



....to the latest newsletter.

IMPORTANT DATES

QUIET DAY

Monday 28th March 2022

at Shallowford House
ST15 0NZ

Leaders: The Diocesan Chaplains

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

Trustees have agreed that there is to be no charge for this day - we wish to encourage everyone and anyone to attend. Currently, the list of attendees is low. If members feel that they wish to give a donation towards the cost - it is '*donate a gift as you are able*'.

The Trustees really hope to see you there at Shallowford to enjoy and benefit from a Lenten Quiet Day led by our diocesan chaplains, especially if you have not been to a quiet day before.

[If you live in Shrewsbury and would like transport, Katherine May is attending and can offer a lift to two people. 01743 271627.]

For catering purposes it is important that you book your place by contacting the office at the address below with your name and contact details by:

Friday 18th March 2022:

Please also indicate if you have any special dietary requirements.

Telephone: 01785 227221. (You can leave a message if no-one is in the office)

OR Email: office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk

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.

If you are bringing a banner please try to be in the Cathedral before 17.00.

It is hoped that the service will be streamed on the Cathedral website so please join us in that way if you cannot attend in person.

Road Show Member Days

In 2019, Trustees led some Roadshow Member Days, with the same information and activity taking place at each meeting around the diocese. They were well received and, now that we are able to meet again, Trustees are planning more

We intend to offer two during the year in each Archdeaconry. Dates for these will be coming out soon – please keep your eyes peeled for dates and venues in June and September.

We are doing this in order to keep in touch with all members and especially those whose branches have closed. Do plan to attend and bring a friend.

Will your MU branch be a Roadshow host?

If your branch or church would like to host one of these events, please do let us know.

Katherine May – 01743 271627 kemay1957@gmail.com

MU Office – 01785 227221 office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk

Communities of Interest

Many of you will remember the 'Units' which focussed on particular areas of Mothers' Union work such as Action & Outreach. The units operated both at diocesan and central Mary Sumner House levels. As things move on, these units have been replaced by 'Communities of Interest'

Trustees have indicated to MSH those areas / communities which we think match this diocese and our activities and the trustees have signed up to the essentials of: Finance/Treasurers, Governance, Membership (including the database), Safeguarding and AFIA. Other members are welcome to be part of these communities to

The other communities open to all members are :

Communications	Crafting
Faith	Fundraising
Membership	Parenting
Policy	Prisons.

Members are invited to join our local Communities of Interest groups - we can meet at intervals in person or via Zoom (that, we hope, will enable those who cannot travel to participate).

Trustees will give Communities of Interest some thought and but please indicate to us if you would like to become involved more fully.

News from Coven Mothers' Union



Members would like to thank everyone who donated items for the Ukraine appeal at their cuppa and cake event on 5th March. These have all been passed to Coven Methodist Church.



From Mary Sumner House:

Mothers' Union response to the crisis in Ukraine:

Mothers' Union firmly stands with the people of Ukraine during this dark hour, we have issued a statement on our website and will continue to pray for all those affected by this war. We have been asked if the Mothers' Union Emergency Fund is being used to provide humanitarian support. The Mothers Union Emergency fund has historically prioritised funding activities where MU has active networks and representation, which we do not currently have in the Ukraine so these funds cannot be used, this follows a similar approach to other conflicts, such as those in Yemen or Syria. If members wish to donate towards emergency relief in Ukraine, we have suggested they can do so through [Disaster Emergency Committee's Appeal](#). Donations to this appeal go to their member charities and their local partners responding in Ukraine and in neighbouring countries ensuring a joined up response by experts in the field.

We know MU members already work tirelessly to support refugees from different parts of the world and have both expertise and networks to deliver this work across B&I.

Some members are asking how MU as a whole plans to respond to supporting refugees. We are closely monitoring government updates, including about the sponsorship programme, with a new update on this post today on our website. In order to : understand better what work is already ongoing to support refugees from any country in the Dioceses and the capabilities and networks already in place; to listen to what action members would ideally like to take; and to start to jointly map a way forward, there will be a Zoom meeting for Diocesan Presidents, **on 23rd March at 11:00am**. Any further useful information or advice will be circulated after that.

