

Easter 2017

My Dear Friend and Fellow Member,

I begin my letter by offering loving and prayerful greetings in the name of the living Lord Jesus Christ.

Just before Christmas 2016, I received the sad news that, surrounded by her family, former Central President Hazel Treadgold passed away. She was an inspiration to so many during her Mothers' Union Presidency, 1983 – 1988.

I recall some of my conversations with Hazel when I was a young member. She had so much wisdom and was so much fun to be around. May Hazel be at rest eternal with her Lord.

At the end of January I, along with many Mothers' Union members, attended a Thanksgiving Service in the beautiful Cathedral Church of the Holy Trinity in Chichester celebrating Hazel's life. At the request of her family, I took part in the service, this was a real privilege.

It was an opportunity to give thanks for the wonderful, full and committed life of service to others of Hazel: daughter; wife; mother; grandmother; school governor; magistrate; Central President of Mothers' Union.

I arrived early for the service and took the opportunity to look around this beautiful Cathedral Church. I so enjoyed, on the hour, being called to prayer, something I know many places do, and something I value greatly because for me, prayer is so vitally important.

Prayer for a member of Mothers' Union is central to everything we strive to achieve. I know I have thanked you before for your prayerful support. I know too, I could not fulfil my role as Worldwide President without your prayers.

I really am so grateful for your very special ministry of prayer - for me and especially for the work and witness of Mothers' Union worldwide. Thank you. I pray that the Lord will continue to bless you daily with his love.

It was, for me, really special to visit the shrine of St Richard, a man of prayer and pilgrimage. As a girl, a prayer dear to my heart was the prayer of St Richard of Chichester. I understand that each week it is not unusual to find over 200 prayer requests left by his shrine. I thank God for answered prayer. Our God is an amazing God, he knows all our needs and supplies them to us in abundance.

As we reflect once again during Lent, looking afresh at ourselves and our service to God through ministering to others, and as we read and hear the events of Holy Week and Easter, I pray that you and I may feel truly blessed, knowing that together we are one in Christ Jesus, truly loved and special in God's eyes. How wonderful!

In 2016 in my Easter letter to you, I shared a prayer from a book written by Rosemary Atkins from New Zealand. Please accept St Richard's Prayer as my Easter 2017 gift to you. May the Lord Bless You – today and always.

Thanks be to you, our Lord Jesus Christ,
for all the benefits which you have given us,
for all the pains and insults which you have borne for us.

Most merciful Redeemer, Friend and Brother,
may we know you more clearly,
love you more dearly,
and follow you more nearly,
day by day. Amen.

Richard of Chichester 1197 - 1253

Thank you my dear friend in Christ.

With my love and my prayers,

Lynne

Lynne Tembey Mothers' Union Worldwide President



Lynne and Trustees at the grave of Mary Sumner, Winchester, September 2016