

Greetings to you all. We have been in post for 6 months now and have learnt that we have lots to learn! If you are feeling the same way, join the club. However, we have been encouraged by everything that members in the diocese are doing, by your generosity which is sometimes extremely sacrificial in time, goods and cash, and by your enthusiasm for the work of Mothers' Union. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with us : Ann 01380 723189 Jane 01794884434
Well done and thank you for your support. Ann & Jane

Help! We hope this publication will help you with information and a few ideas as you begin to think about 2011. The next opportunity to meet as a diocese is at Council on 23rd October. Please try to come with your Deanery Reps.

New!
Project Development Officer
Joanne Triffitt

Joanne Triffitt will be joining us in September. Joanne will be working across the diocese for 2 days a week. Initially she will be focusing her work around parenting and young families. We

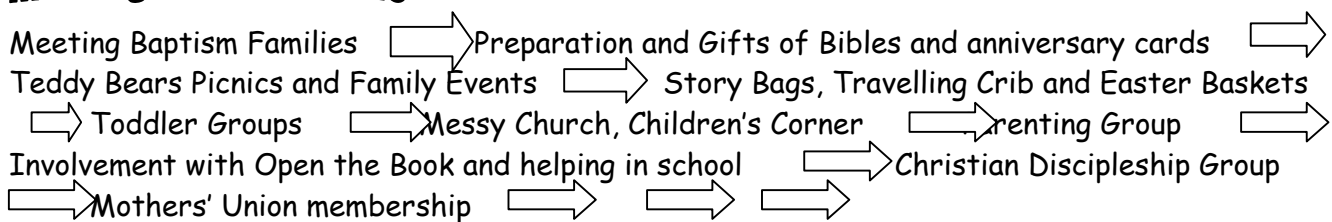


know many of you are making all sorts of connections in these areas, Joanne will be helping us to develop these links. Please pray for Joanne and her family as they move to Devizes ver the summer.



Salisbury Diocese has 12 trained facilitators for parenting courses. To complete their training they each need to lead a parenting course. Perhaps we could begin to think through some connections and have conversations with our clergy:

Making Connections



Resources

In the Mothers' Union Office in Church House there are resources to help you with most of the above subjects.

Have you tried using the [home] pack ? We are aware that it is not easy for all branches to use a DVD in your usual meeting place. To use this pack in this situation one member could view the DVD, perhaps with the help of family members who would then become more aware of Mothers' Union activity. Under several different headings the pack has worship material - which could replace the usual resources you use; a Bible passage and questions and prayers for reflection. Members are easily able to identify with the situations of members overseas whilst also valuing our own experiences. Themes are **provision, nurture, belonging, support and refuge, ...**

Switched On is an older resource with several sessions on Media issues. MSH will be issuing a resource specifically about the Commercialisation of Childhood soon but this pack will help to get you thinking and discussing the subject. How about inviting some parents along to a special meeting and ask them to share with you the market pressures they experience. Please speak to Gillian Mackenzie our Social Policy Rep. too

Up to Speed is another older resource some of which is outdated. If you obtain recent information and data from the Department of Health and use these together then you will have plenty to think about. Don't just think that this issue doesn't affect you - what about your grandchildren and their parents, what about those children hanging around church premises? Get informed...get praying...or like Coventry members get the Granny Wagon out!

Relationships is an 8 session pack which some of you may have used before, however since we have two more years with relationships as the theme there is still plenty of scope here.

FIND OUT IF THERE IS ANY EXPERTISE ON THESE SUBJECTS AMONG YOUR CONGREGATION OR COMMUNITY AND ASK THEM TO SHARE IT WITH YOU

Maybe a deanery or cluster of branches could get together for a session, each branch contributing something to the meeting and share themed worship at the end

familiesfirst

Sorry to go on about this BUT our magazine is a fantastic resource and marketing tool for Mothers' Union.

As a **resource** for example, take a look at the article on **Dementia Care** in the July/August issue - something that may well be affecting members and friends. Again invite others along.

- Look together at the symptoms list (this could be fun!)
- Discuss the impact on carers, bearing in mind there could be plenty of experience among the group, listen to them.
- Use the checklist at the end of the piece to think about an action plan.

As a **marketing tool** we need to have a copy each. If members are not subscribing to Families First due to expense, please encourage them ask family members to buy a year's subscription for them for a birthday or Christmas present. (BONUS: family get to know more about Mothers' Union too, especially if we show their gift to them!). If members don't like the magazine, then perhaps they would consider buying it to pass on to a neighbor, church member, young parent, baptism families...DREAM ON

THINKING AHEAD...buy one, have a look, share with clergy - it might work for the whole church

The Promise of Easter

Reflections for the Lent season by Fleur Dorrell

The Promise of Easter offers accessible, undated Bible-based readings for the weeks of Lent including Easter. The book takes a deeper look at six themes which are especially relevant to Lent: holiness, relationship, forgiveness, sacrifice, hope and love. Suitable for small groups and for individual use, it is an ideal choice for those wanting devotional material for Lent.

