



Peculiar Times!

Greetings from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Trustees:

We hope this finds you well! In spite of.....

Everything is changing – and in so short a space of time too – many of us are in lockdown with social isolation and distancing, churches closed, branches on hold, family members distant and contact with others at a bare minimum. It's really hard. So how do we keep in touch? During this tricky time we are planning to publish a fortnightly newsletter (my first attempt - and any help with display, formatting, content, info – really welcomed!). We want to maintain our support for one another and to encourage each other along the way in our Christian faith.

Mothers' Union is having to find new ways of "being MU" – many are keeping up with folk through social media with things like "Whats app" or Facebook. As Trustees we are having to learn how to Zoom ... a virtual meeting where we can see and hear each other on the computer, 'phone or ipad screen. It takes a bit of getting used to. Perhaps this is how it is going to be for a while in order for us to be there for each other – at least for the time being.

Do let us know how you are getting on – share your thoughts and ideas, the funny things that are cropping up, and how you are coping - we can chat on the phone, or even – remember? – use pen or pencil to write a letter or send a card – even an MU card – or we can publish it here!

Please let us know what you are thinking.....



In times like these....

the Bible is a real source of strength – in Habakkuk 3:17-1 we read "**Yet I will rejoice in the Lord**, I will be joyful in God my Saviour" (v.18) I love these words. We are all going through a time when our faith is being tested and challenged. We need strength to carry on. The prophet Habakkuk predicted that tough times were on the way (1:5-2:1) – things would get worse before they got better.

At the end of the prophecy we find him thinking about earthly losses. Notice how the word *though* occurs three times ... "Though the fig tree does not bud..."; *though* the olive crop fails....; *though* there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls" (3:17).... – **YET** I will rejoice.

How are we managing with such stringent constraints - with the loss of health, security, contact with others, and even the death of a loved one because of Covid-19? **Yet**, we will rejoice. Habakkuk calls us to confident faith and trust in God who is the source of salvation (v.18), strength and stability (v.19) – He is the same for yesterday, today and forever. We are all in this together, so be encouraged, take heart and rejoice because God is in control.

"Father, even when life is tough and certain, please keep my faith anchored in You, my source of salvation and strength."

A project when you're wondering what to do next ...
What do you know already,
and what more can you learn about Habakkuk ?
To find out more visit christianuniversity.org/OT226 or other sites, or ask someone else to look up info for you...



A message from our CEO Bev and the Mary Sumner House Team



“There is no way around it. The events of March 2020 have taken us all by surprise. We are experiencing a collective period of great challenge which has already caused widespread disruption. The gravity of the situation dawned upon everyone gradually. Just a few weeks ago none of us would have predicted things would be how they are now.

There is light in the darkness, however. We look out across the landscape of the online world and take hope that the Lord has provided a means to work through this unprecedented series of events. It is in times like these that Mothers' Union comes into its own. Let us rise as one to assist and to serve.

Across Britain and Ireland and across the globe, members are taking action, helping one another and those around them and joining each other through new mediums to praise God. Mothering Sunday was celebrated in an almost surreal but uniquely wonderful way, and Lady Day was different too. Members came together in thousands in fellowship online, with words, pictures and videos, uplifting one another.

On behalf of all staff in our virtual Mary Sumner House, let us say this: God's plan is for the greater good and we will ensure that we all play our part. Just as the night is darkest before the dawn, we will believe that when we get through this, the coming daylight will be glorious.

With blessings, Bev and your Mary Sumner House Team



COVID-19 MSH Resources

As our members and families around the world face self-isolation we know how important it is for us all to remain as active as we can, both physically and mentally. Mary Sumner House will be continually producing resources to help combat feelings of loneliness that may arise. They hope to nourish faith and to help us to continue to feel connected to friends and community.

Check out the page on the MU website (mothersunion.org) for “Resources to Support us in Challenging Times”. Also, in order to stay connected to the wider movement MSH are running midday prayers from Monday-Saturday on their public Facebook page. Thousands have viewed these already, but for those interested and not aware, feel free to watch and comment.

Please share the following sign up link with anyone you think may be interested in receiving the MSH newsletter bit.ly/mothersunionemails. You can also subscribe to the YouTube channel to receive updates and video content: bit.ly/mothersunionyoutube. Have a look at our own website www.musuffolk.org.uk

News from Beryl and our Trustees....:

Sadly, the coach trip to Coventry Cathedral to join in the They Kingdom Come service has been cancelled; I had news from MSH last week to confirm this.

It is expected that the Annual meeting in Belfast will be cancelled. I will be informed when this is so and will send another email to branch leaders telling the of details as I know them. Unfortunately, we had already made the decision that we would not be attending this year, as we could not raise sufficient numbers to fill the coach and therefore the holiday. We will be interested to hear where the meeting is being held in 2021 as Intend to organize with Monica’s assistance another holiday.

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