

**Mothers' UNION**

Christian care for families

**Diocese of** St. Edmundsbury & Ipswich

# Pathways



**Spring 2019**

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*"Let us ..... fix our eyes on Jesus" Hebrews 12:1-2*

*Dear Members*

It's nearly Easter - springtime, warm sunshine, daffodils, blue skies - but Easter is so, so much more. It is the time when we remember how Jesus died a cruel death on the cross to pay the price for all our wrong-doing and failures. But then, three days later when the disciples went to the tomb, they found it empty - Jesus was alive! - "You ask me how I know He lives? - He lives within my heart!" And it is because of Easter that we have that joy, that confidence in Christ, that all things are possible. So, how encouraging is that at the start of a new triennium !



Alongside familiar faces, we welcome all newbies - trustees, officers and members. MU has a real sense of purpose and is making a difference to the lives of others through programmes like MULOA, AFIA and the Clewer Initiative. The MU theme for this year is "Listen, observe, act - in step with God" and, through the resources available to us, we can all be a link in the chain connecting people. We can be the means by which others hear about the Christian faith, travelling like ripples in the pond, spreading out from our branches and reaching across the globe.



*You are the body of Christ and each one of you is a part of it !*

A huge thank you to all who have laid the foundations for us to build on today - for the generosity of time, money and gifts; for love and companionship along the way, and all our unseen supporters who underpin all we do in faithful prayer. As an organisation, we have been truly blessed. Everyone is needed, and everyone is valued.

In the diary of events, look out for

\* **“Thy Kingdom Come”- 31st May until Pentecost** - a time when Christians will be focusing specifically on praying that the people they know will discover for themselves the difference that Jesus makes.

\* **Mary Sumner Day - 9th August-** reminding us of our MU roots as we build the confidence necessary to bring up today’s children in the Christian faith.

\* **Our AGM and MU holiday in Portsmouth 15th-20th Sept**  
and so much more - don’t miss out....!

***Until next time, take care, with love and prayers, Linda***

<b>DIARY OF EVENTS 2019</b>	
Wed.10th April	AGM / Council meeting 9.30 for 10 Stowmarket Salvation Army, Violet Hill IP14 1NE
Wed.15th May	MULOA session Hadleigh Church 12.30
Sat. 25th May	St Mary Stoke Coffee Morning 10-12
Wed./Thurs. 29/30th May	Suffolk Show (For information only)
Sat 31st May	Thy Kingdom Come Service Coventry Cathedral
Mon. 3rd June	9.30 for 10am Trustee Meeting Barham Church Room
Wed 5th June	MULOA session Shotley St Andrew’s Church 1.30
Thurs.6th June	Christmas Card making at Di Barkers 01359 241045
Mon. 17th June	COUNCIL MEETING St Michaels Martlesham 6.30 for 7pm
Wed. 26th June	NSA Quiet Day Reydon
15th -19th July	Wave of Prayer
Fri. 9th Aug	Mary Sumner Day Diocesan Communion at Cathedral 11am
Thurs. 12th Sept	Ipswich Deanery Coffee Morning 10-12 Ascension Hall. Larchcroft Road Ipswich IP1 6AR.
15th - 20th Sept	Diocesan Holiday at Portsmouth ( MU AGM 17/18th )
<b><i>Future dates may be viewed on the Diocesan website.</i></b>	

***We are delighted to welcome Revd Canon Ian Wilson as the new Diocesan MU Chaplain.***

After serving in the Suffolk Constabulary for 10 years, five of those as Police Sergeant, Ian attended Lincoln Theology College in 1986 to train for ordination.

He was deaconed at Bury St. Edmunds Cathedral in 1989 and began his curacy in Whitton. He was ordained priest at the Cathedral the following year.

His next appointment was priest-in-charge to a group of parishes in Hadleigh deanery in 1993 and during that time he also acted as a tutor on the Diocesan

Ministry Scheme and assisted in the writing of pastoral units for the Diocesan Ministry Course. Ian continued his own studies, with the Open University, completing various courses in Psychology.

