

Join Us, Join In.

New opportunities to find out more about Mothers' Union (MU)*

Mary Sumner House have a new series of online Zoom webinars for MU members to join. The sessions delivered so far have received very positive feedback. Here are details of the next three webinars. If you are interested in attending any of these sessions just send your name, role (being an MU member is a very important role) and diocese to: membership@mothersunion.org.

- **Domestic Abuse facts and fiction:** a deeper dive into domestic abuse: 6pm, Wednesday, 10th September
- **Leading with purpose:** exploring leadership from a position of calling, the 'Why' in taking on a leadership role: 11.30am, Thursday, 9th October
- **Modern Slavery:** Highlighting the new Modern Day Slavery programme being launched in the New year and our work with Clewer. 6pm, Wednesday 19th November

If you have not attended a webinar before it is just like attending a MU meeting, face-to-face with a speaker, but virtually.

*Just as the Women's Institute is now known as the WI, our diocesan trustee body is looking to use the initials MU when talking about and promoting our organisation. What do you think about this change?

Branch news.

Constable Churches branch now has four new MU Friends who have joined their branch this summer. These new MU Friends are very involved in church life and would not be able to come and their local branch as a Friend. Is there someone you could invite to be a Friend of your branch?

Colneys MU branch had a Summer Garden 'Wave of Prayer' service in August.

This featured hymns, one of which reflected Jesus' Transfiguration, which was celebrated that day. A second hymn, written by our member Jean, reflected our love of our families and sharing God's love with them. Before our final hymn, we welcomed a new member and one joining us from a group that no longer meets. We rejoiced in a rousing rendition of 'One more step' followed by sharing the peace with each other. After the blessing, we then enjoyed light refreshments and a time of fellowship.

North Suffolk Area Committee: We have a Jewellery and Scarf Stall that we bring out at local events to raise awareness of Mothers' Union and raise funds. We are in need of new stock. If you have any scarves or items of jewellery that you would like to donate, please contact Anna Vessey 01379 588389 or Sue Norrington 07913 488670.

A Feast of Music: Join us on Friday 19 September at 7.30pm in Barham Church IP6 0PT (parking is available). Henley MU are having a musical evening to raise money for AFIA. An informal evening featuring a range of accessible music performed by local musicians, with a selection of homemade cakes in the interval. Please come along and help us to make a difference.

Save the date October 11th: Come along on Saturday October 11th between 2 and 4pm for a Tea and Cake Afternoon at the Coddendam centre, Mary Day Close, Coddendam, IP6 9SR. There will also be a Grocery stall, Surprise Tombola, Raffle and the MUe Stall. All funds raised will purchase gift vouchers for the Ipswich Women's Refuge.

AFIA: the sports camp that was due to be held this October half-term at St Matthew's C of E School in Ipswich has had to be postponed as the school now has to have essential work done at this time.

Autumn Council meeting:

Tuesday October 8th Doors open 10 am meeting starts 10.30am – 12.30pm

Council meetings are not just for branch leaders and diocesan officers. Every MU branch and diocesan member is invited to attend. It is held at the Coddendam Centre in Mary Day Close, Coddendam, IP6 9SR.

The doors open at 10am with refreshments and an opportunity to discover the new stock in our MUe Pop-Up shop, giving you time to bring all your donated gifts, whether for the Women's Refuge, or knitted items for the Seafarers Mission and our prisons.

The meeting is an opportunity to hear about current projects, as well as new projects for branches to join in with. Much of the meeting is about discussion from all attendees as well as hearing feedback from events and activities across the diocese.

Members of the Gideons East Suffolk branch will be sharing their work and their resources with us to help those branches wishing to give Lent bags to their local C of E Primary schools.

If you are unable to attend in person, you can join via the Zoom link which will be sent to all branch leaders and branch contacts, as well as the diocesan members rep and Indoor members rep.

Prayer points:

- We pray for the family and friends of Freda Smith and Sue Olver who died in the past month. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.
- This month we are praying for the power of reconciliation as we join as partners with the Community of the Cross of Nails.
- For those of you who knit, sew or crochet gifts: we pray that every stitch you make will hold your love and prayers and that the person receiving the item will be strengthened through the power and love of your prayers. (taken and adapted from our MU prayer dairy)

Branch news