

Reports for Council Meeting November 2018

Social Policy Report

Nothing to report on Social Policy. No Policy Watch newsletters have been published since March.

Resources for the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence are now available on the main MU website.

Website Report

The website Contact Us page has been used by a wide range of people – from members asking questions / submitting information for the website to an EADT reporter! We now have details of all branches on the site, and an increasing amount of information on our Diocesan policies and related documents like the risk assessment form and event checklist. Thank you to everyone who has sent me photos and material for the website.

Clare Thomas

Action & Outreach Report

A Hardwood bench seat has been bought and installed at the Woman's Refuge garden in Ipswich which the ladies can use and relax and chat as part of their therapy.

Several Mothers's Union members came with me to see Mother's Union donation in position and we had a lovely morning relaxing and talking to the staff.

There are pictures on our web site. The Refuge ladies and staff expressed their deep gratitude for our kindness in donating a good quality ready assembled hardwood bench.

There is a plaque on the bench, which reads:-

**DONATED WITH LOVE BY MEMBERS OF ST EDMUNDSBURY & IPSWICH MOTHERS
UNION**

The Wedding Fayre at Trinity Park was another very enjoyable day and we managed to fill the display board with tied on hearts that couples had put their wedding dates on. I will bring the hearts to the next council meeting to give to branches so that they can pray for couples leading up to their wedding day. Monica and Val were also present at the fayre, we owe them a vote of thanks and our love for their help.

Finally, this is my last "Trustees" report and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your love and support for the past six years.

Love & Best Wishes

Sandra

A.F.I.A. Report for Trustees Meeting 8th October 2018.

Since my last report, I have had been able to give two families the break they required. A Clergy widow referred one and Maureen Reynal recommended the other from the Ipswich FIND. Clare put her in touch with me, she gave the forms to the head of year for this family, and I was able to give them 5 days at Gt Yarmouth. I hope now I have made contact with Maureen that maybe more requests will come from her. Next year it might be good to contact other organizations that deal with those in need throughout the diocese.

I have heard nothing from Diocesan Education Officer or Heads of C of E schools for help fund school trips

Nothing has been heard from the Diocesan Retirement Officer asking for help for retired clergy and wives/widows.

If anyone knows of a family that are going through hard times at present and you are prepared to refer them please get in touch with me as I am sure I will be able to assist them.

This is my last report as AFIA trustee and I would like to thank you for your love, support and encouragement over the past 6 years. I am sure you will support my successor in the same way as you have supported me.

Beryl Mee AFIA rep.

Diocesan Members Report

Many diocesan members have not renewed their membership this year; I think partly because of family commitments and also, financial constraints. Most of my long term members are quite elderly and on fixed incomes; I do suggest that they become indoor members but they feel guilty not paying their way. Sad, but I think it is part of the psyche of a certain generation, on a brighter note some are leaving to join branches which is great news.

The numbers are variable at the moment as I am losing some but gaining some with the suspension of Gt. Cornard: as at the time of writing I have gained three from Gt. Cornard but expect more to follow.

The knitting goes on a pace but I will not be able to collect it after January as I am going to try to change the way MU is done in this deanery; not everything is worked out yet but I will try to keep trustees informed if it works.

I was very grateful to Di Barker for taking over the card making organisation and the delivery of the cards.

It has been a privilege to serve as a trustee in this diocese and I thank you for the opportunity.

Chris Mitchell

Ipswich Area Report Autumn 2018 – Following in Mary's Footsteps

It is not every day that one is commissioned by the World Wide President of the Mothers' Union and it was on that special event that I thought about what I wanted to achieve for the Ipswich Area during my 6 year tenure.

Obviously I want to see our Suffolk MU continue what we've been doing in A & O, Faith and Social Policy; But I want also to reach and recruit new members, and to see new branches and help any closing to keep with us in a new form or different types of membership. How do we do this?

Firstly it will not be one thing which brings new faces and talent to our branches, it will be many. However there is one thing that our Lord told us we would be known by as Christians and that is love. It is a much used word which can mean nothing if not expressed in the right way but I was reminded of a series of teaching I had many years ago on a concept called love languages. I want to blend this with our theme of following in Mary's footsteps by literally foot-stepping it around Christchurch park on 13 October 2019 to raise money for passionate about parenting training due to begin soon; holding a coffee morning in Martlesham on 27th October 2018; having a love focused Quiet Day at St Mary's, Witnesham on 4th December 2018.

Paul said 'speak the truth in love.' Picture this: a father who has been away on business returns home to his 2 daughters with a teddy present for each of them. Whilst the one daughter finds a special place for it in her room and gives it a special name, the other says thank you Dad and puts it to one side and starts to ask her father about his trip. The one has a love language of gifts, the other quality time. Both love their Dad but show it in different ways. This is sometimes the key to reaching people including in our Mothers' Union, in the most important way. There are 5 love languages. I've referred to 2. If you want to find out the other 3 and hear how we can speak more effectively and meaningfully in love to each other, come to our Quiet Day.

Catherine Kersey
Ipswich Area Representative

REPORT FOR INDOOR MEMBERS AUTUMN 2018

I can't believe we are so close to the end of 2018, where has the time gone? Through this edition of Pathways, I send my Indoor Members best wishes and my prayers.

I only wish I was able to visit you, but unfortunately, I am not very mobile at this time.

However, I don't complain, because I can write and send you greetings in other ways.

Two more names have been added to my list, so if you are new to indoor members, then I welcome you.

By the time this comes out, I will have been to Australia to visit my son and daughter in law and to meet my two young grandsons for the first time. How my husband and I are looking forward to this.

I hope that I will be able to tell you more about my visit with your next letters.

Please say a little pray for me as I pray for you.

With love and prayers Monica

North Suffolk Area Report for Trustees 8th October, 2018

The North Suffolk Area has had a busy time since the last Trustee meeting.

In June we had a fulfilling Quiet Day at Debenham attended by 23 members.

This was led by Revd Susan Bates, Vicar of Debenham and an MU member. Her subject was, 'In the Image of God'.

At the end of July, we ran our second I-Chameleon Shop in Halesworth, raising the profile of MU in the community and making £1215.85 for MU projects here and overseas. This has been banked with Keith and will be disbursed following our next committee meeting. £114.95 was also raised for MUe. Thank you to everyone who gave us items to sell. The shop demands a real commitment from all the branches who take responsibility for each day. I am very grateful to them and particularly to the committee members and friends who price items in advance, ensured the shop was set up on the evening before the opening and cleared up at the end.

Recently we held our annual NSA morning at Framlingham when Bishop Mike celebrated at our opening Eucharist and was our main speaker. Members attended from across the NSA and we were joined by 2 from the Cathedral as well as both Christine and Tony Ward, making 33 in all. Bishop Mike spoke about his 'Journey of Faith' with humour, honesty and spiritual insight. Time only allowed him to get as far as his curacy, so he has promised to give us part 2 in the future! Following Midday prayers, Christine gave us a summary of the main points from the General Meeting in Swansea. Our collection during the Service is going to the MU Harvest Appeal. There were several stalls for members to browse and a raffle; profit from the morning will also be disbursed in November. The morning ended with a shared lunch and more time for fellowship.

Anna Vessey

North Suffolk Area Representative

Report for Members aged 90 +

The numbers for MU members who are 90+.

I have at present 85 members, slightly up from last count.

Love.

Margaret