



Newsletter

March 2023

Update on Membership

Thank you to everyone who has joined or renewed membership of Mothers' Union in Lichfield Diocese. We think we have received most of the membership forms and subscriptions but if you have not yet submitted yours, please send it in to the office as soon as possible.

It has been a much bigger job than anticipated but we are nearing the end, and most of the information has been updated on our local database and new members added to the Mary Sumner House Database.

We are still intending to send out Branch Lists to Branch Leaders for you to check that your membership is as you expected, but this will now be the beginning of April rather than March as we earlier indicated. If you have any queries on membership, please contact the Office.

Please note that the office is officially closed for Easter from Monday 3rd April to Friday 14th April. although I will be working much of the regular hours apart from Easter Monday, 10th April.

Kindest regards and Happy Easter

Adrian

Diocesan Administrator

Quiet Day

The closing date for booking a place at the Quiet Day on Monday 3rd April is tomorrow, 24th March. However, it is not too late to book your place -this can be done by either emailing the office office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk or leaving a message on the office phone 01785 227221 with your name, contact details and any special dietary requirements which need to be passed on to Shallowford House. **Please do this before 9.00am on Monday 27th March** as we shall then be contacting the venue with numbers. There is no fixed charge for this event but donations, as you are able, will be very welcome.

Advance Notice –A Date for the Diary

Wednesday 9th August, Mary Sumner Day.

The 12.30 Eucharist at Lichfield Cathedral will be themed around Mothers' Union as we commemorate our Founder.

More details later.

Christmas Cards 2023

An appeal from Julia Collinson

I know that many of you really enjoy writing Christmas cards for the prisoners in our Diocese and that you see it as an outreach into the community.

It seems surreal to be talking about Christmas cards in spring, but ideally, we need the cards to be delivered to the office at Doxey by no later than September.

If possible, I would appreciate it if written cards could be brought to the AGM which will be held at Doxey on 6th July at 6pm in the evening.

Last year 2300 cards were requested and delivered to the prisons, and I expect the number will be more this coming Christmas. Stocks at Doxey are low now so I would be grateful if branches/groups were able to send 50 cards each to boost stocks to the anticipated request of 3000. Perhaps a meeting could be used to make cards using last years' ones! Individual donations will, of course, be more than welcome.

May I gently remind everyone that the wording on the cards must be:

With love and prayers from Mothers Union.

Thank you so much.

Julia

Annual Gathering – York, 22 September 2023

Would you like to attend the Annual Gathering?

Do shout now!

The Mothers' Union Annual Gathering is being held in the lovely city of York on Friday 22 September. Some Trustees plan to attend. But you could too, with expenses paid by MU in our diocese.

At our Autumn Members' meeting, last November, Trustees extended an invitation to support two members to attend the Gathering, covering reasonable costs of transport and accommodation. Thus far, one member has expressed interest to being one of our Lichfield Diocese MU representatives.

The invitation still stands for another person.

In exchange, we will want a report of some kind to bring back to other members at the Autumn Members' Meeting in November 2023 and a write-up in between times for one of our e-newsletters.

Please do contact us and the LDMU office if you'd like to take part.

We look forward to hearing from you soon,
Katherine May

kemay1957@gmail.com and /or office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk

More information about the Annual Gathering York 2023

Tickets for the Annual Gathering 2023 at the York Barbican on Friday 22nd September 2023 are now on sale at £23.50 (no host city subsidy this year). The programme is in development and will focus on member stories and how we are working together to sustain and grow Mothers' Union into the future. Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President will be at the gathering and the Archbishop of York will be leading the celebratory service at York Minster that evening. The central webpage will be updated on a regular basis. Please go to

<https://www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023>

for all the information as it is added.

It is **strongly** recommended that if you require accommodation on the Thursday and/or Friday night, you book this as soon as possible, availability is high and rates are low at the moment. Travelodge is offering rooms from £70 per night– links can be found on the web page. The organising committee look forward to welcoming members to York for a packed programme of inspirational stories and information, fellowship, and worship. Book early to avoid disappointment.

It has been decided that this years' annual gathering will be the last until 2026 when Mothers' Union will celebrate 150 years since Mary Sumner invited the mothers in her community into her front room. How the world, and family, has changed since then! But the needs are still many and we must continue to make Mothers' Union relevant and 'out there'!

Diocesan Day of Prayer 2023



Mothers' Union in Lichfield Diocese has been invited to participate in the Diocesan Day of Prayer which is taking place from 12.00 noon on 19th April until 12.00 noon on Thursday 20th April.

We have been allocated the time slot for the hour starting at 5.00am on Thursday 20th so set your alarm clocks to join Deb Tudor on our early slot in the Diocese 24hrs of prayer. In our hour from 5.00am to 6.00am we will be highlighting in prayer the work that goes on in our deaneries as well as our wider projects. Please support Deb and Mothers' Union by joining her.

Zoom details ID. **828 1960 9529** Passcode. **349030** Title of virtual prayer room

Making a Difference

Following on from the 'Meeting Together' sessions in 2022, the trustees are planning a similar programme of events with the theme 'Making a Difference'. We shall be keeping in mind the ideas which came from the Re-imagining process last year.

The events will be planned to last 1½ - 2hours and be a mixture of getting to know one another, worship, learning from each other and fun! The session could be held in the morning, afternoon or evening (summer months!) in church, a hall or even in a house if a small group is involved.

If you, your branch, group or church would like to host a meeting please contact the office or the trustees for more information to offer a date, time and venue.

It is hoped to have at least one session at Doxey but a date has not yet been arranged yet.

Prayers

The prayer link continues using Email, phone, WhatsApp. Just say how you want to be included. To offer to be a 'pray-er' or request prayers for yourself, someone else or any situation, please contact Deb or the office.

Let's share.

Deb : debtudor@live.co.uk

01543 382390

Office: office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk

01785 227221

Lichfield Beacon

The future of our diocesan publication has been under review and it is felt that the time has arrived for a new style. Whilst details have not been finalised it is likely to be something which can be sent by email to as many members as possible, and also something which can be produced 'in house' thus saving both printing and postage costs. If you have any suggestions regarding the format, content and frequency of a new publication please let us know. Your opinion matters! In the meantime please keep sending your news and photos to Jean Price (jeanprice1@btinternet.com) or the office (details below).

Dear friends and members of Mothers' Union

I expect you were hoping to get away with not hearing from me this time! There has been so much of greater importance to fit in that I decided to take a back seat (or rather back page!)

As we look forward to Eastertide and the certainty of longer hours of daylight, if not better weather, I wish you a blessed remainder of Lent and the joy that comes with the resurrection of our Lord Jesus.

Love and prayers

Helen

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. A number of volunteers have already come forward and the rota is slowly coming together - but more are needed to help out for the hours we have been asked to cover. Please consider this opportunity to put MU into the public eye. If you would like more information about what would be involved please contact Helen (hapalfrey@sky.com) or the office (details below).

Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley interimteamvicar@gmail.com

Rev Kathryn Trimby Llanyblodwel, Oswestry Deanery
kathpant@aol.com 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 – Normal Opening Times

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>

EASTER HOLIDAY CLOSURE: MONDAY 3RD–FRIDAY 14TH APRIL. REOPEN MONDAY 17TH APRIL.