

A letter from your President



“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.” 2 Corinthians 5:17

Transformation-NOW! “Out with the old, in with the new.”

Transformation-NOW! What an exciting theme for 2022. I wonder if you have looked up the dictionary meaning of transformation. “A complete change in something in order to improve it.” I think we are all wanting a fresh start after the last two years of uncertainty and worry. I remember my Grandma saying “Out with the old, in with the new” at the beginning of a New Year, an idiom meaning to change the old for the new, leave old things behind and start afresh with new things and ideas. In Mothers’ Union we have brought in the New Year and this triennium with the theme of transformation, understanding the fact that we have new Officers and Trustees and that our branches and members in Manchester have already begun to embrace new ways of working due to the pandemic. Future is a lovely word, it beckons with possibilities, surprises and opportunities. Are we excited about the future for Mothers’ Union and ready for the adventures? Do we want to continue to change or are we content to remain as we are? There’s always a tug of war between wanting to change and staying the same, remaining in the “old” comfort zone or looking forward to the “new” where we are adaptable and happy to explore a step by step approach. The more aware we are of what is needed in our communities and worldwide, the easier change and action will become. New things will evolve and be achieved. How prepared are we to move forward? I feel absolutely sure that we are ready in Manchester to transform with renewed vigour, excited about tomorrow, sensing the wonderful things to come, trusting in God to take us there.

With my love, Christine.

Transformation-Now!

There are lots of resources available to aid you in leading your branches through the 2022 theme to aid Transformation in these changing times.

- Ideas for worship
- Activities
- Ways to meet in the future
- Ideas looking into our churches and communities

Check out -

www.mothersunion.org/2022-theme

Steps to transformation

When we start to think about transformation - whether for ourselves, our churches and communities or Mothers' Union - we tend to approach this from our experiences and the way we have done things in the past. Use one of these light-hearted activities to help your group open their minds to wider possibilities.

Prayers and Bible verses

Prayers and Bible verses on the theme of Transformation - Now!

The Big Idea

A game to help you think about the resources you have within your group that you might use to transform the churches and communities we work with - or to transform Mothers' Union in your local area.

Timeline

An activity to help us learn from the past - and to plan for the future.

Transforming our groups

During periods of lockdown and social distancing, Mothers' Union took on a whole new look! As we start a new triennium, it's a great time to look ahead at how we might meet, what we might do and how we keep in touch in 2022 and beyond.

Reflection - New heavens and a new earth

A biblical reflection on Isaiah 65:17 - 25 and the vision of new heavens and a new earth.

A Service of Thanksgiving

A Thanksgiving Service linked to the Annual Theme which can be adapted for various occasions.

A Lady Day Service for 2022

A Service outline for Lady Day linked to the Annual Theme.

MU Live

TOTAL of those impacted by our work,
 from 1 January to 31 December 2021

4265



- info@MothersUnionManchester.org
- www.MothersUnionManchester.org
- Mothers' Union Manchester
- @MUmanchesterdio
- Mothers' Union Manchester Diocese

Calendar of Events, Dates and Opportunities

Thu 10 March	Thursday Prayers at 12 noon Mothers' Union Manchester Diocese - YouTube
Sun 27 March	Commissioning Service at 5.30pm, Manchester Cathedral
Thu 7 April	Office and shop closes for Easter break
Thu 14 April	Thursday Prayers at 12 noon Mothers' Union Manchester Diocese - YouTube
Sun 17 April	Easter Sunday
Mon 25 April	Office and shop reopen
Tues 26 April	F&A Meeting
Sat 7 May	Spring Council , Church House

Trustees

At the start of the triennium we welcome the following members to the Board of Trustees.

John Sharp Finance and Administration Coordinator

Rosemary Taylor Communications Coordinator

Canon Addy Lazz-Onyenobi General Trustee

We welcome **Dennis Hilton** as our Treasurer

We pray for them as they take on their new roles to serve Mothers' Union and, above all, our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

We still need a General Trustee for Bolton and a Development Coordinator. Please consider these roles and think if you, or someone you know, would be willing to commit to office.

Safeguarding

"We each have a responsibility for keeping the vulnerable safe."

If you have any queries regarding safeguarding then visit the Mothers' Union website where there is lots of guidance and resources.

These cover policy commitment; terms and definitions; responsibilities; activities and The Seven Safeguarding Steps.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/safeguarding>

Commissioning Service

Bishop David will be presiding over our commissioning service which will be held in Manchester Cathedral on Sunday 27 March at 5.30pm.

We look forward to welcoming members and their support in the reaffirmation of Christine as President and all Presidents, Chaplains and Officers who hold a role in the diocese.

This service will be live streamed via Facebook for those unable to attend.

Spring Council

Spring Council will be held on Saturday 7 May at Church House.

Please encourage your members to attend and find out information about how Manchester Mothers' Union is making an impact across the diocese and worldwide.

Make a Mothers Day

Mothering Sunday is a special time to say thank you to all mothers and caregivers for the selflessness with which they nurture, love and help us to flourish.

This year, you can celebrate or remember someone special by giving a gift of resilience.

If you are planning a Mothering Sunday celebration there are resources available to assist you.

Why not use the sample service outline, liturgy, prayers, talks or children's activities.



“Enjoying Christmas afternoon tea and chat.”

St. Mary's branch, Eccles



AFIA -Away From It All

Please start considering families who you feel would benefit from some respite.

Whether it be a short break or a day trip. At Mothers' Union we continue to support children and family life.

Further details will be shared in the next newsletter

Margery and Alan Spencer from Christ Church Walmersley celebrated their Diamond Anniversary in December

Christine and Peter Syddall celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Beryl and John Shaw celebrated their Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Both Christine and Beryl are long standing members at Christ Church Heaton, Bolton



CONGRATULATIONS to the Revd Jenni Beaumont who has been appointed as the new Bishop's Advisor for Women's Ministry.

