

## MSH Update – CHRISTMAS edition

Dear Members,

Welcome to this bumper Christmas edition of Mary Sumner's House Member update.

All the additional information can be found [here](#) in our Resource Hub (click on the Download icon to open each of the attachments). There are also links to the Hub throughout this update.

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### 1. Gifts of MU and new Supporter option – official launch!

We are so excited to officially launch the wonderful new initiative of **GIFTS of MU**! Your opportunity to gift family and friends an annual gift of Membership, Friendship or Supporter. They can engage or just be updated on the work we do supporting women and families around the world. A perfect CHRISTMAS, BIRTHDAY, EASTER, WEDDING, or BAPTISM gift. To guarantee that we can get the Christmas gift card and information to you in time to bestow as a Christmas present, please purchase your GIFT of MU as early as possible, but by 11<sup>th</sup> December at the latest.

For more information, please go to the [Join Us page](#) and to purchase select the Gifts of MU tab in the box.

We have also launched a new way for people to be involved with MU. For those not yet ready to be a member, they can support the work we do as a **Global Supporter of MU**.

For more information, please go to the [Join Us page](#) and to become a Supporter select the Join or Support MU tab in the box.

### 2. Christmas Appeal 2023

This year's Christmas Appeal will once again be **match funded through the Big Give**, giving members and supporters the opportunity to double any donation they make between 12 noon 28<sup>th</sup> November to 5<sup>th</sup> December. This year's appeal will focus on **supporting our savings and skills training projects in Tanzania**.

In the far south of Tanzania, on the border with Mozambique, is one of the poorest regions of the country, called Mtwara. The appeal tells the story of Lucia and how she has transformed her own life thanks to MU's project and now wants to share this with even more members of her community. By sharing the appeal with members and donating you'll be helping communities use dignity and ingenuity to find local solutions to local challenges and break the cycle of poverty. We have included [PDF copies](#) of the appeal materials which have started landing with members, along with the 2024 Prayer Diary.

### 3. RISE UP and 16 Days campaign updates

#### 16 Days of Activism against GBV

Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November is the start of the UN's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence. We are going to be sharing posts on our social media channels about different forms of abuse, to raise awareness of all the different ways in which it can manifest. We will, of course, also be sharing the National Domestic Abuse Helpline with all posts, so anyone affected can call them. We have lots of resources on our website available [here](#).

#### MU's Global Day of Action

Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> December is MU's Global Day of Action when people all around the world will be holding events, services, prayers vigils and marches to raise awareness of and call for an end to all forms of violence. MU members around the world will be taking part in our *No More 1 in 3* campaign, holding a one minute's silence at 1.03pm to pray for those affected by abuse. This year we are asking members to wear purple ribbons and leave them in public places with [labels](#) to spark conversations about MU's stance on violence. Please do tag us in any social media posts with the hashtags: #NoMore1in3 @mothersunion #16DaysofActivism.

We pray that all your events and services go well. Please do update MU Live with details and send any photos into the communications team: [communications@mothersunion.org](mailto:communications@mothersunion.org).

#### RISE UP against Domestic Abuse

A reminder to please send in any information about how your RISE UP challenge is going to [emily.brailsford@mothersunion.org](mailto:emily.brailsford@mothersunion.org). We have produced some RISE UP leaflets which you can print at home. There are three on a page. You can download them [here](#). Also attached is a [PDF copy of the form](#) used to assess which level of the RISE UP campaign you are at. Please feel free to fill this in and return to Emily. Thank you to everyone who is taking part.

### 4. Midday Prayer and Advent Resources

#### Midday Prayers

Midday Prayers are a great opportunity to join with Mothers' Union members around the world as we pause, press into the presence of God, and pray. Midday Prayers go out on our [Facebook page](#) six days a week. If you would rather join us using a print format please click this [link](#).

