

Election Special

Triennium 2022-2024



Dear members,

Well, it's that time again! The election process for the Diocesan President, Area Presidents and General Trustees for the next Triennium will begin at the end of February.

All nomination papers and role descriptions will be circulated to Trustees, Branch Leaders and Diocesan Members' Representatives on 26th February 2021 and nominations for the Diocesan President, Area Presidents and General Trustees are to be returned in March, April and May respectively.

Please prayerfully consider if you are able to stand for any of these posts...

Many of the current members of the Trustee Board are required to stand down as they have completed 2 terms of office and it is essential that we have a strong group of Trustees to lead us forward in the future.

Pray for the Elections

“What is God asking me to do, as an MU member, for the sake of his kingdom?”

Father God, as we look to the future, we give thanks for the first five years of the Diocese of Leeds Mothers' Union and all that we have achieved. Help us to listen to you and reflect on our own role in the work of MU in our Diocese. Mothers' Union began with the small seed of Mary Sumner's vision and obedience to you and we have grown into a huge International organisation that is MU today. Guide each one of us to listen to your will for us.

In Jesus name, we pray. Amen

with best wishes

Jo Sarkar

Diocesan Secretary, Returning Officer for Triennial Elections



Subscriptions 2021

Thank You from the Trustees

As we remain in lockdown, we know that branches have been unable to meet in person. The Trustee Board want to say Thank You for working hard to collect and submit annual subscriptions. Your continuing support for Mothers' Union is appreciated and ensures the work continues.

Please continue to remember in prayer all those families and individuals who are living with loved ones affected by Coronavirus and those who are bereaved. We give thanks for the wonderful work of the scientists providing us with the vaccines to make us safe from infection and enable us to one day hug our friends and family members again.

Stay safe and well until we meet.

Love & prayers

Jean (Diocesan President)

Payment of 2021 subscriptions

Paul Leeming, Diocesan Treasurer, asks that if you wish to send subscriptions already collected, please do so and then send the remainder later, all in one go please.

Direct Debit

Making your payments easier for you and your branch

Information will be available later this year about the option to pay subscriptions by Direct Debit in the future. Mary Sumner House will work with us to set this up.

Recognition for Services



Mothers' Union Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, has been appointed a Member of the Order of Service of Guyana. Sheran has also been awarded the Golden Arrow of Achievement for long and exceptional service to Mothers' Union in the Anglican Diocese of Guyana and internationally.



Sheran said: "This award is a fantastic recognition of the work of Mothers' Union in Guyana and around the world. I am honoured to receive it. At Mothers' Union, we are a global family, and this award recognizes the achievements of the movement as a whole, as well as individuals."

Lady Day Service
Thursday 25th March 2021 at 2pm

The Diocesan Lady Day Service will be a live streamed service from Bradford Cathedral. The preacher will be Rt Rev'd Dr Toby Howarth, Bishop of Bradford.

AN INVITATION
FROM THE PRAYER TEAM

All members are invited to come and share at the 'Conversations about Prayer' session at 2.00 pm on ZOOM on Monday 15th March.

What is the one major difference between the Mothers' Union and other organisations? It is that our actions, beliefs, and care for others are grounded in prayer and love for GOD.

During the afternoon we will look at some different ways to pray. This is not just how to pray as individuals, but within groups, and when we are leading groups. There is no one right way! So the session is a conversation, and an opportunity to share ideas amongst each other. It will also give all Members the chance to explore the various resources about prayer on the MU Website and, alongside each other we can explore how these ideas can be applied to issues that give us cause for concern.

How to register: contact Mary Marshall on mary.thorpe@btinternet.com
Join us on Monday 15 March at 2.00pm. All welcome!

Branch News from Heaton, St Barnabas in Bradford

Wave of Prayer with a difference - Friday 8th January at 3.00pm found 11 of our members at the end of the phone ready to join in the service, using the phone-in conference call facility set up by our clergy in June to bring our midweek service to everyone, especially those without the internet. The readings and prayers, on the theme *Rebuilding Hope and Confidence*, were shared out and the change of voice worked well. In addition to phoning in from several villages around Bradford, one of our members was in Norfolk where she is caring for a relative.

What we've got up to in the pandemic - 8 members of our branch were recruited to make sure every member of our congregation was contacted by phone or email each week. We never imagined that such networking would still be running 10 months later.



A **Gardening Group** was set up, under the leadership of MU members, to keep our church garden looking cared for and a **Walking Group** was formed.

Both activities brought members safely together for much needed fresh air and exercise whilst observing all the guidelines for social distancing. One member, who lives alone, said these had been a real life-saver for her.



Our **needleworkers** have also been very busy knitting over 1,000 baby hats and several blankets for the neo-natal unit at Bradford Royal Infirmary, making twiddle muffs and a dozen items for those who deal with the still born babies. One member with a lot of patience decided to take up a new hobby of crystal art to produce some beautiful pictures.



Despite not being able to hold formal meetings, MU members have had quite a busy time!!



Last and by no means least, one of our members was among the first to receive the Pfizer Covid vaccination before Christmas and featured on Look North!

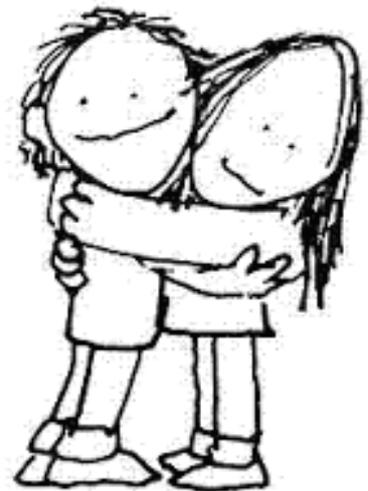
Sharing strength and love on Mothering Sunday Sunday 14th March 2021

Resources for Mothering Sunday are currently being sent out by Mary Sumner House. You can also find and download the Mothering Sunday resources by visiting the website www.makeamothersday.org where you can also order gifts online.



Here is a beautiful poem found by one of our members at St Mark's, Harrogate - entitled "**Hugging**"

Hugging
Feels good
Dispels loneliness
Overcomes fears
Rebuilds self esteem
(Wow! they actually want to hug me!)
Slows down ageing
Huggers stay younger longer
Eases tension,
Fights insomnia
Keeps arms and shoulder muscles in good condition
Is ecologically sound
Does not upset the environment
Is democratic
Anyone is eligible for a hug
Is portable
Affirms physical well being
Is energy efficient, saves heat
Makes impossible days possible
Makes happy days happier.



Won't it be wonderful when we can hug again!