Mothers' Union in Lichfield Diocese seeks an Administrator

Lichfield Diocese Mothers' Union seeks to appoint a new Administrator, to ensure efficient running of the Lichfield Diocese Mothers' Union office including secretarial and financial administration for the Trustees.

The post is 16 hrs/week, salary £9,720 (0.45fte to 35 hours), based at the LDMU office at St Andrew and St Thomas Church, Doxey, Stafford.

For an application pack, contact Katherine May, LDMU General Trustee, kemay1957@gmail.com, general enquiries 01743 271627.

Closing date: Monday 4 April 2022

Interviews: Monday 11 April 2022 at St Andrew and St Thomas Church, Doxey, Stafford ST16 1EQ.

Dear friends and members of Mothers' Union

Congratulations on getting this far! As you can see there is a lot going on and perhaps you thought you were going to get away with not hearing from me this month!! There has been a plethora of items for inclusion so I have been restricted to a smaller space than usual (perhaps no bad thing, I hear you say!)

As you will have seen elsewhere the trustees are being commissioned on Saturday 26th and we hope as many of you will be there to give prayerful support. There are plans to set up diocesan communities of interest, also mentioned elsewhere but we are a small trustee board and need to look to the future. There are other nearby dioceses which have no Diocesan President and members, surely, will not want that to happen to LDMU?

There are some other dioceses where MU has a positive 'quiver-full' of serving trustees, about 10-12 in Blackburn and Carlisle diocese. Would that not gladden our collective heart here in Lichfield Diocese!?

If you are even a little curious about what is involved, do speak to one of the current Trustees. We have lively, honest discussion and do not always agree – meetings can be really sparky! And quite stimulating for that.

I have space only to hope that I see you many of you soon and wish you all a good Lent as we look forward in these troubling times to a joyous Easter.

Love and prayers, Helen

Wave of Prayer 2022

I hope that many of you managed to take part in the Wave of Prayer at some time during the three days, 9th -11th February, whether you were part of a group meeting in person at your allocated timeslot, joined the Zoom services or read through the service sheet in the quiet of your own home. It is good to know that as part of the Wave we are also being prayed for during those three days, not only by our linked prayer partner dioceses but Mothers' Union across the world. There were one or two hiccups with the Zoom service but the zoom host can be blamed for that (That was me!). I apologise that a couple of groups were omitted from the timetable but hope that you did manage to meet together at some convenient time.

Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley	Interim Minister, Telford jassica@telfordchurch.co.uk	01952 957348
Rev Kathryn Trimby	Llanyblodwel, Oswestry Deanery kathpant@aol.com	07944 504330 01691 590025
Rev Chris Rushton	chris-rushton@outlook.com	01782 410011

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

Paperwork!

Grateful thanks are extended to all who have returned branch/group report and finance forms to the Office or to the Treasurer, and also to those Diocesan Members who have renewed their membership. It will take some time to check all the details and get the database up to date and then check what is held on the central database at MSH.

In the meantime, the next edition of 'Connected' is due to be sent out before Easter and so some new members may not receive the mailing and those who have not renewed membership may still receive the publication. Please let the office know if there is a problem and we shall attempt to resolve any queries.

A Message from Deb Tudor

Ukraine

Many of our members have generously donated a diverse selection of items needed by refugees fleeing their homes. The tremendous response is echoed across the diocese as well as country. Thank you to all for showing we are answering God's call for actions of love.

The actions of our members are incorporated within other agencies allowing us all to get what's needed to where it's needed.

No doubt these actions will continue and of course we can all accompany actions with prayer.

Lichfield Beacon

The next edition of our diocesan magazine is due to be published in May. The closing date for copy is March 25th so get your news and photos in to Jean Price as soon as possible. Jean's email address is: jeanprice1@btinternet.com



Middy 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)