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The Diocese of Lincoln. Spring Newsletter 2023

Letter from the Diocesan President, Revd Sylvia Rice-Oxley

Hello! This is our Spring newsletter and already we have some Spring flowers to see and enjoy. I hope you are feeling the uplift of this time of year. Resurrection time, after a long and cold winter.

Mothers Union news in the Diocese is encouraging. Lots going on and I hope you feel part of it. Diocesan Members are invited to join in with Branch and Cluster meetings. It has been so lovely to meet up with friends again in our local communities and churches and also across the Diocese.

I hope you may be able to join us for our Summer Council and AGM in Horncastle on Saturday 24 June from 10am. After brief essential matters on the Agenda, Kathryn Anderson, who is our Provincial President, will address us. Kathryn is a lovely person, very enthusiastic about Mothers Union, and I am sure you will enjoy meeting her. Please bring your own packed lunch. Teas and coffees available in the usual MU way!!

I am pleased to announce that our November Winter Council will be held at the Methodist Church in Washingborough - more about that later!

Soon it will be Mothering Sunday and Lady Day and I know you are planning wonderful events in your churches, branches and clusters. Then Lent and Easter followed by the Coronation of Charles III. Lots to look forward to. Enjoy. And please let us know through the newsletter and Summer Council what is happening in your part of the world. Encourage us, inspire us, and share the fellowship!

My husband has been ill over the winter but hopefully he will be back with us all soon and join me in visiting branches and clusters. I am delighted to be invited and look forward so much to being with you.

Please invite me if you haven't already. I don't mind about numbers!! And I am getting used to driving myself around this beautiful county.

Richard's illness has made me realise how difficult it is to live alone. If you are on your own, please be assured of a warm welcome in your church and local branch, and may you feel the spiritual umbrella of love and prayer over you constantly, as I have done.

May God bless you. With love, Sylvia



*(picture: Prayer Station "Families"
created by Kate Brown)*

From our Chaplain: -

Spring is now definitely underway, and with the longer days and signs of spring breaking through the brown earth things may seem more hopeful. Hope is so important in life, without hope life can seem meaningless, one hard day after another.

My faith fills me with hope and as we move closer to Easter and the wonderful reminder of the hope we have in Jesus that He loves each and every one of us and that through His sacrifice we can face each day knowing that through Him we are forgiven.

We have eaten our pancakes, and we are now in Lent, traditionally a time of repentance and reflection. A time to change our behaviour a little, whether to give up something or perhaps do something extra, whether it is giving up bread or deciding to do an extra good deed each day, because kindness doesn't cost but is mutually beneficial.

Our faith coordinator Kate Brown has produced a wonderful set of daily reflections which will lead us through Lent, spending that extra time each day may bring more than you might ever imagine as your relationship and faith deepens as all things do when you invest time in them.

As I write this we are seeing the awful images of the earthquake in Turkey and Syria, heart breaking images of despair and grief. Please hold all those involved in your prayers because as we already know, we can never be certain what the future holds, which means that we should embrace each day, to give love and help where we can, to comfort those who are feeling low and to celebrate with those who are joyful, because all our emotions pattern our lives, we need to embrace them, to live them, because we all know life can change in a second and we should try to live as if each day is a gift, a gift from God.

God Bless You All.
Carolyn

Position of Diocesan Administrator

Lincoln Diocese Mothers' Union has around 500 members in branches and groups across the Diocese, including 120 Diocesan Members. We are actively involved in serving churches and communities in various ways, including through caring for the sick and elderly, food banks, messy church, Bishop Grosseteste student support, Knitting for Newborns, worship and prayer. We support the Worldwide Mothers' Union of 4 million members in 84 countries and are involved with national and international projects including the Clewer Initiative anti-slavery campaign and the United Nations Days of Activism against gender abuse.

WE NEED HELP with administration including secretarial and finance in support of the Diocesan President and other officers.

