

Peculiar Times!

Greetings! from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Trustees and Officers

News from Mary Sumner House

'Connected'

This is the new Mothers' Union magazine which everyone should have received by post in early April. If you haven't received your copy please give Clare Thomas a ring on 01473 832808 (or email: clare.thomas@btinternet.com) and she will post you a copy. Enclosed with the magazine was a flyer which explains how you can opt out of other postal information from Mary Sumner House such as appeals, raffle tickets and other resources. If you do want to opt out of any of these communications please contact Clare who will update your records on the membership database. Some branches have found that selling Mothers' Union draw tickets to friends and neighbours has been a good way to raise funds for MU while it has been more difficult to hold the usual fundraising events.

Thy Kingdom Come

Mothers' Union will stream a live Thy Kingdom Come service on Friday 14th May at 2pm. You can watch it either on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion> or YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/user/MothersUnion>

Daily Hope

The free Daily Hope phone line is still open – anyone can ring 0800 804 8044 and hear the MU midday prayers or other prayers, services and reflections.

News from our Diocese

Message from Linda

I really have appreciated all the time and effort that Branch Leaders, their committees and members have been making in supporting one another and holding our MU together, right across the diocese, in what have been amazingly difficult times. And I want to publicly thank our wonderful Trustee Board for all their guidance and support over these challenging times, and thank everyone for the contribution they have made as together we rebuild hope and confidence and re-energise the communities in which we live - to thank them for making it work and making a real difference in the lives of our communities. Zoom is here to stay! I would be very happy to join your branch meeting on Zoom if you send me the zoom link.

Linda has moved to Westleton – her new address is Dragonfly Cottage, Bakers Lane, Westleton, Saxmundham IP17 5AZ. She doesn't have a phone line there yet, so if you have an urgent enquiry please call Beryl Mee in the first instance.

MUe

There are some exciting new products in the MUe online shop including a lovely range of mugs, fridge magnets and notebooks with Christian messages or verses on them. We also have handmade fabric face coverings in MU fabric – only £4! If you order online please remember to include the name of our Diocese so we get 10% back. Alternatively send your orders to Clare Thomas who will post or deliver items to you. Contact Clare on 01473 832808 or clare.thomas@btinternet.com.

Safeguarding

Remember that many of us will become vulnerable at times in our lives – whether through bereavement, illness or the onset of dementia. This makes people more vulnerable to abuse from carers, neighbours and family members, and that abuse can take many forms including bullying, controlling behaviour and physical abuse. Be observant, and listen well and if you are concerned about someone then talk to the Parish Safeguarding Officer in your church.

Hymn singing on Zoom!

We have a new activity for anyone who enjoys singing hymns and worship songs. Join our Zoom every Friday afternoon 2.30 – 3.00 pm and sing along! Everyone will be on mute so don't worry about your singing ability, but you will be able to hear the piano and Rachel Parsons leading the singing. You can either join on your computer (click on www.zoom.us then enter the meeting Id and passcode below) or by dialling in on your normal telephone – just dial one of these numbers and then enter the meeting Id and passcode when instructed. Telephone numbers: 0203 901 7895 or 0208 080 6591 or 0208 080 6592 or 0330 088 5830. Meeting Id: 979 9398 9383, passcode 315656.

New Trustees and diocesan officers needed!

We are looking for some new faces to help run Mothers' Union in Suffolk – we really do need more people to share the work, but it is great fun and very rewarding to see new ideas coming to fruition, and you will have the opportunity to help shape what we do in Suffolk. Maybe you can use your existing talents or experience to help MU - are you the safeguarding officer for your parish, could you share that knowledge with MU? Or maybe you would like to get involved with projects in the community and build links with the refuges or prisons? Whatever your skills, experience or interests we will find you a niche! There is more information on our website (www.musuffolk.org.uk) or talk to Linda Ginn or Beryl Mee.

For your prayers:

- ❖ We lift up all those who have lost loved ones in recent months.
- ❖ We pray for those working in retail and hospitality as the shops, pubs and restaurants open up again.
- ❖ We give thanks for the healthcare workers and volunteers who have worked so hard to roll out the vaccination programme.