**“Get Involved” Adam Sach, Head of Fundraising & Communications – General Meeting 2019**

It is not just a wonderful opportunity but I believe it is somewhat of a privilege to address so many members in what is just my first few months of being a part of what I have come to learn is the Mothers Union Family

And what a wonderful, inspiring, challenging and blessed first part of the year it has been. I remain, even more so after speaking with members today, in awe of the amazing work that transforms lives and builds better and stronger families and communities across Britain and Ireland, as well as around the world. You should all feel very proud!

But I feel what we are doing is just the tip of the iceberg. I am still excited by the untapped potential that we, as a movement, have, to mobilise, to challenge, to support, to encourage and ultimately to make the world we live in a better place, not just for ourselves but for everyone we share it with under Gods good guidance.

You have already heard this today, but it is time, time for us to stop being the world’s best kept secret, time for us to be as proud of who we are and be use the amazing fellowship and commitment of every single one of us sitting here today along with those not with us.

To use the strength and reach of our movement so that people sit up and listen to who Mothers’ Union is and why we do what we do.

When we talk about being proud we are not talking about being Boastful – we are talking about being confident. We are not seeking praise and affirmation for what we do for others, nor are we looking to take advantage. Being proud is about us knowing who we are and why we do what we do… and then sharing that to help others, to make a real change and impact and to support and grow God’s Kingdom.

So as you were walking in this morning and following lunch you had an opportunity to see a short loop of images which gives just a snap shot of the work and impact around the world. I am going to play this one more time for you, with some music, and just ask you to reflect on what it is that makes you feel proud to be a part of mothers Union, Then I would invite you to share that with others around you.

Now just to the people around you, share what makes you proud to say you are a member of Mothers’ Union.

Would anyone like to share, they will need to shout, either their own or someone around you’s reason to feel proud to be a Mothers’ Union member

This pride is something I am keen for us all to share - but not just in this room – but far and wide and I would like to work with you to find even more ways to ensure Mothers’ Union is more visible, to encourage even more people to become involved and to secure funds to help make the amazing difference you, in many different ways, are a part of right here in Britain and Ireland as well as across the world.

Although I am keen to share what we have planned and I would love your ideas and support to be able to move Mothers Union forward- I first thought it would be better to hear from the experts – the experts being you. So to that end I would like to welcome Jill Cannings Diocesan President for Peterborough to the stage to share who she has been sharing her pride of Mothers’ Union with locally.

I am now keen to share with you some of our plans for the remainder of 2019 and into 2020. Examples of this can be found on the stall in the market place for the end of this year and into next year.

The inaugural raffle helped change the lives of thousands of individuals around the world and did this through raising over £69,000 towards our work

This year the B&I group have decided that we should once again run a raffle to help even more people transform their own lives. This year's raffle is focused on protecting peace at Christmas and funds raised will help advance of life changing work in the world’s newest, but most troubled nation, South Sudan. More information on the project and what this year’s raffle looks like can be found in the market place.

The raffle is one way of us trying new ways to raise funds outside of the membership. Of course, we welcome our members buying the tickets but encourage you to think of ways to engage others - again raising both profile and funds.

Appeals:

Ideas, materials and support on how to plan a 5k event – which could be just like the one you have heard about from Jill - although her’s was a little longer than 5k!... or something different, whatever works for your members!

At the end of November our Christmas Appeal will be with you. This will be mailed to individuals, in a similar way to prior years, so although branch leaders will receive this there will be no resources to share.

Make a Mother’s Day will run again next year and we will aim for packs to be with branch leaders by mid January. We have some exciting plans to make even more of Mother’s Day next year …Including producing more church focused resources that you will be able to download and hopefully partnering with others to have an even bigger reach.

We will once again be heavily involved in Thy Kingdom Come which this year will take place please do keep a look out for the date which we will share as soon as we have it. We will be live streaming this via Facebook again so if you can’t make it to the service in person you may want to arrange for your branch to meet and watch it together as a group locally.

Our successful Summer of Hope appeal will run again next year –we are hoping to have packs ready by the end of April to send out to branches.

Harvest appeal 2020 will land on door mats in late July and will be a mailing sent to individuals

I truly believe that MU can be an even bigger influencer for change and good in the world. And I would like that change to start here, today, with you all.

Next year we would like us to launch a Mothers’ Union National day of Action. A day when, across Britain and Ireland, as Trailblazers for the worldwide Movement, we all come together to perform the same act, in solidarity to raise and awareness and funds for an issues that the worldwide movement agreed was a priority in Rwanda this year.

Will you join ME? Details are still being pulled tighter but the day will focus on raising the voices of women around the world. Standing up for one main issues that not only effects women but where women can and should be the agents of change. Many of you will already be involved or aware of the campaign we are a part of called 16 days of Activisms. We plan to link these 2 strands of work together.

The idea is to hold a series of identical but simple events, such as all joining together to sing the same song or hymns at high profile destinations across the UK – this will allow for us to raise both awareness and funds.

We will be sharing more information on this through DP’s and PP over the coming months but we are gearing up for it to take place late Nov to early Dec 2020

I am just a guest today - This is your Mothers’ Union and I believe my role and the role of the amazing team I am fortunate to work with is to provide ideas that allow even more people to find out about what we do, to inspire people to live out their faith through our work, to raise money that changes other people’s lives, not just today but for the long term. But nothing is possible without each and every single one of you.

If I may be as bold as to set you all a challenge, it is very simple, never forget why you are proud to be a member. But it does not stop there – Now share that – in what every way you can – in a big way through events and talks or in a small way, speaking with friends and that stranger you are squashed up against in the doctor’s waiting room next week. Harness this passion to reach out to new members, to share our work and to raise our profile, so that together – as a worldwide movement – we can ensure everyone has the chance to live life in all its fullness!