



to the latest newsletter.

Dear friends and members

I thought you might like this letter from Sheran, our Worldwide President. I pray that you are all well and, on behalf of the Trustees, I wish you a blessed Easter and hope to see many of you in the next few months.

With love and prayers

*Helen*



My Dear Friends,

It's Easter once again and it is with great joy that I wish you, your family and friends a *Happy and Blessed Easter*. Many of you will be going to Church, others may still be attending Church virtually or simply worshipping at home. Whatever is suitable for you, we continue to link hands across the oceans to celebrate and remember the Resurrection of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ.

This miracle of Easter with its gift of hope, reminds me of your faithfulness and the faithfulness of all members who generously give hope to so many families across the world. The impact of spreading life-giving hope is beyond all we can ask or imagine, so let us celebrate Easter not only at this time of the year but every day of our lives if we choose to.

During this season I reflected on the good news as written in St. Matthew's Gospel 28:6 (ESV), *He is not here, for He is risen, as He said...* We know that it was an Angel that uttered these words to Mary Magdalene and the "other" Mary at dawn on that glorious Sunday when they went to visit the tomb. So many centuries have passed since that day, and the beautiful truth of the Angel's declaration of the Resurrection continues to give us hope even now and for all eternity. Jesus is risen and is alive so we have hope that one day, we too will be resurrected and live as well.

The more I think of the disciples and their work, the more I believe that it was their experiences of following Jesus, the miracle of the Resurrection, and the leading of the Holy Spirit that pushed them to take the Gospel forward. I believe it is for all these reasons that we feel called to take the Gospel forward in our lives, through prayer and action. This also explains our generous nature and we are inspired to freely express our faith in action through the transformation of families and communities worldwide. We willingly work to ensure those around us are cared for, injustices are called out of their hiding places, and absolutely no one is left behind. It is because we have experienced the love of Jesus Christ in our own lives that we can confidently reach out with his transforming love and compassion to make a difference. It is not always easy and so we thank you for lifting us up in prayer and for continuing to do so each day.

The Covid-19 pandemic dealt us a severe blow and many still live with painful memories, but we did not suffer alone as God has been by our side and still is. In little over a month four tropical storms hit Madagascar causing enormous devastation and members continue to provide much needed relief. Our very own Zonal Trustee Marie-Pierrette who lives in Madagascar opened her home and rescued one family from the flood. Currently our members are networking with the Church and government to welcome refugees from Ukraine and provide much needed assistance. We continue to pray for an end to all forms of conflict and injustice in the world that separates families. We remember at this time our sisters and brothers in Ukraine and Russia who through no fault of their own will suffer both spiritually and materially for decades to come. We pray that through it all and with the peace and hope that is still alive through Jesus' resurrection, we are assured that *Weeping may endure for a night but joy cometh in the morning. Psalm 30:5.*

As we look forward to God's plan for us in 2022 with our theme *Transformation-NOW*, the Worldwide Board of Trustees and Staff at Mary Sumner House join me in thanking you for your love, prayers and intercessions which mean so much to us. We wish you, your family and friends a happy, blessed and joyous Easter. May the spirit of peace, hope and love be yours today and always for *He is risen, He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

With my love and prayers as always,



**Sheran Harper**

Mothers' Union Worldwide President



**Staffordshire County Show**  
**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> June**  
**and Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2022**



Once again Mothers' Union have been asked to help with the refreshments in the Churches tent at the County Show. This is a great family occasion and helpers are provided with an entrance ticket which is valid for the whole day. The refreshments are available from 9.00am to 6.00pm and volunteers are there for a 2½hour shift on a rota basis (usually in twos) and you are free to enjoy the show for the rest of the day. Please contact the office if you would like to be part of this outreach event and let us know which day would suit you, and whether you would prefer morning or afternoon. Thank you!

**Meeting Together**



The Trustees are planning a number of events around the diocese to bring members together to meet each other and the trustees. These meetings will be in June and September/October, either a morning or afternoon, or perhaps even an evening session when the evenings are still light. The events will be informative as well as fun and the opportunity to catch up. If you think you can offer a venue and provide tea/coffee please contact the office.



## Quiet Day

An excellent Quiet Day was enjoyed by members at Shallowford House on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March. The day was led by our chaplains, Revd Kathy and Revd Jassica, and focussed on Transformation- NOW!-the theme for MU in this triennium. Based on the transformation of the 'hungry caterpillar' through the cocoon stage to beautiful butterfly, participants were invited to look back at life before the Covid lockdown, during the past two years and think ahead to the future, remembering that the rainbow follows the rain. Members enjoyed beautiful spring sunshine to walk or sit in the gardens, observing the resident animals



## Annual Gathering

After two years enforced break the Annual Gathering of MU members from across and Britain and Ireland , and beyond, will take place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> September in Belfast. The service will be in the evening of Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> in St Anne's Cathedral. The tickets for both events are now available for booking. There is an information pack on the central Mothers' Union website and I shall make sure it goes on our diocesan website too. Belfast is a beautiful city with lots to see, as well as having the opportunity to meet with members from other diocese and provinces.

## Diocesan Administrator

Interviews have taken place for a new Diocesan Administrator and it is hoped that an appointment will be confirmed soon. The new appointee will deal with all office admin as well as much of the day to day financial admin. More information, including office opening hours, will be publicised soon.

## Spring Council

The next Spring Council meeting will be held on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May at 7.00pm. The agenda will be sent out shortly to Council members but all members are welcome to attend. The meeting will be at Doxey but, at this moment we are not sure if it will be available on Zoom as well. Much will depend on the technology available at the time! We shall let you know! The speaker will be Revd Jassica Castillo-Burley who will tell us about the new Telford Minster and the ministry based there. Tea and coffee will be available before the meeting from 6.30pm. If you feel you can help with this please contact the office.

## Commissioning Service March 26<sup>th</sup> 2022

The service of commissioning Trustees and Chaplains was held in Lichfield Cathedral with many members and friends in attendance. The trustees thank you for your love and prayers



### Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley

Interim Minister, Telford

[jassica@telfordchurch.co.uk](mailto:jassica@telfordchurch.co.uk)

01952 957348

Rev Kathryn Trimby

Llanyblodwel, Oswestry Deanery

[kathpant@aol.com](mailto:kathpant@aol.com)

07944 504330

01691 590025

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)

### Diocesan Office

Just a reminder of the office contact details:

Mothers' Union Office, Parish Church of St Andrew and St Thomas,  
Doxey, Stafford, ST16 1EQ

Tel: 01785 227221 (answer machine available)

email: [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)

website: <https://mothersunionlichfield.org.uk>