Role Purpose To provide secretarial and administrative support to Diocesan President, Trustees, Clusters, Branches and Diocesan Members in the implementation of the Aims and Objectives of Mothers' Union activities in the Diocese, and with links to Mary Sumner House, the Worldwide Headquarters of Mothers's Union.

Working Arrangements MU Diocesan Laptop to use, maintain and keep updated with Diocesan information. It is expected that you would predominantly work from home. MU Lincoln Diocese can offer an Honorarium of £250 per quarter plus clerical and travel expenses, to be reviewed annually by Trustees. For more information please contact: Revd Sylvia Rice-Oxley, Diocesan President.

email: dpmulincoln@gmail.com

From the Branches

News from Thimbleby Mothers' Union

Our busy year of programme events for 2022 culminated in a visit from Margaret Anderson, who gave a most illuminating talk with slides on the work of ECHO, (East Coast Homeless Outreach). A band of volunteers do sterling work collecting and distributing food, clothing, bedding, to those on the streets.

Our members donated items to help make up Christmas parcels for them, toiletries, confectionary, games etc. These were presented to Margaret at our December meeting, our 'Christmas Occasion'.

This consisted of carols, seasonal thoughts and readings, along with some lovely music and singing provided by our curate (and member) Revd. Lynne Hawkins and two of her children, Harry and Hermione. Christmas fare was enjoyed by all.

2023 was heralded by our AGM, and a new member, Janet Richardson, was enrolled at a Eucharist service in St Margaret's Thimbleby in early February, with several members in attendance to welcome her.

Jean Wilkinson

Pinchbeck Mothers' Union



At our Christmas "Sing Along With Trevor" we opened the meeting to visitors and were pleased to welcome many and raised £75 in donations for our May Flower festival at St. Mary's. Members brought along gifts for the local Food bank as shown in the photo.

Our January meeting was held at Janet's home and we had received a Blessing Box, a gift from our Australian Link M.U. in Queensland who we are regularly in touch with each Christmas. This has happened now for 60 years and Hope has been our most recent correspondent. In the accompanying letter we were reminded of a visit a member from their M.U made to our Parish many years ago.

The photo shows Janet and Hope with the Blessing gifts and we were able to choose one each.

From Gainsborough M.U Fellowship group.

Last November we hosted a Trentside Cluster event in St. Georges Church/Hall to coincide with the Wave of Prayer. Our assistant Curate Revd Liz Johnson presided at the communion service into which were incorporated the prayers from the Lincoln Diocesan Wave of Prayer service. Afterwards we enjoyed a buffet lunch in the hall sharing fellowship as well as food together.

We began the New Year with a meal at a local eatery which was once again enjoyed. The food and fellowship being first class.

Our next get-together will be in March when we will meet in St. Georges Church for prayer, fellowship and a catch-up with all M.U latest news. We have also been invited by Haxey Branch to join them for their Lady Day service.

We have also had some sadness in our group towards the end of 2022, when we were sorry to learn of the deaths of two of our indoor members, both had been M.U. members for many years.

Sylvia Walmsley was originally a member of St. John's M.U. in Gainsborough and was extremely active within the branch and in her church life at that time. When St. John's church closed Sylvia transferred to All Saints M.U. (which later became part of Gainsborough Mothers' Union branch). Ill health took its toll and Sylvia reluctantly had to take a back seat and became an indoor member. The second lady Hazel Robinson who passed away just before Christmas was also originally an All Saints member and active within the branch until age and ill health took over. Hazel was a lady who, no matter how she was feeling, always had a smile on her face.

These two ladies will be sadly missed both as M.U. members and part of the church congregation, and we thank God for their lives and the service they have given.

Carole Fisher

Haxey Mothers' Union - Trentside Cluster

Haxey Branch bring an item to each meeting to support the Food Share project open on Friday mornings and organised by St Nicholas Church. Members and very many others contribute regularly and the need for supplies continues to grow.

