



to the latest newsletter.

Dear friends and members

The last newsletter went out just before Easter and here we are at Ascension Day! Where did those weeks go? I hope that you have been able to enjoy some Spring sunshine recently although we do seem to have to put up with some heavy showers as well! I know that the gardens need the rain, but the weeds seem to grow faster than the plants we are trying to cultivate!

The recent weeks have been busy, including a visit to High Leigh Conference Centre to meet with 30 other Diocesan Presidents and Trustees from Canterbury Province. Much information is usually shared at these occasions but often the most help come from talking with others over coffee or lunch! Some dioceses have no president and are working on a committee basis and others are blessed with a full complement of trustees and officers. However, we all are faced with the same problems of branches closing and the difficulty of communicating effectively with all members. A new focus being taken up by central Mothers' Union, alongside and linked to our campaigning against Gender Based Violence, is Domestic Abuse in this country. Two members who are part of the Steering Committee for this developing aspect of work, gave brave and moving accounts of their own experience of being a victim of coercive behaviour, one form of domestic abuse. I know that many branches support refuges and I think there will be resources produced to enable us to do more in this area.

I am sure many of you are planning events to celebrate the Platinum Jubilee of our Patron, her Majesty the Queen. We give thanks for her dedication and long reign and pray for good weather for all the street parties and events happening everywhere! There are resources, bunting etc, on the central website for this and the Summer of Hope which is focussing on inspirational women in leadership. If you are holding an event, please let us know about it! Photos are always welcome for this 'enews' and the Lichfield Beacon.

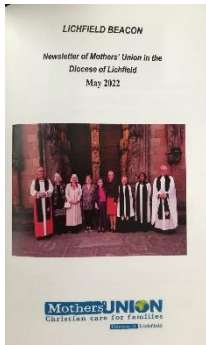
One last event to let you know about – on Friday 27th May there will a service for 'Thy Kingdom Come' at 2.00pm, live streamed on central Mothers' Union Facebook and YouTube. The service sheet is also on the website.

Love and prayers to you all

Helen

Diocesan Administrator

I am delighted to let you know that, after the advertising and recruitment process mentioned in previous newsletters, the trustees have appointed Mr Adrian Palphreyman as the new Diocesan Administrator. Adrian began working with us on Monday May 16th and he will be available in the office to answer queries during the following hours: Monday 9.30am – 1.30pm, Tuesday 10.30am – 2.30pm and Thursday 9.30am – 1.30pm. He will be happy to hear from you!



Lichfield Beacon May 2022

The new edition of Lichfield Beacon was available at the Spring Council meeting on May 12th. Branches/groups represented at the meeting were able to collect copies for the branch/ group. The rest will be dispatched, mainly by post, as soon as possible. Please be patient as we prepare the parcels and get them sent off.

We are aware that there are still some failings with the databases here and at Mary Sumner House but please be assured that the problem is a top priority, using the report forms and other information sent in during the early part of the year.

Advance Notice

Diocesan AGM

Diary date

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Doxey Church, Stafford, on Thursday 7th July 2022 at 7.00 pm. It hoped to provide a light buffet supper before the meeting. More details will go out with the agenda nearer the date. It may again be able to Zoom the meeting if there are sufficient requests for it.



Staffordshire County Show Wednesday 1st June And Thursday 2nd June 2022 HELP NEEDED!



Once again members of 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 2¼ hour shift on a rota basis (usually in twos) and you are free to enjoy the show for the rest of the day. The rota has been filled up apart from **one person to complete the afternoon 3.45 – 6.00 slot on Wednesday 1st June**. It is not too late to volunteer! Please contact Helen on 01785 713967 (or email hapalfrey@sky.com) if you are able to be part of this outreach event. Everything is provided by the Churches Tent team. Thank you to all who have already committed! Enjoy your day!