Ish, our new Faith and Church Relations Manager, coordinates Midday Prayers and she would love to hear from you if you would like to be involved in delivering Midday Prayers in 2024. Training will be given. Please contact Ish for more details: [faith@mothersunion.org](mailto:faith@mothersunion.org)

#### Advent Resources

There are Advent and Christmas Prayers, as well as Advent activities and an Advent service all available on the website, along with an introduction Ish Lennox. You can access them all [here](#)

### 5. Key Messages from the meeting of the Worldwide Board of Trustees

Please find the [key messages](#) from the Worldwide Board of Trustees meeting earlier this month. If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact your Zonal Trustee. The Worldwide Board wishes all DPs, Officers and members in Britain and Ireland a peaceful Advent and joyful Christmastide.

### 6. Metamorphosis evaluation

We are conducting an evaluation of the Metamorphosis materials to learn how well they have helped our members to confidently bring practical support through churches and communities. We have heard some great stories and reflections of changes that members have experienced throughout the period that the training has

been running and so are keen to learn from these to capture the key ingredients for the success of Metamorphosis. Therefore, we are keen to ask Mothers' Union members to help us with this in 3 ways:

If you were trained on the Metamorphosis process:

1. Please complete a survey to give us some background information about what you thought of it and how you've used it. The link to that is here: <https://forms.gle/fF3Hd6hww7tz9TRv9>  
2. Join us at a reflection day to dig deeper into how we've used Metamorphosis (lunch provided and expenses refunded). These sessions will take place at the following locations and dates:

- Friday 24th November - London
- Wednesday 29th November (half day) - online
- Friday 1st December - Gosport, Hampshire
- Wednesday 6th December - Buxton, Derbyshire
- A second online session in December - date to be confirmed.

People can sign up for the reflection days by emailing their preferred day to [development@mothersunion.org](mailto:development@mothersunion.org).

If you have used Metamorphosis Bitesize in some way:

3. Please complete a survey to give us some background information about what you thought of it and how you've used it. The link to that is here: <https://forms.gle/W99AG7jDbbYNvcdYA>

Many thanks for supporting us with this important evaluation which will help us to adapt the resource for the future.

## **7. Opportunities at UN Commission of the Status of Women 2024**

Registration for the annual UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) has come around again.

[The CSW](#) is often described as the principal global intergovernmental body exclusively dedicated to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and MU actively participates each year, either in-person in New York or virtually. There are plenty of opportunities for MU members to get involved. For more information see attachment and please email [Policy@mothersunion.org](mailto:Policy@mothersunion.org) with questions or to register interest. More information [here](#).

## **8. New Membership Team**

We are delighted to confirm a new membership team at Mary Sumner House.

From January, Steph Nunn will be Director of Membership, and part of the senior leadership team with Bev Jullien (CEO), Adam Sach (Director of Fundraising, Communications and Retail), Richard Miller (Director of Finance & Services) and Robert Dawes (Director of Development).

Her new team includes Katie Chandler Clarke, Membership Engagement Manager, who will lead on managing the Communities of Interest, new membership initiatives and providing support with new resources to members; Ish Lennox, your new Faith & Church Relations Manager, leads on ensuring that faith is central in all we do, the production of faith resources, the new church-based membership and proactive clergy engagement. Emily Brailsford, the Domestic Abuse Programme Manager also joins this team to continue her work on RISE UP and solidifying this work into an MU National Domestic Abuse Programme.

The team is here to support you, and can be contacted at [membership@mothersunion.org](mailto:membership@mothersunion.org)

## 9. Story from MU Live – Leicester Diocese

To finish our update, we have a lovely story which was reported through MU Live by the Leicester Diocese. MU responded to a call for help from a member experiencing a health crisis and continue to offer support to the same hospital in her memory:

*“A member was admitted unexpectedly into Glenfield hospital. There were no spare toiletries on the ward. After a quick call to one of her fellow members in her branch they rallied around to remedy this. Within hours they had contacted the ward sister for numbers of how many bags they would like. Gratefully she said around 20 would be wonderful.*

*They immediately got 24 together, including a comb, flannel, soap, toothbrush, toothpaste, and a hairbrush and on the sisters’ request, ear plugs. A local pharmacy donated the ear plugs, which was a lovely gesture.*

*This is typical of our members pulling together in a crisis. Each bag had a little message of love inside. The ward sister was so pleased to receive these and said what a huge difference it would make. The branch is continuing this project in memory of their leader and another of their members who have recently passed away.”*

## Membership Team

Mary Sumner House  
Mothers’ Union