

A letter from your President

Life hasn't been easy for us all during the past months and I know that many of you will have had to self-isolate for long periods. I am lucky enough to have a garden to potter in and it has never looked so good! Until just recently in Greater Manchester things were starting to seem more positive and we were beginning to get out and about more, visiting our loved ones and friends. Let us pray that the current restrictions will not be in place for long. Thankfully, having churches open again for private prayer and services is such a blessing. I am sure you will have been following Midday Prayers online and using the many excellent resources provided by our local clergy and Mothers' Union. The picture is of the cross given to me by Sheran Harper when she visited the Province last year. I keep it by my bed, and it helps to keep me grounded and calm when reflecting on what needs to be done each day. Lockdown has given myself and our Trustees time to concentrate on much needed administrative work and look at the extra support that will be needed in the community in the coming months and years. We are all becoming quite used to conference calls and this will surely become a common feature in the life of Mothers' Union. Members have been so busy making numerous items for the NHS, having meetings via Zoom and keeping in touch with the vulnerable and those needing extra help. We have provided more backpacks for HMP Forest Bank and much needed reading glasses for residents. The lovely "Thank You" poem we received is in this newsletter. Thank you for your poetry contributions and photos about life during "Lockdown." We are looking at the best way to produce these for everyone to see. A favourite book of mine, which always lifts the spirits, is called "Children's Letters to God." I think the last entry from a little boy called Frank has a message for us all: "Dear God, I am doing the best I can." Amen. With my love and prayers, Christine x



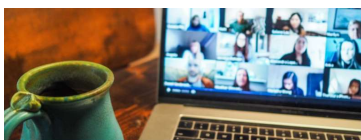
Could you contribute new ideas, organise and support fundraising events in the Diocese for our work in local communities? Would you like to raise awareness of the aims and objectives of Mothers' Union? Please contact your President, Christine Sharp, for an informal chat.

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.

Thoughts and Prayers

Lily Critten sadly died in June. She was a much loved, faithful, loyal and treasured member of MU, our thoughts and prayers are with her friends and family and we give thanks for her dedication to MU.



Mothers' Union Member Webinars

Mothers' Union are delighted to be offering members a selection of webinars based around a number of themes including digital media, fundraising and capturing and reporting on the difference that we make. A full list of available webinars for the Aug - Nov period can be found on the website link below. All Webinars will be on Zoom. <https://www.mothersunion.org/mothers-union-member-webinars>

MU Shop and Face Coverings

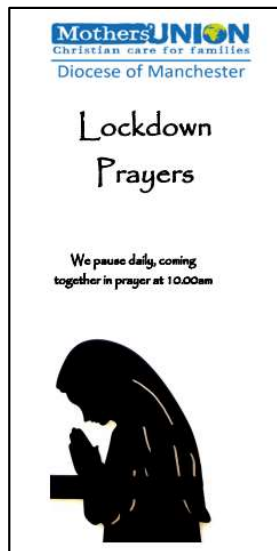
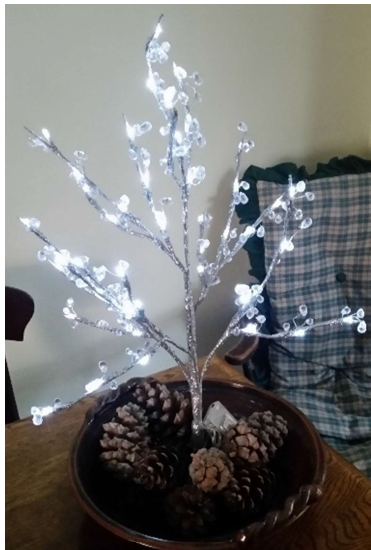
Face masks are now for sale in the MU online shop. They are washable, triple layered deluxe ones. They cost £5 each, of which £4 comes to the Diocese, and have been made by MU members. The picture here shows the first batch made by Manchester Diocesan members Trisha Stokes and Frances Brough. The new catalogues will be available very soon, also the diaries for 2021 should be in stock anytime, too. Orders for any of these can be requested either by email (below) or phone 0161 828 1427.



Prayer during Lockdown

Thanks to Ian Butterworth (Trustee) for arranging the Lockdown prayers which were emailed out at the end of April, and on the MU Manchester Website. The Mothers' Union Midday Prayers are Live on Facebook and also available on the Daily Hope telephone line. Members

have been praying, lighting candles and one member using a tree of Hope. Members have been using their Families Worldwide for daily prayer, too.



DailyHOPE

A free phone line of hymns, reflections and prayers

0800 804 8044

DailyHOPE phone line menu options

- * Press * to listen to Archbishop Justin Welby's message.
- 1 Press 1 to listen to 'Hymns we Love' (this is a series of short talks based on well-loved hymns).
- 2 Press 2 to listen to our Hymn Line (these are recordings of different hymns on a daily loop).
- 3 Press 3 to listen to our Prayer Line (prayers that are specific and relevant to the Coronavirus crisis).
- 4 Otherwise, please press 4 for more options.
- 5 Press 5 to listen to the Church of England's weekly service.
- 6 Press 6 to join in with traditional morning and evening prayers.
- 7 Press 7 to listen to the latest Government advice on the Coronavirus.
- 0 Press 0 to return to the main menu.

THE CHURCH OF ENGLAND Faith in Later Life CONNECTIONS

Thank you

We have received these wonderful thank you letters from people who have received gifts from branches in Manchester.

Mothers Union

The amazing mothers union, where do I start
Founded by an angel, Mary Sumner had a golden heart,
In the city of Winchester, 1876 was the year
This beautiful charity was formed, the presence of GOD was near,
A christian organization, working with faiths of all kinds
A group of similar members, all sharing similar minds,
Internationally renowned, flourishing into 34 countries worldwide
Building up over 4 million members, a charity working with pride,
I'm just unable to find the words, to explain how amazing you are,
But your love, kindness & generosity, is felt from close by & from afar,
Thankyou for your services, forever grateful i will always be to you
Changing lives & being inspirational, please never give up what you do.

With SINCERE LOVE

Gift from Seven Saints Team

Dear Mothers' Union. I would just like to take the time to write and thank you for the very thoughtful gift bag that I received. I am an Intensive Care nurse working at the Royal Bolton Hospital. I am indebted to you and the gift bag meant a great deal. I was particularly drawn to the little knitted "cross in my pocket". I was sent one of those whilst serving in Afghanistan in 2011. Again, I am faced with difficult times in very trying circumstances. Like 2011 that little cross in my pocket will sustain me. Thank you most sincerely.



info@mothersunionmanchester.org
www.mothersunionmanchester.org



Mothers' Union Manchester



@MUmanchesterdio

Response during Lockdown



Even in these trying times small things matter. A young mum to be in need, the midwives at NMGH asked if we could help. Filled basket on its way xx #MU@8 #mothersunion

These are just a few of the actions and responses that have been happening in the Diocese over the last few months, showing how MU members and branches put their faith into action, and share Gods love, particularly at this difficult time.



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Manchester

Saying "Thank You" to all staff at ICU Salford Royal
July 2020

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| For Service | Candle |
| For All-embracing care | Cross in My Pocket |
| For Loyalty | Fruilicious |
| For Family | Pieces of Jigsaw |
| For Optimism | Smiley Slinky |
| For Refusal to give up | Coconut Water |
| For Dedication | Tissues |
| For Resilience | Lip care |
| For Outstanding commitment | Hot Chocolate |
| For Yourself | Cadbury's Buttons |
| For Admiral care | Hand cream |
| For Love of others | Mary Sumner Prayer |

