

To: All members via Branch Leaders/contacts, Deanery Chairs and other Diocesan contacts:

Dear friends,

Mothering Sunday initiatives - are you ready to *spring* into action?

Spring is a time of warming weather and nature coming back to life. As flowers bloom and animals are born, we are reminded of the innocence and beauty that exists in this world and that there is new life all round us.



On Mothering Sunday we remember and thank God for all mothers and carers around the world and no doubt many of you have already been browsing the Mothers' Union website, looking for Mothering Sunday resources to use in your church services to celebrate motherhood in its many forms.

Some of you may also wish to celebrate or remember someone special by purchasing a gift via the Mothers' Union Make a Mother's Day appeal. This year the focus is on *Resilience* and one example of this took place in Madagascar. Mothers' Union members' supported Dophine, a mother of 7 and grandmother of 17, by providing her with food and seeds for her agricultural business. Being part of a Mothers' Union project helped transform Dophine's livelihood and better equip her to support her family. This is a great example of how nurturing the potential of individuals can grow *resilient* and empowered communities.

To access the excellent Mothering Sunday prayers, resources or purchase one of the six 'Gifts of Resilience' please search: <https://www.mothersunion.org>

There is no doubt that Mothering Sunday can also be a time of great sorrow and we can show God's love through prayerful support and putting our faith into action by reaching out to the 'quiet voice'. Just being there and listening (not trying to come up with solutions), can bring huge comfort and healing to those in distress. This is MULO at its best – listening, observing and acting - as we too are transformed in Christ.

Diocesan President: Karen Morris
☎ 07952 542776
✉ Karen.Morris@coventry.anglican.org

Back, by popular demand and happening in our Diocese, is the Mothering Sunday 'Hug in a Mug' initiative, where one member from Leek Wooten sprung into action and made 100 'Hug in a Mug' packs ready and available for distribution. How fantastic is that!!



I now have pleasure in confirming that mums and carers from Coffee Tots, Make Lunch and a new outreach initiative 'Trini-tea' in Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough, will receive a 'Hug in a Mug' pack in time for Mothering Sunday. If any member would like to make a financial contribution towards the cost of the 'Hug in a Mug' project, please send an email to karen.morris@coventry.anglican.org

Alternatively, small plants and toiletries are also needed for Coffee Tots and Make Lunch mums and carers so please get in touch with me, if you would prefer to make a donation in this way.

It is always reassuring to know that God accomplishes his work through the small things and it is therefore important that we continue to encourage one another to step out in faith, because all these small acts of kindness, really make a difference to those we have been called to serve. I would like to hear your good news stories, so please invite me to your Branch meeting or alternatively drop me a line.

I would also like to hear if your Branch/Diocesan Friendship Group intends to participate in the President's Challenge. If you are short of ideas, I can help.....

Indeed, let us continue to prayerfully encourage and inspire one another to spring into action. Now that we are in the season of Lent sometimes called the 'springtime' of the church; may all our actions lead us to the foot of the cross, to simply adore and to gaze in wonder at what Jesus our Saviour has done for us. Let us spread the Good News to all who need to hear it.

Zephaniah 3:17: *"The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a mighty saviour, who will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."*

On Friday, as many churches gathered for World Day of Prayer, the war in Ukraine was very much on everyone's mind. Let us continue to pray that a sense of peace and justice is quickly restored.

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You may wish to include the Coventry Cathedral's prayer for Ukraine in your prayers.

*God, our refuge and strength in trouble
Today we pray for the people of Ukraine,
And for those of Russia too.
For those who awoke to great fear,
For those fleeing their homes,
For all facing danger.
Help them to feel the comfort of your presence.
Change angry hearts and minds,
Drive out hatred with your love,
And war with your perfect peace,
For we ask it in the name of the One who is our Peace
Jesus our Lord.
Amen*

Dates for the diary:

- *Nuneaton Deanery Lady Day Service at St Giles Church, Exhall led by Revd. Gail Philip on Thursday 24th March at 2pm. Everyone is welcome and I hope to see you there!*
- *Members' Evening, Stoke St Michael's Church, Coventry, 23rd May 6.30pm to 9pm*
- *Thy Kingdom Come on-line service 27th May at 2pm.*
- *Re-imagining Conference has been rescheduled to 8 -10th July at Liverpool Hope University.*

With my love and best wishes to you all,

Karen