

“Building hope and confidence”

Things to remember to tell Branch Members: But also remember that not everyone is expected to do, or to attend, everything mentioned below..... but we can all pray....

We are looking for

- 🕊 A **New Trustee** to focus on communications, engaging with Pathways, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc – see Linda for details
- 🕊 Invitation to attend a **Growing in Hope and Confidence Leadership Conference** – June 15th-19th at High Leigh, Herts. A few places left – tickets via Eventbrite at <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/growing-in-hope-and-confidence-together-tickets-90158810429>
- 🕊 Celebrate 1000 years since the founding of the Abbey at Bury St Eds with a Benedictine-type **“Adaptation of the Service of Nones”** for your own daily prayer/Bible routine and for use in your branch meetings
- 🕊 **Lady Day service** at Rushmere St Andrew (25th March at 3.00 pm), and to bring someone who is not yet a member....
- 🕊 Share in the **Discovery Day at Darsham** (30th March– all day) - learn more about the MU and Building Hope and Confidence Together in a fun-filled, brain-engaging, day with others from around the diocese – don’t miss out....
- 🕊 Coach Party to the **“Thy Kingdom Come”** service in Coventry Cathedral on 22nd May – early coach start! See Beryl
- 🕊 We need lots of **bell-ringers** to come and ring at the Cathedral on Mary Sumner Day (9th August) – can you help and ring the bells for us?
- 🕊 ‘Everyone!’ invited to come and join us for the **MU General Gathering** (note the new name of what was the General Meeting) **and Holiday in Belfast** (22-28th September) – Beryl/Monica
- 🕊 Helpers with the **I-Chameleon pop-up shop** (1st-7th October) – come and join in the fun! - See Anna
- 🕊 Greater use of our **Prayer Chain** – praying for the needs of members, family and friends in times of difficulty and stress – see Jean, and let her know the outcomes and when prayers are answered!
- 🕊 **AFIA-promoters** – the work is growing, more contacts made. We need to spread the word in our schools, uniformed organisations, churches, PCCs and parish councils – speak to Val
- 🕊 Has your branch started up a **coffee morning/lunch club/afternoon tea group** yet? “Tea and coffee and cake - *with ministry*” addressing issues of loneliness and isolation, and raising our Diocesan MU profile (see Linda)
- 🕊 **Clewer:** remind members to pray and their keep ears and eyes open for the latest info – see Cathie
- 🕊 Make sure your members know and visit www.musuffolk.org.uk - lots of information and news, and download information for your members - Bags of Love, Prayer card, The Nones Service booklets, etc
- 🕊 Need someone with lots of ideas about sorting our **Diocesan Banner** – see Beryl with thoughts
- 🕊 Those with an interest in volunteering to help establish **Prison** work in our diocese – an opportunity to engage in a special kind of service for God (see Families First, Autumn 2019 – contact Linda)
- 🕊 MSH are looking for **Recipes** with a story as to why they are important for you – so please pass on any you have - exciting and easy, sweet or savoury, cooking to impress or survive - saying why you think this dish means something to you. Please send your recipes and/or grace and prayers to Anisha at anisha.tailor@mothersunion.org and encourage your members to do the same!
- 🕊 Compete for the new **Mary Sumner Award** for highest recruitment level in your branch over this coming year– see Jeanette for more details
- 🕊 Do you have a **story to tell**? We want to hear it! Share it, and we can pass it on (see Linda)
- 🕊 Mothers’ Union is to be featured on the **BBC Songs of Praise** – BBC One on 22nd March 2020 at 1.15 on “Make a Mothers’ Day Appeal – tell members and their families and friends to watch....
- 🕊 **“Make MU visible”** – Trustees have agreed to experiment with sewing labels “Made with love by Mothers’ Union” (or similar) on all the items we make – sewing, knitting, cards, neonatal quilts, seafarers hats, etc. - (available from Jeanette)

So much information to share with members... you may need to be selective as to what is appropriate.....

“When a believing person prays, great things happen!” James 5:16

As Members of Mothers’ Union, we are called to prayer. In “the old days”, the MU was known as the “powerhouse of prayer”: today, alongside prayer, we want to “*Make MU visible*” because we have something special to share As individuals, prayer partners, trios, branches, groups, diocesan, indoor and central members, we have so much for which to give thanks to God.

Thank you God:

- 🕊 For our **MU membership** – for the faith, fellowship, food and fun we share - and especially for the new members joining us as we seek to influence our local community, friends and neighbours
- 🕊 For **our Trustees** who work so closely together – for the planning and preparation of special services, events, activities and outreach opportunities for those whose lives have met with adversity/illness...
- 🕊 For our **global vision** with a **local focus**
- 🕊 For the opportunity to be useful and have a sense of purpose as together we **build God’s kingdom** in the place where we live

We ask God

- 🕊 **To encourage our local clergy**, especially those who are overworked and find the challenges of multi-parish benefice/team ministry difficult
- 🕊 To Remember our sisters overseas through our **Wave of Prayer** links with the dioceses of Lake Malawi, Jalingo, Byumba, and Lucknow
- 🕊 To bless **our leaders**, Sheran Harper, those in Mary Sumner House and all in positions of authority, centrally and in our own diocese, that MU will know God’s will, especially remembering our own Trustee Board and Ian our Chaplain, as we pray, plan and implement new ways of working
- 🕊 To enable us **to be witnesses** in the places where we live – whether through fund-raising, building up one another in the faith, or addressing some of the major issues which face our country today, asking God to motivate, strengthen, encourage, support and inspire us and all those who so **faithfully pray for us, for our branches and all our members**, those who engage in outreach on the frontline on our behalf, who help the less fortunate, and who keep everyone in touch with each other.

Amen: How blessed we are!

Footnote:

Kathryn Anderson has been appointed as the new Provincial President of Canterbury Province (the post formerly held by Nikki Sweatman). We do assure Kathryn of our love and prayers as she takes up this new appointment. There are many changes taking place at Mary Sumner House, and we remember all the new staff in our prayers too.