

## Lighting the way for generations to come

If anyone asks you what Mothers' Union is about, quote this verse from Matthew 25 v 36 'I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

MU members are every day responding to those in need. Whether by the clothes knitted for babies and children, the outreach in the prisons with the cards made at branch meetings, plus the bibles donated. The support given to hospitals in our diocese. Every MU member is involved in these projects whether through prayer, fund raising, or through sewing items and making Christmas cards.

All this project work needs people to provide essential support in terms of finance skills, secretarial support, governance and the telling of our story in communication. So please consider the following vacancies which need to be filled if our project work and outreach are to continue.

**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) to be an 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.

**Currently as there is no treasurer no outgoing payments can be made, which will impact MU officers claiming expenses and delay donations to MSH.** Arrangements are being made to ensure payments can be made into the account so please continue to send cheques or make BACS transfers. This is not a sustainable position for us as a charity and it is vital that this post is filled as soon as possible.

**Diocesan Secretary Vacancy:** This role can be undertaken as a job share, there is no requirement for the person to be an MU member and as all our trustee meetings and council meeting can be attended via the zoom link, they also do not need to have a car.

There are also vacancies for a **General Trustee and Media and PR Lead**. The role descriptions for all the above positions are on our website [www.musuffolk.org](http://www.musuffolk.org)

### **MU outreach to the prisons in our diocese.**

We continue to collect used Christmas cards which are then trimmed ready to reuse for the Christmas cards for prisoners. If you have any to donate, please send the pictures only. The prisons are also able to make use of unused cards (Christmas or Birthday) and notelets which the prisoners can send to their families. This helps them to keep in touch which is so important. Sue Norrington 07913 488670 Di Barker 01359 241045

### **150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mothers' Union**

There is still time to book your ticket or the service at St Paul's on June 10<sup>th</sup> and for the Annual gathering on June 11<sup>th</sup>. Details are on the central MU website [www.mothersunion.org/event/150/](http://www.mothersunion.org/event/150/)

The first release of general tickets for members was sold out, the second release of general tickets went on sale on 16<sup>th</sup> December and there will be a final release in February.

### **Lady Day Service 2pm Tuesday March 25<sup>th</sup> Ipswich Minster**

The Lady Day service starts our celebration of the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Mothers' Union. Ipswich Minster is in the centre of the town and a very short walk from the bus station. There are also plenty of car parks nearby. Why not make a day of it and add some shopping, a visit to Christchurch Park, or lunch at one of the many cafes nearby. There will be a time to catch up with Mu members from across the diocese after the service over a cup of tea

### **Growing MU in 2026**

One of the national targets for this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year is to increase the number of those joining MU. If each of our MU branches and MU groups could make growing their membership part of our 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, we can then ensure that the vital work MU undertakes will continue.

Currently four branches in our diocese have enrolled people as a Friend of MU, and last year eight branches had new members joining. Some people are just waiting to be asked to join MU, whether as a member or as a friend so ask them. Others join because they have been invited to a MU meeting, service or event. One person joined because she had read about the local MU branch in the parish magazine.

Mother's Union membership is a great way to stay salty and to be a light of the world.

### **Matthew 5 v 13- 16**

You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavour? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless. "You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father.

### **Book your place for our next Grandparent Day**

Saturday March 14<sup>th</sup> at the Thomas Clarkson Centre Bury St Edmunds. Doors open 10am.

The theme of the day is 'What does it take to be a grandparent of faith'; the aim is to bring together grandparents of faith (from little faith to strong faith) and of any denomination. So that through a programme to include worship, key speakers and small group workshops participants will feel supported and encouraged and see ways to make a spiritual difference in their family situations.

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.

The Thomas Clarkson Centre is full accessible, with all the rooms on the ground floor. Plenty of parking spaces as well plus disabled parking spaces. You can book your place on our third and last Grandparent Day. Tickets are free and can be booked from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 from Eventbrite: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/grandparent-day> or email: [jeanetteappleton91@gmail.com](mailto:jeanetteappleton91@gmail.com)

### **Prayer points:**

- For one or two people to take on the role of Diocesan Treasurer
- For one or two people to take on the role of Diocesan Secretary
- For a someone to fill the role of General Trustee
- For someone to help promote our projects and outreach as Media and PR Lead
- For our membership to grow in this the 150<sup>th</sup> year of Mothers' Union