death. He said that

Mary was there and he asked me why didn't she make more fuss and try to stop this. I told him that Mary didn't because she trusted in God and his plans for Jesus to be the Messiah. He then told me that he was a Christian and I told him that I was too. This was a small portion of our conversation but he was so uplifting and thought provoking and certainly touched me.

John 15 verses 1,5,&12.

*I am the true vine, and my father is the husbandman.*

*I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing*

*This is my commandment, that ye love one another as I have loved you.*

Hope to see you at June's meeting,

Love

Margaret.