



Welcome
to our
Newsletter
September 2023

Dear members and friends of Mothers' Union

Once more it has been a long gap since the last newsletter, and I apologise for that. I think it has been a very strange summer. We enjoyed some hot weather in May and June and then as soon as the 'official' holiday season came around so did the clouds and the rain. And now when the children return to school, out comes the sun again! We can't win can we? But we must think of those other areas where the changing climate has brought catastrophic extremes with wildfires and floods. My mother always said that fire and water are good servants but bad masters. She was not wrong.

I hope that over the 'summer' you had the chance to catch up with family and friends and perhaps enjoy a change of scenery even if it was just a day trip to Llandudno – which is indeed a grand day out!

I expect that there will be young folks that you may know, children, grandchildren, great nieces or nephews, etc or those of friends, will have had anxious times waiting for exam results and are now embarking on a new phase of their lives, maybe moving off to university on that first step of independence, or perhaps the just as momentous first day at school or nursery. All big steps -for the parents too.

Although the summer months have a reputation for being a little quieter with many groups not meeting in August or having an outing instead, there is still much happening - garden parties, lunches and I pray that all of those events were successful. Thank you to all of you who organise them- I know from experience it can be hard work and stressful too!

There is a new item in this newsletter – some news specifically about what is happening in Salop Archdeaconry, compiled by Rosemary Walker. I thank her for the work she has done and am pleased to share it with you all. Maybe some inspiration can be gained from it! If you would like to be a 'reporter' for your area and send in news to be included please contact the office. We know events and projects happen, so let us know so ideas can be shared with others.

On another page you will see a form reminding you about the next Quiet Day, on October 2nd at Shallowford. As on previous days there is no fixed charge although donations, as you are able, are welcome. The day is being led by one of our Diocesan Chaplains, Rev Kathy Trimby so, I'm sure, will be worthwhile. We do need to know numbers so you must let the office know by 9.00am on Monday 25th September. I hope to see many of you there.

There is also a letter from Bev Jullien, CEO, about the central portion of our subs. As you know, part of our yearly subscription goes to central MU and the remainder is used in the diocese to support the work we do here. Our portion will be announced in due course.

My love and prayers

Helen

Mary Sumner Day

On 9th August about 30 members from across the diocese gathered in Lichfield Cathedral to join in a Eucharist service to celebrate our founder, Mary Sumner. Canon Andrew led the service and Pat Empsall, Rev Val Hicks, Katherine May, Helen Palfrey and Deb Tudor read the lessons and prayers. There were others in the congregation, so we hope they learned something of Mothers' Union and our work. After the service some of us were able to enjoy fellowship in the sunshine on the cathedral 'beach' - an outdoor summer event held in the Close.

And wasn't it great to see the Diocesan Banner on display?!!



Making a Difference

Following on from the 'Meeting Together' sessions in 2022, the trustees planned a similar programme of events for 2023 with the theme 'Making a Difference'. We have been welcomed warmly at a couple of branches, but we admit to being a little disappointed that there have been so few invitations. This may be good if it shows that branches or groups are organising a full programme of meetings and don't have a space on the year's programme! Or if you think you can't afford us to come because you may be expected to pay our expenses. Please don't consider that a problem. Trustees are happy to visit branches/groups. When you are planning your programme for 2024 remember that the trustees will do their best to accept as many invitations to visit as possible.

Coven MU Fashion Show



Some of the models

On September 8th Mothers' Union members held a fashion show and sale to raise funds to buy items for the Gem Centre in Wolverhampton which supports vulnerable mums and young families. Over 130 people attended to enjoy a buffet, the fashion show and take the opportunity to buy fashion items.

Thanks to all who attended and support from local businesses over £900 was raised!!! This will buy lots of essentials to go in the 'mum bags' which will be distributed by health visitors to those most in need.

Well done and thank you for all the hard work and sharing your news and photos.



Presentation of some items to the health visitors

Mothers' Union Update from Mary Sumner House

2024 Membership Subscription Rate

Dear Members,

Britain and Ireland Subscription for 2024 - £23

The Britain and Ireland (B&I) Trustees and Provincial Presidents unanimously agreed that the subscription amount for 2024 that goes to the central charity at Mary Sumner House is **£23**, equating to less than £2 per month. This amount forms part of the membership rate set by your diocese.

