

Project Development Work

The first Archdeaconry Day to consider Development Work in the Diocese, led by Joanne Triffitt will take place on

21st January 2011 at Upper Studley
9.30 for 10.am - 2.0pm,
to include a "Welcome drink and hot snack"
and concluding with a Bring and Share lunch.

Hot off the Press

"Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of Mothers' Union has been asked to chair the Independent Review of the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood. The review has been commissioned by Sarah Teather MP, the Minister for Children and Families, and is part of a strong commitment made by both David Cameron and Nick Clegg to give a real measure of support to family life. Rosemary Kempell, the World Wide President of Mothers' Union, said " We are delighted that Reg has been asked to chair this Independent Review as Mothers' Union is absolutely committed to seeing children as children, not simply as consumers. We have been involved with the welfare of children for many years, but have more recently launched our Bye Buy Childhood Campaign in precisely this area because so many parents express their concerns to us.""

So have you all got everyone you know to sign the petition?



Finally: we pray that you will enjoy a happy and Christ-filled Christmas and 2011. We give thanks for all your work and hope that you are encouraged in your ministry. 2011, here we come!

Love to you all from Ann (& Jane from the High Seas)

Gifts for all seasons – baptisms, births, new stages, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, birthdays...

'Parenting Children for a Life of Faith'

published by BRF

A book to help families fulfil their baptismal promises and members to work towards our second objective and the promises we make to families on the occasion of baptism!

Cash to Overseas

Following Grace Cowley's presentation of the needs of Mothers' Union overseas, Council members requested that Trustees consider a donation to this work equivalent to a tithe of the legacy we received this year. This has been agreed and we praise God for the strength of this request and the sense of the Holy Spirit at work amongst us. £5,000 will go to MSH for this work – we trust members enthusiasm will continue to be expressed by local fundraising efforts.

FINALLY...THE YEAR AHEAD...

- Completed Bye Buy Childhood Petitions to MSH by January 10th
- How about an Epiphany or Candlemas Party 4 Free to promote the Bye Buy Childhood Campaign?
- Have you plans for Marriage Week in February? Will you promote marriage and marriage preparation or support existing marriage as suggested in *Families First*?
- Fairtrade Fortnight starting 22nd February is another opportunity to engage with others in our communities – let us know what you are doing
- Lady Day on 25th March and also in Lent – it is intended that we should hold Archdeaconry Services this year (Deanery next) but this is not written in stone(!) Your Presidents and Trustees would love to attend especially as not being branch members we may not know what is happening.
- Mothering Sunday and Easter gifts are available from Mary Sumner House. Please prepare members to support the **Make a Mother's Day Campaign** - ethical gifts for those of us who already have too much. Please ask clergy if they would consider promoting this in church – nice and early - £140,000 was raised this way in 2010 . see www.makeamothersday.org
- Family Week at the end of May provides members another chance to have some fun with others. Please make sure you take photos that we can use in future publicity, remembering to first obtain written permission from guests (document on MSH website)
We are keen to encourage Parenting Groups – would you consider asking your Toddler Groups if they would like to try a session? If you get a positive response, talk to Joanne Triffitt, please.
- Mary Sumner Day on August 9th – MSH has suggested that this be a Mothers' Union Worldwide Day of Prayer in 2011. We are beginning to think about this so if you have any ideas, please let Marian Booth know. The title will be **FAITHFUL IN PRAYER**

RESOURCES:

Mary Sumner House has just published a new leaflet in the *Children in Church* series called **Children and Citizenship**.

Coming soon: Hand in Hand: ideas for enjoying faith as a family

On the MSH website: **What is Baptism?** A resource to download.

We are created by God: Exploring our Identity and Relationships a study guide and group material which could prove stimulating to a mixed group of members and other church members. Go on, be brave!! A copy is available in the office or for £4.00 may be obtained from Brenda Molloy at MSH

Families First – We have made a rough calculation that 58% of members DO NOT SUBSCRIBE to our members magazine. This means we are less informed, have less to share with others, prevents this excellent publication reaching a wider audience and means other members have to do a lot of work distributing *Families Worldwide*. Please invite members to ask their families to buy them a subscription then to share the magazine with the family or younger church members too. It really is a great tool for our ministry in the church.

Prayer Topic for 2011: Please invite your members to pray for others to join Mothers' Union accepting that new ways of belonging may emerge that look very different to your present experience.

Mothers ' Union subscriptions 2011

Members were notified at Council of the increase in subscriptions in 2011 to £16.00. This is always a difficult decision and on this occasion fairly late as MSH only notified us of their increase in August. It would be safest to anticipate a rise and learn to be thankful for the lack of one, perhaps! Trustees appreciate the challenges this poses to some members (including some trustees), particularly when it comes to those with standing orders. Cuts in income affect us all but be assured we constantly check that our expenditure is necessary – using emails is one way we are trying to save although sometimes ensuring everyone has all the information means still using the post.

