

Dear members and friends

My first thoughts right now are to be wondering where the summer went! We seem to be in an upside world at the moment with the heating coming on in June and life in general becoming more uncertain. Weather uncertainty is one thing but as I write we are also in the middle of preparations for the General Election. A minor irritation is the date has meant changing our Diocesan AGM because the church is used as a Polling Station. We are also posed many personal dilemmas and pray that whoever forms the next government will govern with fairness and compassion.



I have been out and about since the last newsletter. Deb and I went to Waterfall - my first visit - where we were made very welcome and had the pleasure of presenting 4 Long Service certificates as well as a 90th Birthday card to one of the same members. Congratulations to them all!



At Trysull Deanery Festival at Tettenhall Wood, thanks were given to Margaret Davies who recently retired after many years as Deanery Leader. The photo shows Margaret with flowers to mark the occasion. As you can see I was also presented with flowers. I had spoken during the 'sermon slot' about practical gifts, including the fact that flower arranging was not one of mine! However, practice makes perfect so thank you for encouraging me!!

Penn branch have held a 'Pimms and Canapes' evening, issuing invitations to all who might be interested in finding out more about MU. An encouraging number did indicate they would like to attend another evening to talk about how they could perhaps meet and become more involved.

Accompanying this is a newsletter from Mary Sumner House it seemed easier to send it separately than try to fit it into this one!

I hope you have a good summer, with the opportunity to have a break from the usual routine, perhaps meet up with family and friends or just enjoy the sunshine - if it ever returns!

My love and prayers to you all

Helen

County Show



Thank you to all of you who helped out in the Church Tent at this event. The weather was not as kind as it has been in the past but nevertheless our presence was much appreciated. There were a few technical hitches with equipment but I am sure we all kept smiling!



Katherine and Megan are shown waiting for customers. I took the opportunity to hand over more than 60 woolly hats to the members of the Farming Community Network whose tent was just around the corner from the Church Tent. The picture left shows me with Steve Jackson, the Staffordshire Coordinator. The other photo shows Megan Pittwood with Bishop Matthew.

Provincial Gathering

It is not too late to book tickets for this event. Adrian has also sent out a reminder. The trustees are offering some help with costs if you are prepared to write a report for circulation. Please contact the office for more information. The Canterbury Province Gathering is to be held on Saturday, 22nd June 2024 at The King's Centre in Oxford. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity to meet members from across the province; share information about what we are doing in our local dioceses; enjoy fellowship; and worship together. There will be plenty of time during the day for socialising and to have some fun too. The event is open to all members and you are welcome to bring friends with you; what a great way to learn about Mothers' Union.

Diocesan Day of Prayer

Deb led prayers on our behalf during this time of prayer at the start of May. There will be another 24 hour slot in September as well as prayers included in the Diocesan Prayer Diary during August including Mary Sumner Day. More details will be available nearer the dates. Thank you to Deb who also represents the Diocese on the central Faith Community of Interest.

Mary Sumner Day

We celebrate our founder Mary Sumner on Friday 9th August. Once again, we have the opportunity to join together in Lichfield Cathedral for a service to give thanks for her legacy and the work done by Mothers' Union in today's world. We are participating in the 12.30 Eucharist which will be followed by fellowship (and a picnic lunch?) on 'The Beach', the Cathedral's summer event, brought back for a second time, with sand and deckchairs - all we need is the sunshine! All members and friends will be welcome. More information later!

Books for Prisons

Julia, our contact with prisons would like to say thank you to all those who responded to the request for children's books for the Visitor Centre at Swinfen. The response was fantastic and she delivered a whole carful -literally! Boot, back seats, everywhere! Swinfen is for young offenders so the children are mostly up to about 10-12 years old so books for younger children will be more appropriate but none will go to waste! There are probably enough at the moment so please hold back from any more collections until further notice. Thank you!



Although it is perhaps the wrong time of year to be thinking of Christmas, may I also remind you of Christmas cards for prisoners. Julia estimates we shall probably need about 3,000 this year. There is quite a number in the office but more are needed. Please bring written cards to Doxey if you are to be at the next diocesan Meeting which is the AGM. (Details elsewhere.) Please remember the appropriateness of the picture and the greeting inside as well as our handwritten greeting: *With love and prayers from Mothers' Union*

Julia can be contacted via the office if you have any queries.

Diocesan Meetings - Dates for the Diary

****Tuesday 16th July** **Diocesan AGM**
6.00pm, preceded by light buffet refreshments from 5.00pm

****Please note that this a change of date because Doxey Church is to be used as a Polling Station on the 4th so is not available for our meeting. More information will be sent out separately**

Saturday 2th November (daytime) Autumn Gathering
(Please note that the wrong date was given in the previous newsletter - apologies!)

Diocesan Elections

As you are aware elections for the Diocesan President and members of the Trustee Board have been taking place. Thank you to those who participated in the nominations process. One candidate was nominated for the Diocesan President and therefore there is no requirement to proceed to a vote and the candidate is duly elected. Five names were put forward for trustees. As this number is fewer than places available, no voting is required here either and the candidates are all duly elected. Results will be formally announced at the AGM and new trustees introduced.

Elections at all levels are being carried out but the process for some roles will take a much longer than our timescale! I think it is likely to be September before the new Worldwide President is announced.

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.

Many thanks.

Deb: debtudor@live.co.uk

01543 382390

Office: office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk 01785 227221

Diocesan Chaplain

As many of you will already know, one of our Diocesan Chaplains, Rev Kathy Trimby has left the Diocese to take up a new post in the Diocese of Newcastle in Australia. Her parishes are about 100 miles north of Sydney, The eagle eyed of you may recall that this diocese has been in our worldwide Wave of Prayer recently!

Our remaining chaplain, Rev Jassica is a busy parish priest and so the trustees are seeking someone willing to help out in the short term, until the end of this triennium in December, but also who might be interested in joining Rev Jassica as she continues in the role for a second term. Please get in touch with the office if you have any thoughts on this matter.

MUenterprises



Ann Hodkinson, our diocesan MUE representative, has recently had a fall and may not be very mobile for a while. However she is still able to deal with orders and hopes to be out and about again soon. If you would like to place an order or arrange for Ann to bring goods to a future deanery festival or garden party, please contact her as before. We wish her a speedy recovery

You can order direct from the central Mothers' Union website but will be charged more for postage. If you do order direct don't forget to fill in 'Lichfield' in the optional 'Name of Diocese' box!

Telephone: 01785 712357 or email: riverpenk9@gmail.com

Making a difference

There are a few dates arranged by branches/ groups for these meetings at which the trustees will lead discussions and encourage thoughts about the way ahead. All members are welcome to come to any of the meetings, particularly those within easy traveling distance.

Monday 24 th June	2.00pm	Norton le Moors
Wednesday 26 th June	2,00pm	Berkswich
Monday 1 st July	2.00pm	Pelsall
Monday 8 th July	2.30pm	Lichfield St Michael's (to be confirmed)

Please contact the Office if you would like more information about any of the meetings, or a contact number for the branch. Pelsall branch is particularly keen to invite anyone who is interested in finding out more about Mothers' Union.

Diocesan Chaplain

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley stoswald.minister@gmail.com

Please remember that the Chaplain is there for every member, in every part of the Diocese.

Mothers' Union Diocesan Office

Diocesan Administrator: Adrian Palphreyman

The times when Adrian will be available to take calls are

Normal Opening Times

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

Please call if you intend to visit to ensure Adrian is available.

Tel: 01785 227221 (answer machine available)
email: office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk
website: <https://mothersunionlichfield.org.uk>