Hi! I'm Adrian Palphreyman, your new Diocesan Administrator. I'm married to Jackie, and we have two children - Beth is 15 and Josh is 14, and a 4-year-old mad foxhound/beagle dog called Ellie. As a family we worship at St Pauls Church in Stafford and are active members - Jackie is a Church Warden and by default I'm her deputy and look after the fabric. We also help organise Messy Church. I worked for over 30 years in local government in various financial, administrative and management roles, the majority of which were supporting schools with in-service training. I very much look forward to meeting you all over the coming weeks and supporting the Lichfield Mothers Union. If you are in Stafford please call in and say hello, you will be most welcome.

Meeting Together

As you probably have heard, several events, called 'Meeting Together' are being planned by the trustees. They are intended to allow members from different branches/groups, as well as diocesan members and interested non-members, to meet to enjoy fellowship, learn what is going on in Mothers' Union (here and elsewhere) and help shape our future. Some of you may remember 'Committees Days' and 'Members' Days' -we hope these events will be more interactive as well as informative. They are not intended to be just for the members in the area around the meeting – members are free to attend any of the meetings – or all, even!

The events are designed to last about 2 hours with the host branch providing tea/coffee before the meeting and after if needed. The plan for each meeting will include opening worship followed by 4 sessions of 20/25 minutes each with time for some evaluation and closing prayer. There will be time to talk to others, and the trustees about matters which are of concern or ideas to be shared.

Dates so far:

- Tuesday 14th June 10.30 -12.30 Berkswich Branch
At St Thomas Church, Walton on the Hill, Stafford ST17 0LQ
- Thursday 1st September 2.00 – 4.00 St Giles Branch
At St Giles Church, Wenlock Rd, Shrewsbury SY2 6JP
- Saturday 24th September 10.30 -12.30 Tutbury Branch
At St Mary's Church, Tutbury DE13 9JE
- Tuesday 18th October 2.00 – 4.00 Streetly Group
At All Saints Church, Streetly B74 3JL

Trentham Branch have also offered to host, but the date has not yet been set. All the September/October dates will be confirmed nearer the time as well as any new dates to be added. Information will be on the website and any new dates will be added. The trustees do hope to see as many members and friends as possible at these events. It is a while since we were able to meet up!

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 24th September in Belfast. The service will be in the afternoon / evening of Friday 23rd 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. I hope some members will be able to attend. Please contact me or the office if you want more information.

Provincial Conference

Meeting with other Diocesan Presidents in Canterbury Province
at High Leigh Conference Centre, Hertfordshire.

Also present Kathryn Anderson, Provincial President,

Julia Jamieson, Zonal Trustee,
Bev Jullien, CEO
and Rev Emma Ham-Riche,
Provincial Chaplain.



Spring Council

The Spring Council meeting was held on Thursday 12th May at 7.00pm. Nearly 50 members were present at Doxey Church and several more were able to join by Zoom. There was a hiccup with the technology which meant that the video link for the latter part of the meeting was not available to those on Zoom, for which we apologise. We think these 'hybrid' meetings will become more common especially in such a geographically large diocese.

The opening worship was prepared by Rev Kathy, one of our Chaplains, and led by Rev Jassica, the other Chaplain. Rev Jassica was also scheduled to be our speaker, but she brought along a colleague, Rev Laura who spoke instead about Telford Minster and the work reaching out from the centre of the town. A vibrant and enthusiastic team is based at the Minster in the centre of Telford and already is attracting large numbers of people many of them young, using music and art workshops, as well as hospitality, friendship and support. Please keep this ministry in your prayers.

Rev Chris Rushton

I am sure many of you are wondering why Rev Chris was not commissioned as a Diocesan Chaplain at the service in March. He retired from parish ministry last year and has now had the opportunity to be involved in another chaplaincy which will involve some travel. He felt that he could not commit as much to the role of Mothers' Union Chaplain as he would like but hopes very much to have some involvement in the life and worship of Mothers' Union in this diocese in the near future. We wish Chris well in this new role, our love and prayers go with him, and we look forward to being able to work out a new involvement with LDMU.

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

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



We understand that the Daily Hope line no longer has a connection to MU Midday prayers. However, Midday Prayers are still available on the Mothers' Union Facebook page. You do not need to have a Facebook account to watch and listen.

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