



....to the latest newsletter!

Dear friends and members of Mothers' Union

I start by apologising that this newsletter may not be up to its usual standard. Adie is not at work at the moment and I am trying to keep things ticking over. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

August is traditionally a quiet month as far as Mothers' Union is concerned. Many branches do not meet as there are holidays to be fitted in, as well as many of us helping with care of grandchildren during the school holidays. This year is perhaps a little different for many of us as we begin to get a little less cautious about getting out and about. Some branches are planning summer gatherings, taking advantage of better weather to meet outdoors or going out for morning coffee or afternoon tea. I spoke at a branch meeting last week and it was wonderful to be with members and share in their fellowship – also a joy to enrol a new member! It was the first time the branch has met in the church although there had been a couple of earlier meetings in the church garden.

It was also a great joy to be with members at the midday Eucharist in the Cathedral on July 20th. It was one of those very hot days and so pleasant to be in the cool of that building. There were about 30 people in attendance, not all Mothers' Union as it was an open service, and our thanks go to Canon Gregory Patten for allowing the service to be themed around Mothers' Union, and to the Cathedral staff. I am grateful to Julia for her work in liaising with the Cathedral in all the preparation. It would be a blessing if this was a precedent for future, more regular services in the Cathedral.

Having said that August is often a quiet month there is still a lot going on. Next Monday, 9th August, is Mary Sumner Day, the anniversary of her death and this year it is extra special as we commemorate 100 years, and also celebrate 145 years since she held the first Mothers' Union meeting in the parlour of the Rectory at Old Alresford. She was so nervous about addressing the women who had come along to that first meeting that her husband had to ask them to come back another day. It seems difficult to believe that only a few years later she was addressing a large gathering of clergy in Portsmouth Guildhall! God gives us the skills we need to do the job he gives us!! Please see elsewhere in this newsletter about how you can be part of these special occasions.

Other events are publicised as 'Summer of Hope' with ideas for fundraising including a 'Count your Blessings' calendar for August and 'MU on the Move' intended to focus on the 145 years.

Some of you may have received a mailing about these and there are fundraising packs in the Resources section of the central MU website which is:
www.mothersunion.org

It was hoped that the office would be able to open again by now but it is just not possible at the moment. In addition the office email will not be responding to queries from now until 16th August but if there are any urgent matters please get in direct touch with any of the trustees. My own email is hapalfrey@sky.com.

I wish you all a safe and happy summer.

With every blessing

Helen

Interim Diocesan President

Monday 9th August

Mary Sumner Day



Mary Sumner Month Events

Sunday 1st August - Compline - 9pm on Facebook

Monday 9th August - Virtual Tour of Mary Sumner's Church and the Grounds of Old Alresford Place - 10am on YouTube

Monday 9th August - Mary Sumner Day Service - 3pm on Facebook and YouTube

Throughout August - 31 Days Of Inspiration - YouTube and Social Channels

Throughout August - Count Your Blessings Digital Content - Social Channels

In the Diocese it is planned to have times of prayer and praise throughout Monday 9th August. These will be on the Diocesan Mothers' Union Facebook page so please join in if you can.



Staffordshire County Show

25th & 26th August

The rota for help to serve tea and coffee in the churches tent at this year's county show has been filled. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered.

However, if you feel you would be happy to be on standby please let us know.

If you are able to help please email the office: office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk

Quiet Day

It is not too late to book your place!

Monday 20th September

at

Shallowford House

led by our Diocesan chaplains

Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley

Whittington and West Felton, Oswestry Deanery
interimteamvicar@gmail.com 01691611749

Rev Kathryn Trimby

Llanyblodwel, Oswestry Deanery
kathpant@aol.com 07944504330 01691 590025

Rev Chris Rushton

Holy Trinity, Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent Deanery
church@chrisrushton.co.uk 01782 410011



Midday prayers are also available on the Daily Hope line by selecting option **5** followed by option **9**

(Please note the change of option)



At the end of this month all Council members will receive documentation to nominate members for the trustee positions.

Please pray about this. Is God calling you to a role on the trustee board? Talk to other members from your branches, maybe there is someone who really feels called to take up a position.

We will be sending out nominations for Diocesan President and other trustees at the same time this year. Please pray for all who are considering taking on one of these valuable roles.

To help give some information about the role of trustee there will be two open meetings on Zoom. During the meetings the current trustees will give a brief oversight of the role, but the main purpose of the meetings is to give anyone interested the opportunity to ask questions.

The meetings are scheduled for 7.00pm on Monday 16th August and 2.00pm on Thursday 19th August. These are open to all, without obligation, so please pass this on to anyone who maybe interested. All welcome!

The link for all Diocesan Meetings is:

[Join Zoom Meeting](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/96271116191?pwd=ZUV4QWIwbmtucFpxYnlOZVhJM0dXdz09>

Meeting ID: 962 7111 6191

Password: 017458



The office remains closed for the time being although emails will be responded to.

It is planned to resume a presence in the office soon although this may be for only a couple of hours per week.

In the meantime please contact any of the trustees if you have any urgent matters.