In 2003, he became Chaplain and Head of Religious Studies at Woodbridge School with responsibility for the pastoral and spiritual wellbeing of the students. He led collective worship each day across the whole school (Reception to Year 13) and taught Religious Studies up to GCSE and A level. He also held a commission in the RAF VRT (Volunteer Reserve) attaining the rank of Flight Lieutenant and was fully involved in the School's CCF. (Combined Cadet Force).

In 2012 Ian was appointed Honorary Canon of the Cathedral.

After nearly 14 years at Woodbridge School, in 2016, he was appointed priest-in-charge of 8 parishes in the Colneys Deanery, bringing together two existing benefices. Soon after he took up this appointment, Ian became a member of MU and has promoted MU across the benefice.

Ian is married to Trish and they have two children and three grandchildren (+ another grandchild due in the summer).

*“I have served the County of Suffolk and the Diocese of St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich all my working life and will continue to promote the Gospel of Jesus Christ as long as I am able. “*

***Ian***



## **A.F.I.A. REPORT ( Away from it all )**

I have taken over from Beryl Mee as the AFIA trustee and I have already had 3 requests for information about holidays.

Mothers' Union also hopes to help pupils who cannot afford to go on school activity trips, or uniformed organisation members go on summer camps or activity holidays. If you know a head teacher or school governor or a leader of a youth organisation please let them know about MU AFIA and how they can apply for a grant to enable the person to go on a much needed trip.

***Val Jeffreys***

Email [afiamusuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:afiamusuffolk@gmail.com)



## **INDOOR MEMBERS REPORT FOR 2019**

It is such a pleasure to be looking after our Indoor Members. Unfortunately I am not able to visit them but I am on the end of a telephone and I hope should anyone want to chat or have any queries, they would feel free to contact me. Most Indoor Members have been members of Mothers' Union for a very long time and have seen many changes during their membership. I am also aware of the amount of time they have spent praying for members all over the world. There is nothing more important than this. So I thank and salute all Indoor Members for their faith and prayers. I have 40 names on the book at present, each one received a Christmas card and a copy of Pathways. I do hope you all enjoyed the last copy of Pathways done by our new editor Viv Buckle. I pray that you all stay as well as possible during this year of 2019 and I look forward to the next letter.

***Love and prayers Monica Twaits***



## **NORTH SUFFOLK AREA REPORT**

At the NSA committee meeting in November 2018 decisions were made as to how to disburse the money raised by the pop-up shop at I-Chameleon and at last year's NSA Morning. We have been able to support the work of Mothers' Union worldwide, in the UK and, closer to home, in our own Diocese. £900 has been shared between the MU Emergency Fund, Overseas Fund and Britain and Ireland Fund. £100 worth of gift vouchers were given to the Lighthouse Women's Refuge and £100 bought Christmas gifts for young mothers and their children in Peppercorn Lodge, Ipswich.

This year a Quiet Day is being planned at Reydon for Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> June. It will be led by Andrea Skevington who is a Christian writer and lives in Suffolk. Members and friends from across the Diocese are welcome to join us.

The North Suffolk Area Morning will be held in Halesworth on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The main speaker is to be Julia Hancock from Selig (Suffolk) Trust. This is the group who run the Ipswich Winter Night Shelter and Ipswich Hope into Action.

Following the successes of 2017 and 2018 we will again be running the pop-up shop at I-Chameleon in Halesworth. This will be from Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> October.

Further details of these three events will be sent out and also posted on the Diocesan website as soon as they become available.

***Anna Vessey    North Suffolk Area Representative***



## **IPSWICH AREA REPORT**

We are currently having a discussion about what our role is in our Area. Our Branches do a great deal of grass roots work in the parishes and our Trustees lead us in the Diocese.

In the middle ground my Deanery leaders and I found that the 3 events we organised last year were not well supported and there is always a reason for that.

