

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



2020

One of the letters of thanks received for all your generosity at Christmas. All refuges and hostels in our Deanery received gifts. It also talks of vouchers which some branches donated so that fresh food could be bought to supplement other foods. Many washing up bowls full of cleaning items were given to those who were moving on into their own accommodation and prisoners were given Christmas cards to send to others as well as their children receiving chocolate selection boxes. My thanks go to the Faith in Action team who co-ordinated it all.

Dear Sue and collective members of the Ely Diocese,

On behalf of all of the women and children in Fenland refuge I would like to thank you for your fabulous Christmas gifts. The children were so excited and the women could not believe that there were gifts for them as well.

One of our residents burst into tears, she just could not believe the generosity of strangers and did not think she deserved such kindness. She said that this has been the best Christmas that she has ever had!

The vouchers make such a difference to the ladies when they first enter the refuge and finances are very limited. Although we have some access to the food bank the vouchers afford them the ability to buy fresh produce such as fruit, vegetables, bread or milk etc. from the shops. It's all about making them feel that they have choices and some control back over their lives. Everyone that has donated has given the women this freedom and they, and we, are truly thankful for everything that you have done and continue to do.

Once again, Thank you all so much and we wish you all a very healthy and Happy New Year



A familiar picture of the altar in the old Coventry Cathedral which some of us saw when we attended 'Kingdom Come' last year. This year the MU service is once more at Coventry on 22nd May 2020 and we will again have a coach if there is enough demand. The price per head will be no more than £25 for the return trip depending on numbers. If you are interested please get in touch with the office and partners or friends are welcome too.

SPRING COUNCIL

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| Date | Monday 4th May 2020 |
| Venue | Chatteris Parish Church and Bricstan Hall (adjacent) |
| Time | 10am coffee/tea |
| | 10.30am AGM & Spring Council |
| | 12.30pm Worship |
| | 1.00 pm Bring and Share lunch |

News about Susan Baker

Sadly because of on-going treatment Susan has decided that she is unable to take up her role as Canterbury Provincial President. She sends her greetings and thanks for all the lovely cards, prayers and wishes from individuals and branches.

Planning is taking place in the Diocese to host clergy before the **Lambeth Conference**. There will be seven/eight visiting Bishops, some with spouses who are likely to be MU Diocesan Presidents and they will be with us from 16th until 21st July. I would like to hear from any branches or deaneries who might like to host a visit from any of our visitors. It is a wonderful opportunity to show just what is happening in our communities and hearing from them what is happening in theirs. Parts of some days are already booked up but there is flexibility on other days. I have also agreed to help organise tea in the Bishop's Garden for a Garden Party on the Sunday and (as you might expect) I am hoping a selection of home-made cakes will be offered by some members to showcase an English tea!

THURSDAY PRAYER

This photograph shows some of those who attended Thursday Prayer in December at Ely Cathedral. The half hour service each month has a different speaker often on a project or service concerned with the MU, either in this country or worldwide. This is replicated in Cambridge and St. Ives. Refreshments afterwards give everyone a chance to get together for a chat.

20th Feb. 10.30am Ely Cathedral

27th Feb. 10.30am Little St. Mary's
Cambridge **and** 2.30pm All Saints Church
St. Ives



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If you have any items or special dates that you would like to be added to future Newsletters, please let me know by the last Wednesday of the month.