

A letter from your President

“My children, our love should not be just words and talk,
 it must be true love, which shows itself in action.”

1 John 3: 18

“Do the small things well!”

It is a real pleasure to be able to write to you as your new Diocesan President. The start of 2019 has indeed been busy, but it has given me the opportunity to engage with other Diocesan Presidents at their Commissioning Services and also our excellent Board of Trustees. As your previous Action and Outreach Coordinator, I have been privileged to visit and speak to Branches throughout the Diocese and I hope to meet many more of our members during the coming months. This year the Mothers' Union theme is “ Listen, observe, act – in step with God,” following on from **Mothers' Union Listening, Observing, Acting**, in which our work through **Just Up Your Street** and recently **Welcoming Strangers** fits so well. There is so much important work going on in our Branches, through faith, prayer and love. When it comes to helping those in need , no matter what faith, culture or background, nothing we do can ever be too small. A cup of tea, a chat, a friendly smile can make all the difference to someone's life and brighten the day. So, let's continue to “Do the small things well” as we listen, observe, act – in step with God throughout the year.



With my love and prayers, Christine

Calendar of Events

MARCH

10th Commissioning Service for all Officers and Trustees at Manchester Cathedral, Evensong 5.30pm. Please support us at this service.

14th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor 90 Deansgate

23rd Spring Council, 10am Church House, 90 Deansgate

APRIL

5th Office and shop closed for Easter Holidays

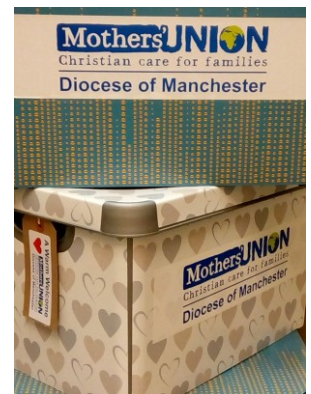
11th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate

23rd Office and shop re-open

MAY

9th Thursday Prayers 12pm 4th Floor Chapel 90 Deansgate

We provided 5 Nightstop boxes which were gratefully received in the run up to Christmas.



Mothers' Union are proudly working in collaboration with the Clewer Initiative in order to end modern slavery by 2030.

Both Mothers' Union and the Clewer Initiative believe that the tools to end modern day slavery already exist within our local communities. We envision that the Church, which is present and at the heart of communities, has a primary responsibility in leading this effort. Mothers' Union can help with victim support and care. This involves working with the Church locally to identify resources already available to be utilised, developing partnerships with others and thus creating a wider network of advocates seeking to end modern slavery.



New Beginnings Backpacks

“Step out in faith. Every Day is a new beginning. Every moment a new chance in life.” We have sent out our first fourteen “New Beginnings” backpacks to both HMP Manchester and HMP Forest Bank, who are absolutely delighted with them. A card from us is included with details of the pack contents and also contact details of where help can be obtained. We would like to use one specific backpack which caters for all needs and are asking Branches if they would donate a Biashiqi hiking backpack which costs £12.99 from Amazon. Please look out for Palmolive Shave sticks as they are like gold dust!



We will remember them.

At St James Milnrow and St Ann Belfield our members knitted long and hard to knit approx 400 poppies to make two banners. One for our War Memorial in St James Church Yard with a poppy for every name on the memorial approx 180 and one for the Memorial in Milnrow park, again a poppy for every name on the memorial approx 280.



Congratulations!



Congratulations to Marjorie from St. Michaels Tonge who celebrated her 90th birthday in January.

Lynda and Brian from St Stephens Bury celebrated their Golden Wedding in August and Anne and Roger celebrated theirs in November. Also from St Stephens Bury, Betty celebrated her 90th Birthday in August. She treated members to home made butterfly buns at our September meeting. Betty has been an MU member for 42 years. Congratulations to all!

Dream Toys gave us another generous donation this year and we were able to provide a large number of soft toys, playmats and books from the Entertainer Store to help create two soft play areas in the Visits Hall at HMP Forest Bank. We have received a lovely letter of thanks from The Director.



Mothers' UNION

Mothers' Union
Liturgy for
Mothering Sunday 2019

This year, our Make a Mother's Day Appeal will be themed around “Nurturing Hope in a Hurting World”. Staff and students of St Mellitus College have written a beautiful liturgy to share with

your local church leaders. They've created a service which will inspire hope and comfort in all. You can download it for FREE from the Main MU website along with the rest of the Mothering Sunday resources.



Fabulous night at St Michaels Church Flixton. MU@8 with local music teachers put on a mostly children's concert. There was piano, drums, and singing. Members children played in the concert, a joy to watch, and raised £350 from tickets and refreshments for MU.



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Mothers' Union Manchester



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