

Reports for Council Meeting 17th June 2019

DP Report for Summer Council – 17th June 2019

Much has been accomplished. The Lady Day Banner service was a real joy with Trustees and Officers – and indeed all our members – reaffirming commitment. “Blossom where you planted” as Linda Cadman would say (check out the “Inspiring Members” on www.musuffolk.org.uk) as we reach out to others in our community.

Sadly, we have had to say farewell to Catherine Kersey, the Ipswich Area Trustee, but gladly welcomed Viv Buckle with responsibility for Pathways. We also have another potential new F&P person waiting in the wings. Do continue to pray. Some of you will have already met the Rev Ian Wilson, our new Chaplain, responsible for among other things, a multi-parish benefice based at Nacton. MU is very close to his heart, he wears his badge, and at all his weddings and baptisms is proud to wear his MU stole. What a blessing to us he is! For my part, I have been delighted to attend Diocesan Synod, MSH Conferences, training days, seminars and meetings, but have also very much enjoyed visiting our branches (including wonderful strawberry teas!), and sharing in deanery events and activities.... What is “your thing”? - how do you promote MU where you live?

Our finances are in a healthy state, and we have been able to substantially support the initial preliminary emergency appeal for Lake Malawi (our linked diocese). After 14 years in the job, we are delighted to announce that Keith, our MU Treasurer, has been admitted into full, subscription-paying MU membership - some things take longer than others.... As friends and loved ones move on, new members are joining our branches/diocese via the internet, MSH website, Facebook or personal invitation. We very much appreciate the fact that Christine is still engaging with MULOA activities - the thinking process behind all the MSH changes, taking it to the branches and further afield. Congratulations to all those who have engaged with this and are finding the courage and confidence to talk to their family, friends and neighbours about their faith.

Putting faith into action is part our Diocesan Triennium Strategy - **A,B,C** – (**A**FIA [Away From It All], **B**efriending and the **C**lewer initiative). The Mothers' Union theme is Listening, Observing and Acting - in step with God. Not every member is expected to engage in every aspect! - Some branches or individuals are called to be "doer's", others "pray-ers" – or both! As circumstances change, each one of us can find new ways to make our own special contribution serving God through MU.

Trustees have met together on six occasions to share ideas, discuss changes, sign off policy and legal documents, and update the website and membership records – our thanks to Clare for her website expertise, and her able assistants Cathie and Anna, both of whom also are wearing other MU hats – Cathie administration, and Anna has responsibility for the North Suffolk Area - their contributions are much appreciated. All Trustees have been working hard speaking at branch, deanery, area meetings and synods and organising events; processing grant applications for AFIA (Val); ordering, admin. and selling MUE products (Clare and Penny); editing and distributing Pathways (Viv); sending out cards and letters to Indoor Members, and 90+ birthdays, celebrating anniversaries and other important occasions (Monica and Margaret); organising the Diocesan Members with card making for Prisoners (Sue) and preparing the Wave of Prayer Service booklets (Janice). Last, but by no means least, encouraging our members to pray with and for one another, be it through the Emergency Prayer Chain (Jean), in prayer meetings, the small prayer cells in our front rooms, or on our own "in our closet". God is listening!

We thank the Trustees and Officers on your behalf for all they have done and achieved these last six months. Finally, our thanks to Beryl our secretary, who has held it all together for us. It is a real privilege to head up this team - it's exciting to be able to carry on building on the firm foundation others have laid - the workload is becoming manageable, the prayer support tangible, the friendship and fellowship delightful, the blessings enormous, but the rewards immense! Thank you to everyone for making our MU such a success.

Linda Ginn MBE DP

A.F.I.A. Report,

We have been able to help two pupils, from two different school, to go on PGL Residential Trip.

I have also sent out two AFIA holiday request forms but have not received them back.

I have also sent a Grant Application form to Gloria Powell, she is a guide leader in Hadleigh, for two guides who need financial help to attend a residential trip.

Val Jeffreys

Email afiamusuffolk@gmail.com



BRANCH DONATIONS 2018

Thank you for submitting your annual branch returns for 2018, which have been essential in compiling the following totals of the donations that you have made during the year.

Knitted hats for Seaman's Mission and Maternity Units.

Twenty four branches knitted in excess of 1496 seafarer's hats, some branches had not recorded numbers.

There were 696 baby hats knitted from 16 branches including several with no numbers given. In addition, 30 plus cardigans, 42 baby quilts/blankets and some baby socks and mitts were donated.

Donations to 2 Women's Refuges.

Many of you have sent toiletries but these have been difficult to quantify as some branches stated numbers of items and others, numbers of 'bagfulls'. However, 23 branches provided very considerably to this appeal and some branches also provided fabric bags with their donations. Toiletries were also sent to the hospital in Ipswich.

At Christmas branches gave gift tokens and sent toys and gifts.

Other items have included linen, knickers and socks.

Other donations.

Twiddle muffs/dementia blankets 12

Cross in my pocket 25

Bottle and drip bags 11 and fingerless gloves.

There were boxes sent for 'Link of Hope' and Seafarers, plus cakes made for bereavement services.

There was a most generous response for the Night shelter which ran over the winter. It is impossible to quantify this, but anyone who saw the 'room' stacked with donations at St Mary Stoke last autumn should feel proud to be an MU member.

