

## Peculiar Times!

**Greetings!** from the Mothers' Union Diocesan Trustees and Officers to all our Members....

Things are moving so fast, that I feel I must send Newsletter No. 3 which was going to be produced next week. However, yesterday we had an MSH Zoom meeting and have been asked to share the following with you, and to hear your comments: our next MSH meeting is scheduled for the 7<sup>th</sup> May, so if this newsletter happens now, the next will be in two weeks' time...

While everyone has been enjoying the sunshine, I have been indoors (poor me!) conferencing on Zoom. First, it was with Beryl to plan our next online Trustee meeting, then with my Cluster Group (Diocesan Presidents from Ely, Lincoln, Peterborough and Norwich) to discuss the Urgent Appeal (which by now you will have received). MSH want to know how we are responding at Diocesan level.

Yesterday it was another Zoom conference with Bev (our MSH CEO), Marian Pope (who came to visit us), Adam (Head of Fundraising and Communications) and several others from MSH wanting feedback, and to discuss how we feel MSH should move through and beyond the Coronavirus epidemic in Britain and Ireland.

The aim of the conference yesterday was 1) to agree 2-3 areas which will be the focus for MU external communications about members' work during the crisis, so that the contribution of members to their communities can be clearly and confidently shared in the wider world and the visibility of MU improved: and 2) to identify 2-3 areas where MU is uniquely positioned to support the recovery of individuals, families and communities after the crisis, so that programmes can be shaped and applications made for external funding for the work to start after the immediate crisis has passed.... It was a long afternoon....

Was our diocese currently involved, or did they want to be involved, in any of the four specific activities (see right) which have been pulled together based on initial consultation carried out through MSH development team and social media posts... ?

**Knitted Hearts and Scrub Bags** – These small hand-crafted hearts are given to patients who contracted Covid-19 and their families and the Scrub bags (also referred to as laundry bags) are used by NHS Staff.



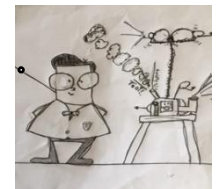
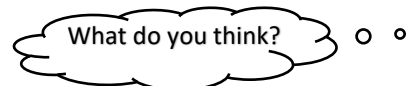
**Phone Circles** – contacting vulnerable members of the community and supporting them through this period of isolation and uncertainty.



**Mask straps** to provide relief to key workers that have to wear these for long periods of time, the straps release the pressure on the ears.



**Midday Prayers** - We are streaming midday prayers live on facebook. We are also looking at other ways to share worship and prayer online – what are you doing?



The Conference was also looking at ideas for MU post-Covid-19 programmes across multiple dioceses: longer term projects could include things like **building resilient communities** particularly in communities prone to natural disaster; **using craft and prayer** to support isolated and marginalised community members to bridge generations and rebuild relationships; **healing families and communities** – particularly those in grief; and identifying those providing **essential provisions** - those who are unable to access services, food, medicines, “holiday hunger” programmes and linking relationship healing and education for young people....

Does any of this resonate with you? What would your response look like? Do you have any other suggestions?

Newsletter No. 4 follows MSH briefing and key messages soon after 7<sup>th</sup> May.  
Contact for comments, ideas... (and let me know if you want them published at editor's discretion!) to Linda Ginn, DP at [dpmusuffolk@gmail.com](mailto:dpmusuffolk@gmail.com) (01728 748365) or to Beryl Mee, [secretarysuffolkmu56@gmail.com](mailto:secretarysuffolkmu56@gmail.com)

