

Peculiar Times!

Greetings! from Mothers' Union Diocesan Trustees & Officers

Rebuilding hope and confidence"

This is our Mothers' Union theme for 2021; we want to grow our fellowship, caring and supporting one another. At a recent meeting of dioceses across the Canterbury province the focus, as we emerge from months of lockdown, was for the emotional wellbeing and physical safety of our members. Fellowship and prayer were suggested as themes for meetings; whether branches decide to have mini meetings in small groups outside in the spring, or wait until meetings in larger groups are permitted in the summer.

When we can meet again this resource 'What Do I do well?' from the main MU website is part of the Rebuilding Hope and confidence theme for 2021. This activity could be used as a way of identifying the gifts from God in ourselves and in others.

Lady Day service March 25th

This service is available on the musuffolk.org website on March 25th Service sheets have been sent out to branch leaders for those members without internet access.

Thank you to everyone who took part in recording this service

"Reimaging MU"

The past twelve months have been challenging for all organisations. As lockdown restrictions ease Mothers' Union is addressing the issue of how we will meet in the future, what projects will we be able to engage with and how will we organise social and fundraising events.

In the next issue of Connect are details of a conference in January 2022 where MU members from across Britain and Ireland will meet to share ideas and help build a strong and vibrant Mothers' Union.

Book review: "Where is God in a messed-up world?" -

In this expanded and revised edition (2020 - ISBN 978-1-913278-76-2) Roger Carswell explores answers to those who are asking questions about God, life and suffering. It is particularly relevant in today's covid-restricted world where there is so much weariness, grief, loss and pain. Through Bible texts and real-life stories, his book demonstrates that our questioning need not be a barrier to entrusting ourselves fully to God, who knows, cares, understands and very much loves each one of us. There are no glib answers but a realistic and compassionate view of how we can respond to the suffering we encounter. I found it to be inspiring and encouraging, and commend it to you."

Linda Ginn Mothers' Union Diocesan President

Elections of Diocesan Trustees and officers

A new triennium begins in 2022. Elections for the trustee board and diocesan officers have begun. Revision of the constitution has created the new role of four general trustees, where there previously were Unit trustees for Faith and Policy, Action and Outreach, Social Policy and Communication.

A new structure of communities of interest will ensure that all outreach under the previous units will continue, without the added responsibility of being a trustee.

Please consider prayerfully what your role could be in the next triennium

Richard Stainer is organising the World Mission Conference taking place in October 2021 which will be focusing on Modern Day Slavery. Watch this space for more details

Feedback from the AGM council meeting on March 17th indicates that many branches have been meeting via zoom during lockdown. They plan to continue these for those members who will not be able to attend face to face meetings

Some branches gave coaching in using zoom, so that everyone with internet access could join in.

'For Better, For worse'

Thank you to those members who have already shared memories of their marriages under the umbrella of the marriage vows. We hope that these memories will amuse, inspire, inform and guide readers of our book 'For Better for worse' Whether they are considering marriage, about to marry, or have been married for many years. We still have many more pages to fill so keep those memories coming to: Jeanette Appleton 'Field View' Hadleigh Rd Holton St Mary CO7 6NP e: jeanetteappleton@hotmail.com

Praying with a Purpose is the theme of a recent Mothers' Union webinar.

As we pray with purpose for the mission of Mothers' Union, let us take encouragement from God's word. As you reflect on these verses ask the Holy Spirit to increase faith and insight into the value of our prayers

Pray with Faith: I call on you, my God, for you will answer me; turn your ear to me and hear my prayer. *Psalm 17:6*

Pray with confidence: This is the confidence we have in approaching God: that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. *1 John 5:14*

Pray with power: When a believing person prays, great things happen. *James 5:16 (NCV)*

Pray continually: Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 5:16*

There are more resources on praying with a purpose on the main MU website. Check out the monthly prayers on www.musuffolk.org and the musuffolk Facebook page. If you are on Facebook please share these prayers with your friends. What we all need at the moment are more prayers.