

2022 Theme: Transformation - Now!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Leeds

Keeping in Touch Issue 2 April & May 2022



Dear Members



I love this time of year as we see the bright spring flowers, the beginnings of the fresh green leaves on the trees and hear the singing of the birds as the days get longer. Our surroundings seem to be transformed and we as Christians will soon celebrate the transforming work of Jesus through his death and resurrection. Our theme for this year challenges us to respond to this anew and to find ways in which we can share the Good News to bring hope and joy to others.

As we listen to the news and look around in our own communities, we are only too acutely aware that for many people these are dark times and we are called to seek out those who need our help physically, mentally and spiritually. We have watched as women and children have fled from their homes in Ukraine, leaving behind distraught fathers, husbands, sons and brothers; we hear of famine and lack of medical supplies in other countries torn apart by conflict, and here in Britain we know many families are struggling with the increase in the cost of living. Our immediate response is "What can we do?". It all seems so overwhelming, but there are many ways in which we can make a difference. I know many of you have already donated to appeals for money or goods and continue to support food banks, baby banks, asylum seekers and women's refuges. Going forward we can work with the Diocese to provide physical and emotional support to households in our area who have taken in refugees, by cooking meals, taking children to school, providing toys, books and stationery for children, reading stories or simply being a listening ear. Each small act of kindness accompanied by prayer does make a difference.

Every day we can be sure of the presence of our living Lord whose Holy Spirit equips and guides us in all we do.

I wish you a Joyful and Blessed Easter. *Alleluia. Christ is risen!
He is risen indeed. Alleluia!*

Elaine Swinkoe
Diocesan President



During March the **Mothers' Union Chapel** in Ripon Cathedral has been used as a special place for people to pray for the situation in Ukraine. Our members in Ripon were thrilled to see the Mothers' Union Chapel being used in this way when they went there for Midday Prayers. Thanks to Janet Carter who sent in this beautiful photo!

Baildon Branch in Bradford prays for Ukraine

We met to pray for the people of the Ukraine, Russia and neighbouring countries. We lit candles for the countries in our Wave of Prayer alongside candles for the countries at war. We shared prayers and thoughts about the conflict and talked about ways we can help and support those in the midst of the troubles. We prayed for peace and reconciliation and for an end to the war. We also prayed for those reporting the news and the aid agencies trying to assist.



Forthcoming Events

Spring Council Meeting - Thursday 9th June 2022

This will take place on Thursday 9th June 2022 at **Batley Town Hall** at 10am for 10.30am and will include our AGM and a Jubilee Celebration. If you have any ideas about how we can celebrate together please get in touch with Mary Marshall on mary.thorpe@btinternet.com Mary would also like to hear about anyone's memories of meeting the Queen on any occasion or being at a service with her. We look forward to seeing you there!

Summer Celebration Family Service - Saturday 9th July 2022

Members and their families in all areas are invited to attend this special Summer Celebration Family Service at **Bradford Cathedral** on Saturday 9th July 2022 at 1.30pm. Children's activities will take place in the Cathedral grounds from 12 noon. All welcome! Please do come along with your families and grandchildren!

Annual Gathering in Belfast - 23rd & 24th September 2022

The details on the Annual Gathering 2022 to be held in **Belfast** on 23rd and 24th September 2022 have now been released on the main Mothers' Union website, including details on how to purchase tickets. You can find the details here:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/events>

You are welcome to purchase tickets individually but we will be making a group booking for anyone who would like to go from the Diocese of Leeds. Please contact Diocesan Secretary, Jo Sarkar, for further details (musecretaryleeds@gmail.com).

The deadline for joining our block booking is Friday 27th May 2022.





Look out for the Spring edition of the MU Connected magazine which will be arriving on your doorstep very soon!



To go alongside celebrations throughout the UK and around the world, branches are asked to combine their Jubilee Celebrations with a Summer of Hope event. A resource pack will be sent out in May.

Past Diocesan President Jean Thurman's Retirement Celebration



The Bishop of Leeds, Rt Revd Nick Baines and his wife, Linda, hosted a celebration supper for Past President, Jean Thurman, to thank her for her 6-year term of office as Diocesan President of Mothers' Union, Diocese of Leeds. Jean was presented with a stunning glass dish made by Linda in her studio at Hollin House. We are thankful to Bishop Nick and Linda as they continue as our patrons for this triennium.

Preparing Mother's Day Flowers at St Chad's

Thanks to Elizabeth Johnson who sent me these photos of busy MU members preparing daffodils for Mother's Day at St Chad's Church in Headingley, Leeds.





Leeds Area Lady Day Service at St Margaret's, Horsforth

Thank you to Paul Ainsworth who sent in these lovely photos of the Leeds Area Lady Day Service at St Margaret's, Horsforth. We welcomed Rev Darren Percival, the new Leeds Area Chaplain, to preach and thanked Rev Sharon Kaye for her service as she stepped down. Diocesan President, Elaine Swinhoe, attended the service and many members took part including Audrey Dickinson pictured here at the lectern. Afterwards everyone enjoyed a cup of tea and chat together!

An Easter Prayer

Eternal God in whom is all our hope, in life, in death and to all eternity.

Grant that rejoicing in the eternal life which is ours

through the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ,

We may face whatever the future may hold for us, calm and unafraid.

Always confident that nothing can part us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Amen.

