

## Mothers Union Report March 2017

For our Annual Dinner this year we went to The Falcon where we enjoyed good food and fellowship.

We were disappointed in February that, at short notice, Glenys Payne was unable to come due to illness. Ever resourceful, Jean invited members to bring a treasure to the meeting. Marion Little showed a coin that belonged to her father and told how it had been lost and found. Jenny had treasured memories of initial visits to her son in Croatia, meeting other young people on the way. Margaret brought her mother in law's knitting needle bag and all the memories that brought, while Barbara treasured the twenty years spent living their dream on the smallholding at Gwyndy. Kate also told us of the special memories being made by her family in Kosovo. Vilna explained how she got her name and showed the plate brought back after visiting Vilnius whilst Doreen and Jean had old photos of Mothers' Union members and family. It was a very interesting and revealing evening.

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February saw members in church take part in the Wave of Prayer spreading across the world.

March and it was Jenny, one of our members, who told us of her family's experiences living in occupied Jersey. Their war started in 1940 when, given 9 days, thousands left the Island and the Germans took over, demanding that the Islanders surrender. Over the months weapons and radios had to be surrendered, cars were bought by the Germans, leaving just doctors and the police with a car, children had to learn German and all money was German. By the middle of 1941 there were 10,000 troops on the island. In 1942 all non Jersey people were deported and 5000 prisoners of war, "slaves" were brought from Germany to build sea defences and railways. These railways took 1500 acres of arable land meaning there was insufficient land for the cattle brought in. Food became scarce, flour ran out, only 7 days supply of food could be kept, with secret police to make sure it was adhered to. Jenny's mother was 15

and training to be a hair dresser, but with only 3 hours of electricity a day that stopped. By 1944 things were desperate and Red Cross parcels were requested. Jenny had brought photos, newspaper articles and notices, making the experiences very real.

It was the Deanery Quiet Evening on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> March in Llangunnor Church. Christine John, Llangunnor Branch Leader welcomed everyone and Barbara Quick, Deanery Leader, gave the apologies, thanked Llangunnor for hosting the evening and introduced Rev. Dr. Emma Whittick, who was giving the address, "Journeying with Jesus". She took the journey of Cleopas and friend to Emmaus, downcast and confused after all that had happened in Jerusalem, meeting Christ, unknown to them until they shared a meal and he broke bread. Their despair turned to hope. After prayer and meditation we were asked to consider the display of shoes, walking, slippers, flip flops, heels, trainers and pick a pair that reminded us of a time when God was with us. What sort of Spiritual journey were we on, a plodder in boots, heels for those special occasions, Easter/Christmas, the slipper, prefer to stay at home, finding it difficult to share our faith, or the trainer, willing to pitch in? Should we change our shoes? We had time to consider this and write a prayer. A thought provoking evening.

Please continue with the knitting, (Knit and Natter have been busy making Fiddle blankets for stroke and dementia patients,) and don't forget the Crosses in your Pocket.

### **Dates for your Diary**

#### **Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April**

Special Programme - carrying out activities in the area to remind people of the meaning of Maundy Thursday.

#### **Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May**

Trip to Abergavenny

#### **Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May**

Prayer and Craft in Christchurch

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> June**

TBA Hostesses:- Elizabeth Wills, Heather Witt

**Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June**

Diocesan Council meeting in Cardigan Church hall. 10 for 10.30am morning only.

Meetings are in church at 7pm unless stated otherwise stated. New members always welcome. Enquiries to Jean Voyle Williams 01267 275222