

St Alphege Mothers' Union

Newsletter - November/December 2021

New Branch Leader

Hello, I am Susan Haigh and I am taking over from Chris as Branch Leader in January 2022. Chris has done a marvellous job during her six years as Branch Leader. Thank you, Chris.

I am a Yorkshire lass born and bred in Leeds just after the end of WWII. I attended church and Sunday School with my grandmother and married David in 1967. I think my grandmother was a member of MU but it was never spoken about at home. I lived with her from age 6-16 and she was an enormous influence on my upbringing.

After marriage we lived in Otley, at that time a small town on the River Wharf not far from Leeds. It was beginning to expand and we moved into one of the newly constructed tiny bungalows. David had to find another job after the end of his apprenticeship and we moved to the North East. He worked for NEEB in the centre of Newcastle. Amanda was born soon after we moved. Andrew was born in 1972. We settled to life there. We were welcomed into the church family and I soon became involved in activities. I joined MU in 1971. Over the years I have held many positions in MU but never Branch Leader, so this is all new to me. Here I am blessed with an excellent supportive committee.

I feel it is a great honour to be asked to be Leader and I look forward with anticipation and faith in God that He will be with us all as we slowly return to something like normality.



Presents for Prisoners' Children

We have been asked to help to provide Christmas presents for the children of prisoners in Birmingham and Swinfen Prisons. (For under 7 at Swinfen and up to 16 in Birmingham).

I'm attaching separately the instructions for the dos and don'ts. As you will appreciate, many toys are not suitable to take into prison.

Presents can be left in Pat's porch (254 Whitefields Road) or brought to meetings.



*A Very Happy
Christmas to you all.*

Meetings in November and December

Thursday 4th November 1.30pm in the OBH
My Road to St Alphege - a talk by Carol Caldicott. She has led a very interesting life. Did you know she born in South America?

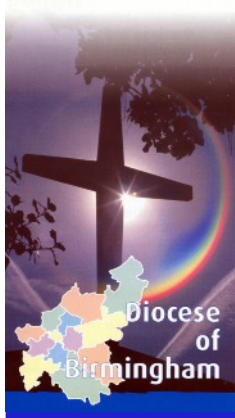
Thursday 2nd December 1.00pm in the OBH
Advent Lunch and Meditation

We shall start the meeting with a festive lunch at 1.00pm. Fr Sam Gibson will lead us in the meditation at 2.00pm. The cost for lunch and meditation is £10, for those coming to the meditation only, it will be £3. Afterwards, there will be tea/coffee and home-made mince pies.

If you are coming to the lunch, please could you let Elaine know.

elainediskin@hotmail.co.uk (0121 705 3265)

We can arrange lifts to these meetings: Contact Elaine (705 3265) Pat (705 8761) or Julia (744 3540).



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Birmingham

Dear Members,

When I started to look back on my six years of leading the Mothers' Union the word that kept coming into my mind was FUN. We have worked hard, raised a lot of money in various ways and knitted and nattered for England, but overall we have had fun. From chaotic committee meetings, from which immaculate minutes were drawn up, to the trips we have made, to joining Michael Palmer at his local church and then having a Christmas lunch together – so many memories. All this has only been possible because of the hard work of all concerned, but particularly my very hardworking committee. One member said to me in the early days, "You sit on the door or at the front and welcome everybody and talk to them. That is what you are good at. We will do the rest". And they have! It has been a pleasure and a joy to be involved with so many talented people.

It is not just the administration. So many people have worked hard to provide food, cakes and scones etc. for our various meetings, other members have talked to us about their trinkets and the clergy have been tremendously supportive. In the six years we have never been without a speaker, and we are finishing my time in office with talks by Michael Palmer, Ken Hewitt and Carol Caldicott. Members have knitted baby clothes, teddies and blankets, they have made Christmas face masks, run half marathons and in the last very difficult two years they have shopped and delivered goods to anyone who could not get out to do their own shopping, or taken them shopping. All this has been much appreciated and I know that it is still being done to help those less fortunate than ourselves. And, despite all this pressure, not one single committee member has resigned and we have just gained another two members.

I have tried not to mention anybody by name as I would be bound to leave someone out, but my grateful thanks go beyond the committee to all the members of St Alphege Mothers' Union who have turned up with cakes whenever they were needed, bought cards and gifts as required and have made it enjoyable for everyone, especially the Chairman!

Thank you to everyone and God bless you all.

Chris

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Trinket afternoon

We had a most enjoyable afternoon and it was lovely seeing and hearing about some members' treasured items. Here is Michael Palmer's treasured memory, along with a picture.

Michael says, "The Crucifix belonged to a priest named The Revd. Clifford Green who was at St Alphege Church at the time of the Rector Harry Hartley. They were both from Mirfield and very special priests in so many ways. This Crucifix I came to know as a small boy as Clifford stayed in our house in Rectory Gardens in the early 1950's. When he moved on, he knew that I was very fond of the Crucifix so he gave it to me and it is still with me by my desk next to a lovely picture of Liz. I also brought my Baptism Certificate dated 11th January 1943 signed by the Rector at that time The Revd. Edward Fraser."

Other items included Julia's treasure chest from her trip to Moscow, Carol's special teacup and Susan's father's Crossing the Line Certificate.

News of Members

David Patterson celebrated his 90th birthday on 12th October and Beryl Boulter will be 90 on 1st December. Congratulations to both of you.

I am very pleased to say that Val Tew is progressing very well and hopes to be back with us again soon.



Mothers' Union cards and diaries

Elaine will be taking orders for Christmas cards and for the 2022 MU diary. This time, the cover is olive green and the cost is £4.50.

Elaine Diskin 0121 705 3265

elainediskin@hotmail.co.uk

You can also view these items online

www.mueshop.org