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Charity No. 249726





May 2023 No 40

**Re-Imagining Mothers’ Union Discovery Day:**

**Friday June 23rd 10am to 3pm**

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

We look forward to having MU members from branches across the diocese come together for this event. To book your free place contact: e: Jeanette.Appleton@mothersunion.org. m: 07768 418942

**Quiet Day** North Suffolk Area will be holding a Quiet Day at St. Peter’s Church, Holton on 26th June, from 10am to 3pm.The day will be led by Revd. Margaret King, who will use Icons as a theme during the day. Tea and coffee will be provided but you will need to bring a packed lunch. To book a place please contact Janet Walkey on 01986 872594.

**Good News about Treasurer and Emergency Prayer Chain Co-Ordinator -** We are delighted to report that Amanda Langan feels able to continue in her role as Treasurer. She will try to limit other MU tasks and concentrate on keeping our Finances in order, so that hopefully the job will not be too time consuming. Sue Doe also feels that she can resume her work as our Emergency Prayer Chain Co-Ordinator. Amanda and Sue fulfil their roles very conscientiously and we are really pleased to have them back in the Diocesan Team.

**Mothering Sunday at Mendham.** The Fressingfield Branch of MU has five members who live in Mendham.  These members were given the opportunity to plan and fully participate in the 2023 Mothering Sunday service in Mendham church. I planned the service alongside our minister.  I provided a rose for every member of our congregation. Each rose bore a label that said, "You are loved by God." MU members welcomed people, handed out service sheets, served refreshments, did the bible readings, and lead the intercessions.  It was a really happy occasion and much appreciated by the congregation.At the back of the church, we had set up a display of some of the items we make and give away, together with leaflets about the Mothers' Union in the Diocese and worldwide.  Three people who have been considering membership from our neighbouring church in Metfield, came to the service and committed to joining.   They were enrolled in their own church by MU member, Revd. Canon Andrew Vessey, on Sunday 23rd April. Christine Christian – Branch Leader.

**Review of Constitution** – At the recent AGM in Martlesham, amendments were discussed to ensure that our Constitution reflects what MU is doing and will be doing in the next triennium. You can find these amendments on the MUSuffolk website.

**Communities of Interest** – Over the last few years we have started to use some different names for key areas of MU work. The old ‘Action and Outreach’ is now known as the Development Community of Interest. ‘Faith and Policy’ has split into a COI for Faith and another for Policy. The Communications Unit has become a Media and PR. Community of Interest

**Suffolk Show - 31st May - 1st June**– This year Mothers’ Union has an opportunity to be involved in the Church Tent at the Suffolk Show. It will be an opportunity to talk about MU and to have literature available If you can help with this please contact Linda Ginn on 01728 648772.

**Summer of Hope –** Look out for the information that will be available shortly.

**Thy Kingdom Come** – Look out for the range of material available at [www.mothersunion.org/news/thykingdomcome-2023](http://www.mothersunion.org/news/thykingdomcome-2023). The prayers and service outline on the website can be adapted for Branch meetings. The expanded remit of Thy Kingdom Come this year to “*go the extra mile, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to love and serve those we are praying for or others who are in need”,*fits particularly well with our vision and mission, and also gives good opportunity to share this with others, who may be less aware of MU**.**

**So whose fault was it?** It’s always easier to blame someone else – and the fault lies fairly and squarely with Mothers’ Union Suffolk! It’s through the MU that my husband and I began our wonderful relationship with our Diocesan Link Diocese of Kagera. We thank God for those who opened doors for us.Chris and I first went to Kagera in 2012 at the invitation of the MU there. They were hosting the Tanzania Provincial gathering of MU. What a joyful occasion! Little did we know that our brief visit would end with us hearing God’s call to return and teach in 2013, then in 2017 to take on the role of Kagera Link Coordinators for our Diocese. We’ve now visited six times and plan to go again this autumn.

Kagera is a poor remote corner of Tanzania where we have seen God at work through the church and MU, leading people to experience ‘Life in its fullness’ (John10:10) This is the vision of the Diocese there. There are wonderful stories of hope, perseverance and joy to share, but not enough space!

Do call or email if you’d like to find out more about how the Bishops’ Lent Appeal this year is supporting people there. We’d love to visit your church or branch to thank you for your support and tell you more. And in August/September 2024 there is to be a Pilgrimage there for first-timers - lay people. Do you feel that God is calling you? Planning is at a very early stage but do get in touch if you’re interested in going - Clare Thomas and Susan Reeve have been and would certainly encourage you. Anji Dawkins kagera@cofesuffolk.org or 01473 831423

**Vocations Fair Report** – The display for the Vocations Fair at the Cathedral recently, was to highlight our work with the charity Restored on raising the issue of domestic abuse. It was the first stand that people passed as the entered the Fair. The first person who came to talk to me as I set up the Mothers’ Union display was Graham Miles, who has just recently joined the chaplaincy at Highpoint Prison. Graham spoke of the need to provide support after prisoners have been released and we went on to discuss potential projects for the inmates, such as a ‘Being Dad’ parenting project, AFIA holidays for families of prisoners and the Angel tree project.

I met the vicar from Christ Church Felixstowe who started by saying she knew all about Mothers’ Union and then having looked at some of our resources for churches became much more interested and said ‘I never knew you did this!!’. She took several leaflets and was very interested in the AFIA projects and has a family in mind that she would like to refer for an AFIA grant.

Speaking to a Church Army Coordinator from Sheffield, whose paid job is to raise the profile of his organization, I gathered some excellent ideas such as using zoom to set up a ‘Meet the Mothers’ Union’ event which people from across the diocese could join and details of how to make this successful in terms of follow up and engaging people in local projects. *Jeanette Appleton*

## **Prayers** DP Linda Ginn told usat the Council Meeting in Martlesham that she had sent agreeting to King Charles 111, assuring him of our prayers.

**Almighty God, on this joyous occasion we, the members of Mothers’ Union, offer our prayers for the reign of King Charles 111.May the wisdom of God, the love of Christ and the power of the Spirit guide him to govern with righteousness, that all may live in peace and harmony. We pray your blessing on the King, the Queen and the Royal Family as they share in the privilege and responsibilities of service. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**