

Dear Everyone!

Today it's a beautiful, bright, sunny, winter's morning - unlike so many of the past! I hope this finds you well, and apologise for the length of this email (again!).

Firstly, I am writing to apologise for changing the date of the Council Meeting to the **7th December**. This situation has arisen because of making changes to our BT account whereby first, I was cut off on the phone (the bills were being sent to Richard who's account they had already closed!) and, secondly - having sorted all that, last week my internet account was closed down for several days for the same reason. All is now up and running.

I also wanted to delay the meeting (and am sorry for any inconvenience I've caused) because last week we had a three-day Diocesan Presidents' Zoom Conference, out of which will appear key notes, Minutes and powerpoint slides, probably available now (or soon) on the MSH website - and that, together with the fact that I just don't think my eyes/concentration/computer could cope with another Zoom session so soon afterwards - thus we postponed.

I also have a Cluster Meeting (with Peterborough, Norwich, Ely and Cambridge DPs) on the 3rd December where we will be discussing the implications of the outcomes of the MU Conference, and I will be in a better place to pass on what's currently happening in the Mothers' Union. It's all very exciting. This means there will be no MU newsletter this month, but when I have all the facts and figures available I will write a proper newsletter to you around the middle of December.

The change of date means that we will not be able to remind you about the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, nor the Vigil on the 5th December. Please see the websites. Also, MSH are sending out by post, to each member on the MSH database, on the 19th November, the new Prayer Diary. If it does not arrive on your doorstep, please let me know as I have some spare copies and can send you one. It also contains a letter about the Christmas Appeal (MSH listened - no raffle this year!)

Yesterday Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President, gave the sermon at the weekly Anglican Communion Service from Lambeth Palace - do have a look - <https://youtu.be/O7WMw9U18cw> The service, in all, is about 45 minutes. It's wonderful to be a part of a worldwide service and sharing our faith as one. Sheran's piece comes towards the end and is well worth listening too. Everyday Midday Prayers are also accessible through the MSH website (www.mothersunion.org, and search 'Midday Prayers') - it just brings us all together as MU - we are not alone. For those of you not on the internet, we can still be united by listening to the Midday Prayers on the Daily Hope Line (0800 804 8044, press 9) - if you're not going out or exercising, there's also an option for a daily chair-based exercise programme too!

Also to remind you that we will be having our Blue Christmas Service online on the 21st December at 5.00 pm - the longest day of the year. The Book of Comfort (a really lovely Christmas present) is available from Clare, using the "click here" (don't click this here, here!) facility on our website (www.musuffolk.org.uk). Clare - MUE - also has Christmas cards and other things available on the website which she can order for you. Two special booklets ("*Prayers from the heart - talking to God*" and "*The Bible speaks to us - listening to God*")

have also been produced by St Andrew's Rushmere Mothers' Union (contact Tricia Tyler for details - tylertricia@gmail.com).

MU is changing for the better - "that was then - this is now". I have produced a 40 minute "service" to introduce our new MU theme for 2021 year which will be available to everyone in different formats (depending on how covid goes) which can be used in lieu of a branch meeting, in a group, bubble, individually - let me know if you would like it printed out on paper. I really do believe that we can "rebuild hope and confidence" in the days, weeks, months ahead, and I'm excited by the prospect of where MU is going - we have new opportunities and new challenges and new resources, and it's going to work as together we move forward, sharing the love of the Lord Jesus with one another. Take care, with love as ever, Linda