



....to the latest newsletter!

Dear friends and fellow members of Mothers' Union

This is only a brief letter from me this month as there are so many things happening over the next week or two that I want to let you know about.

The most exciting is a new and innovative event being held in Lichfield Cathedral on Saturday 18th September. You will find information on page 2 along with details of how to register. Please pass news of this event to your family or local school.

It is good to hear of branches starting to meet again, although with caution I am sure. I have been to visit 2 branches recently and it is a great joy to meet with members again.

I hope that over the past few weeks you may have been able to meet with family and friends or enjoy a break away from home in spite of the unseasonal weather during August! But, today the sun is shining!

Although it may seem a long way off, I have to mention the 'C' word! In the past, Mothers' Union members in this diocese have done wonderful work in writing Christmas cards for prisoners. We were fortunate for number of years to receive old stock cards from MU enterprises for just the cost of carriage. Unfortunately, this facility is no longer available. There has been uncertainty over recent years but we are hopeful that this ministry can continue with the coordination of Julia Collinson, Lichfield Archdeaconry Leader. She writes:

I know it is very early to be thinking of Christmas yet but I will be contacting Prisons in our area regarding the number of cards they will require for prisoners in their care. To this end may I ask members to consider buying a few Christmas cards to be sent 'with love and prayers from Mothers' Union'. If you need more information please contact me on juliacollinson@btinternet.com. or 07876121085

May I just ask that you consider the circumstances of the recipients when/if you are purchasing cards and that the greeting to be written inside is 'With love and prayers from Mothers' Union'. Thank you.

One last event to mention: the Annual Gathering, formerly known as the General Meeting, is being held on Saturday 25th September. Postponed from being in Belfast both last year and this, it is being shown on YouTube premiere from 11.00am-12.30 and from 1.30-2.30pm. it will also be available to be watched later as well.

With love and prayers
Helen
Interim Diocesan President.

“Let’s Talk”

Real conversations that make a difference

This event focuses on how to stay safe and protect our children from the evils of criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery.

The Lichfield Diocese Mothers’ Union (LDMU), Lichfield Cathedral and Transforming Communities Together (TCT) are inviting families from across the Lichfield Diocese to come together for this ground breaking event.

This is a call to action, to gather and to equip!

We are bringing together Mothers’ Union members, their children and their grandchildren (from 10 years and upwards) at Lichfield Cathedral for two hours to focus on the real dangers of criminal exploitation, human trafficking and modern slavery.

There is power in multiple generations coming together to explore this growing issue, that threatens all ages. We’ll be sensitively discussing how we might work together to keep our children safe, valuing the input of the children themselves. This is a unique opportunity to engage with our LDMU members, their families, and the wider church.

Hosted by Lichfield Cathedral, we will be blessed with the support of:

- The Children’s Society
- West Midlands Police Violence Reduction
- Blue Bear Coffee company

What will the format be? It is a call to action, as this event will be centred around the narrative ‘**What will you do next?**’

Everyone in attendance will be working together in family groups to create their own action plan.

It will be an engaging interactive session for all attending, with quizzes, talks and art.

Why? With alarming figures reported in April 2021, we must act now. Our children are at risk and we MUST act together to ensure that they are safe.

No matter where we live, there is real danger. During the pandemic, many vulnerable people have been targeted here in the UK. Reports of sexual and criminal exploitation increased dramatically during the pandemic. Our children are being groomed into drug criminal gangs in so-called ‘county lines’ trafficking, forced begging and shoplifting. The BBC reported recently that a 14-year-old boy was recruited in less than 80 minutes on social media¹.

How to book? Book your FREE place via Eventbrite - <https://lets-talk-exploitation.eventbrite.co.uk>

Need more information? Please contact info@tctogether.org.uk

Staffordshire County Show

25th & 26th August



Thank you to all who helped with the refreshments in the Churches Tent. It was surprisingly busy on both days and it didn't rain!

Shown left are Julia and Bob Collinson and Sue and Phil Norris ready for customers! Other volunteers were Vivien Heenan and Hazel Hodson, Katherine May and Rosemary Walker, Josie Knight and Helen and Andrew Palfrey.

Quiet Day

Monday 20th September
at
Shallowford House
led by our Diocesan Chaplains

It is not too late to book your place!

You have until noon on Monday 13th!

Please email the office with your details
if you would like to make a last minute booking

Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley	Interim Minister, Telford interimteamvicar@gmail.com	01952 957348
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)



Triennial Elections

Members of Diocesan Council are reminded that the closing date and time for nominations for the new Trustee Board is 12.00 noon on Monday 13th September 2021. If you are on Council and haven't yet participated, there is just about enough time to get your nominations in using a first class stamp!

The roles to be filled are Diocesan President, Finance Trustee and General Trustees.

Nominations will be opened and counted by Rev Martin of Doxey Church and a member of his parish. Should voting be required the next stage of the process will begin on September 20th.



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.