

## Prayer Shawls

Following my husband's illness, 5 years ago, a friend sent him a Prayer Shawl. She explained that it had been made by members of her congregation as part of a ministry from that church. Woven in prayer, it was a reminder of God's presence in time of need. That shawl continues to be a part of our lives to this day.



A chance remark at the end of an article I wrote for our magazine: *"...if anyone wants to make a shawl, contact me..."* lit a flame in the hearts of those who knit and crochet at St Lawrence's church, Mansfield. This was October 2013. Since then, some 85 shawls have been made, blessed at the Eucharist and dispatched. **Has this been worthwhile?**

Here are some comments received from the recipients.

*"I am already feeling better and know prayers are being said for me. The shawl is an outward sign of spiritual support."*

*"I am overwhelmed and the shawl is precious."*

*"I have worn the shawl a lot and am finding peace."*

*"I was so surprised and touched by the gift. I love the significance of it."*

*"Thank you so much for the shawl and assurance of prayer."*

*"I wrap my feet in it." (!)*

The patterns have been sent to various parts of the country and more groups are making shawls, including Norfolk, Devon, Derby and the MU in Halifax.



Shawls are given, not from the individual, or the group, but from the whole church in the name of Christ. This prayer soaked ministry has blessed the recipient, the knitter and the congregation. It has enabled us all to play a full part in the ministry of our community. *Sandra Bentley*



## MUe

MUe  
Marketing

Thanks to the efforts of Sylvia Brotherhood, all but one diary and the remaining year planners for 2015 were sold at the Nottingham Archdeaconry Day. Next year's diaries (lilac this time), year planners and calendars have all gone up by 5p, but are excellent value. You can pre-order small quantities from the reps, but we hope those wanting larger quantities of diaries and calendars or other things for their branches would order them directly from Mary Sumner House. Please remember to quote 'Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham' to allow us to claim our 10% Turnover Related Grant. We have just received details of our 2014 grant, which has increased to £511.50, because you supported us so well. *Can we do better this year?*

People appreciate the different cards in the current catalogue, as well as a wider selection of gifts. There are 3 very pretty scarves, which should prove popular. We are selling a lot of badges, enrolment cards and Long Service Certificates, and have several of each in stock. Don't forget to ring or email Sue if you need any for Deanery Festivals, and especially the Long Service Certificates, which need to be bought in good time to allow Lucille to sign them before your event.

There will be an MUe stall at the General Meeting at the Royal Concert Hall on June 26<sup>th</sup>. We are sharing this with Sheffield Diocese. We look forward to meeting them and seeing you there. If anyone can offer to help, even for a short time, that would be a great help. If you order through the reps, cheques should be made payable to 'Mothers Union Southwell & Nottingham'. *Sue Pinkney*

### **CONTACT ANY OF THE FOLLOWING FOR YOUR MUe SUPPLIES**

CHRISTINE BALDWIN, 60 Wimbledon Road, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 1GU Tel: 0115 962 2436 [baldwinssherwood@ntlworld.com](mailto:baldwinssherwood@ntlworld.com)

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**Diocesan Spotlight** in the August edition of Families First will feature our Diocese of Southwell and Nottingham.

Read all about us in your next copy, share it with a friend or better still get them to buy their own copy from <http://mueshop.org/product-category/resources-2/families-first-magazine/> or ☎ **Barbara Sales** on 01623 822256



Jesus is alive, He appeared to a number of people, in different situations - the scared disciples in the locked room; the puzzled ones on the road to Emmaus; Mary as she cried in the garden.

We can all have that same unique relationship with Him. Jesus meets us where we are. How fantastic that we can have a personal relationship with Almighty God, because of his self-giving love for us. How humbling that I should be so important to Him.

Whatever your situation, if you have asked for forgiveness and for Him to put right the things that separate you from Him; God has forgiven, and is putting things right, and as your journey takes you into an even closer relationship with him may you know the Peace that passes all understanding and be able to do as Proverbs chapter 3 vv 5-6 says:-

*Trust in the Lord with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct thy paths* (Authorised Version).

*The Revd Pat Chapman - Newark Archdeaconry Chaplain*

### **POLICE AID**

If anyone has knitted articles to go on the convoy, please contact:-  
Sylvia Brotherhood Tel: 0115 9626764







## *Lady Day Festival*

When the Faith and Policy committee first discussed the idea of one Diocesan Festival on *Lady Day* much time was spent on trying to choose a time at which the greatest number of people would be able to come, which part of the Minster we should use and how many scones should we provide! Only having previous Mothers' Union Festivals in the Minster to guide us, we decided to work on 100 of you being able to come, (100 Orders of Service and 100 scones) and to use the Choir rather than the nave. "*Oh ye of little faith!*" On the day more than 250 of you gathered for our wonderful celebration, including, to our delight, a number of IMPC members! How fantastic was that? - even if it did catch us the hop with the number of Service sheets available and the number of scones for tea. WHAT a real CELEBRATION it was! We were delighted to have **Barbara Taylor**, our **Provincial President** with us. '*Thank you*' are not adequate words to express our gratitude to those who put the service together and made it so memorable. The *Revd Robert Breckles* (Nottingham Archdeaconry Mothers' Union Chaplain) led the Service with such quiet dignity, *Bishop Richard* challenged us with a memorable message, *Gwen Bragg* chose such perfectly appropriate music for the choir which she trained and led, the *Revd Pat Chapman* and *Branch Members* read from the Bible or led our prayers so ably. Their combined contribution added so much to the richness, the joy and the sincerity of our worship for which we are so much more than grateful.

If you didn't have a copy of the Order of Service to take home and keep and would still like one, please contact *Olwen* - 01777 862533 or [o.kerswill@btinternet.com](mailto:o.kerswill@btinternet.com)



### *Our Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey,*

has started blogging on the Families First website - "*Letters from Lynne!*" They are very worthwhile reading and you can find them at <http://muenterprises.org/familiesfirst/blog/>