



....to the latest newsletter.

Dear friends and fellow members of Mothers' Union

I have just about made it as an October Newsletter! It is a busy time as we prepare for the Autumn Council meeting on Saturday November 13<sup>th</sup>. We are meeting at Doxey Church and, although places will be limited because of ongoing Covid caution, we hope that as many of you will be able to join us in person. The morning session will be a service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance in which we will think especially of Sue and her life and work, but also look back over the past three years and all that has happened, good and bad, happy and sad. After a lunch provided by the Diocesan Mothers' Union we shall hold the usual business part of the meeting. There is still time to let us know if you would like to attend. Please email the office by Friday 5<sup>th</sup>. It is also hoped that we will be able to stream the service on Facebook Live, with it being available on YouTube afterwards. A reminder too that Ann will be there with the MU enterprises stall for your 'not quite last minute' purchases.

The Cathedral event 'Let's Talk', hosted by Debbie Huxton and James Henderson of TCT held on September 18<sup>th</sup> was informative and helpful, aimed at helping us recognise the signs of Modern Slavery which can entrap our young people right under our noses. Speakers came from the Children's' Society, the West Midlands Violence Reduction Unit and Blue Bear Coffee company. The latter is a small company which sources its coffee from independent farmers across the world and invests its profits to support organisations fighting to end human trafficking. The number of people attending was disappointing but such an important topic will no doubt be aired again. Debbie is now getting out about visiting churches and groups with her Awareness sessions. Get in touch with her if you want her to speak to your group.

I hope some of you may have been participating in the 'Re-imagining MU' sessions. If you have, your feedback is important and will be used to shape the future of Mothers' Union. The paperwork was sent out to Council members but, if you haven't had it and would like to take part, please email the office and it will be sent out to you. Feedback by the end of November please.

I wonder how many of you watched the Annual Gathering on September 25<sup>th</sup>? The sessions were shown on Facebook Live but there is now a link on the central website to watch them on YouTube. It good that we can 'join in' occasions like this but how much better is it going to be, actually in Belfast next September? We pray that by then we shall have more freedom to move around, to meet up with family and friends and be more confident about travelling.

Finally, I just want to let you know that the website for Mothers' Union in the diocese is in the process of being updated, thanks to a response to the 'advertisement' in the Spring/Summer Beacon. Watch this space (and the website!) for more information.

Yours, with love and prayers, Helen

## Reflection for November 2021

From Jenny Barton (Zonal Trustee for Wales)

My Dear Friends, Greetings in the name of our Lord.

The Time for Transformation is –NOW. This is the theme for 2022 and how appropriate it is. It feels like we have all been holding our breath for a long time as the pandemic, which of course is not yet over, held us all in a state of uncertainty. I know many of you will still be feeling worried and anxious about mixing with others, and that is understandable. But I know how fortunate we are in the UK compared to our sisters and brothers in other parts of the world who are still not able to access any form of vaccine. I am sure like me you hold people in prayer, please continue to do so, particularly in this month of November when we remember especially those who are suffering domestic abuse, something which has been even more prevalent during the last two years. Did you know 1 in 3 people throughout the world suffer in this way. The Time for Transformation is –NOW. Let's not wait until the 1<sup>st</sup> January to start that transformation but join in with others, who are working hard to eradicate any form of domestic abuse, by taking part in the MU Global Day planned for 27<sup>th</sup> November as part of the 16 Days of Activism. There are three ways to join 1, join in any event planned by your dioceses, 2, join in any event planned by your deanery or branch, 3, join in at home by wearing a purple scarf as you pray with you family or even alone. Most of you will by now have received the second addition of 'Connected' which includes the special 'Prayer Diary' for the 16 days, which has all that you need to pray along with us. Transforming is something which our heavenly Father is always helping us to do. He transforms our lives by making us strong in our faith, which in turn enables us to make others strong in theirs. He enables us to lead by example just as Jesus led by example as he went about his ministry. When choosing his disciples, he chose men from many walks of life from humble fishermen to tax collectors and transformed their lives. We have a chance to transform the Mothers' Union to make it fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

During the last 2 years some excellent work has been done by members from making scrubs for the local hospital to supplying items of food for food banks and clothing for refugees and many things in between.

