

## 2022 Theme: Transformation - Now!

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Diocese of Leeds

### Keeping in Touch Issue 1 February & March 2022

Dear Members,

I write as the new Diocesan President for the Diocese of Leeds and as the new year begins, but we may feel that in the present circumstances little has changed; Covid is still with us, but thankfully there are fewer limits on what we can do. The Re-imagining Mothers' Union Conference has had to be cancelled again and some meetings are still happening on Zoom rather than in person. BUT we as Christians and members of Mothers' Union are people of hope. Isaiah 40:31 "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength". We can build on all the achievements of last year, both locally and in the organisation worldwide knowing that through prayer and direct action many people were supported and helped through difficult times. The Commissioning Service was a joyful and uplifting occasion, and I was encouraged that so many of you were able to attend. We were assured of the support of our bishops and chaplains as we work with our churches in the promotion of the Gospel through words and deeds.



Going forward our new theme "Transformation - Now!" challenges us to look to the future with a new vision and a willingness to adapt to the conditions we find ourselves in. Your resilience and commitment in the past show that this is possible, and we are encouraged, with God's help, to think outside the box - how can we transform ourselves, our churches and communities?

We commence the new Triennium with a new trustee board made up of some new and some experienced members. I am looking forward to the skills and ideas they will bring as we plan a way forward for our Diocesan Mothers' Union. We must first reflect on where we are now and then prayerfully seek the direction in which God wants to lead us. It may not be grand schemes and I am reminded that it is said "Mothers' Union does small things well". Our branches vary in size – some are large, some are very small, but each one can bring valuable contributions to their communities through identifying and acting on needs that they see around them. We are a worldwide organisation, but one which touches people on a personal level. Our subscriptions and prayers are important in allowing these far-reaching changes for good in the lives of so many people.

**Elaine Swinhoe**  
**Diocesan President**



### Outreach Returns for 2021

Thank you to all the branches who have sent to me their outreach return form for 2021. There is still time to include your branch donations in my annual report if you haven't already sent them.

Email to: [gravonne@btinternet.com](mailto:gravonne@btinternet.com) or post to: 142 Greenfield Road, Holmfirth, HD9 2LP

With thanks for all you do in meeting the needs of those who have met with adversity.

Yvonne Hutson

**Outreach Team Leader**

# #NoMore1in3

Mothers' UNION  
End abuse and violence now

Global Day 2021 was marked by members up and down our Diocese holding protests against the shocking fact that 1 in 3 women worldwide will be affected by gender-based violence.



**GIGGLESWICK WITH SETTLE MU PROTEST IN THE MARKET SQUARE**



**WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL PROTEST**

As part of our on-going work to end gender-based violence, we are committed to supporting those who have been affected by domestic abuse by supporting individuals and communities practically, and encouraging and advocating for change at local, national and international levels. Special thanks to Eileen Warburton and Yvonne Hutson for arranging the vigil and protest at Wakefield Cathedral which was led by Bishop Tony.

Edith Diggles of the MU branch at Giggleswick with Settle says *"I thought that you might be interested in how we joined in with Mothers' Union Global Day of Action. Two of our members made a banner. We met for prayers at Holy Ascension, Settle then walked up to Settle's Market Square for the 3 mins silence at 1.03pm. We had 'musical' instruments (some borrowed from our Mums and Tots basket!) to make a noise as we went along and before we began the silence. Afterwards we walked, with banner and instruments, round the Square and back to Holy Ascension. We got one or two puzzled glances. Settle's Christmas Lights were to be switched on at 5pm. This is always a 'big event' in the town's calendar with stalls (commercial and local charities) in the Square too. But at 1.03pm the Square was fairly quiet apart from stallholders setting up and technicians preparing the "stage". Revd Julie Clarkson is a Mothers' Union member and led our prayers and took part in the demo with us. We posted some pictures on Facebook and had a very positive response with some supportive comments from a wide range of local folk who may not have known anything about Mothers' Union before. We just wanted to do something about this issue. It was quite scary as none of us had taken part in a demo before!"*

***Well done to you all!***



## Wave of Prayer 2022

Members of St James the Great, Ryhill in Wakefield Area enjoyed celebrating this year's Wave of Prayer together.



## Congratulations Cynthia!!

Congratulations to Cynthia Hindley of Cawthorne Branch in the Wakefield Area who has been awarded the British Empire Medal for services to the community in Barnsley, South Yorkshire.

Cynthia says "I returned to Cawthorne in 1993 and became branch

leader of the MU there. The branch has supported all the MU good causes and then spread wider to

encompass the Refuge, Exodus project, Dustbin Babies in India and children in Ghana and Belarus. I worked at Genesis, then New Hall Nursery and the Parenting Programme. I am so fortunate in that the Cawthorne Branch and the wider Barnsley community are willing to support me, working in so many ways for those in need both here and abroad."



## Dates for your Diary

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2022

Council Meeting & AGM at Batley Town Hall

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July 2022

Summer Celebration Service at Bradford Cathedral

## Prayer for "Transformation – Now !"

Gracious God, make known to us your plans for peace and well-being; to bring lasting transformation.

Lord, we pray that lives would be transformed into ones of self-respect and sufficiency through effective use of your resources.

We pray that families would be transformed into strong and loving households as they explore your ways for relationship.

We pray that communities would be transformed into ones of resilience and prosperity through trust and cooperation.

Gracious God, guide us in your plans for peace and wellbeing; to transform lives for good.

Amen