I wrote to all Branch leaders and my Deanery leaders and I have sent them the results and feedback from that letter. It has been interesting to get their feedback and to hear their views on what role they want us to fulfil as an Area. I will be continuing to think of ways to bring meaningful leadership to our Ipswich area.

2 points I would like to make:

The Diocese has once more been split into 3 Archdeaconries and we need to think of our boundary and if we are giving enough support to the Deaneries with a small number of Branches currently in our Ipswich Area.

Unless a Branch volunteers, we will have to cancel our planned Songs of Praise carol service. I have asked 2 branches to host us and unfortunately neither can book the date of 6th December. We will have our annual coffee morning in the autumn as always, and this year it will be at St Mary Stoke in Ipswich on 2 November 2019.

***Catherine Kersey***

***Ipswich Area Representative***



## **DIOCESAN MEMBERS**

In January I took over from Chris Mitchell, as the Trustee with responsibility for Diocesan members. I sent out my first mailing to you all in January. I hope that as time goes on, I will meet some of you at meetings and events. Chris has given me helpful advice about sending out information to Diocesan Members. I have enjoyed receiving letters from some of you and learning about your Mothers' Union experiences.

***With Best Wishes from Sue Norrington.***

## **SOCIAL POLICY REPORT**

Mothers' Union has an exciting new collaboration with the Clewer Initiative with the aim of stopping modern day slavery by 2030. Modern day slavery includes people who are forced to work for little or no pay in many different areas like agriculture, manufacturing or hand car washes, as well as people suffering sexual exploitation. Watch out for more information on this in the coming months.

***Clare Thomas, Social Policy rep.***



More than 200 years after the abolition of the slave trade there are still an estimated 40.3 million men, women and children trapped in modern slavery, at least 13,000 potential victims in the UK alone.

### **HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT. IN OUR COMMUNITIES**

The Mothers' Union is now working in partnership with the Clewer Initiative to end modern slavery by 2030, and believes that the tools needed already exist within our local communities. Members of the Mothers' Union, in branches across our diocese, have the potential to recognise the problem, raise awareness and make a significant impact in building slavery free communities. Find out more from the web: [www.theclewerinitiative.org](http://www.theclewerinitiative.org)



## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

During 2018, you were as resourceful and generous as usual. Within the Diocese, we were able to spend £2360 on AFIA holidays, £1190 on parenting courses, and £845 for the Womens' Refuges in Ipswich and Bury. Subscriptions to MSH amounted to £10900, most of this being for 2019, and I am very grateful to branch treasurers for collecting this for me so efficiently. There are still some subscriptions for 2019 owing. I also sent £13000 as follows: Britain & Ireland £2140, Emergency Relief £2390, Harvest Appeal £499, Make a Mothers' Day £680, General Fund £415, Christmas Appeal £242, Overseas £3737, Summer of Hope £2911.

Some of this was provided by HMRC through the Gift Aid scheme. I reclaimed £1812 of income tax already paid. This is possible because many members have signed a Declaration allowing me to reclaim tax, and visitors to services have used our Gift Aid envelopes. Added to this, I am able to reclaim tax on anonymous cash donations – this is, for example, cash in a plate at an Advent carol service, or on the table beside the coffee at a meeting. From donations in this way, an extra £1763 made the total £3575. I am sure that you will agree such a gift is not to be ignored and I am grateful to branch treasurers (yet again) for making sure that as many of you as possible are part of this scheme. If you are a new member and do not think you have joined the scheme (and wish to do so), please have a word with your branch treasurer who will provide you with a Gift Aid Declaration Form (or one can be downloaded from our website).

***Keith Foulds Diocesan Treasurer***



### **MUe**

We will continue to have the MUe stalls at our events, but we are also trialling group orders – simply complete an order form with whatever you wish to buy from the MUe catalogue (or look on the website for an even wider selection) then send the order form to Clare Thomas with a cheque payable to Mothers' Union, and we will have your items ready for you at the next Council meeting, free of postage charges. Contact Clare Thomas ([clare.thomas@btinternet.com](mailto:clare.thomas@btinternet.com) or 01473 832808) for more details.

