

Newsletter

Summer 2022



to the latest newsletter.

Dear friends and members

As I write we are once again experiencing another spell of hot weather. Whilst it is good for families who are on holiday it can be difficult for many of us to cope with and the gardens and parks are suffering from lack of rain. Although here in the Midlands we are not suffering as much as areas further south, we need to pray for our farmers whose crops are suffering from the dry weather and will either not mature or will ripen too soon which results in a reduced harvest.

I have been able to have some time away from home, revisiting Northumberland and then catching up with family and friends in Scotland and Tyneside. The weather was kind to us and the travelling was fine apart from the last leg of our grand tour. A journey from the renowned Tebay services should have taken about $2\frac{1}{2}$ hrs took nearly 8 hrs! The M6 motorway was closed because of a lorry fire but we were thankful that we had neither children or animals with us. It was good to reach Charnock Richard services though!! I believe, that on another stretch of the motorway a brass band had left their vehicle and been entertaining those around them! As far as we know there had been no injuries so we thank God for that.

As you know Katherine May represented the diocese at the Reimagining MU conference at the beginning of July and a comprehensive newsletter from her was sent out very shortly after the event. We welcome, indeed NEED, feedback either to Katherine direct or via the office so that the trustees can discuss and formulate a plan for the way ahead in the Diocese of Lichfield. We appreciate that it may have been difficult to print off and circulate but hope that, by reading it and passing on the information to other members, some positive ideas may emerge. We hope to hold some Zoom meetings which will be publicised soon.

I know that many of you do not meet in August but there are still events such as garden parties being held so I hope that all goes well with these. Don't forget to send photos to Jean Price for the next edition of the Lichfield Beacon! I hope that the rest of the summer provides a break to catch-up with friends and/or family if you haven't yet been able to do that.

Love and prayers

Helen

Diocesan AGM

At the recent Diocesan AGM the draft Constitution and Regulations were discussed and approved. These documents were sent to Kathryn Anderson, Canterbury Provincial President who has suggested some very minor alterations in wording. The documents will then be sent to the Charity Commission for final approval. The trustees hope that this process will be finalised without too much delay.

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 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 Helen on 01785 713967 or hapalfrey@sky.com or the office if you want more information.

SAVE THE DATE!

Staffordshire County Show 2023

As in previous years Mothers' Union has been asked to help with the refreshments in the Churches' Tent at this event. The dates are Wednesday 31st May and Thursday 1st June. A rota of time slots is set up and the length of each will depend on the number of volunteers! The more people available the less time per slot, giving you more time to enjoy the attractions of the show. Please think about helping with this outreach opportunity to engage with members of the public as well as clergy and other church members who are part of the team.

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.

Please keep the dates in your diary and remember that all members are invited.

Future Dates: 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

There is still room on the calendar for more dates to be added. If you think your branch or group would like to host a meeting, please get in touch with any of the trustees direct or via the office 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!

Mary Sumner Day 2022

August 9th is Mary Sumner Day, dedicated to the founder of Mothers' Union – Mary Sumner, and we would like to commemorate her life with a quote and prayer below:

"Her foresight, her wisdom and judgment laid the great foundation stone for us. And as the building grows, and far and wide her early message goes forth – the same message, though to a different generation – we pray that the faith which shone through her every word and thought may illumine ours, that we, with grateful hearts, may build well and truly, as she did." December 1927; Mrs Boustead, Central President of Mothers' Union



A prayer written by Mary Sumner in 1876:

All this day, O Lord,

let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;

and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,

whether through the word I speak,

the prayer I breathe,

or the life I live. Amen

News from Mary Sumner House Lambeth Conference 2022

The 15th Lambeth Conference began on the 26th of July and ended on 8th of August. It is a gathering of the Bishops and their spouses of the Anglican communion, who come together to address matters related to the Church, and to delineate a path forward. Mothers' Union is proud to have been associated with the conference for many years, and supported the creation and delivery of the spouses programme. This year, we put up a stall at the main conference hall at University of Kent, showcasing our work across the world, some of the products we produce and our #NoMore1in3 campaign against gender-based violence. We invited people to draw, sign, smudge or mark the wall if they pledged to end gender-based violence. Our stall attracted a lot of attention and many Bishops, spouses and volunteers pledged their support for our campaign.





Worldwide President, Sheran Harper (pictured centre) addressed the Conference as well as being involved with the spouses' programme and in the resource space.

A Reflection for August from Jenny Barton

Zonal Trustee for Wales on the Worldwide Board

My dear friends, greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Here we are in the eighth month of the year, but it only feels like yesterday we were celebrating Easter. This got me thinking and of course my first thoughts went to Mary Sumner Day, which, although we celebrate this on the 9th of August, should be celebrated on the 8th of August, however this date was already the Feast Day of St Augustine, so the 9th was chosen for Mary Sumner. I then thought about the significance of the number 8 and on looking it up found that in biblical terms it represents new beginnings just like Easter. The first of these new beginning leads us to Noah, when God saved 8 people to begin a new life after the flood. Then looking at the New Testament, we see that Jesus showed himself alive 8 times after his resurrection from the dead. His first appearance alive was to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9 - 11). He then showed himself to two disciples traveling to Emmaus (Luke 24). Next, he appeared to all the disciples except Thomas (John 20:19 - 24) then a week later to all them when Thomas was present (John 20:26 - 29). According to the apostle Paul, Christ also was seen by 500 believers at one time (1Corinthians 15:4 - 7). Jesus also met his disciples at the appointed place in Galilee (Matthew 28:16 -17) and on Galilee's shores (John 21:1 - 24). His final meeting was on the Mount of Olives, where he gave his followers instructions before ascending to heaven (Acts 1). New beginnings can also mean a new order or creation, and mankind's true born again event when we are resurrected from the dead to eternal life. So, the number eight certainly has a great deal of significance for us.



I like this picture which shows the tree of life entwined in the number eight reminding us that this is a God given blessing. We certainly need to celebrate Mary Sumner Day again this year and the Mothers' Union have once again produced materials for us to do so even if we don't celebrate until the 9th. Therefore, in this 8th month of the year let us celebrate new beginnings following our theme of Transformation—NOW

Let us also continue to pray for our CEO Bev and the Senior Leadership Team, Rob, Adam and Richard. Remembering and giving thanks for Sheran, our WWP and the members of the WW Trustee Board as they seek to further the work begun by Mary Sumner and that first group of inspirational women so ahead of their time. Have a wonderful day however and when you remember our founder.

Love & Prayers Jenny

Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley Interim Minister, Telford

jassica@telfordchurch.co.uk 01952 957348

Rev Kathryn Trimby Llanyblodwel, Oswestry Deanery

<u>kathpant@aol.com</u> 07944 504330 01691 590025

Associate Diocesan Chaplain Rev Chris Rushton chris-rushton@outlook.com

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

Diocesan Office

The times when Adrian, Diocesan Administrator, will be available to take calls are:

Monday 9.30am - 1.30pm Tuesday 10.30am - 2.30pm Thursday 9.30am - 1.30pm

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