By having the leanest central staff team and resources in recent history at Mary Sumner House we can continue to offer you one of the lowest subscription rates in the charity and membership sector.

What does this £23 deliver for members?

- 2 **Connected** magazines and monthly e-newsletters.
- Annual Prayer Diary.
- **Resources** available through the website including Facebook, midday prayers, and a wide range of faith, membership, and group resources.
- **Communities of Interest (COIs)**, sharing best practice and improving the impact of our work on Prisons, AFIA, and Domestic Abuse which you are welcome to join.
- Support and information for the governance of dioceses.
- **Reimagining MU** agenda, where extensive member consultations led to the design and delivery of priority projects in 2023 and beyond that focus on ensuring the sustainability and longevity of the global MU movement.
- Mothers' Union **Campaigns** including the current **Summer of Hope** campaign, with resource packs including case studies of those who have benefited from work supported by the membership in B&I.
- Continuing support for **MU policy and advocacy** including against domestic abuse.
- **MU Live**, now adopted globally, a member resource that in 2022 demonstrates that over 700,000 individuals benefit directly from the work of MU members.
- Connecting the Mothers' Union family, for example on key projects like Flourishing Families and Metamorphosis.
- **Global programmes** and development work overseas – enabling projects such as the 20 years of work in Burundi on literacy and financial education, which has benefited over 165,000 individuals, and resulted in 144,000 people being accredited literate, 89% of whom are women, enabling people to lift their families out of poverty.
- Operational management of the central charity.

The Provincial Presidents, Trustees and MSH staff thank you for your member subscription and all you do.

With every blessing,

Bev Jullien
CEO Mothers' Union

Annual Gathering York, Friday 22nd September 2023



The Mothers' Union Annual Gathering is being held in the lovely city of York on Friday 22 September. Several members and friends are heading that way to share a day with others from across the UK and beyond. Our Worldwide President Sheran Harper will be addressing the Gathering to be held in the Barbican and the day will end with Evensong led by the Archbishop of York, the Rt Rev Stephen Cotterill, in the magnificence of York Minster. New initiatives are to be launched and fellowship will be enjoyed. Please pray for safe travelling for all and for the speakers at the meeting. There will be reports of the events of the day in a future edition of this newsletter.

News from Salop Archdeaconry

Compiled by Rosemary Walker

There are branches or groups in:

Welsh Frankton, Market Drayton, St Giles Shrewsbury, Holy Trinity Dawley, Holy Trinity Hadley, Kinnerley, Selattyn and Oswestry.

Members are busily supporting families in their own communities and further afield with prayer and financial support.

There is interest and promotion of what we can do to save our planet. This goes beyond recycling and carefully made purchases. Save Our Shropshire, SOS, is a group of people who will talk to groups about saving the planet and saving to money in our purses.

SOS - Save Our Shropshire (charity commission no: 1195247)

<https://saveourshropshire.org>

A letter from Princess Royal Hospital

which was opened in 1990 by the Princess Royal, HRH Princess Anne, who was shown around the then state of the art hospital by Care Manager Megan Doreen Brown, a stalwart Mothers' Union member holding various offices in our organisation

They write:

..... It is with gratefulness that we have received the little knitted gowns for preterm babies who sadly didn't make it. Expertly knitted by Mothers' Union members in Shrewsbury and Telford areas. The gowns help to bring comfort to bereaved parents.

Signed Bereavement Midwives

A snippet or two from Hadley members.

Purificators are lovingly embroidered with a cross for use at Baptism. They are then handed to each family as a keepsake of the occasion.

A little family from the parish were unexpectedly delivered of twins at 24 week gestation in January 201 at 1lb 12oz and 1lb 9oz. They were cared for in Stoke hospital and supported by the Mothers' Union members there. Tiny baptism gowns were hurriedly made as the twins were not expected to survive. However, against all odds they did survive and eventually came home to Telford. A rocky four years ensued.

Sadly, in October 2022 one of the twins died. Fr Stuart, parish priest and Jo of the funeral support team saw them through the initial few weeks of bereavement.

Sweet pea seeds were handed out at the funeral. These were duly planted and grown in her memory. Fr Stuart and Jo are both still very much in touch with the family and an AFIA holiday has been arranged for them. A blanket using the trellis stitch and crocheted in sweet pea colours, together with an MU teddy was sent out from parish communion for her twin sister the week before the holiday was to take place.

