

Welcome Back!

It's been four months since I sent out my last notes – there wasn't really anything to report with no dates or events, but oh! how I have missed being in touch with you all! I do so hope you have all managed to survive, and will still do so, despite the tightening of rules.

AGM

It was so good to see so many of you at the virtual AGM and Members' Meeting – almost as many were it a proper meeting! And we achieved so much... So many people to thank and so much to tackle – a very satisfactory exercise. Preparations for this involved all the Trustees and many more – you will be pleased to know that the Trustees have been meeting (virtually) regularly throughout these difficult times.

Forthcoming Elections

I hope, by now, you are all aware that next year, 2021, is the final year of this triennium, and that means elections and new faces! I will have completed my 6 years as DP, **and we will need a replacement for 2022**. This is of extreme importance, so I ask you to pray that a suitable candidate comes forward. I have thoroughly enjoyed the challenges thrown at me, the joy of getting to know so many of you, the flashes of inspiration that the Holy Spirit has put my way, MULO, and the interaction, support and love shared between all the DPs in the UK. But none of this would have been possible without the support and encouragement (and laughter) from my fellow Trustees and our lovely Vice President, Janet, and to Julie and Lorna, tirelessly working behind the scenes – and keeping me in check! They are all a joy to work with, and I never felt I had to tackle anything alone. And, I hasten to add, I had had no training for the job but felt I was being offered a wonderful opportunity to serve my Lord and our fantastic MU. SO, please look around, or even offer yourself, for my successor!

We will also be looking for at least **three new Trustees** – so please think about this, pray and see if you would like to be part of this exciting and friendly board.

Nominations papers for DP will be sent out soon, with those for Trustees early next year.

Speakers

Obviously we have not been able to have speakers since late March, and this has been a great sadness to me. We still cannot meet together, unless as part of worship, with social distancing and masks! Very sadly Marigold Seager-Berry has decided that she can no longer be in charge of recruiting and training speakers, so we are now looking for someone to take over. I am so grateful to Marigold for the encouragement and brilliant ideas that have helped so many of us. So do consider offering your services. And we are also looking for anyone who would like to become a speaker – it's not nearly as daunting as some people think, and our audiences are lovely people! Any offers or queries please get in touch with me.

MU@Home (what we used to call IMPC)

After many years Mary Steer has decided that she cannot continue to be in charge of this – both hers and Norman's health (and possibly age!) have dictated this. Happily, Lesley Thurley, one of our Trustees, has volunteered to take over this rewarding job. So thank you so much, Lesley.

16 Days of Activism and more.....

Some of you will have been invited to write to your MP concerning the upcoming Domestic Abuse Bill to be presented to the House of Lords. The same theme, but including Modern Slavery, will be covered by the 16 Days of Activism at the end of November and into December. Please contact John Vinton for more details and see if there is anything you might be able to get involved with. Covid 19 (there, I've actually mentioned it) will restrict a lot of what we can do, but where's there a way....

The (Dreaded) Database, Gift Aid and Subs.

Last, for now, but not least, and this is directed at treasurers, who are wonderful people, and all members, it is of vital importance that your members' database **is up to date!** And we also need to know who is a tax payer for Gift Aid purposes. Now that Families First (or its equivalent) is to be sent direct to every member, MSH needs to know who all our members are, with correct addresses and contact details. Because the publication is now part of our membership it is necessary to raise the subscription for next year to cover the extra cost – but you will be pleased to hear that we have decided to subsidise every member's contribution by £2.00. So the subs will be **£27.00** for members and **£28.00** for Diocesan Members. It's still a bargain, and, it's worth considering, that every time someone decides to leave MU, the price of membership has to go up for everyone else! So.....

Last, but not least, because we cannot viably produce MU Matters, we are hoping to supply you with information and news via NNs. BUT we need the news from you! So please can each Cluster get together (not literally) and send to me any news of what has been happening in the branches, how you've been coping with Covid, news of members and their families, church and worship, new members and maybe loss of members. Anything that will inspire and inform us. And we will impart any news that we have for you. Let's keep the show on the road!

This is all for now – there will now be a more regular *Nickie's Notes* as, no doubt, I have forgotten something important, and we will be in touch soon with nomination papers for your new Diocesan President. So start looking, and maybe thinking about it yourself!

With much love, and every blessing,

Nickie