## PATHWAYS

Hopefully, some of you will have noticed that a digital copy of Pathways is now available on our website and if you use the internet I think this is an excellent way to access it. No more 'where did I leave my copy ?' ! I know many of you prefer the paper copies and they continue to be an excellent information and publicity resource for MU when left in our churches and passed on to friends.

Trustees have decided this is the last issue in which we will be including an announcements page. There are GDPR (Privacy) implications for some entries. Trustees are grateful to Margaret Rollins who sends out birthday cards to members over 'a certain age' and she will continue to do this!

To comply with GDPR I now have to complete a Photo Consent form for all photo's included in Pathways, so if you do send me a photo of individuals I will need to contact you to check that you have their express permission for it to be published.

I would be delighted to receive short articles, poems or readings you think might be an encouragement to other members, which I might hold in reserve for future editions.

Please send items for the Summer 2019 issue by Monday 3rd June .

Viv Buckle [vivbuckle@aol.com](mailto:vivbuckle@aol.com)



## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **In Loving Memory**

Sylvia Helena Craig, 12<sup>th</sup> June 1924 – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2019

It is with sadness that we record the death of Sylvia Helena Craig, aged 94. MU members recently attended her Service of Thanksgiving at St. Leonard's Church, Horringer. Her family spoke warmly of her extensive knowledge, her musical talent and her caring nature. Some members may remember how Sylvia used to write fortnightly articles for the E.A.D.T. ; how she held wonderful garden parties for the M.U. at her home in Bury and how she would often be seen driving her sports car until she was at least 80 ! Sylvia spent her last few years at St. Peter's Court in Bury. A letter of condolence has been sent on behalf of MU to her family. A staunch member of M.U., Sylvia will be sadly missed.

Susan Brown 83 St Mary's Woodbridge Oct 2018  
Doreen Ash 96 St Mary's Woodbridge Dec 2018  
Erica Coe 98 St Mary's Woodbridge March 2019  
Bryan Green - beloved husband of Viv All Saint's Kesgrave



### **Birthdays**

Viv Green 21st June 2018 All Saints Kesgrave- 80  
Mavis Proctor 26th Sept 2018 St Mary's Woodbridge - 90  
Betty Richardson 19th Dec 2018 St Mary's Woodbridge - 90

### **Anniversaries**

Christine and Peter Christian Golden Wedding March 2019  
(Fressingfield)  
Margaret and David Lowe Diamond Wedding Oct 2018  
(St Mary's Woodbridge)



**Long Service Award** Violet Tooke - 50 years membership



**The Lady Day Service and Commissioning of Officers** on March 25th saw MU members from across the Diocese gather at the Cathedral in Bury St Edmunds . The service was led by The Dean, Joe Hawes and Bishop Martin celebrated the Eucharist, gave the address and Commissioned our new Diocesan President, Linda Ginn, our new Chaplain, Revd Canon Ian Wilson and our Trustees and Officers. MU Members, friends and various “dignitaries”, including the High Sheriff in full regalia uniform, reaffirmed their Christian faith and commitment to caring for those in our local community.

Reflecting on the story of Annunciation, in Luke 1, Bishop Martin said that, like Mary, we are called to live out the fact that God is with us in life’s challenging circumstances. Like Mary we need to honestly confront our fears and not be afraid to ask difficult questions. We need to help others ask their faith questions too and not just pretend everything is fine when it’s not ! We will then find that God will give us all the courage we need as we step out into unknown territory.

The Bishop said we might be called Mary’s Missionaries - (*M&M’s maybe - Mary the Mother of Jesus and Mary Sumner I think* ). Our mission is to strengthen the family of blood and water and the family of faith and Spirit, with the love, joy and courage which God gives us.

***Viv Buckle***