Please try to remind members, when collecting subs, that our membership is not about us and our getting together, It is about fulfilling the Mothers' Union Aims by living out our Five Objectives or enabling others to do so on our behalf.

Please keep paying and praying that the Lord will refresh our organisation with additional members and give thanks for treasurers in every branch as they collect the cash!



Bye Buy Test

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

- ① Why do I want to buy it?
- ② How often will I use it?
- £ Can I afford it?
- ✗ What will happen if I don't buy it?

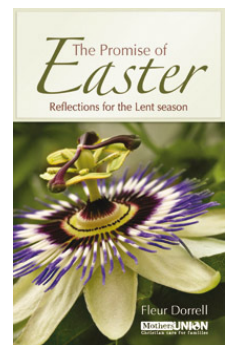
This card and a number of others are available from the Mothers' Union website.

In addition to encouraging church members to use this test, please download the petition to the UK government and ask your clergy if you may invite church members to sign it. You may even be able to ask local schools to participate. Please make sure you know a little about the campaign before you start! Petition deadline 10th January

Lent 2011 You will have noted that Spring Council is planned for March 9th. Unintentionally this is also Ash Wednesday, so we are now planning a special service at the start of Council so that as Mothers Union we may begin our Lenten journey together. Please apologise to clergy if you have to miss services at church to attend council – we will try to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Please consider encouraging the use of Fleur Dorrell's MU publication 'The Promise of Easter' £4.99

Available from MU Enterprises <http://shop.muenterprises.co.uk/>



We are still short of personnel for Marriage, Families and Overseas and will be requiring someone to take over as Diocesan Members Contact in January **Please. Listen to God!**



STORAGE FOR EXMOUTH HOLIDAY GOODS

Dry storage space is required for all the equipment used year by year on the Exmouth Family Holiday. Please ask any members, who may have an unused/empty garage, to contact Sue Gallagher

Greetings to Branch Leaders and Officers
(some of this information can be found on our website)

As we begin the Advent season and hopefully some time for preparation, may I thank you all for your commitment and enthusiasm this past year. It has been a great encouragement to Jane and myself as we have embarked on this mission together.

During 2010 we have explored the Mothers' Union theme Relationship not Rules together. Jane and I stated at the beginning our excitement at this theme because we wanted to be free to make relationships and learn the Mothers' Union rules as we went along. We hope that it has happened that way. We have enjoyed meeting with many (although not enough) of you and have learnt a lot (but nowhere near all) of the rules and trust we have made progress together. We are thankful for your patience with us! We are very aware that the Lord has been in the planning for a Project Development Worker in this diocese and give thanks for the faithfulness of previous trustees in this respect. Now the work begins and we can see the glimmers already. Joanne's presence among us has already given members the confidence to put into words dreams for Mothers' Union projects that they may well have held for sometime. We are sure there will be more and would encourage you all to listen to that small voice inside and test it by sharing it with fellow members and Joanne. Of course, everything else is continuing and we are hugely encouraged by members' continuing ability, at a time when everyone is having to think about making cuts, to support our many projects and activities so generously. We know that the Lord will honour that generosity and sacrifice so be encouraged! So, as we prepare for Christmas through our Advent journey we pray that we will all feel blessed and built up in our ministry seeking to see God's Kingdom come on earth, even as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ our Saviour and Lord.



The role of Project Development Officer for Mothers Union is an exciting venture put together with a vision to enable people across the Diocese engage with their communities at 'Grass Roots Level' and really make a difference in the lives of individuals and their families. My job is to facilitate and help these encounters happen; through listening to and talking through ideas, training and practical support.

My vision for the job is to 'fan into flame the passion for His name', to increase the expectation of what can be achieved when we put Christ right at the centre of all that we are and do. There are evidence of 'Sparks' all over the Diocese, some go unnoticed, others are just flickering away and it is my job to work with you to create the right environment so that these sparks can become flames. The success of my role relies on 'you' out there in your communities to notice the 'sparks', make a commitment to 'fan' it and together, with God at the centre, we can make a difference. So how can we identify 'sparks'? Sometimes ideas that pop into our head and seem totally unachievable are actually the 'sparks' that need to be fanned. Other times we have an idea that keeps coming back to us. Other times there is something very small already happening; a tiny spark that just needs the right environment to become a flame. Most of all, if we listen, God will lay on our hearts the work He wants us to do, and, if He has laid His work on our hearts then He certainly will equip us to carry out the work. Finally, if any of what you have just read resonates with you and you would like to talk through an idea or find out more then please do contact me. My email: pdo.mothersunion@yahoo.co.uk and phone number: 07583541732 or through the Mothers Union Salisbury Office