

# Mothers' Union Diocese of Lichfield e-newsletter

February 2015

Issue 19



Streetly Branch  
swell their membership as  
four new members and  
two transferred members  
joined them in January



## Audley Branch News

We had a busy autumn in Audley. On November 28<sup>th</sup> in response to the "16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence", we held a vigil which included prayers, bible readings and times for silent reflection. The information used was part of the booklet produced by MU to support this campaign which was downloaded from the website. We were supported by members from Porthill, also in the Newcastle Deanery, Deb Tudor and husbands and friends as well as branch members. It proved to be a very thought provoking night.

Our 3<sup>rd</sup> Christmas Tree Festival took place between 13<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> December and proved to be a great success. We had 346 visitors, plus 115 adults and 35 children at our "Big Christmas Singalong". 34 diverse local groups placed trees in the church, from Cubs to Fishing club, History society, Sunday school and the local First Responders. Many people thought it was the best one to date and can't wait for 2016! It will take MU two years to recover from all the hard work.

So two very different events to fit in around our branch meetings, but both very special in their own way.      Annette Dodd Audley Branch Leader

### **JOB VACANCY**

#### **PART-TIME DIOCESAN ADMINISTRATOR**

*To apply  
Please contact the office*

### **Mothers' Union Office**

The Parish Church of St Thomas and St Andrew  
Doxey, Stafford. ST16 1EQ  
Telephone 01785 227221

Email [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)

[www.mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](http://www.mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)

Our vision is to see a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.



## Quiet Day

March 9<sup>th</sup> at Shallowford House

Led by Jean Price

Cost £21 includes lunch

Book by 27<sup>th</sup> February £5 deposit

Branch leaders have booking forms or you can contact the office and a form will be emailed to you

[office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)

## Mothers' Union Diocesan Elections

take place this year starting in March

For the triennial January 2016 – December 2018

Please pray for Gods guidance as you chose people to take on the roles of president and trustees

Is God calling you to this work in the diocese?

If you would like to know more about being a trustee please contact the office where one of us will be happy to chat with you

**Christchurch Tettenhall Wood** complete a year of celebrations for their 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with a service, a beautiful wall hanging and cake



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## "Celebrate"



Mary Sumner House.  
Inauguration stone laid in 1915  
by Mrs Wilberforce. We thank  
God for 100 years of Christian  
witness and outreach.



### Open Days at Mary Sumner House

*"your home in Westminster"*

5th & 6th August 2015 from 11:30am – 4:30pm

Our programme will include:

- Worship led by Central Chaplain – the Right Reverend Andrew Proud.
- A chance to meet staff and learn more about the work at Mary Sumner House.
- Quiet reflective, prayerful time in our Mothers' Union Chapel.
- Unique one-time opportunity to view Mothers' Union artifacts, normally held at Lambeth Palace.

*"Come and join me for an unforgettable day.  
I look forward to welcoming you."*

Lynne Tembey, Mothers' Union Worldwide President

Enjoy learning about and looking around this beautiful historic building. Experienced Mothers' Union guides will be on hand to answer all your questions.

**Cost for the day:** £10 which includes refreshments, packed lunch, and special centenary souvenir booklet. Booking will be confirmed on receipt of payment.

Space will be limited to 150 per day.

Bookings close 30th April 2015

Contact Reception at:  
Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB  
Tel: 020 7222 5533  
Email: [reception@mothersunion.org](mailto:reception@mothersunion.org)



*Experience and appreciate the past*

*Look forward with thanksgiving and hope to the future*

## Mothers' Union Relief Work Update: Iraq

In November 2014 the Mothers' Union's Relief Fund was able to contribute to the coordinated efforts of the network of Kurdish churches in Iraq to bring refuge and safety to displaced families and refugees from towns that have become war-zones due to IS aggression – Mosul, Qaraqash, and more.

The money and resources we have given through The Diocese of Cyprus and the Gulf have helped the local church make a huge difference to these families, restoring some sense of stability and community. Without the presence of international relief agencies in the most desperate of areas, the Church network has enabled families to have shelter, fresh water, food, clothing and medicine.

Bishop Michael, and Father Faiz, from Mothers' Union's home in Iraq, St George's Baghdad, have written to thank all who contributed, the support shown by our members around the world has made life on the ground more bearable for these struggling communities.

Support for these refugees has enabled the church network to establish complexes across the city of Erbil, each of which house 650 refugees. In total nearly 15,000 have to date been sheltered. Thirty enormous water tanks provide the fresh water and over 1,000 blankets have also been distributed.

The pictures shared with us demonstrate that, whilst not ideal, families are today being cared for. However the situation is still critical – keeping the water clean is a major problem, and the electricity supply is often interrupted as the price of fuel soars out of reach.

The need to help these displaced communities rebuild their lives remains – the need for housing, schooling and of course employment. Rather than simply continue to provide relief, therefore, Mothers' Union will continue to build a close relationship with Iraq through the Diocese in order to do all we can to contribute to the rebuilding of safe communities in Iraq.





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## Make a Mother's Day

This Mothering Sunday help change a life

Please remember to promote  
this central campaign

If you are a branch leader and have received  
catalogues don't forget that they are not just  
for your members they are for everyone.

Details are in the previous e-newsletter about  
ordering extra catalogues

for full information visit

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

and follow the links

## Lady Day 25<sup>th</sup> March

There are worship resources  
for

Lady Day and many other  
occasions and daily prayers  
on the central website

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

Copy date for the next  
edition of Lichfield Beacon  
is

February 23<sup>rd</sup>

Please email items to the office



### Receiving the newsletter

If you do not wish to receive the  
newsletter in the future please email the  
office and you will be removed from the  
mailing list

If your friends, family or other members  
would like to receive the newsletter  
please email the office with their details  
and they will be added to the mailing list

[office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)



at  
Lichfield Mothers' Union

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