Fleur Dorrell, Head of Faith and Policy at the Mothers' Union, is well-known as a writer and spiritual director, and her previous book *The Promise of Christmas* was a popular choice for Advent in 2007

£4.99

Available from MUe from October

Fundraising

As we have said Mothers' Union is good at this, but just in case you hadn't picked up on the latest focus...the **Wheels Appeal**. This is to ensure that aid can get to where it is desperately needed. Mothers' Union needs, fuel, vehicles and drivers. Posters for your baking efforts can be obtained from MSH. Where could you sell your cakes to non- Mothers' Union members as a way of telling others about what we do? Please pay cheques to 'Mothers' Union' via Wendy Bales.



Mothers' Union Literacy & Development Programme

You will know that we are celebrating the 10th anniversary of this project this year. MSH are producing more resources in July. For now a **Snakes and Ladders Game** may be obtained online or from MSH which will help members or others to understand the effects of illiteracy. September 8th is World Literacy Day and we are trying to put together some ideas that we hope to be able to offer to schools during the next academic year. Please have a look on our website over the summer for more information. Meanwhile, if there are any teachers out there who might like to help us with this, please get in touch. Mothers' Union has just received a grant from **Comic Relief** of nearly £1 million over five years towards this work in Sudan.

How will you raise the profile of this ministry?

Autumn - Christmas - a few ideas and suggestions

- September 8th World Literacy Day - a chance to celebrate the 10th anniversary of Mothers' Union Literacy and Development Programme (see above)
- October 15th - 17th Autumn Retreat at Ivy House in Warminster - remember you may attend for just the Saturday if you wish.
- October 31st - Many churches are hosting positive Hallowe'em alternatives for which there are a number of resources available from Christian publishers.
- As the nights draw in how about joining with others in your church to knit a crib and last supper scene ready for a 'Travelling Crib' and **Easter Basket** activity in the parish before Christmas and Easter? Patterns in the MU Office.
Some branches invite participants to keep a sheep or a star tree decoration to remind them of the journey, do you have any other ideas?
- Fleur Dorrell, of MSH, previously published a book *The Promise of Christmas*, perhaps someone bought a copy which could be used for advent celebrations and meditations.
- Parents in the parish may appreciate some shopping and preparation time without the children prior to Christmas - can members babysit or set up an Advent or Santa (6th December is St. Nicolas' Day) Party?
- For *Maeve Binchy* fans - she has written a book as a story collection called *This Year it Will be Different*. The comment says: 'the festive season may be magical, but it can also be a time of family difficulties, a time to reflect on relationships a time of change.' Also available on AUDIO. Why not get a group together, or take it to your book club and start discussing relationships - you needn't read the whole book just selected stories.

May we encourage you to try different ways of getting together, surprise yourselves and others!

Programme Ideas -
50 ideas for branches,
Look on MSH or Salisbury
websites or contact Jenny

Windows

The next edition will be ready for Council on 23rd October. Please send items to Carole Jones by 16 September

Handbook

This is on its way, thank you for your patience. We will be emailing out a draft copy soon for comment and correction. For information talk to Jenny on Tuesdays or Thursdays after August.

PRAYER

Every member receives **Families Worldwide**, our prayer guide. Please use it regularly for prayer.

Members could also use it to find out more information about each country mentioned to be shared at meetings.

Please remember your **Indoor Members** and if anyone would like to take on the role of correspondent, please let us know. Brenda Skinner would like to retire as soon as possible.

Please get to know the diocesan members living near you and invite them to appropriate meetings.

A member in the Studland area is trying to set up a **new group** - please pray this into being.

The Lord has heard our prayer for an **Admin Unit** co-ordinator - thanks be to God. Continue to pray for Overseas, Marriage and Families project leaders within A&O

Val puts together a great intercession leaflet - please encourage its use by members - the more we pray the more we will be encouraged in our ministry.

Pray for the Exmouth holidaymakers

We have one Chaplain for the Diocese so far - **Rev. Carole Owen** from Warminster. Please pray for her as she learns the role and speak with her if you need to, especially where you have no Deanery Chaplain 01985 214849

Other contact numbers:

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Families Andrea Fox 07867580621

Faith Marian Booth 01929 422013

Marketing Rosemary Allen 01722 333819

Windows Carole Jones 01380 840338