

## Join Us, Join In.

### Diocesan news:

On behalf of the trustee board, diocesan officers and all our Mothers' Union members I want to say a big thank you to Ruth Dennigan who has resigned from her role as trustee and minute secretary. We are very grateful for all that she has contributed this year and pleased that she is able to continue as joint branch leader of Henley MU.

**Diocesan Treasurer Vacancy:** There have been no enquiries for this role, so we have to redouble our prayers and please think who do you know who could take on this role or part of the role as a job share. For the past year the role has been shared as a Bookkeeper and Finance officer.

There is no need for this person or persons taking on this role(s) a MU member. As all our trustee meetings and council meeting can be attended via the zoom link, they also do not need to have a car.

**October Council meeting feedback:** Thank you for the positive feedback from those of you who attended our Council meeting in October. At the end of the meeting people were invited to take away packs of fabric that had been donated for the prison sewing room, but could not be used due to a lack of store room. Hadleigh MU took away a large pack of white fabric. Soon after the meeting a request went out to make a new altar cloth for the Hadleigh Pop-up service. Those Hadleigh MU members involved in this service got the children involved in designing the altar cloth and now are embarking on sewing the hem. Those members had no idea why they were taking that particular pack of cloth back with them, but the Holy Spirit did.

**Growing MU:** In 2026 we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union. We owe it to all the MU members who have come before us to ensure that our organisation continues. The fellowship and friendship that MU offers are needed more than ever before with so many people suffering from loneliness.

Our School Uniform grants, support for the women's refuges, neonatal and oncology units in our hospitals and support for the prison chaplaincy teams to name just a few of our outreach work. These are all vital support for families.

Our prayer support for MU members in our diocese and our link dioceses underpins all the outreach and campaigning that we do. Let you know how much you value your MU membership and bring them to a meeting or tell them about a project that would interest them. Let them know that they could join as Friend of MU if they don't feel that membership of for them.

If you were thinking of not renewing your subscription for 2026, please think again, we need your prayer support, and we value your fellowship

**The Christmas Appeal:** This appeal begins on December 2<sup>nd</sup> and lasts until December 9<sup>th</sup>. Whatever you donate this will be doubled. All the funds raised will go to supporting the Kingdom Savings & Credit (KSC) faith,

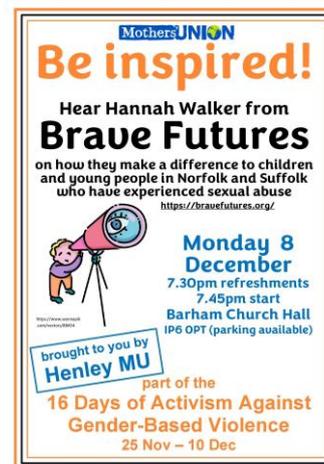
- Form weekly savings groups
- Access small, life-changing loans
- Receive training in business, budgeting, and climate-resilient agriculture
- Build confidence, dignity and a vision for the future

At the heart of this programme is a powerful message: You are not defined by poverty. God has given you gifts and the power to use them.

### **16 days of activism against gender-based violence.**

The 16 days of this campaign began on November 25<sup>th</sup> and ends of December 10<sup>th</sup>. Henley MU invite you to join them on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm in Barham church hall to hear Hannah Walker speak about the work of Brave Futures.

Brave Futures is a specialist support service for children and young people up to the age of 18 who have experience sexual abuse.



**A Christmas message:** Thank you for your prayer support and for everything you have undertaken this year as MU members. I would like to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a happy New Year.

Jeanette Appleton Diocesan President.

### **Some Dates for 2026**

#### **March 14<sup>th</sup> Grandparent Day at the Thomas Clarkson Centre Bury St Edmunds.**

The doors open at 10 am and the day starts with worship at 10.30am and finishes at 2.30pm. This is the third such event and everyone who has attended in the past has given excellent feedback. Some people have come to both the previous Grandparents Days as they had found them so enjoyable, relevant and helpful.

Tickets are free and can be booked from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 from Eventbrite:

**Lady Day service Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Minster** in the afternoon, exact time to be confirmed.

**Mary Sumner Day Service August 9<sup>th</sup> 2026:** Thanks to the support of Canon Katy Cunliffe our Mary Sumner Day service will be at 3.30pm Sunday August 9<sup>th</sup> at the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds. We are very honoured as many other dioceses have not had this support. Please put this service in your diaries and bring a friend. Tea will be served after the service.

Prayer points:

- We pray for one or two people to take on the role of Diocesan Treasurer
- For MU here in the diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich to grow
- For those who work in the three prisons in our diocese, the staff of the Women's refuge and the team at the Seafarer's Mission. May God bless all those on the front-line supporting people whose lives have met with adversity

'May God, the source of hope, fill you with joy and peace by means of your faith in Him, so that your hope will continue to grow by the power of the Holy Spirit' Romans 15:13