

St Alphege Mothers' Union

Newsletter - May/June 2021

Zoom Meetings in March and April

We are continuing to hold our monthly meetings by Zoom, hopefully we might be able to meet together later in the summer.

In March, Gill Jones talked to us and her theme was '*What is Prayer*'. Prayer is, simply, talking to God. We ask him for things we need – he hears, listens, and acts – though not always in the way we expect. She told us several stories of how God had answered prayers in unexpected ways. Prayer is putting ourselves into the hand of God and trusting that he will lead us on in the journey of life. Thank you, Gill for your really interesting talk, it certainly left us with much to think about.

Linda Hicks was our speaker in April

Can you believe it, Linda has been the Children's Worker at St Alphege for fifteen years. She is a licensed Reader and holder of the Bishop's Certificate in Children's Ministry. One of her first projects was *Journey to the Stable*. For the first Journey, Linda advertised in the pew slip for actors, she had lots of volunteers - some of whom are still participating - and there never seems to be a shortage of babies to be Jesus. Linda has started up groups for young families, which are still active today, and she runs the Junction, with services every Sunday morning. All these activities are currently on Zoom. You only need to look at the Children's page in *Parish News* to see what a busy lady she is. Thank you Linda for coming to talk to us.

Fiddle Muffs and Aprons

This month, we had a request from a care home which was desperately in need of fiddle muffs for their patients with dementia. Happily, Pat Marshall had muffs and aprons in stock, which had been made at previous Knit and Natter meetings. We were able to send 18 fiddle muffs and 5 aprons to Ardenlea Grove Nursing Home, in Solihull. They were very much appreciated.

Dear Members,

Is the end of lockdown in sight? Will we be able to hold a meeting in July? We shall have to wait and see. In the meantime, we have had some wonderful meetings on Zoom which do have the advantage of allowing us to invite speakers who are not local. Many of us joined the Diocesan Festival Service on Zoom. Do keep up with phoning each other until we can meet. Keep well and safe.

With my love, God bless,

Chris

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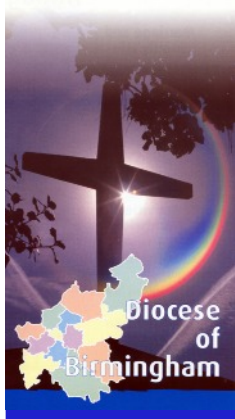


News of Members

Susan Haigh had a fall at Easter and damaged her wrist and shoulder. She has had an operation to fix the shoulder, so we hope she will be back to normal soon.

Anne Kemp is still in Marie Curie Hospice in Solihull. We are not able to visit, but if you would like to send a card to Anne, her address is Room 2, Marie Curie Hospice, Marsh Lane, Solihull B91 2PQ.

Sadly, Beryl Boulter's husband Stan has died. Our thoughts and prayers are with Beryl.



Mothers' UNION
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Next Zoom Meetings

Thursday 6th May at 1.30pm.

We are really looking forward to our Zoom meeting in May when **Fr Roy Murray** will be our guest speaker. It will be lovely to welcome him back and to chat with him.

Thursday 3rd June at 1.30pm.

We have invited Fr Patrick Gerard back, many of us will remember him as a curate here. He is now Rector of St Mary the Virgin, Lapworth and St Michael's Church, Baddesley Clinton.



We'll send you the Zoom code for each meeting, nearer the time.

Diocesan Events

The Diocesan Festival Service was held on 17th April, by Zoom. Our Mothers' Union Chaplain, Martin Stephenson led the service, and Bishop Anne Hollingsworth was the preacher. Her theme was *Rebuilding Hope and Confidence*. This is the MU theme for 2021 and is very appropriate as we emerge from Covid lockdown.

Over 50 members joined the Zoom, including our Provincial President, Kathryn Anderson. (Zoom services do have some advantages). Well done, Deirdre, for organizing this very successful event.

Knitted Blankets

We are still knitting squares for blankets. Here's a picture of one of our latest efforts.

If you would like to start knitting squares, contact Pat Marshall (0121 705 8761) who will give you the pattern. When you've finished the squares, get them to Pat and she will sew them together.

Karen Stapley sends the finished blankets to Solihull Churches Action on Homelessness (SCAH). They form a part of the 'starter pack' for people setting up their first home.

Pat has supplies of wool for knitting squares or fiddle muffs so if you'd like some give her a call.



Help is at Hand

People who have had help from Elaine and Julia have been very appreciative, not only for shopping but also for just having a friendly chat and to know that we care. Our thanks, on behalf of the branch, go to Elaine and Julia for their sterling service.

In the meantime, we must carry on keeping in touch with each other, the crisis is not over yet!

If you need help -

Phone Elaine Diskin 0121 705 3265 (elainediskin@hotmail.co.uk)

Julia Hanson 0121 744 3540 (hansons04@tiscali.co.uk)