

Welcome to 2021! There was not enough news for an edition in January so Happy New Year to you all! I hope you were able to celebrate Christmas in as best way that you could – we had a lovely time, and one of our daughters went swimming in Woolacombe Bay followed by a barbecue with her husband! We are a bit insane in our family!

The latest Clusters Chronicles accompanies this edition of NNs.

News and dates

- **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.** Again, please make sure you know who your Safeguarding Officer is in your Parish – we need to protect the vulnerable and ourselves.
- **Speakers' Training.** Ruth Collop has very kindly taken this over from Marigold and I know she will be looking for new speakers for next year.....
- **MUe** – Bridget says that the MUe retail shop at MSH hopes to reopen this February, so that she will be able to take orders of new stock. She is doing a wonderful job and has managed to keep us supplied with cards from existing stock that she has at home. Thank you, Bridget!
- **Database** – (affectionately known as the 'Dreaded Database') Nicky Over has done, and is still doing, a magnificent task keeping MSH up to date. I can't quite say that of MSH and their records! However, unless Nicky and Julie know of any changes in your branch, then MSH will not know! Several of you did not receive your **Prayer Diaries** due partly to MSH but, unless our database is up to date, our problems will continue. Thank you for sending me notice of sad deaths amongst your members, but please also tell Julie at the office and Nicky who is in charge of the database!
- **Praying with Purpose.** I have recently attended a webinar on Zoom entitled 'Praying with Purpose', run by MU, which was excellent. It inspired me to look at how we can learn new ways of praying together, and so I want to look more closely at ways of praying for groups. Hopefully, when we might be able to meet again, I would like to offer branches the opportunity to look into this more closely, and would love to come and speak to you. But, for the immediate future, would you like these Notes to include a section on prayer? Do let me know. *You might want to look up 'Praying with Purpose', on the MU website.*
- **Trustees for 2022.** This year we have to start looking at electing some new trustees as we will be losing about 4 at the end of the year. Do please ask anyone you think might be suitable – the Board meets about 7 times a year and, as far as I'm concerned, has fun as well as works hard. You might like to send suggestions to me....
- **SPECIAL NEWS!** Recently the trustees met to discuss a matter that Julie brought to our attention. We all know that many children are suffering from lack of equipment to help them with home schooling. MU in the diocese is lucky to have certain funds at its disposal, so we have offered 10 schools in Devon the sum of £1000 each to purchase what they need to help these children and their families. This has been greeted with enthusiasm and gratitude and is ongoing at the moment. Praise the Lord!

Do ring me if you would like a chat – I get lonely for MU as well.

With every blessing and much love Nickie.

CLUSTER CHRONICLES

PLYMOUTH AND WEST DEVON CLUSTER



"Looking after one another and those around us with kindness and love"

This phrase, taken from a recent branch AGM report, sums up what has been happening in our Plymouth and West Devon Cluster. Our branch members and many Diocesan members have been grateful to have been kept in touch, with kindness and love, over the past year. Great effort has been made to keep people informed. Nickie's Notes are passed on to branch members by email or hard copies made and delivered by hand. In some cases, Caroline Luff's daily notes are delivered also.

Three out of our five branches have not been able to have meetings during the past months. However, **Plymstock Diocesan Members** were able to meet in a garden on occasion, during the summer, while social distancing, for news time and prayers. The remaining two branches, of **Wembury** and the **Minster Church of St Andrew's**, mastered Zoom and have persevered, having monthly meetings complete with speakers. They found that some of their more elderly, housebound members, appreciated being able to join in and feel included. Both of these branches had their AGMs in January and have organised their programmes for the year ahead. All look forward to being able to meet together properly again.

Some of our members have been battling with health issues and there have been some sad deaths of former active members. None of these were due to Covid19.

Projects have gone ahead where possible, for example, **St Mary's Plympton** continue to raise money, yearly, for Bibles for children, in the local church school. After Lockdown last year I was able to take a large bag of handknitted hats and tiny blankets, knitted by members, to the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at Derriford Hospital. They were gratefully received.

15th January 2021, Margaret R Provost

NORTH DEVON CLUSTER



As far as North Devon branches are concerned, they have all been keeping in contact with their members by telephone and email.

One member in **Landkey** celebrated a 60th wedding anniversary on Boxing Day and the Branch sent a card.

In **North Molton** the numbers are down but they keep in touch and are waiting to see what will happen about their Tuesday Coffee mornings, which had been their main service to the community and have had to cease of course.

Appledore have been concentrating on prayer links and have joined online services, they wave to each other when on their daily walks and are hoping to have a Lady Day service if the church is open by then, they are also wondering if there could be a telephone link for the WWDP as we had for Cathedral Prayers (How about it, most MU Branches take part?).

Bideford has been most lively, holding tea and coffee parties when they could in people's gardens back in the summer, and now using email and telephone to keep in touch, writing letters and sharing photos and news. They are hoping to get into action again when the church is able to open.

Both **Bideford** and **Appledore** are delighted with the news that there will be AFIA holidays in North Devon.

Rosemary Tull, North Devon Cluster