



I remember Sue saying at the first service when she was commissioned Diocesan President that she had always thought of herself as a mouse. Busy in the background, doing surprising things like industrial quantities of mince pies, sewing wonderful clothes and other craft items, but not making a fuss about it. But she had decided that now she was going to be a giraffe – sticking her neck out, getting noticed and able to see around her and get the bigger picture. I think at the church service when we said goodbye there were as many giraffes of all shapes and sizes as there were people!

So, you should have on your seat a picture of a giraffe, the same one as on the service book cover. Rev Kathy didn't know Sue but using what she has heard about her she chose this friendly, happy character to represent our dear friend. But today we are not only remembering Sue but others in our family, church community, Mothers' Union branch, or neighbours to whom we have had to say goodbye over the last three years. But also giving thanks

for the good things that have happened and been celebrated, even in way different to what we have done in the past. Weddings (eventually!) new grandchildren, milestone birthdays and wedding anniversaries. There seemed to be a few 90th birthdays and diamond wedding anniversaries recently. The scientists have done amazing work in producing vaccines and Covid treatments so that we can return to, if not a normality as before, then certainly being able to meet together with caution and care for others.

But we are also looking forwards to the next triennium of Mothers Union. We are planning the way ahead as we step out in hope and confidence to achieve Transformation – NOW!, the theme for 2022.

What we are asking you to do now in a few minutes of silence is to write on the back of your giraffe a few words of thanksgiving or remembrance for something or someone lost during recent months or years. Or a prayer or hope for the future. They will be collected up and Rev Kathy will offer them in prayer.