We are starting another project this month. Some of our members will spend an hour with care workers at a local care home; they come from Pakistan and while some have good English, others have very limited language skills. Chatting with them about everyday things will, we hope, improve their vocabulary and give them more confidence. They are Christians who attend St Nicholas Church on a Sunday morning.

The Cluster will celebrate Lady Day at a Thursday morning communion at 10.30 a.m. on 23rd March at St. Nicholas' Church. Everyone is welcome to join us.

OVERSEAS NEWS

I reported at the recent diocesan zoom meeting that, although I send greetings to our overseas links, I had not received any replies. The next day I had an email from Nana Rahila Dogo in Nigeria.

"We celebrated the Christmas so lonely that unknown gunmen went into a community insurance Diocese about 3 kilometers from our residence and killed about 40 people..

January 1st – 4th we had our diocesan Triumphant Prayer Convocation. We had a congregation of over 2000 people. It was awesome starting the year in the presence of the Lord. Please continue to pray for us".

Two such different news items from an area of the world so different from ours.

Elaine Dunsford

DIOCESAN MEMBERS

At last today feels as if the weather has remembered what month it is, and looks a lot brighter. Snowdrops, hellebores, crocus and little irises are flowering in the garden, and I noticed the forsythia is just about to burst into life.

Welcome to any new Diocesan members I may have missed and I do hope you all had sight of the Daily Reflections for Lent 2023. Most were emailed but some had to be posted. I have one incorrect email address which keeps being sent back to me. Could I make a plea that if you are on email or are allowed access to it, that you please just send the address to me, because the less items I have to send by snail mail, the cheaper.

Margaret Hardy, Witham Cluster leader, tells me there will be an Easter meditation and short communion service at 2pm on Wednesday 5th April at St. John's Church, Washingborough. This is an open invitation to any of our Diocesan Members, and I know you will be most welcome. The Reverend Carolyn Bailey, our Diocesan Chaplain, will be leading the afternoon. Can I take this opportunity to ask all Cluster leaders to invite their Diocesan members to any events they may be planning in their Cluster.

Do get in touch with me if there is anything you would like to know about Diocesan membership. My address is: 33 Middle Street, Metheringham, LINCOLN, LN4 3EU; tel 01526 320968 (with answermachine); email dandjhoniset@btinternet.com

All good wishes,

Jenni Honisett

YOU are invited to the
Annual MU Gathering in York
Friday 22nd September, 2023
Tickets £23.50 from Mary Sumner House
11am – 3.45 pm: Annual Gathering, York Barbican
5.30pm - 7pm: Evensong, at York Minster

YOU are invited to our Lincoln Diocese
Mothers Union Summer Council and AGM
with a visit from our Canterbury Provincial President Kathryn Anderson
with updates, fellowship and worship
Please bring a packed lunch. Refreshments will be provided
10am for 10.30am - 3pm Saturday 24 June, 2023
The Methodist Church, Queen Street, Horncastle LN9 6BD

Programme for 2023

Monday 13th March 10am Trustees and Officers meeting by zoom
Sunday 19th March Mothering Sunday
Saturday 25th March Lady Day
Sunday 9th April Easter Day
Saturday 6th May Coronation of King Charles III
Monday 22nd May 10am Trustee and Officers meeting by zoom
Saturday 24th June 10.30am-3pm Summer Council and Members' Day with packed lunch followed by a Celebration Service. Speaker Kathryn Anderson MU Provincial President for Canterbury. Horncastle Methodist Church
Wednesday 9th August Mary Sumner Day
Monday 11th September 10am Trustee and Officers meeting by zoom
Friday 22nd September MU Provincial Gathering York
9th-13th October Prisons Week of Prayer
Thursday 12th October Autumn Retreat – Location TBA
Wednesday 18th October Slavery Day
Friday 3rd November 10 for 10.30am Winter Council & Celebration Eucharist at Washingborough
(*Note new date*)
16th-18th November Wave of Prayer
25th November – 10th December Days of Activism against Gender Violence and Global Day Walk?
Wednesday 13th December 3pm Carol Service by zoom

Contacts

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