

## **I would like to say a very big 'thank you' for the lovely card and magnificent flowers and gift given to me at Diocesan Council on Saturday.**

It has been a great privilege to serve as Diocesan President for the last six years. I do have to say, that I did have reservations about taking on that role, was I capable of doing it? But I know that I have been supported by all the wonderful people in Mothers' Union.

Firstly, there are the two Trustee Boards that have worked together over two triennials made up of people of faith with amazing skills which have enhanced the work of Mothers' Union in this diocese and secondly, all of you as members who have faithfully prayed for all of us and just as faithfully have worked hard in your own parishes to transform lives and share the Christian faith with those around you.

I know that I shall miss you all, but I know too that Mothers' Union is in the very good hands of Sue and the Trustee Board and I know that you will continue to give them your prayer support and encouragement.

With love, Liz

Liz Binsley [Diocesan President] receiving her flowers and gift as she comes near to the end of her 6 years as president. Retiring trustees are Beryl Metcalf [Faith & Policy Unit Coordinator] who received flowers and a gift and Mike Bowley [Action & Outreach Unit Coordinator] who received a 'bottle' and gift.

Revd. Pat Beckett [Chaplain] Valerie Whittaker [Lichfield Beacon Editor] and Sian West [Families First Magazine Secretary] all received flowers as a thank you as they retire from their jobs. Helen Palfrey and Sue Egerton received flowers as they take on new roles on the Trustee Board.



**Don't forget to come to  
'Celebrating 140 years of Mothers' Union'  
at Doxey on 23<sup>rd</sup> November**  
See last month's e-newsletter  
or phone the office for details

### **Mothers' Union Office**

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Doxey, Stafford. ST16 1EQ

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**Congratulations to  
Revd. Mark Ireland on his  
appointment as  
Archdeacon of Blackburn.**

Mark and Gill's move to the Diocese of Blackburn means that Gill is unable to take up the post of Faith & Policy Unit Coordinator on our Trustee Board, so we need to look for someone to take her place.

**Needed  
Faith & Policy Unit  
Coordinator**

Please ask yourself if God is calling you to take on this job in our diocese.

We all know that prayer is so very important to all the work we do in Mothers' Union. Will you please pray about being part of the Trustee Board as we start this new triennial?

**Prisons Week  
November 15th - 21<sup>st</sup>**

We have more prisons in the Diocese of Lichfield than in any other diocese, and through your generosity and care we provide 7000 Christmas cards, for the prison chaplains to distribute.

**Prisons Week Prayer;**

Lord, you offer freedom to all people.  
We pray for those in prison.  
Break the bonds of fear and isolation that exist.  
Support with your love prisoners and their families and friends, Prison staff and all who care.  
Heal those who have been wounded by the activities of others, especially the victims of crime.  
Help us to forgive one another.  
To act justly, love mercy and walk humbly together with Christ in His strength and in His Spirit, now and every day. Amen.  
*Clive Wulfrun*

**We are still looking for an editor for  
our diocesan magazine  
'Lichfield Beacon' and for a secretary  
for the 'Families First Magazines'.**

Lichfield Beacon is issued twice a year to coincide with the Spring and Autumn Council meetings. Putting the material together takes about two weeks each issue and then the finished magazine is sent on a CD to the printer who then delivers the printed copies to the office where Christine Banham collates them for the members.

The Families First Secretary sends out the forms to the branch leaders and then collates them as they are returned. This is a once a year job.

**If you are interested please contact the office.**

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence

**25<sup>th</sup> November to 10<sup>th</sup> December**

Get involved as we speak out against gender-based violence



From 25th November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women), for 16 days until 10th December (Human Rights Day), Mothers' Union takes part in the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence.

**Anyone can take part in 16 Days, whether through raising awareness on social media, running an event or contacting political representatives. To help you with ideas, Mothers' Union has produced an [Activism Pack](#) and a [Powerpoint presentation](#) (notes included in the notes section).**

Throughout the world women and girls are subject to many different forms of violence including physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. Violence affects women and girls from all backgrounds and happens across all stages of life; and is perpetrated by partners and family members as well as strangers.

- One in three women globally will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lifetime (World Health Organisation).

**What are you going to do to raise awareness?**

**A New Look to our Mothers' Union Website  
but still the same address**

**[www.mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](http://www.mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)**

We have totally re-vamped our website and hope that you find it much easier to use. Please let us know what you think, what you would like adding to it, and please keep re-visiting it as we will be constantly up-dating it with diary dates, photos and articles. Please e-mail your items for the website to the office.



Every year when Margaret Davies goes to the General Meeting she takes along some premature baby knitting and prayer cards as a gift from her branch in Kinver to the hosting diocese. Margaret has received a thank you from the Southwell and Nottingham Action & Outreach Coordinator, who was most impressed and hopes to be able to reproduce the prayer cards for their diocese.

## Sanctus at St Mark's Shelton

is a support group for refugees and people who are seeking asylum in the UK. Their aim is to walk alongside people who find their way to them, from all around the world, in a non-judgemental and safe environment.

They welcome women, men and children, without prejudice, of all faiths and none.

Could your Mothers' Union support the work of Sanctus - remember you cannot give money but you can collect toiletries etc as many members do for the women's refuge centres.

Visit their website;

[www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk](http://www.sanctusstmarks.co.uk)



### Receiving the newsletter

If you do not wish to receive the newsletter in the future please email the office and you will be removed from the mailing list

If your friends, family or other members would like to receive the newsletter please email the office with their details and they will be added to the mailing list

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at  
Lichfield Mothers' Union

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