

## Peculiar Times!

This newsletter comes from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Trustees and Officers

**Ipswich Area Fellowship Coffee Morning on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> November at St Michaels Church Martlesham 10am – 12noon.** We have called it Fellowship Coffee Morning as we have all missed meeting up over these last eighteen months. The stalls will be: Supermarket Food, Garden Items, Toiletries & Kitchen, Fashion Accessories for Ladies, Men and Children, Draw, Refreshments. All will be very welcome to help raise money for Mothers Union projects and to catch up with members and friends.  
Sandra Griffiths.

### **A.F.I.A.**

Pupils from Stone Lodge Academy will be able to enjoy a trip to the British Museum later in the year. A.F.I.A. have paid a grant for £850.00 so they can hire a coach. They had planned this for last year but owing to the 2<sup>nd</sup> lockdown the trip had to be cancelled. I hope the teachers and pupils have a wonderful time.

Stone Lodge is a Special school for students with complex Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD). Thank you to members to have been using 'easyfundraising.' Last month we raised £18.26 and gained 1 new supporter.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stedsipswichmu/>.



These are just a few stores you can shop at online, there are over 5,800 stores to choose from  
Val Jeffreys A.F.I.A. Trustee

**The I-Chameleon pop-up shop** took place between 21<sup>st</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> October. In Halesworth. Thank you for all the items we received to sell. We had a little queue outside when we opened and the shop was consistently busy with many people looking at our large collection of books on the tables outside and talking to us about MU.  
The total raised was £1,433.71 with a further £327.55 for sales of MUE cards.

**www.musuffolk.org.uk** - Our website is regularly updated and is a good way to find out what is happening with MU in our diocese. Please Contact Clare Thomas 01473 832808 if you have MU events or reports that could be included.

**Diocesan Banner** - We would like to thank Penny Braybrook from Henley Branch for all her work to repair the banner which will soon be back on display in the Cathedral. A copy has been cleverly printed which can be taken more easily to events when needed.

**Global day** This year we are coming together on Saturday 27 November, marking Global Day by wearing a purple scarf. We will gather, where possible, for a three-minute silence at 1.03pm (linking to the 1 in 3 theme). We want to make this as big as we can, combining the voices of our 4 million members around the world – calling for action on an international scale and in the countries where we live. For more information, visit [Global Day 2021 page](#) on our website. This links with 16 days of activism against gender-based violence.

**Subs for 2022** Branch treasurers are starting to collect subscriptions for 2022 – the rate is £23. You may have signed up for Direct Debit, but if not please make your payment to your Branch Treasurers or to Sue Norrington if you are a Diocesan Member.

**2022 Theme is ‘Transformation – now’** Information is already available on the MU website

**Blue Christmas service for 2021.** A new service is ready. Why not approach your vicar about including this service in the Christmas services in your parish. So many families have lost loved ones to COVID in the past year.

### **16 Days of Activism**

The recent mailing of our “Connected” magazine included a prayer resource to be used during the 16 Days of Activism. Please make use of this booklet. **Your Prayers Count**

**Re-imagining Mothers’ Union.** Coffee Mornings and other gatherings are planned to discuss the way forward for MU, so that we are as effective as possible in our support of families and vulnerable people. If you had one wish for Mothers Union, what would it be? What do we keep and prioritise? What do we think works well? Give us your views.

**Branch Programmes for 2022** Branches have many good ideas when planning their programmes which often draw on the skills of members. The Diocese is able to help with expenses for one speaker per branch per year. We know that funds may be low, after Covid, so please speak to our new treasurer, Amanda, if this would help your branch.

**Connected -** If you have not received your copy of ‘Connected’ please contact Clare Thomas on 01473 832808.

**Washbags needed for Ipswich Hospital** These can be dropped off at Ipswich Hospital at the Charity and Volunteer Office by entrance 15 or bring them to Council and I will arrange for them to be delivered.

Jeanette Appleton

**‘For Better for Worse’** This new MU book is an excellent resource or gift for couples due to get married. It is available from MUE – just contact Clare Thomas.

### **Please pray for- -**

- Families under pressure through relationship breakdown, financial concerns and the worrying effects of climate change on food production
- All who are involved in the implementation of decisions from COP26. May we all be prepared to do our bit to repair the harm we have done to our fragile world - through exploitation of resources and unnecessary waste.
- Prisoners and the well being of their families, for Prison Staff and Chaplains
- For the ongoing Covid situation – for the mental health of children – for the effectiveness of vaccines and other medication in controlling this virus.