

Peculiar Times!

When the going gets tough, the tough get going

A big thankyou to all the branch leaders who sent in their Branch report forms in February/ March. This information is not for some league table of the activity of branches or dioceses, but is required by the Charity Commission so that they can be assured that we are carrying out the objectives of our charity as listed on the website.

During 2021 Mothers' Union members in our diocese did not let the various lockdowns stop them from reaching out to those in need and fulfilling every objective of our charity.

Members reached a total of at least 5,245 people, whether it was a:

- Nurturing faith activities 2,160 lives touched by MU members
- Gifts of love 1,515 lives touched by MU members
- Craft items 1,084 lives touched by MU members
- Service (e.g. foodbank) 475 lives touched by MU members
- Skills (e.g. parenting) 11 lives touched by MU members

All of this was also done within the social distancing guidelines!

Have you had a role as a branch or deanery leader?

The Trustee board has several vacancies that we would like to fill. If you have been a branch or deanery leader you can build on the experience you gained in these roles to add to our diocesan team.

Trustees meet four times a year. General Trustees have no extra responsibilities beyond attending these meetings, unless they choose to lead on a project or outreach activity. Trustees that hold the role of Area Reps also encourage and enable branches in their Area to grow and develop and if they choose and they can arrange Area activities as appropriate. There are currently vacancies for Area Reps for Sudbury and North Suffolk areas and three general Trustee vacancies. We need a full Trustee team to ensure the wonderful work of 2021 continues.

Prayerfully, please ask yourselves the question from chorus of the hymn, 'I, the Lord of Sea and Sky': *'Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.'* This is based on Isaiah 6

For more information contact:

Diocesan President. Linda Ginn. Tel 01728 648772 Linda.Ginn@mothersunion.org

North Suffolk Area Quiet Day

We are holding a Quiet Day at Westleton Church on Thursday 23rd June from 10am to 3pm. This will be led by Revd. Betty Mockford. There will be three parts to the day. Each will begin with some thoughts on the theme of "Hands that Make, Mar and Mend", and will also allow time for quiet reflection. You are invited to bring a packed lunch but tea and coffee will be provided through the day. If you would like to join us, please phone

Sue Norrington on 01728 660280.

Christmas Cards for Prisoners – Wed 29th June

Diocesan members and any other members who are interested, are invited to join us at Kiln Farm, School Road, Great Ashfield, Bury St. Edmunds IP31 3HN on 29th June at 10am to make the cards needed to send to prisoners at High Point. We have already prepared suitable pictures to use, from the Christmas cards that many of you have donated. These are mounted onto blank cards which have a message from Mothers' Union, printed inside. We would like to have a few more people to make the 1,500 cards that are needed each year. If you can help, please contact Di Barker on 01359 241045.

(Please bring a packed lunch - and if you can, a contribution for our Bring and Buy Stall)

Away from It All Holidays

It was a joy to be able to support an application for an AFIA Grant to enable a young person go to her first Air Cadet Camp. Here is the letter she sent Val after the camp.

The Fairbourne camp was fun, I enjoyed all the activities as I slowly increased my confidence with each activity. My most favourite was climbing as I slowly faced my fear of heights and also trusting others from different squadrons. At the very start of the camp the flight I was in was quiet but slowly throughout the week we got to understand each other and built quite an awesome team. The things I didn't enjoy was the food as most of it was undercooked. My least favourite activity was biking because mainly fell off the bike, because I hadn't done enough riding on a mountain bike.

But I think the best thing I did in the camp was the mine tour. I love everything about it. It was a great experience. I mainly enjoyed the views from high up to see what happens in the past. Some parts of the tour were scary, mainly climbing around the dangerous edges of the mine. There was a part of the tour that I slipped on, due to the slippery edges. Luckily there was a safety rope.

Throughout my time being on the camp there was amazing views which was amazing to see. At first, I was a bit nervous about the camp but I slowly understood the routine and made friends easily. And I saw lots of sheep!

Summer of Hope Appeal resources are now available on the Mothers' Union website

Jubilee Summer of Hope is focusing on supporting the next generation of female leaders from the grassroots up: supporting women with skills, knowledge and confidence to shape the future and transform communities and families for the better.

A special Jubilee Summer of Hope campaign pack is being sent to members in mid-May. The presence of women in leadership roles is now more important than ever – their voices are instrumental in finding solutions that take into account the gender-based consequences of various problems, such as climate change and war.

Prayer for May: Mary Sumner's Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen