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 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

We warmly welcome THE RT REVD PAUL WILLIAMS as our new Diocesan Bishop. He will be installed as 13th Bishop of the Diocese in Southwell Minster on Saturday 27th June.

We also welcome his wife, Sarah and their three sons and pray that they will all be happy in our Diocese.

Handbook Amendments

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The *MU Diocesan Handbook* contains details about the work of our Mothers' Union and all contact details for Diocesan Workers & Branch Officers. Each Branch should have a copy.

Amendments will no longer be published in LinkUp. If you have any amendments please send them to your Deanery leaders or to Jenny Hodson on 0115 9200443 or at chris.900.hodson@btinternet.com

I can make a difference to childhood by:

- Applying the Bye Buy Test to my purchases
- Challenging retailers and advertisers who sell and advertise inappropriately to children
- Lobbying my political representatives to prohibit the 'sex sells' approach aimed at children under 16
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Join us at www.byebuychildhood.org

Bye Buy Test

Use this test when shopping to help you think about what or who is influencing your choices:

- Why do I want to buy it?
- How often will I use it?
- Can I afford it?
- What will happen if I don't buy it?

Words from Mother Julian of Norwich

"God loved us before he made us; and his love has never diminished and never shall."



Mid Day Prayers Every Monday to Friday prayers are said at noon in the chapel of Mary Sumner House in Westminster, London. These are open to all, whether staff or visitors. Do join us when visiting the city.

Many members worldwide pray at noon in local time using the prayers which you can find on the following link:-

www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/pray-worship/wave-prayer

MUe

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 26th. 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

<u>CHRISTINE BALDWIN</u>, 60 Wimbledon Road, Sherwood, Nottingham NG5 1GU *Tel*: 0115 962 2436 *baldwinssherwood@ntlworld.com* <u>SUE PINKNEY</u>, 38 Dovecote Road, Hilltop, Eastwood, Nottingham NG16 3EZ *Tel*: 01773 713587 *sue@hilltop38.wanadoo.co.uk* <u>OLWEN KERSWILL</u>, Tenterflat Cottage, Tenterflat Walk, Retford, Notts DN22 7PZ *Tel*: 01777 862533 *o.kerswill@btinternet.com*.



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

Read all about us in your next copy, share it with a friend or better still get

copy from http:// them buy their own to mueshop.org/product-category/resources-2/families-Barbara Sales on 01623 822256 first-magazine/or 🕿

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



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*



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/