

Peculiar Times!

Greetings! from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Trustees and Officers

Blue Christmas Service 2020.

There is some uncertainty regarding which services will be possible this Christmas. To ensure everyone can access the Mothers' Union Blue Christmas service, this is being recorded and will be available from the musuffolk website. Our thanks to Reverend Tim Rogers for allowing us to use St Peter's Church Westleton at the end of October for the recording. Also, our thanks to everyone who is giving up time to make this recording happen. It is not too late to volunteer to read a prayer, poem or Bible reading, or join our very small choir. Contact: Jeanette Appleton m: 07768318942 for more information

Mothers' Union Facemasks

Congratulations to all the Mothers' Union members who made facemasks for sale through MUE. This has raised much needed funds for our project work. You can also buy them from our musuffolk website or contact our MUE rep Clare Thomas.

Art and Scripture Reflections

Starting this month there will be a series of Art and Scripture reflections available from our musuffolk.org website.

These reflections could be part of a MU meeting, whether in small groups or via zoom or simply for personal use. Ask for help if you do not have access to the internet and introduce that person to our organisation!

Rebuild hope and confidence

This is our Mothers' Union theme for 2021; and we want to grow our fellowship, caring and supporting one another. There will come a time when all MU members across our diocese will be able to affirm our identity as Mothers' Union members, meet up again face to face (be it in the Cathedral or the Cathedral grounds) and "rejoice and give thanks for all the blessings that we have received"... and what an occasion that will be!

Take heart – things will change for the better! A message from Linda Ginn

Mothers' Union Live is now two years old and its purpose is to be a means by which we can celebrate who we are and what we do, so that we can be proud to be a MU member.

Mary Sumner House has been collecting data on all the outreach work we do, this includes:

- ❖ AFIA: Holidays, Day Trips
- ❖ Gifts of Love: e.g. Items for the Hospital
- ❖ Nurturing faith: e.g. Baptism Cards
- ❖ Crafting; e.g. Seafarer's Hats
- ❖ Developing Skills: e.g. Parenting Programmes
- ❖ Offering service: e.g. Toddler Groups

Fund-raising during COVID-19

In our diocese a number of branches have been having virtual afternoon teas and coffee mornings to raise funds and also bring some happiness to the recipients.

One branch is going to deliver boxes of homemade Christmas treats during the week before Christmas.

Find out more about new ways to fund raise from our website www.musuffolk.org.

Gender Based Violence (GBV)

GBV is sadly emerging as a critical issue around the world in the wake

of the Coronavirus pandemic. We are delighted that, in recent weeks, we have been given a total of £40,000 from Trusts to support MU members in Myanmar, Uganda and DRC to educate victims about sources of support, and to increase support which members themselves provide in partnership with others.

There are a number of resources available from the main Mothers' Union website including a book mark, Bible studies and the opportunity to protest by taking a selfie with the prepared banner that says No more to 1 in 3. Highlighting that fact that 1 in 3 women are affected by gender-based violence. Send your photo to communications@mothersunion.org by 7th November.

Diary dates Spring 2021

15th Feb: Trustee Meeting (9.30am) 1st Mar: Women's World Day of Prayer

17th Mar: Council Meeting AGM 25th Mar: Lady Day Service (venue tbc)

Away From It All Holidays (AFIA) for Key Workers

This is a new initiative in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mary Sumner House have created forms for key workers to apply for themselves, also for people to nominate key workers. They can be found on the main Mothers' Union website.

Looking for a Christmas present: Mothers' Union 'Book of Comfort'

The 'Book of Comfort' is available in paperback from Lulu.com Price £7.73 plus p&p. Order your copy by clicking on this link <https://bit.ly/2ZmLliJ>

Download the **FREE e-book** edition by clicking this link <https://bit.ly/3dC8Nln>

If you don't have internet access you can order through our MUE rep Clare Thomas. For those members with visual impairment, we are in the early stages of producing a 'Talking Book' edition of the Book of Comfort. More information coming soon.

For your prayers:

- ❖ Mothers' Union members across the world, as they reach out to the vulnerable in their communities.
- ❖ All couples preparing for their wedding day in these challenging times.
- ❖ All new parents and their babies, born into a world where the only faces babies see outside their homes are covered in masks.
- ❖ For ourselves and the ones we love.

Psalm 27 v1: "The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear?"