

A letter from your President

A Very Happy New Year to everyone! How many times do we think "Where has the last year gone?" Yes, we have left 2019 behind, with all its joys and sorrows and have moved into 2020 thinking about building hope and confidence both in ourselves and others. This isn't always easy when many of us have been through or are still going through difficult times. So, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." *Romans 15: 13*



I was very fortunate to be able to walk by the sea in the south of France on a beautiful, sunny New Year's Day. What a wonderful way to lift one's spirits and make you smile. So many happy faces, so many families spending time and having fun together, so many acknowledgments from those you have never met before. This year I would like us to think about the impact of a simple smile as we go about our daily lives.

"Smile at a stranger. It may bring them sunshine in ways you can't possibly imagine."

With my love, Christine x

Calendar of Events

FEBRUARY

- 4th F&A 12pm 90 Deansgate
- 13th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate
- 17th Board of Trustees 6pm for 6.30pm 90 Deansgate

MARCH

- 10th IMPC Meeting 90 Deansgate 1pm
- 12th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate
- 26th Office and shop closed for Easter Holidays

APRIL

- 14th Office and shop re-open
- 16th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate
- 25th Spring Council 3rd Floor 90 Deansgate

Subscriptions and Branch/Deanery Forms

Subs are due into the office by 17th February. Membership is £23.50 this year. Branch and Deanery forms (Blue and Green) are due into the office by 31st January.

If anyone is having trouble filling in the forms they are welcome to speak to our interim treasurer Barbara Taylor. Please contact the office for Barbara's contact details if required.

Treasurer Wanted

We need a treasurer for MU Manchester Diocese. Please pray and consider if you could take this role. Please contact the office for further details.

Manchester MU Display Board

Please contact the office if you would like to use the Manchester MU display board for an event or service at church or in the community.



Congratulations!

A huge congratulations to Mrs Elizabeth Gough from St John the Baptist L.H. on her 90th Birthday in January.



Handbags for the Homeless

Bury Deanery have been filling handbags with toiletries and essential items for homeless ladies and gentlemen.



2020 Theme: Building hope and confidence

There are lots of fabulous resources on the Main Mothers' Union website for this years theme.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/2020-theme-building-hope-and-confidence>

2020 Theme: Service of Thanksgiving

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

2020 Theme: Lady Day Celebration

This resource may be used for a formal service, a more informal act of worship or as the basis for a Quiet Day

2020 Theme: Prayers and Bible verses

Prayers and Bible verses on the theme of building hope and confidence

2020 Theme: Quotes

These inspiring quotes may be used as an encouragement to worship, to strengthen faith, and to focus on God's plans for us

2020 Theme: Stories of change

Examples to discuss from the UK and overseas where hope and confidence in the future is being built alongside practical change

2020 Theme: Prayer reflection

One of the ways we build our hope and confidence in God, in ourselves and in those we support is by using the gifts God freely gives to us. This prayer reflection may be used as the basis for a Quiet Day, a shorter prayer activity or as separate reflections

2020 Theme: God's Word as our foundation

The Bible makes it clear that our foundation for building hope and confidence is God and his Word. Use this well known parable to reflect on what we and others choose as the foundation for our lives

2020 Theme: Being confident about MU

An activity to help members focus on all that Mothers' Union does - and does well

2020 Theme: What do I do well?

If we are to start building hope and confidence in Mothers' Union, we need to start in building confidence in ourselves and recognising the gifts that others see in us.

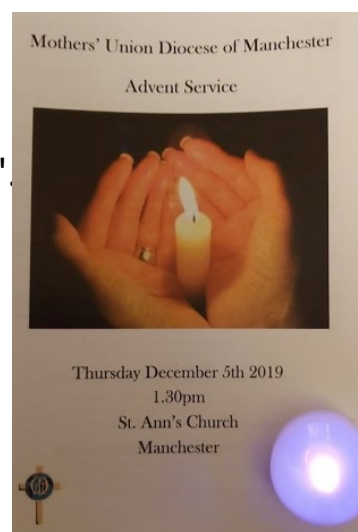
Oldham Parish Church Christmas Tree Festival

Some of our members went to see the Christmas Tree Festival at Oldham Parish Church, where the Branch had beautifully dressed their tree with hand crafted decorations. Stunning!



Manchester MU Advent Service

Thank you to all who organised both the service and refreshments afterwards at our Advent Service at St Ann's Church Manchester. It was a great opportunity to reflect and "make ready to meet Christ the Son of Righteousness when He comes in glory". Also good to meet friends and catch up.



Fun and fellowship in Mossley

Each year in January MU members and friends gather for dinner - this year we had 46 folk there, more than ever, and enjoyed good company, food as well as our traditional quiz, bingo and games afterwards. We prayed before eating for the Mothers' Union, and for all in need. Grateful thanks as always to those who make these wonderful events happen to bring us together in fun and



fellowship!
The Reverend David Warner SCP, Vicar of Mossley



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Mothers' Union Manchester



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