But now we need to regrow the membership, using this year's theme of Rebuilding Hope & Confidence. As branches begin to meet face to face once again, we need to encourage those members who may still feel unsure to once again become part of the whole. Even as Indoor Members we can still pick up the phone or send a card of encouragement, we can still pray for each other because God has given us so many blessings and so much to thank him for. As I write I have the words of a children's hymn going round and round in my head. The words are: - ***Jesus' love is very wonderful, Jesus' love is very wonderful. Jesus' love is very wonderful, oh wonderful. So high you can't get over it, so low you can't under it, so wide you can't get round it. Oh, wonderful love.*** There are more verses but I think just these words are enough to show that with such wonderful love to guide us we will be able to act and pray with hope and confidence as we look to transforming the MU because the time to do so is NOW.

Love & Prayers

Jenny

### Let us Pray

The Indoor members prayer

O god, our heavenly Father, our strength and peace and joy, bless all who are Indoor Members. Give us grace according to our need; help us to know and love and trust you more, to pray better and always to do you will; through Jesus Christ our Lord AMEN

## Connected Magazine

It is hoped that those of you who are subscribing members of Mothers' Union have received your Autumn copy of this magazine which is dispatched direct to you from central Mothers' Union. We understand that there have been one or two hitches with members not getting the recent mailing. This may be because, on the form which came with the first edition, you ticked the 'Opt Out' box for 'Fundraising' and returned the form to MSH. Unfortunately this means you have said you don't want to receive the magazine as well as the Prayer Diary and any information about appeals such as Make a Mother's Day. This option is clarified on the address sheet with the current edition but we think it wasn't explained thoroughly with the first.

If you think you may have done this you can contact [membership@mothersunion.org](mailto:membership@mothersunion.org) with your details and a request to 'Opt In' again or email the office: [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)

## Quiet Day

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
at  
Shallowford House  
led by our Diocesan Chaplains

It was with great regret that this day had to be cancelled because the numbers interested were too low to make the day viable.

Our thanks go to Rev Kathy and Rev Jassica who had done much preparation - but it won't go to waste as the next Quiet Day is scheduled for Monday March 28<sup>th</sup> 2022 at Shallowford.  
Booking details will be available in the New Year.

### Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley	Interim Minister, Telford <a href="mailto:interimteamvicar@gmail.com">interimteamvicar@gmail.com</a>	01952 957348
Rev Kathryn Trimby	Llanyblodwel, Oswestry Deanery <a href="mailto:kathpant@aol.com">kathpant@aol.com</a>	07944504330 01691 590025

Rev Chris Rushton has recently retired from Parish Ministry at Hartshill but intends to remain one of the Diocesan Chaplains for Mothers' Union. Contact details will be made available in due course.



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

Thanks go to all who participated in the recent elections for members of the Trustee Board for the next triennium 2022-2024

The nominations were opened and counted by Rev Martin Strang (Doxey Church) and a member of his congregation on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> September. The following candidates had sufficient nominations (minimum of 5, according to the present Diocesan Constitution) and have therefore been elected unopposed.

Diocesan President  
Finance Trustee  
General Trustees

Helen Palfrey  
Celia Richardson  
Julia Collinson  
Katherine May  
Deb Tudor

This means there are still vacancies on the Trustee board but it is hoped that, as the new triennium begins, working committees (similar to the 'old' Unit Committees) will be set up, involving other members, to draw in valuable expertise and experience. More information will be available in the New Year.



I am sorry that the MU Diocesan Office remains closed for the time being although emails will be responded to.

We hope that we can resume a presence in the office soon although this may be for only a couple of hours per week.

Mail is being picked up and any phone messages are being dealt with.

In the meantime please contact any of the trustees if you have any urgent queries or concerns.