



Away From It All

- listening and supporting schools + youth organisations

Befriending

- seeing, and responding to need in local communities

Clewer Initiative

- tackling issues around modern-day slavery by 2030

www.musuffolk.org.uk

Prayer of Mary Sumner
(Founder of Mothers' Union)

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen

St Edmundsbury and Ipswich MU Diocesan Strategy for 2019-2021

Our Mothers' Union theme for 2019 is

“Listen, observe, act – in step with God”

After completion of an initial questionnaire given to Trustees, and much discussion both in private and at meetings, the following strategy has evolved. It's simple: A, B, C.

We will be focusing on **AFIA** (Away From It All) holidays – a very national MU initiative, *listening* and supporting, through fund-raising and grant provision, our young people in schools and youth organisations in this diocese providing them with an opportunity to share in activities which could otherwise be unaffordable.

Befriending will be noticing or *seeing* the need around us. Whether this be through a home-grown MU project allocating specific time and energy for a particular MU cause (eg. setting up a prison project group (Community of Interest) or initiating/supporting “Meet Up Monday” (see YouTube clip), café church, craft clubs or visiting, the Night Shelter and/or refuges – wherever situations arise in the circles in which we move, we can think befriending and show we care.

Clewer Initiative and the MU are working together in partnership to eliminate Modern-Day Slavery by 2030. In our diocese, we will have representation on a Diocesan Standing Committee, with a small team of MU supporting members. We will be *acting* on the information we receive from them, whether through actively learning more through our speakers and workshops, or by being the ears and eyes in our own community and using technology, or making a commitment to pray regularly for those on the front line.

It is not anticipated that every member, in every branch will engage in every aspect of the strategy ! – it is the direction in which we are intending to travel together. At the end of three years, we will be able to look back and see what has been achieved. The strategy is hopefully all-encompassing - for those more able there are opportunities to fully engage; others can contribute by making a regular commitment to pray, whether on an individual, pairing, trio, small group or branch, deanery, area or diocesan level.

The strategy is designed to help us enthuse, encourage, engage, enrich and enjoy the opportunities we have to build community, and to show Christian care for the families around us. In God's strength we can do what may feel to us be impossible. Let's see!