

I'm not going to mention the word or words that are currently giving us all so much heartache and (for some) anger. Just to say I wish you all a holy Advent and all good wishes for a happy and peaceful Christmas!

Notices etc..

- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence.** A short service involving the Bishops and others will be put together on YouTube to celebrate the **Global Day on 5th December**. The link to this service is: <https://youtu.be/m3N5sBfBrEU>. More information from John Vinton concerning the plans for this – do contact him!
- **Subscriptions. Please make sure you send any correspondence/cheques etc. to Julie at her home 11 Bampfylde Close Tiverton EX16 4EU.** The Office in St. Sidwell's is CLOSED!
- **Safeguarding.** Please make sure you know who your Safeguarding Officer is in your Parish – we need to protect the vulnerable and ourselves.
- **Prayer Diaries** Hopefully you will have received yours by now.
- **Speakers Training.** We are still looking for someone to take over from Marigold – there is no hard work involved as the theme – **'Restoring Hope and Confidence'** – can be researched on the MU website under Resources. Do look it up!
- **Fundraising.** Don't forget to use your **'Count Your Blessings'** this month.
- AND, finally, you will see that the first edition of our **Cluster Chronicles** follows this – so let's have more news of *your* Cluster soon!

With much love, and every blessing, as we look forward to celebrating the Incarnation,

Nickie

CLUSTER CHRONICLES

SOUTH DEVON CLUSTER

Looking back over the year, we were so fortunate that our first event was planned for 22 February! The Big Band Concert and supper at Rattery Village Hall – a fund raising event for Make a Mothers' Day was a huge success and raised £1056. Bridget and John Vinton and a small team did a fantastic job in organizing this event and we were able to promote MU to an audience of mostly non- members.

A Lady Day service at St George's Goodrington had been prepared to be followed by a soup lunch. That had to be cancelled but the service was circulated to members of the cluster to use at home.

Three members got together via Zoom and prepared cathedral prayers for 26 June which were circulated to all in the diocese to use. The focus for the service was John the Baptist.

Members in the branches have been supporting each other and the more vulnerable both in their congregations and the wider community through phone calls, volunteering in food banks, visiting the sick and continuing to send anniversary and birthday cards. Many members have put their knitting skills to good use – hats for refugees, cardigans for premature babies, mittens, and blankets. Other members used their sewing skills to make PPE and face masks.

Buckfastleigh Branch met in July for socially distanced cathedral prayers in Holy Trinity Church yard and had a picnic. A lovely churchyard with a green space we could fit on. This went well so we repeated the event with a picnic and service on Mary Sumner Day. The 8th August was such a hot day we were glad we had the shade of a large tree in the churchyard.

In September we held our meeting in church with a service and we were able to worship together and smile at each other.

In October we had a service in church led by Rev. Caroline Luff who themed the service on Building Hope and Confidence.

Stoke Gabriel Branch met in September and members have been getting together in small numbers in each other houses to enjoy a cuppa and chat.

Paignton and Goodrington Branch met for the Wave of Prayer service in St George's church in September and the monthly corporate communion service resumed in Paignton Parish Church in August. Some members met via Zoom in October for a craft evening. We enjoyed each other's company and had a laugh as we tried to follow the instructions for making the Christmas cards.



In the **Three Rivers Community Branch**, there was a big celebration on 9 October for Doreen Clayden's 100th birthday.

Her son Martin had arranged little parties each day to be with her for allotted times during the days with 1/4hr break between, so he and family could clean down all the surfaces for the next lot of friends to arrive! It was wonderfully arranged with delicious refreshments for us to enjoy.

Rowena says Doreen is a faithful member of our little Three Rivers' M.U. group and has always encouraged and supported our ventures and money raising efforts, particularly for the AFIA holidays and the books for prisoners. A wonderful, plucky, lady with a zest for life in spite of her disabilities.

What a happy note to end on!

Ruth Collop, Cluster Co-ordinator