

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



DIARY DATES

Cathedral Prayers Winchester

A reminder that the MU have a regular monthly booking in the Epiphany Chapel from 10-11am for Prayers (although we choose to start at 10.30am) and we have been asked to ensure that we have finished our service by 11am in time for the Winchester Cathedral prayers which are said on the hour, every hour

- 15 Jan 10.30 Cathedral prayers – led by Trustees
Please note change of date.
- 5 Feb 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Winchester Deanery
- 12 Mar 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Overton Members: **please note change of date**
Please come and share this very special time at Cathedral Prayers with MU members.

Other Events

- 7-14 Feb National Marriage Week
- 16 Mar Commissioning service for President and Diocesan Committee
- 20 Mar Diocesan Synod Meeting
- 25 Mar Lady Day
- 30 Mar Mothering Sunday
- 28 Apr Information Day in Popley

In December our Cathedral Prayers

were led by members from Winchester City MU. We were treated to an Advent Carol Service at the Chapel of St. John the Baptist.

Our Chaplain, Rev. Terry Roberts led the service and was ably assisted by Gill Stobart, Janice Skelton, Sue Murphy and John Turner.



The service was well attended and most of us stayed on for a delicious lunch of sandwiches and a pudding!



Do you make a New Year's Resolution?

It's a tradition going back some 4,000 years to the time of the Babylonians, but when our Calendar was changed by Julius Caesar around 45BC the 1st January became the first day of the New Year. January was named after Janus their two-faced God. Believing that Janus symbolically looked backwards into the previous year and ahead into the future, the Romans offered sacrifices to the deity and made promises of good conduct for the coming year.

For early Christians, the first day of the New Year became the traditional occasion for thinking about one's past mistakes and resolving to do and be better in the future. In 1740, John Wesley, founder of Methodism, created the Covenant Renewal Service, most commonly held on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Also known as watch night services, which are held in many Christian traditions, they include readings from Scriptures and hymn singing and serve as a spiritual alternative to the 'disorderly' celebrations normally held to celebrate the coming of the new year. Watch night services held on New Year's Eve are often spent praying and making resolutions for the coming year.

So have you thought about making one?
Either way – every Blessing for the Year Ahead
Terry

Commissioning Service

Our Commissioning Service for our new Diocesan President and leadership team will be held during Evensong in Winchester Cathedral on Sunday 16th March. I do hope that you will be able to join for this service.

Sue Murphy, Diocesan President
 President@muwinchester.org.uk

A Message of Thanks from Winchester Prison

Dear Gill & Jane,

I am writing to express our deepest gratitude for your generous donation of Christmas gifts and the incredible effort you put into sourcing and wrapping them all. Your kindness and thoughtfulness brought so much joy and comfort to families during what can be a particularly challenging time.

Thanks to your support, we were able to create a magical day for everyone involved. While we are still in the process of collating feedback, on the day itself, families shared how wonderful the experience was. Both children and adults were delighted with the gifts, and the atmosphere was filled with joy and gratitude.

Your efforts truly helped to remind us all of the power of community and compassion. Please know how much of a difference you have made to these families during the festive season.

Attached are a couple pictures from the family days where our wonderful volunteers dressed up to hand out the gifts. (they wont all send in one email, so more to follow!)

Thank you once again for you incredible generosity and dedication, please do pass on our thanks to all involved.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas

Kindest regards

Vicky Baird

Prison Family Services Manager



News from Bursledon

Members at Bursledon have been busy making recycled Christmas and birthday cards. These are for residents in the two local homes which we have adopted through our involvement with Embracing Age.

Linette Price

(3 beautiful photographs were sent to me but, due to computer (or human) failure I could not produce them; I will try again for the next e-news – Linda)

Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

Sue Murphy – Diocesan Secretary/Treasurer secretary@muwinchester.org.uk