The Mothers' Union in Hadley has continued to support - A Mothers' Union family indeed.

GG* Writes

Technology, communication, good or bad?

We all have an opinion about technology. Sadly, whether we like it or not, technology is here to stay. I feel a sort of responsibility here, Charles Babbage 1791 - 1871 was an ancestor of mine. My mother was a Babbage, I still have Babbage cousins. Babbage invented the first mechanical calculator, the beginnings of the computer age!

I find the whole world wide web fascinating, information at our fingertips, no need for hefty tomes to drag from the dusty shelf. Tap in a few words and Google seems to get the gist and come up with whatever we need! This system never disappoints me.

Oh don't get me wrong, I do like to hold a book and read the written word. In particular to read a good novel in paper form is almost like the author has written it just for me.

A friend once said to me that children in the future won't have to learn to write, they'll need to use a keyboard. Many of us won't see that happening, however, children today are quick with devices and programmes are used for their school and homework.

I have had communication with family members I didn't know I had! A distant cousin who lives in Switzerland for one, whose mother is also a Babbage! We met in 2019, before the pandemic and regularly chat online! I bet Charles Babbage would have loved to know that.

*perhaps better known to us as 'Gadget Grandma'!

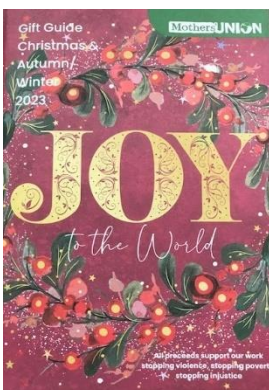
Crafting Community of Interest (COI)

So many of our members make products as part of their MU work. The 'Wool for Wellness' project, launched by our DP Helen earlier this year, is an example of crafting that has met with a fabulous response from you, our members. Others knit and crochet premature baby items, make cards and demonstrate these skills to others.

So, there is a newly formed ***Crafting Community of Interest*** initiated by MSH and you are warmly invited to become involved with that! A few members to lead on this in our diocese will be fabulous. Members can meet either face-to-face and/or via Zoom. How this community will be shaped over time is up to those involved. ***Will you step up and volunteer to be a representative for LDMU?***

There are other Communities of Interest. If you feel that you would like to offer to be more involved please contact the office, or any of the trustees for more information.

Christmas catalogue from MUenterprises



If you have ordered direct in the past, you may have had the Christmas catalogue direct from MUenterprises. As always, our MUE representative Ann Hodkinson is willing to order goods for you, which may save you some money on postage. Ann can also order items from the online shop even if they are not in the catalogue. Just make a note of the order code, and phone or email her. If you do your own order online, please remember to give 'Lichfield' as the diocese receives back a small percentage.

Contact Ann by telephone at: 01785 712357 or email: riverpenk9@gmail.com

QUIET DAY

A Quiet Day has been arranged for **Monday 2nd October 2023** at Shallowford House.

Leader: Rev Kathy Trimby, Diocesan Chaplain

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

Cost: There is no fixed charge but donations, as you are able, are welcome.

Please complete and return the information below, preferably by post or email, by

9.00am Monday 25th September 2023

to
Adrian Palphreyman, Diocesan Administrator
Mothers' Union Office, The Parish Church of St Thomas and St Andrew, Doxey, Stafford
ST16 1EQ
Email: office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk Tel 01785 227221

LICHFIELD DIOCESAN MOTHERS' UNION

I wish to apply for places on the Quiet Day to be held at Shallowford House
on **Monday 2nd October 2023**

Names of Applicants:
.....
.....

Please note any special dietary needs:.....
.....

Contact Name and Address:
.....

Branch (if relevant).....Tel No.....

Would you like directions to the venue Yes/No

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.
Details are below.

Let's share.

Deb: debtudor@live.co.uk

01543 382390

Office: office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk 01785 227221

Many thanks.

Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley interimteamvicar@gmail.com

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.

Our Associate Diocesan Chaplain, Rev Chris Rushton, is taking a step back at the moment because of family circumstances. Please continue to keep Chris and his family in your prayers.

Diocesan Office – Normal Opening Times

Diocesan Administrator : Adrian Palphreyman

The times when Adrian 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>