She takes over this role from the Revd Canon Marcia Wall who has served as Bishop's Advisor since 2013.

Seven Saint's Team have welcomed Mary Quayle, Linda Wharton and Vicky Speak into their small branch.

It is refreshing to hear they are growing after struggling for a long time

Happy 80th to Beryl Brown and Rhoda Birtwhistle who shared their birthday in November. Happy birthday from all the members of St Lawrence M U

Margaret Goudge a long-standing member at Christ Church Heaton celebrated her 80th in February

Sheila Glover celebrated her 90th birthday in February. Sheila has been a member at St John's, Farnworth since 1973 and is now a Deanery Member

Marie Ogden, Eccles Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, will be 90 years of age in March

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. May the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen

It is with great sadness that we have heard of the passing of two members.

Kath Parkinson from Christ Church Walmersley, Bury

Violet Bradshaw from St Mary's Droylsden

We are all looking forward to celebrating the 70 years reign of our Patron.

Please pass us your news and photos and we can share these on social media and the newsletter for everyone to see and enjoy



All Saints' and Martyrs', Langley Presentation

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (February 2nd) was a good day to hold a very special celebration at All Saints' and Martyrs', Langley! Bishop Jack Nicholls reminded us that the day was a good time to look back to Christmas and the birth of Jesus, and also to look forward to the coming seasons of Lent and Easter with the Cross and all that signifies to us. We certainly had a good look back that day to a happy and full history of the Langley M. U. branch and its 57 years of faithful witness and loving service by dozens of inspirational women of the parish. But it was the moment also to close our branch and remember that we're people who believe in death AND resurrection... we're not interested in being people who merely 'survive'! And that was the tone of that special day when the past was duly acknowledged and celebrated but also the future was made welcome as we pledged ourselves to the life in all its fulness that the Lord Jesus now has in store for us. It was a joyous day!

We were delighted to be joined by many guests including Mrs Christine Sharp, our Diocesan President, who congratulated members on their 57 years and also presented Mrs Elizabeth Hopkins, Branch Secretary, with a certificate of thanks for the work she had done over those many years.

Elizabeth had written a full account of the M. U. at Langley. She noted how members had continued faithfully meeting fortnightly until the autumn of 2019 and the arrival of the pandemic shortly after that. The last few years had seen the loss of many devoted members who took their M. U. commitments very seriously indeed; we remember them with enormous affection and pray that they rest in peace. The Vicar remarked how he had ministered at the funeral of each one of them and had watched as the members movingly gathered round and lovingly draped the white funeral pall over their departed friend. They will not be forgotten.

The regular A. G. M. each February had always left the Vicar lost for words at the ingenuity and sheer hard work of this now small group of devoted women who have been committed to the branch not only in this parish but across the deanery. They have put on quiet afternoons, social events (complete with Elizabeth's cheeky song!), coffee mornings, craft making events, flower arranging demonstrations, and very often in doing so raised much appreciated funds. In recent years their annual Mothering Sunday fundraising focus has been the M. U. 'Make a Mother's Day' appeal which they have promoted across the church with characteristic energy.

They had continued to value their membership of an important worldwide Christian organisation which works for changes for good in places where there is grinding poverty and harsh need. It has been a joy for the clergy and a matter of great pride for all the members that their meetings had consistently begun with a celebration of the Eucharist and that Jesus Christ has been at the heart of their life and witness together from that day in 1965 when they first met until February 2022. The story of All Saints' and Martyrs' Parish cannot be told without reference to these indomitable ladies and their unbounded energy and enthusiasm for their faith and their church for 57 glorious years: thanks be to God!



Midday Prayers

In addition to our diocesan monthly YouTube Midday Prayers, are you aware that Mary Sumner House began during the pandemic to share prayers on Facebook each day except Sunday?

A small team of staff and members lead a short time of prayer which is live at midday but can be viewed at any time to suit you.

These can be found on the Mothers' Union page on Facebook www.facebook.com/MothersUnion

Please



It is good to learn from each other, to encourage, to share the joys (and the sorrows); so please let Andrea know what you are doing in your group, send us photos, or post on Facebook or Twitter.

LIKE the Manchester Mothers' Union Facebook page to keep



up to date with all the latest news and information

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

Children in the Shadows

The Clewer Initiative is enabling Church of England dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care.

They have produced a Lent course which is an in-depth course looking at children and modern slavery.

Each session contains definitions, statistics, examples of current good practice, a bible reflection and ways in which individuals and churches can make a significant contribution to extending care and strengthening resilience and resistance in their communities.

You may be interested in following the course on a personal level or maybe one of your branch meetings can be used to visit this cause.



A PRAYER FOR RELEASING HIDDEN VOICES

Written by The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Chair of The Clewer Initiative.

*Heavenly Father,
who sees the unseen and notices the unnoticed,
help each of us to hear the Hidden Voices of those
who pray for release from slavery and exploitation,
so that we may give ourselves more fully to the service
of your saving love, and be strengthened together as
agents of your healing and hope, through Jesus Christ,
who himself came to serve as a slave, so as to bring
freedom and grace to all.*

Amen

Full details of the course and downloadable sessions can be found at:

<https://theclewerinitiative.org/blog/children-in-the-shadows-a-new-resource-for-lent-2022>

"This year has been a very busy one for us. Thank you so much for your kind gesture. This will ensure a number of families receive extra help this Christmas."

Jane Gregory's comment on the Christmas dinners we funded for the Salford Survivor Project

HMP Manchester Christmas Grotto



"It all went really well and the children loved visiting Santa with their loved one and receiving a gift."
Linzi Scott Family Support Lead