The information provided, also shows a wide range of support for projects local to individual branches including 'Basic Life', Food Banks, IWNS, Find and others.

Thank you for collecting this information and whatever your branch donates 'well done', together we have and do make a difference. Please continue to note your donations during the year and send a breakdown with you branch report next year.

Cathie McGregor May 2019.

Diocesan Members

It has been a pleasure to meet with a group of Diocesan members today for the annual card making workshop. Thank you to Di Barker for hosting the day and making lots of cups of tea for the 10 participants. Thanks to those who prepared the necessary materials so that we could start work straight away. The result of the day was a magnificent 1,421 Christmas cards completed and ready to be sent to Highpoint Prison, for distribution to prisoners in December. This day is also a triumph for recycling, as used Christmas cards are cut and remounted onto new card printed with a message from MU. The day was full of laughter but those present were also aware that the cards being made by any of us could be the only one a prisoner received for Christmas 2019. Please come and join us next year to help with such important MU work.

Sue Norrington - June 2019

Over 90's report.

No of members who are 90 years plus 76 ---- 6 less than in Jan.7 of those members are 100 years plus Amazing. Thanks to all who keep, me updated with any changes.

God bless.

Margaret

North Suffolk Area Report for Council Summer 2019

A Quiet Day will be held on Wednesday 26th June at St Margaret's Church, Reydon, IP18 6PB. It will run from 10.00am to 3.00pm. Andrea Skevington is to lead the day which is entitled, 'Jesus said, "I am the Vine"' Andrea is a Christian writer who lives in Suffolk and the title comes from her latest book of reflections. Further information about Andrea can be found through the MU Diocesan website. The day will consist of three talks, each followed by a time for quiet reflection, and conclude with the Eucharist. We will be pleased to welcome members and non-members, men and women from across the Diocese. Drinks will be provided but please bring a packed lunch.

The North Suffolk Area Morning will be held in Halesworth on Thursday 26th September. It will commence at 10.00am with a Eucharist in church and then move to the hall. Following time for refreshments and browsing stalls our speaker will be Julia Hancock from Selig (Suffolk) Trust. Selig run the Ipswich Night Shelter and also Ipswich Hope into Action. The morning will end with a Bring and Share lunch.

From Thursday 24th to Wednesday 30th October we will, once more, be running a pop-up shop at I-Chameleon in Halesworth. All donations of good quality bric-a-brac, household goods, preserves, books, toiletries, toys etc. will be most gratefully received. Please contact me if you would like them to be collected.

Anna Vessey

North Suffolk Area Representative

Report for Indoor members

The number of Indoor Members fluctuates a small about. At the time of writing, we have 35.

Each member received an Easter card, together with a letter from our new world wide president, a copy of Pathways and a letter

signed by me on behalf of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich Mothers Union. I feel it is important to keep in touch with these members who have so many years' experience of Mothers Union between them. God's blessing on them all.

Monica Twaits

Reports for Council Meeting June 2019 - Social Policy Report

Four MU members attended the conference on Modern Day Slavery at the St Nicholas Centre. I have added information about this and the Clewer Initiative on the website. There is a follow up session on 11th June which I can't attend but it would be excellent if someone could.

Membership Database

Cathie MacGregor and Anna Vessey are now Admins, so any of us can update members' records when necessary. This includes changing addresses, handling resignations / deceased members and adding new members. We have split up the work based on Areas, so Anna looks after updates for the North Suffolk Area, Cathie looks after Sudbury area and I do Ipswich area. Please encourage branch leaders to inform Beryl so she can pass on the information to one of us and we can keep the database as accurate as possible.

MUe

Sales since January are already over £1000 which seems incredible. We have had a number of orders and will continue offering group orders. Penny and I want to visit as many branches as possible as we think many branch members may not have seen the MUe cards and gifts. We have already received the order forms for diaries, calendars and Christmas cards, and may need to pre-order these soon to avoid finding popular cards sold out. Also we get a 5% discount on pre-ordered diaries and calendars. I have been advised that we don't have to follow MSH price reductions which means we can be more confident in holding a bigger stock.

Clare Thomas

Secretaries Report June 2019

I am pleased to say that all branches are now contactable by email, it may not be the branch leader or secretary but it is someone who is willing to print off any thing sent to the branch and give it to the branch leader.

If you have anything, to send to branches please email it to me and I will pass it on.

Thanks

Beryl

STATISTICS FROM BRANCH RETURNS FOR 2018.

These figures are compiled from branch reports and relate to 2018.

Two branches did not submit a return, Rendlesham and, Bacton with Wyverstone which closed and did not send any information for that period.

Total Number of members including Diocesan	803
IMPC	19
With children under 16 years	6
Newly enrolled	25
Died	28
Commended from other branches	5
Male	16
Ordained	26
Resigned	22
mostly due to ill health	

Visitors to branch meetings/events	450
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MSH have not requested (to my knowledge) this information for y/e 2018 and are undergoing a reorganisation of membership details.

It may be sensible to review the branch report forms in the light of this.

The additional request for information on 'donations' has made a significant improvement to compiling data to support the positive impact which the MU in St Edmundsbury is making to so many lives.

Cathie McGregor. June 1st 2019

