

Dear members and friends

This is intended to be a short letter highlighting some points and also including some updates from Mary Sumner House. It is intended that a more comprehensive newsletter will be sent out in Advent.

The end of year paperwork for branches, groups and individual members is being prepared. We hope that many of the branch/group bundles will be collected at the Autumn Gathering on Saturday. Those not collected will be posted in due course, as will letters for you who are not linked to a branch or group. However, if you have not received the information about next year's subscription by early December please contact the office.

As I write this, we are all anxious in anticipation of the Budget announcement later this morning. There are so many rumours and 'leaked' facts that it is hard to know who or what to believe. By the time you get this we shall know the facts and I pray that those of us on fixed incomes will not be too adversely affected.

I attach an update from Mary Sumner House - these are now coming out regularly every month and you can ask to receive them direct by emailing the address at the end of the document.

I hope you stay warm and well over the next few weeks.  
My love and prayers to you all

*Helen*

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### *Christmas Cards for Prisons*

Thank you for the Christmas cards which have been written and sent or delivered to the office or to trustees. We hope that the total so far will meet the need for this year. However, if you are, or someone you know is, coming to Doxey for the Autumn Gathering on this Saturday cards will be accepted at the meeting. This will definitely be the last call for this year! When looking ahead for next year please remember that cards with 'Season's Greetings' are also needed for prisoners of other faiths. Thank you again!

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### *Autumn Gathering*

This Saturday is the last diocesan meeting of this triennium and we are pleased to be welcoming the Rt Rev Matthew Parker, Bishop of Stafford as our speaker. Bishop Matthew commissioned us as trustees so it is fitting that he joins us at the conclusion of this term of office. Although it was requested that the names/numbers of attendees be submitted to the office beforehand I am sure we can cope with a few extra - one less sandwich each! If you are unable to be with us then please pray that the meeting goes well. **Please don't forget we are collecting hats, scarves etc for the homeless projects.**

## *Diocesan Day of Prayer*

Deb led us through two slots during the Diocesan Day of Prayer on September 25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup>. We appreciate that the early morning slots are not for everyone but hope that you were perhaps able to join the Day of Prayer at another time. Prayer is so important, the foundation of our work.

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## *Future of Mary Sumner House*

You all know that Mary Sumner House has been the headquarters for Mothers' Union since 1921. Members at that time each contributed to the cost of building it but the lady herself never saw it. It has been a vibrant place to work and meet but over the past years life for us all has changed. The bedrooms went quite a while ago but the conference rooms were used well until the pandemic altered working patterns. The number of staff has decreased with many of those left working from home on regular basis. The building itself is showing its age with expensive repairs and upgrades being needed in the not too distant future. There has been much discussion at all levels with the most recent being with Diocesan Presidents.

The following statement has been issued:

*The Mothers' Union Worldwide Board is considering the sale of Mary Sumner House and investing the proceeds in an endowment fund which will yield income from interest to support the membership and their work long term. The sale is likely in the next 2-5 years, when the market value for the building has strengthened. The decision will not be taken in haste, and further consultation will take place at a time when a realistic offer is available.*

*At that time, detailed work will also be undertaken to ensure that the endowment fund is structured and managed in a way which safeguards the funds sustainably to support the work of the charity. A new, much smaller home" will be created, most probably in central London, which will house the staff team and key artefacts, and be available for members to visit and meet.*

***If members have any comments or questions in the meantime, they are welcome to raise these through the email address:***

***[property@mothersunion.org](mailto:property@mothersunion.org) which is active to receive emails from Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September.***

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## *Diocesan Chaplain*

As I reported previously, Rev Jassica is our only Diocesan Chaplain now. As a busy parish priest Rev Jassica has a limited amount of time to fulfil the role of chaplain and 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 and, just as important. Please keep Rev Jassica in your prayers.

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley      [stoswald.minister@gmail.com](mailto:stoswald.minister@gmail.com)

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

# 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](mailto:debtudor@live.co.uk)                      01543 382390  
Office: [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)   01785 227221

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## *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](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)                      website: <https://mothersunionlichfield.org.uk>