

# Transformation Now!

## Mothers' Union in our diocese is back in business.

The branch Activity and Goods form that records all the many items donated, or support given to outreach projects revealed that in 2022 Mothers' Union members are back in the business of supporting their local communities in a way that was not possible during the Covid pandemic

Last year Mothers' Union members touched the lives of 8,772 people, an increase of 3,728 lives that were touched by our members in 2021. One of the areas where this increase was most noted, was in the number of donations to foodbanks and also the increase in craft items made by our members. This may in part be due to the wonderful response by Mothers' Union members to the cost-of-living crisis.

**Who do you know?** Mothers' Union in St Eds and Ips, currently has need of a Diocesan Treasurer. The post holder does not need to be a Mothers' Union member. Is this person you, or do you know someone who could take on this role? Please contact Linda Ginn about this post on 01728 648772. Or email [Linda.Ginn@mothersunion.org](mailto:Linda.Ginn@mothersunion.org)

**Is prayer your priority?** Could you be our new Emergency Prayer Chain rep? Please contact Linda Ginn about this post on 01728 648772. Or email [Linda.Ginn@mothersunion.org](mailto:Linda.Ginn@mothersunion.org)

## Two meetings for the price of one

Last year, as part of the re-imagining feedback, trustees were asked to reduce the number of meetings branch officers were expected to attend. In order to achieve this goal, this year the AGM and one of our two council meetings will be on the same afternoon at **St. Michael's Church, The Drift, Martlesham Heath IP5 3PL on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2- 4pm** This has been achieved by not having a speaker at either meeting and just focusing on Mothers' Union business. Please send a branch representative on April 17<sup>th</sup>. There are important decisions to make at the Council meeting, as we find our membership has fallen from 938 members in 2019 to 578 members in 2023. There are also sixteen roles at Trustee and Diocesan officer level that remain vacant. We need to look at restructuring our trustee board and officer roles for the next triennium that starts in 2025, to enable us to meet the challenges of the next triennium.

**Quiet Day** North Suffolk Area are organising a Quiet Day at St. Peter's Church, Holton on 26<sup>th</sup> June, from 10am to 3pm. The day will be led by Revd. Margaret King, the theme of the day is 'Icons'. Tea and coffee will be provided, please bring a packed lunch. To book a place please contact Janet Walkey on 01986 872594.

**A.F.I.A.** – (Away From It All) is a Mothers' Union holiday, day out, or Holiday at home scheme. It is open to anyone who is under stress. With the Cost-of-living crisis there are families and individuals in every community who would benefit. All it takes is for a MU member to ask their vicar to suggest a name and then start the process. Or perhaps it is a child in a local Girl Guide group or the Scouts who needs financial support to attend a camp or day out.

Please contact AFIA Trustee Val Jeffreys at [afiamusuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:afiamusuffolk@gmail.com) for a grant application form or further information.

## **Re-Imagining Mothers' Union Discovery Day:**

**Friday June 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am to 3pm**

**Venue: Shepherd Drive Baptist Church, Ipswich IP8 3SL**

*Shepherd Drive Baptist Church is a new location for our events. It was chosen because of its central location on the Ipswich Pinewood estate just off the A12/A14 Copdock intersection. There is also good bus route from central Ipswich and the railway station. The venue is a modern, fully accessible building with a large car park. We have also been given the use of this venue for a donation and not a fixed hourly rate.*

We look forward to having Mothers' Union members from branches across the diocese come together, to share ideas and address the challenges of running branch accounts, maintaining branch leadership roles and growing branch membership. As well as developing new projects and outreach programmes.

To book your free place contact: e: Jeanette.Appleton@mothersunion.org. m: 07768 418942

### **Find our all the latest worldwide Mothers' Union news here...**

There is an excellent central monthly e-newsletter which helps branch leaders as well as members to keep up to date with our work here in the UK and worldwide: You can sign up by clicking on this link. <https://mothersuniononline.org/p/1I8Y-G0K/sign-up-to-the-mothers-union-mailing-list> You can also find the link at the bottom of the main Mothers' Union website

### **One day Annual Mothers' Union Gathering at 11am York! – Friday 22nd September**

Please book your tickets to the Annual Gathering, our one-day big event of fellowship, useful guidance, and good news stories! There will not be another one until 2026. The programme will include a keynote on global MU from our WW President Sheran Harper, member stories and inspiration from Britain and Ireland and overseas projects, midday worship led by Bishop Emma, our MU Chaplain, an afternoon focusing on how we can support our clergy and promote Mothers' Union and an interactive learning task on growing clergy and member support. This is all followed by a special Evensong at York Minster, led by the Archbishop where Mothers' Union will be celebrated. All this, in one day.

The gathering starts at 11am at York Barbican. For more information and to book tickets please go to: <https://www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023>. You can also go to [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org) and find it under the 'Get Involved' heading on the homepage.

### **Prayers: from our prayer diary for the month of April**

Loving Saviour, Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, we worship you, we give you thanks, we rejoice in your resurrection. May our songs of praise resound in heaven and earth bringing glory to your name. Amen.

Creative prayer: Plant a bulb in a pot or in the garden. As you do so, consider the state of the bulb, which may appear dead but contains the promise of life and beauty within. Reflect on the stages of growth from bulb to thriving plant. Which stage corresponds to your life? Offer your thoughts as a prayer for God to bring growth in your life.