

Knowle Members' Bulletin

Bumper Christmas issue - December 2020

This is the ninth Bulletin to keep you in touch during this difficult period for us all. We continue to pray that you are all keeping well at this time.

For Our Prayers

The new tier system means we are all in the highest tier with many restrictions on what we can do and who we can see. We pray that the infection rates come down and that this eases the pressure on our health service. Please continue to pray that individuals and families will continue to adhere to the social distancing rules and the wearing of face coverings.

Wave of Prayer Dioceses

10-12 Dec Lusaka in Zambia; Shyogwe in Rwanda; Sokoto & Ikka in Nigeria; Ely in England and Karimnagar in India

14-16 Dec Fianarantsoa in Madagascar; Central Tanganyika in Tanzania; Calabar & Igbomina in Nigeria; Derry & Raphoe in All Ireland and Banks & Torres in Vanuatu

December branch meeting by Zoom: Following a short service which starts at 2pm on Thursday 10 December by Zoom there will be two short meditations led by Revd. Sue Ashton. Everyone is welcome and have your own tea and biscuits!

The Parish Office has sent out an invitation to join; just accept the invitation and you will be sent details of the meeting ID and password nearer the date. If you did not get an invitation and would like to join the meeting, please contact the Parish Office to ask to be included. Helen Allen on 01564 779123 or email:

office@kpc.org.uk

Christmas cards if you would like Christmas cards or indeed any MU cards please contact Carol Kay on 07771 831 033 and see the range available which was attached to the previous two Bulletins.

If you would like help delivering Christmas cards to local friends as there are no boxes at church this year please contact Adrian and Jill (see end of this Bulletin).

Carol services: St Mary & St Margaret's, Castle Bromwich at 2pm on 16 December link [service](#)

Mothers' Union - Nine Lessons & Carols at 7:30m on 17 December at this link [click here](#) or on Facebook.

Women's Aid donation: We are still collecting toiletry items and new toys for the children. There is also an opportunity to donate Christmas presents direct to Women's Aid using a link to Amazon through the BSWA website or just [click here](#).

Mothers' Union Donations for the Democratic Republic of Congo see [donate now](#)

Global Day – 5 December – as part of 16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence with an online service on YouTube at 8pm just [MothersUnion - YouTube](#).

AGM 14 January 2021: The branch report, the accounts and treasurer's report will be circulated before the meeting along with the minutes of last year's AGM. We are looking for some more members to join our committee as a number have decided to leave at the end of 2020. We really need three more members to join us to help the branch to run smoothly by Zoom and hopefully in the future live. You just need to be willing to help.

Programme for 2021:

We are not printing a programme for 2021 because of the continuing uncertainty about physical meetings so these are all planned using Zoom.

14 January – service and AGM by Zoom at 2pm.

15 January – Wave of Prayer from 10 – 12am by Zoom. An opportunity to pray for our link Dioceses around the world and contribute to the Overseas Fund. The Diocesan Prayer sheet will be emailed to members in early January but if you would like a paper copy please let Adrian know.

11 February - Claire Carter of The Real Meal Deal - 'Loving our Neighbour through the Food we eat.'

11 March - Christian Hughes, Veterinary Surgeon - 'All Creatures Great & Small.'

8 April - Penny Everness de Marces, Lima, Peru - 'Easter in Peru.'

13 May - Ruth Tuckwell, Friends of Vellore (India).

How to Cook Christmas Turkey Dinner for Two

As you will see above, our speaker in February is Claire Carter. She has kindly sent us a link to her quick and easy Christmas menu: [click here](#)

Claire writes: "I know this year, many people who would normally spend Christmas with extended family, will be spending it on their own. I want to make it as easy as possible for people who perhaps haven't cooked a Christmas Dinner in a while, to be encouraged and still be able to enjoy and share in a traditional Christmas dinner. The entire meal can be cooked in just one hour and everything apart from the sprouts can all be done in the one tray. I've included an easy to follow countdown from one hour with step by step instructions."

Subscriptions for 2021: This year has seen many changes in how we do things and Covid-19 has also had a dramatic impact on all charities including Mothers' Union. The appeal by Mary Sumner House made in April has helped; along with some drastic cost cutting which has included some redundancies. A number of steps have been taken to ensure that Mothers' Union survives into the future.

- Families First has ceased with the final publication sent out in November.
- In 2021 members will be sent a new publication twice a year direct to their home address.
- Families Worldwide will no longer be published quarterly and instead there is an annual prayer diary which has already been distributed to members.

*The **Subscription**, which has unfortunately increased this year, includes contributions as follows:*

- Mary Sumner House (including new magazine) increased from £14.50 to £20.
- Diocese office remaining at £9.50.
- Knowle Branch reduced from £2 to 50p.

Therefore we are asking each member to pay £30 for 2021.

You can pay this either by cheque payable to "Knowle Mothers' Union" or direct to our bank account. Contact Adrian for his address or the bank details at adrianharris17@aol.com or phone 01564 730253.

You may like to ponder the angel's words to Joseph:

"Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. ²¹ She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 1:20-21

A Christmas letter from Jesus

When you look for me at Christmas, you won't need a special star.

I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right here where you are.

You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations

You'll have to look beyond the stores, and all the decorations

but if you take a moment from your list of things to do

to close your eyes and say a prayer I'm waiting here for you

You're the one I want to be with, you're the reason that I came!

And you'll find me in the stillness where I'm whispering your name.

Your own needs at this time. We are happy to help where we can. If you would like to talk to a member of the committee for any reason their numbers are:

Adrian & Jill Harris: 01564 730253 or 07972 340598