

## Peculiar Times!

This newsletter comes from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Trustees and Officers

### News from Mary Sumner House

#### **Annual Gathering 2021– Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September, 11am – 2.30pm**

This year, instead of the Annual Meeting, there will be a special Annual Gathering shown live on YouTube. It will be a celebration of what MU has achieved over the past year and an opportunity to look forward to the future and the new triennium. The programme will include an address from our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper and our CEO, Bev Jullien, as well as a financial update and a range of inspiring and informative contributions from members across Britain & Ireland and beyond. Why not watch together with a group of members from your branch, with lunch or cakes! Further details on how to join can be found on the main MU website [www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/whats-on/general-meeting-2020/](http://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/whats-on/general-meeting-2020/) If you can't watch it then you will be able to watch it later on the MU YouTube channel.

#### **Re-imagining Mothers' Union**

Mary Sumner House has launched a process to 're-imagine' Mothers' Union – to build on our strengths and adapt to new challenges to become an organisation that will enthuse both existing and potential members and continue the vision of Mary Sumner. The idea is that there will be a series of coffee mornings where members come together for a chat over a cup of coffee and contribute their ideas. Linda, the trustees and officers will hold the first coffee morning then it will cascade down to branches across the Diocese. Look out for more details soon!

#### **Connected Autumn**

The autumn edition of our magazine Connected will be posted out to members in October, so if you don't receive your copy please contact Clare Thomas on 01473 832808 or [clare.thomas@btinternet.com](mailto:clare.thomas@btinternet.com).



#### **MU campaign against Domestic Abuse**

Mary Sumner House is busy preparing resources for the 16 Days of Activism (25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December) and the MU Global Day of Action on 27<sup>th</sup> November. There will be a bookmark in the prayer diary, scarves, posters, service suggestions, activities and lots more. We will publish more information on our website and send out to branch leaders once available.

## **News from our Diocese**

### **Christmas Cards for Prisoners**

A group of Diocesan and branch members met on the 8<sup>th</sup> September at Di Barker's home to make nearly 1,000 Christmas cards, which will be distributed at Highpoint Prison near Newmarket, close to Christmas. We know that for some prisoners this will be the only card they receive. Thanks to all those who participated and others who passed on used Christmas cards for us to recycle. The pictures from these cards are trimmed and remounted with a greeting from Mothers' Union. Our thanks to Di Barker for coordinating the production and distribution of these cards.

Please pray for Prisoners, Prison Staff and Chaplains as they try to cope with all the pressures that confinement and limited contact with families brings.

*Sue Norrington, Diocesan Members rep*

### **Malawi**

Birmingham Diocese has a strong and longstanding link to Malawi, and the MU members there help fill a container of items once a year – knitted baby hats and blankets, clothes, sewing machines, all sorts of equipment and fabric to make face masks have all be transported out this way. You can read more about this project here: <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/friendships-and-practical-help-birmingham-malawi>.

We are hoping that we might be able to strengthen our link with Lake Malawi Diocese via this route.

### **Subs for 2022**

Branch treasurers will be starting to collect in subscriptions for 2022 – the rate is £23. Members are now able to choose to pay by Direct Debit if they prefer, or by cash or cheque as usual. Do ask your branch treasurer if you would like more information about this option, or look on our website ([www.musuffolk.org.uk](http://www.musuffolk.org.uk)). You will need to sign up by the 1<sup>st</sup> November in order for Mary Sumner House to get everything ready to take the 2022 subscription in January. Please contact Clare Thomas if you have any questions about the Direct Debits – 01473 832808 or [clare.thomas@btinternet.com](mailto:clare.thomas@btinternet.com).

### **Easyfundraising**

As we approach the Christmas season, please consider joining the Easyfundraising scheme if you shop online, or if family members do. Once you have signed up Easyfundraising gives 1% or more of your purchase value to Mothers' Union, at no extra cost to you, each time you buy online. Purchases from over 4000 shops and websites including all the big supermarkets, Amazon, eBay, M&S, Boots etc are all eligible. These donations really mount up – so far we have raised £522 for our AFIA fund - so we'd really appreciate it if you could take a moment to sign up and support us. It's completely FREE and only takes a moment. You can find our easyfundraising page at [https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stedsipswichmu/?utm\\_campaign=raise-more&utm\\_content=gs-e1](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stedsipswichmu/?utm_campaign=raise-more&utm_content=gs-e1)

### **Prayer suggestions**

- Refugees across the world
- Students starting at new schools or university
- People who are more at risk from Covid as regulations ease