

TRANSFORMATION – NOW! (formerly “Peculiar Times”!)

Message for Branch Leaders - When planning speakers for your Branch programme, you can take advantage of a presentation offered free of charge. Clare will bring the MUe. stall and Amanda will talk about aspects of life in Ethiopia and Uganda, including the work of the International Water Management Institute. Contact Clare Thomas on 01473 832808 or Amanda Langan on 01473 831692 if you would like them to visit your branch.

Booking Speakers from Mary Sumner House - National Speakers are also available to book for Zoom Meetings. Details on the MSH website.

Branch Projects. If any branches have need of extra financial contributions from Diocesan funds to assist them with local projects like the purchase of Baptism books - please contact our Treasurer Amanda on 01473 831692 to discuss how we can help.

North Suffolk Area. In October we will once again be running the pop-up shop at I-Chameleon in Halesworth. We will be there from 10.00am to 4.00pm on Thursday 13th to Wednesday 19th (except Sunday.) This will be the 6th time we have taken the shop and over the previous five years we have raised £6,700 for the work of Mothers' Union in supporting and empowering families in the UK and overseas. This has been made possible through the generous donations of goods to sell which we have received from members and friends across the Diocese.

We are now starting to collect items for this year's shop and are looking for good quality china and glass, kitchen ware, toys, books, toiletries, gifts etc. We are unable to accept clothes. Any items which have not been sold by the end of the week are kept for further MU fundraising events or given to other charities. If you have items for us, they can be given to North Suffolk Branch Leaders or you can contact me to make suitable arrangements. With many thanks - Anna Vessey 01379 588389 (annavessey4@gmail.com)

News about our Diocesan Treasurer Amanda - Although baptised as a baby it was only recently, after a preparation course became available in her Benefice, that Amanda was confirmed on 5th June at St. Helen's Church in Ipswich. Amanda was one of 21 candidates confirmed by Bishop Martin. Amanda found it an amazing experience. We all send our prayers and good wishes to her at this special time.

We need 2 Area Reps for Sudbury and North Suffolk- Can you help? For Mothers' Union in St. Eds. and Ipswich to work efficiently, we need area reps to coordinate activities which are initiated by groups of branches. If you think you could help, please talk to Linda Ginn on 01728 648772.

Mary Sumner Day Service - Tues.9th August at 11.am. This will be held at St. Mary's Church, Hadleigh. All are welcome.

Future Plans for Mothers' Union. Two delegates have just returned, full of inspiration and enthusiasm, from the national residential 'Reimagining Conference' in Liverpool. Details to follow.

News from Branches

Yoxmere Benefice We have been knitting stars as tree decorations ready to be given out in our parishes in December. A greeting from Mothers' Union will be attached. We recently held a Quiet Day in Westleton led by Revd. Betty Mockford. Her theme for the day was 'Hands that Make, Mar and Mend.' We were blessed with good weather for this peaceful and reflective day together.

Ipswich Deanery are having a Tea and Cake afternoon at St Mary Stoke on Wed. 10th August - 2pm until 4pm. Tea and delicious cake will be available for £2. Some lovely prizes have been donated for the Raffle. Come and buy your tickets. All are welcome.

Shotley Penninsular. Members heard about the work of "Bus Shelter" recently. Using two converted buses, this organisation, which is based in Ipswich, provides shelter and support for those who are homeless, struggling with addiction or going through challenging times.

Bures St. Mary. On 6th July, MU members from this branch provided Refreshments for the first concert of the Bures Music Festival which raises money for several charities This Festival ran until 10th July with a varied programme.

Gt. Barton and Thurston. These two villages came together recently as one Mothers' Union Branch. They have 26 members and alternate their monthly meetings between the two villages. They recently had Sarah Bullen from 'Still Good Food' to speak to them about driving down food waste and providing nutritious, low cost food to local people. Supermarket foods that are close to their sell by date are available at their two shops for a minimum donation of £1 which goes towards the electricity costs for the buildings. Gt. Barton and Thurston members keep busy as Town Pastor Volunteers, as well as having knitting projects and helping with the Foodbank.

North Suffolk Area has been able to support several "Open the Book Groups" in our area by purchasing extra books to make planning easier. We have been pleased to find that although many of these groups could not operate during Lockdown, they are now returning to schools to continue their important work to highlight the importance of Bible Stories.

Prayers. Jesus, Lord of life, by the power of your word and through your actions of love, you call us to be your disciples. Give us the strength to be different, to stand up for justice and peace and be signs of your reconciling love for all. God of grace, enable your servants to carry out your mission on earth through the work of Mothers' Union worldwide. As we participate in our Wave of Prayer, we pray for all our members. May God be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging and leading them, sheltering and strengthening them so that they may work to your praise and glory.

Faithful and loving God, who called Mary Sumner to work for the renewal of family life; inspire us to follow her example and respond to your call to new adventures, new possibilities and new visions for the work of the Mothers' Union around the world. May we always see the world through the eyes of Christ, speak to those we meet with the words of Christ and take with us on our journey the peace of Christ. Amen

This prayer was taken from our website www.musuffolk.org Many resources can be found on this website - do take a look.

