

28.11.2025

Hello Everyone

It is finally almost Advent! I am sure that most of us thought that Christmas must be days away, judging by the frantic sales pitches the shops are having. The real meaning of Christmas appear to be lost. We have had "Black Friday" which is supposed to be when the price of many items are discounted...however it seems that in most cases this is a myth, the price having been lower only weeks previously. Then we have the "Countdown to Christmas", with the number of "sleeps" advertised. This week the food shops seem to be laden with Christmas goodies most of which we really could do without!! I thought about homeless people at this time of year. Their situation is dire at all times but especially during this festive season when for so many there is so much and for the homeless so little. On Sunday we were in Hull, attending a concert in the City Hall. On our return to the car which was parked amazingly near to the venue, we saw a man huddled in the side doorway of a cafe. He had bin bags of things and was bundled up in layers of clothing. When we saw this we were so sad that he had ended up like this. As we were getting into the car, a person came up to the doorway to speak to the man and give him something. Many of the women who end up in one of the Women's Refuges could easily have been in a similar situation and it is with this in mind that we support them as much as we can.

We are now into the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, with the public vigils taking place on Saturday. Please either join us or pray at home.



Gender based violence is one of the most widespread violations of human rights which can affect anyone at any time and takes many forms. Only recently I was chatting to a lady about the work we do for the

Women's Refuge and she suddenly said that she knew exactly what it felt like, as many years ago she realised that she was being psychologically abused by a partner. She was fortunately able to leave the relationship but she said that it took a long time for her to realise what was happening and a long time to recover afterwards.

Once again we have had things donated for various of our charities. A bag of tiny knitted hats for premature babies has been sent to the neonatal unit at the local hospital. Thank you to those who knitted them..so quickly!

On the Sheffield Diocese web site there is a picture of the Worry Worms which we sent to be used to decorate the MU Christmas Tree in Sheffield Cathedral. A bag of lovely towels and some Pyrex dishes arrived this week, from a lady who had been told about the work we do and hoped that her donations would help someone. We have many of the things needed for 2 more Fresh start Baskets but these will not be delivered until early January. There is no moving on at Christmas time as it is the policy at the refuge to give stability at this time. We have however many many things to take to the Advent Service at The Minster next Thursday and I will take a photograph of everything before it goes. For those of you who said that you would like to receive a Long Service Certificate at the service, this has been organised. Margaret has completed the certificates and Jo-Anne our president has signed them. Its not too late to have a lift to the service just let me know and we will collect you.

We have heard this week that Joyce Durdy ( our oldest member, who is 100 years old),is in hospital following a stroke. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and her family.

Lord, we pray for young teenagers forced into child marriages, especially considering their consequent high risk of abuse. We pray that our work through Mothers' Union members to eliminate child marriage will continue to be bear fruit, as we work to protect the most vulnerable in society.

Merciful God, we thank you for the RISE UP! campaign and other organisations that raise awareness of domestic abuse. Amen,

Love to everyone from Helen on behalf of the committee  
Margaret 01302 742180  
Helen 01302 744126  
Liz 07821672622  
Lucille 01302 752608  
Kathie 01302 743451  
Chris 01302 743784

Eluned 01302 742963

Joan 01302 744695

Jenny 01302 752452

Pauline 01302 744338

also there for a chat Elaine 01302 743842 and Liz Rennison 01302 742830