

NEWSLETTER

June 2020



Birmingham MU
@birmingham_mu



Birmingham
Mothers' Union



<http://muenterpriases.org/birmingham/>

Please circulate this newsletter to your vicar, members, friends and put it as a poster on your noticeboards in Church.

Theme for 2020: Building Hope and Confidence

News From our Branches during COVID19

Zimbabwe Mothers Union Group at St Georges Newtown - Diana Murungu



We keep in touch through our WhatsApp group. During Holy Week we posted morning and evening prayers on our group.

We share all news about home (Zimbabwe) and about major events in our lives. We encourage each other through prayer and passing on messages of encouragement.

One of our members passed away on the 26/04/20 due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Two of our members lost family members back home due to other causes and we were unable to provide the support that we normally give each other in these times of need. Our main message is we are never alone even at the bleakest of moments. God is in control and is always holding our hands. Watch and pray.

Garrets Green Branch – Linda Nugent



One or two members are knitting blue poppies to commemorate NHS and other front-line workers who have died in the epidemic and some are knitting baby garments. I believe someone has made masks for anyone that needs them.

The church has continued to run its foodbank with social distancing and two MU members are involved in that. Other members are involved in

phoning members of the congregation on a regular basis for a chat and to check they are ok.

Members have been doing patchwork, sprucing up their allotment, knitting a nativity set and so on. The church has been doing services using Zoom and afterwards there is an opportunity to chat. Susan Larkin has produced a weekly church newsletter which enables people to keep up to speed. The service is reproduced in the newsletter for those who are not online.

Castle Bromwich – Mary Jones



I have been keeping in touch with nearly all my members by email, or telephone as some of them are not on FB, I send links when I can so that they can find the special services Mothers' Union are doing. I make sure they get a copy of our weekly church's Service of the Word. We have a mini newsletter each month where I get members to send me any items that they would like added. This starts with prayers, then comes any info from diocese, special dates, then members items. My members are also involved in knitting for NHS, food bank, preparing church services, keeping in touch by phone with those in isolation, the 'younger members' shopping for supplies when needed. Members are relaxing by doing craft, art, sewing, reading, gardening, walking, and doing jigsaws. All are keeping well.



Stechford – Barbara Griffiths

I now attend Castle Bromwich Branch. All Saints' is not closed but I have been attending C.B. for some time now so not much news to tell you. I am spending my time knitting for premature babies - coats and cannula covers. I have a Zoom Morning Service each day, including Sunday, with St Edburgha's.



Water Orton – Joy Newman

I have been keeping in touch regularly with all our Women Alive members checking that they are not in need of anything, shopping for anyone or just for a chat. Some ladies are still knitting premature baby items and blue poppies to commemorate NHS workers, which hopefully will be displayed in our church on Remembrance Sunday. We are collecting food for the Kingfisher food bank for anyone in need in Water Orton.



We are looking forward to when this terrible time is over, and we can have our regular meetings and events again and continue with our Church Work and Fellowship.

St Stephen & St Wulstan – Jeanne Glenn

Jeanne distributed Easter eggs to local children and key workers including the bin men and post men in Selly Park. Many people have written her thank you letters.



St James Hill – Jackie Brocklebank

Some rainy weather meant that I could decorate some lovely Twiddle muffs which had been knitted by one of our group. We are also planning our Messy Advent theme (yes already!) which this year is Messy Shepherds. I have been in conversation with members of the group and everyone is doing fine. It is a great joy to share lockdown stories.



Bukedi Diocese Uganda - Betty Nesihwe CDC



Betty writes that they are still under Lockdown and family life has been challenged. Members are living under very difficult circumstances characterized with domestic violence. The hardest thing for Betty is that her office has no means of transport to reach out to such families in these very difficult times. She is speaking on the phone but that is not sustainable. Physical visits are a must. Betty thanks us for our care and love.

Please remember them in our prayers.

Reported by Elizabeth Walker (Worldwide Rep)

Diocesan News

We have two new Trustees! Welcome to [Kit MacLachlan](#) and [Elaine Diskin](#). If you would like to read a little bit about them please visit <https://muenterprises.org/birmingham/about-us-birmingham-mothers-union/the-board-of-trustees/>

Mary Sumner House

Are you missing solidarity with other members? We recommend following the national Mothers' Union page on

<https://www.facebook.com/pg/MothersUnion/>

Live recording of Midday Prayers can be viewed on there to pray for one another and our members facing different challenges around the world.



Future dates

Area Coordinators' Meeting – 8th Sept 12th Jan 2021

Cathedral Prayers 12 Noon, 7th August (Solihull), 6th Nov (Aston/City), 5th Feb

2021 (Coleshill/ Yardley)

Members Meeting – 24th Oct

16 Days of Activism – 25th Nov – 10th Dec

Wave of Prayer – 15th - 17th Jan 2021

General Meeting Belfast **POSTPONED** to 25th September 2021

Diocesan Synod 14th Nov 2021 – MU to give presentation

Deadline for eNewsletter items for August:

15th July 2020

****Office Opening Hours****

If you need to phone the Office, the main opening hours are still:

Mondays 10.00am – 12.00pm

Tuesdays - 10.30am-12.30pm

Wednesdays - 10.30am-12.30pm

0121 426 0436 (Temporary Number)

office@mubham.org.uk

Please send all post to Peter Johnson at:

1 Barnbrook Road, Knowle, Solihull, B93 9PW

Prayers

Circumstances are shaking the foundations of society at the moment, making it difficult to always feel secure. Let's pray today that we'll find our security in God, our sure and steadfast hope, and the rock we can cling to for safety.



O Lord Jesus Christ,
in these uncertain
times,
give us, we pray,
the graces of Mary;
faith, patience,
ready obedience,
thankfulness
and courage. Amen

Mothers' UNION
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