

St Alphege Mothers' Union

Newsletter - January/February 2022

Mothers' Union Advent Lunch and Meditation

Forty -five members and friends enjoyed a festive lunch in the Oliver Bird Hall. We had mulled wine, soup, sandwiches, and home-made desserts, then tea/coffee with mince pies after the meditation.

Fr Sam Gibson led the meditation, on the Advent theme of childbirth and waiting for the arrival of a baby. He illustrated his talk with pictures of icons, showing Jesus in his mother's womb, some in various stages of childhood. It was lovely to see Fr Sam again, he is obviously enjoying his ministry in Edgbaston.



After the meditation, we celebrated Beryl Boulter's 90th birthday with a cake and candles (not 90!) It was a great afternoon, it is so good to be able to meet again and enjoy fellowship after the dark days of 2021.



Chris's Letter of thanks for the Advent Lunch

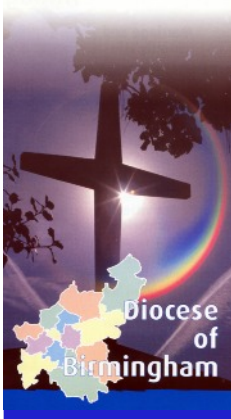
Thank you so much to all of you for making yesterday one of the happiest and most enjoyable meetings of the last six years. The food and drink were delicious, the service very slick and the whole atmosphere was warm and welcoming.

I try not to pick out individuals as everyone works so hard, but Elaine bears so much of the work that I have to say a huge thank you to her. I am also grateful to all the workers in the kitchen and the helpers who set up and cleared the tables afterwards.

I thought Fr Sam was excellent – what a very different take on an Advent Meditation and all without any notes.

All in all a very happy occasion – thank you.

Chris



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Birmingham

Meetings in January and February

Thursday 6th January 1.30pm in the OBH

The meeting will start with our **Annual General Meeting**. We shall thank Chris Thorp for her six years as Branch Leader and will welcome Susan Haigh as our new leader. After the AGM we will have a talk from Alison Pratt on ***Nursing Through the Years***.

Thursday 3rd February 1.30pm in the OBH

Michael Palmer will give a talk entitled ***My Years at St Alphege***. He was a choir boy in the 1950's, so there is a lot of history there.

Our thanks go to Amanda and Niki who have arranged an excellent programme for 2022.

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

Subscriptions

Subscriptions are due on 1st January, and we need to send the money to the Diocese by 31st March. This year the subscription is £28.00; (£2.00 less than last year thanks to cost savings by the diocese).

Cheques should be made payable to **St ALPHEGE MOTHERS' UNION**. Please send your subscription to Susan Leach at 21 Grandborough Drive, Solihull, B91 3TS Or you can hand it to a committee member or leave it in the Parish Office in an envelope with your name on it. We shall be collecting subscriptions at MU meetings from January onwards. Many members prefer to pay their subscription online:

Here are the instructions for online transfer:

Bank: **HSBC** Beneficiary Name: **St Alphege Mothers Union**

Sort Code: **40-42-12** Account No: **71771396**

Reference Info (to identify payment) **MU Subs – (your name)**

If you pay online, please could you email Susan (esleach@blueyonder.co.uk) to let us know you have paid - and please don't pay before 1st January as it gets on the wrong bank statement.

Presents for Prisoners' Children

We had a wonderful response to the request to donate presents for the children of prisoners in Swinfen Hall and Birmingham Prison. As well as masses of presents which were brought to the meeting, we had over £65 donated, which we were able to spend on more gifts for the children. Thank you to everyone who gave gifts and money, it was an excellent effort from St Alphege Branch.



Wave of Prayer

The allocated time for St Alphege to maintain the Wave of Prayer is 2.00pm – 6.00pm on Saturday 15th January 2022. After Christmas, you will receive an envelope containing a prayer leaflet, a letter with your allotted time for prayer for our link dioceses, a blue gift aid envelope for you to donate to Mothers' Union Overseas Fund and instructions about payment. For your five minutes just take out the time in a quiet place to



pray for our link dioceses, which are – Seychelles, Bukedi (Uganda), Enugu (Nigeria) and Marathwada (India) and the Diocese of Birmingham, with our President, Deirdre.

We have asked Fr Andrew to include the Wave of Prayer in the intercessions at 10.30 am service on Sunday 16th January.

Pancake Party

We are aiming to hold our Pancake Party this year, but until we know what the Covid regulations will be in February, we cannot make a definite commitment. Last year's virtual party was very successful, but we're hoping we won't have to repeat it.

As soon as we know what is happening we shall let everyone know.