



## NEWSLETTER

Charity no. 251394

I had no thought when I wrote the March Newsletter how much our lives would have changed in less than a month. Although I had great sympathy for those people in China who were suffering from a terrible virus, it did not impact greatly on my life although it was part of my prayers. It seemed like a long way away - but how wrong I was. With everyone in our country now in lock down; as well as much of the rest of the world; and so many people afraid and ill; now, more than ever, we need to draw on our faith to help us cope with this extraordinary situation. Mothers' Union members, as well as prayer, which underpins all we do, are good at helping others too. Many of us will also need to learn to accept help. If like me you are confined to your home because of age or medical conditions, using the telephone to ring others or using the internet can be a lifeline to those who may feel very alone. My great achievement this week has been to learn to talk to and see all my children on What's App using my phone. Although I will not be able to give baby Joshua a cuddle I will be able to see him develop and grow over the next three months.

**Hazel**

A poem from a member in All-Ireland

Remember my child, you are not alone  
for this is my home too.  
For since I chose you as my child  
I'll always be with you.

I'll watch the birds come feeding  
from your lovely window view  
and enjoy the time I spend  
Just sitting here with you.

I feel your pain and struggles  
for I have walked this way  
But I have promised you my child  
my strength for each new day.

And so my child, you're not alone  
For this is my home too.  
And when you need some comfort  
My arms will enfold you.



Sue Squires-Dutton was presented with her certificate for completing the course as a Parenting Group Facilitator. The photograph shows members of the Wisbech Strategy Group congratulating her on the achievement.

Sue is, alongside her present job, is soon to begin her 2 years of training in the LCOM (Local Contextual Ordination Ministry). Our prayers and thoughts will be with her during this time.



This tree tells a story. We planted it 5/6 years ago when it was barely half a metre tall and it stayed that way for a good 3 years. No amount of nurturing or watering seemed to make any difference. We thought it had not taken. Then it started to grow a little over the next year or so but disaster, when an easterly beast from the east caught it and set it back. But look at it now in all its glory. I call it 'mimosa' though it is not really – it is an acacia too but with spiny leaves rather than feathery mimosa ones which fold up.

Yesterday I felt uplifted by a wealth of hope. Bev on the radio before 8am, then Archbishop Justin with his messages of 'place' and 'hope', a streamed service from Ely Cathedral and the wonderfully uplifting members in Worthing on Songs of Praise.

All of these were united by this sense of 'place'; living our faith wherever we came from or are living now and 'hope'; from yesterday's Bible reading where Jesus passed on from the cross his ministry to his followers. We are reminded in these difficult times that by God's grace we are placed here for His purpose.



Whatever you have had to lay down because of the virus I pray that the slow growth and love of Christ will still be working in your place with your projects. Perhaps it is a time to let the roots slowly develop so that new shoots can grow. I am reminded of the text (Esther v 14) chosen by Trish Heywood (now Brown) ex WWP, "Who knows but that you have come to this place for such a time as this?"

As you can see, (wearing my gardening kit) I am doing much better on the kind of chemo I am now being given. But the road is still a long one as there is a cumulative effect of the side effects to face – I am about to have 3 of 11 this week. Thank you all for your prayers and good wishes which have supported and nurtured me on this difficult and unexpected journey.

May God bless you all.  
Susan Baker

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The refuges and hostels are unable to take any donations at the moment. If members or branches would like to help them during this difficult time, vouchers from Tesco or Argos would be very much appreciated.

Tesco vouchers enable the clients to purchase their own choice of fresh foods; the Argos vouchers are welcome when a family is being rehomed to provide essential (particularly electrical) items.

Other High Street vouchers welcome as well. Contact details can be found on the Autumn Wish List, or contact Jean [jmw35n@gmail.com](mailto:jmw35n@gmail.com) or Maureen [gmaigh@talk21.com](mailto:gmaigh@talk21.com)

Please remember in your prayers the 6 families who were due to have an AFIA holiday in April.

**For those who would like an activity while at home.**

**Easy hat pattern suitable for new-born babies**

Use Double Knitting wool and 4mm needles (old size 8) & a large eyed sewing needle. Figures in brackets are for the larger size.

Cast on 50 (60) stitches  
In K2 P2 rib work 28 (32) rows

Decrease row 1 – K2 together across row

Row 2 P2 tog  
(Row 3 K2 tog)

Cut yarn about 9" long, thread the yarn through the remaining stitches, and pull up, stitch securely, sew seam neatly.

We pass these hats to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, they are always very grateful and appreciative of the quality of M U knitting.

**As you probably expect, all MU meetings at Diocesan and Branch level are cancelled until further notice. This also includes our AGM and Spring Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> May. We will circulate the annual report to branch leaders to pass on to members. We will also circulate with this newsletter FFF, MU Lady Day Service, Thursday Prayer and the first of a weekly opportunity to hear from Revd Mike Banyard, our Diocesan Chaplain and Canterbury Provincial Chaplain.**

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