



....to the latest newsletter.

Dear friends and fellow members of Mothers' Union

Well, whatever happened to January?? Belated new year greetings to you all. I hope that you have all stayed safe and well and also were able to spend some much needed time with family and friends.

Now that the hours of daylight are increasing and we have had some beautiful days of sunshine it is easier to be more optimistic about the future in spite of the very windy weather some areas of the diocese have experienced this week. It is good to feel more comfortable about meeting and worshipping together, although there is still reason to be cautious about it.

We are, of course, at the start of a new triennium, the period of three years for which the elected trustees, both diocesan and worldwide, serve. There is much to do and a great deal of planning involved and more details will emerge over time. We hope to be able to re-introduce members' gatherings, perhaps on a fairly informal 'coffee morning' type format, where we can share ideas for projects, working together to meet many of the needs we know are out there in our communities.

There are more formal occasions planned too -the service to commission the 'new' trustees and chaplains – a separate notice is included – and later in the year there may be an archdeaconry service, or two! Watch this space!

The Wave of Prayer is almost upon us – next week, in fact! On Wednesday 9th, Thursday 10th and Friday 11th we are one of the allocated dioceses, praying for our link dioceses, as they pray for us, as do all other Mothers' Union members across the world. Branch and group leaders have been sent the service and time slots but a couple of Zoom services are to be held at the start and finish of our time. Again there is a separate notice which also includes the Zoom link should you wish to join. There will also be material and posts on Facebook. And there is a Quiet Day too!

It is with great sadness that we must let you know that Adie Harris is no longer our Diocesan Administrator. Adie left our employ at the end of January 2022 and will be greatly missed. She has contributed such a lot to the work of Mothers' Union in this diocese by her support of members and trustees. The trustees thank her for everything she has done and wish her well for the future. Our love and prayers go with her and her family.

Trustees are currently agreeing a new job description to include aspects of finance work, thus affecting the person specification applicable to the new role. Before long a recruitment process will commence, and you may notice our job advertisement on both our LDMU website and the Lichfield Diocesan website. Trustees ask for your prayerfulness at this time, so that we receive applicants of quality and are enabled to appoint with confidence. If you know someone who has the skills and might enjoy this role, please do draw their attention to the advertisement when it is available. Thank you!

In the meantime I shall be continuing to do my best to keep the admin ticking over, but please be patient if queries are not answered as quickly as you would like! Much of the work is being done from home but I try to visit the office at least twice a week.

Yours, with love and prayers, Helen

QUIET DAY

A Quiet Day has been arranged for **Monday 28th March 2022** at Shallowford House.

Leader: The Diocesan Chaplains

Time: 10 for 10.30 a.m. until 3.30 p.m.

Cost: £27.00 to include lunch.

Please book your place by contacting the office at the address below with your name and contact details, together with a deposit of £5 per person by

Friday 18th March 2022:

Please also indicate if you have any special dietary requirements

To: Quiet Day, Mothers' Union Office, The Parish Church of St Thomas and St Andrew, Doxey, STAFFORD, ST16 1EQ

01785 227221

(Please make cheques payable to 'Lichfield Diocesan Mothers' Union')

Alternatively, on this occasion you may book your place by emailing the office with the above information and pay the full amount on arrival at Shallowford.

Would you like directions to the venue Yes/No

Thank you all for your love, care, support and prayers over the last seven years. I have enjoyed working with and getting to know you all. I will miss MU very much but need to concentrate on caring for Martha and getting the help she needs in place. I am remaining a member so will hopefully see you at diocesan meetings and other events as time allows.

With Love

Adie xxx

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	Hartshill, Stoke-on-Trent Deanery chris-rushton@outlook.com	01782 410011

Please remember that the Chaplains are there for every member, in every part of the Diocese.



Midday prayers are also available on Mothers' Union Facebook and also on the Daily Hope line by selecting option **5** followed by option **9** (Please note the change of option)

Mail from Mary Sumner House

There have been some problems with mail such the Prayer Diary and 'Connected' not being received by some members. There are two main reasons. The first is that the address held at MSH may not be complete. Please may we ask branch and group contacts to make sure accurate address details are returned to the office with the report forms. And for all members, please make sure that the middle and right had tick boxes, as shown below, on the inset that comes with any mailing, are left 'unticked' otherwise you will not receive any of the mailings including those mentioned above.

To help Mothers' Union keep costs to a minimum I do not require an acknowledgement or greetings card for this donation. <input type="checkbox"/>		Signature: _____ Date: __ / __ / __
		Title: __ Initial: __ Surname: _____
Staying in contact		
<input type="checkbox"/> Gaming - If you tick this you WILL NOT receive any raffles, lotteries or free prize draws.	<input type="checkbox"/> Campaigns and Resources - Tick to NOT receive mail that contains membership resources, campaign materials or appeals. This Includes Connected and the Prayer Diary.	<input type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to opt out of all mail apart from essential (membership renewal). Ticking this box automatically opts you out of the the other 2 options in this section.
Reg Charity no 240531		

Please let the office know if you continue to have problems and we shall do our best to sort it out.

You are invited to:

"Coffee Morning: for funds of St Giles MU, Friday 18 February 2022, 10-11.30am, Parish Hall, Springfield Way, Shrewsbury. Display of MU, cakes, table top etc;

A good morning expected. Come along and bring a friend!"

Advance Notice!! Staffordshire County Show

Mothers' Union have again been asked to help with refreshments in the Churches' Tent.

Wednesday 1st and Thursday 2nd June.
More details later!

From Julia Collinson, General Trustee

As the coronavirus vaccination programme progresses at pace, I think we are all really looking forward to meeting up again and excited to be entering the new Triennial with hope for future. I was very disappointed that the Re-imagining Mothers' Union Conference was cancelled at the last minute but given the magnitude of the infection in those early days of January in was the right decision and I have been told it will be re-scheduled as soon as possible. Thank you all so much for the reports you sent me regarding how you would like to see Mothers' Union moving forward in the future. There were lots of things you would like to keep but also lots of new innovative ideas put forward and I think there will be some very interesting discussions when the conference does take place.

Katherine May and I between us boxed up and posted just under 2000 of the lovely cards you wrote for the prisoners. We were asked to have them delivered by the first of December because if they arrived any later than that they may not be given out as clergy do not go into the Prisons on a weekly basis. We have not been able to hand deliver cards for the last two years because of the Covid restrictions imposed on us by the Prisons. Hopefully next year the restrictions will be lifted, and we can deliver in person as I know some of you consider this as a part of your outreach into the community.

We have been approached by the charity "Children Heard and Seen" to see if we could help to deliver parcels to families in our area who have a family member in Prison. "Children Heard and Seen" is a Charity that works to mitigate the effect having a parent in prison has on children and young people. Children in these circumstances are often more at risk of developing mental health issues, depression and insomnia. We will need to investigate the possibilities further and report back.

I am looking forward to meeting up at the Cathedral for the Commissioning Service.

Wave of Prayer 2022

Branch and group leaders should have received copies of the Wave of Prayer Service sheet along with a timetable showing the allocated times to ensure a constant cycle of prayer on Wednesday 9th February through to Friday 11th. Both these documents are available on the website: mothersunionlichfield.org.uk.

It is hoped that as many members as possible will be able to take part as we pray for our prayer link dioceses, not forgetting that they are praying for us, as is the whole of Mothers' Union worldwide. You may feel able to meet as a group or over the telephone, or in small gatherings on Zoom

There will be two services, the first at 9.00am on Wednesday 9th to start the Wave of Prayer off, with the second at 4.00pm on Friday 11th to bring our time to a close. These services will be held by Zoom using the link below. The link will be the same for both meetings. Please join us if you can.

MU Office is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: MU Diocesan Zoom Meeting

Time: This is a recurring meeting Meet anytime

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/96271116191?pwd=ZUV4QWIwbmtucFpxYnI0ZVhJM0dXdz09>

Meeting ID: 962 7111 6191

Passcode: 017458

We look forward to seeing you.

Saturday 26th March 2022

Service of Choral Evensong

with the Commissioning of Trustees and Chaplains

in Lichfield Cathedral at 17.30

All members and friends of Mothers' Union are invited to this important occasion, celebrating the work of Mothers' Union and confirming the trustees and chaplains in their roles for this Triennium. However, please let us know at the MU Office if you plan to come so we have an idea of numbers.

Banners will be processed at the start of the service so, again, please let the office know if your branch or group plans to bring your banner.

I am sorry that this newsletter has so many words and so few photos or pictures! There was so much of importance to fit in and I am not yet an expert at compiling the document!

