

November already! And, when it's not raining, how beautiful the trees look in the sunshine! Despite everything, the seasons go on, God's in his Heaven, and all's well! We must try to be as positive as we can, do what we can to help others, and pray for the strength to do so. Remember MULO? Mothers' Union Listens, Observes and ACTS!

Notices etc..

Lots of matters for you to get your heads round. Apologies for so much! Not in any particular order!

- **16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence.** A short service involving the Bishops and others will be put together on YouTube to celebrate the **Global Day on 5th December**. More information from John Vinton concerning the plans for this appears overleaf – do contact him for further details!
- **Subscriptions.** Please make sure you send any correspondence/cheques etc. to Julie at her home 11 Bampfylde Close Tiverton EX16 4EU. The Office in St. Sidwell's is CLOSED!
- **Safeguarding.** Please make sure you know who your Safeguarding Officer is in your Parish – we need to protect the vulnerable and ourselves.
- **Prayer Diaries** (Formerly Families Worldwide). These are going to be sent direct to every member for the year, so please make sure your records are up to date for the **database**. Please let Julie know of any changes (office@mu-exeter.co.uk, address as above)
- **Speakers Training.** We are still looking for someone to take over from Marigold – there is no hard work as the theme – '**Restoring Hope and Confidence**' – can be researched on the MU website under Resources. Do look it up!
- **Fundraising.** Bridget Vinton has produced a rather fun '**Count your Blessings**' for each day in December. This is to raise funds which would otherwise have come about as a result of the St. Stephen's Fair. Also, in my church here in Tiverton, a group of busy people have come up with another idea which some of you might consider as well. We were given an order form of priced goods – Christmas cakes, puddings, mince pies, Christmas craft items, tree/ table decorations etc. etc.– which we fill in and return, and then the goods are delivered to our doors! Possible for your branch?
- **Cluster Chronicles.** As you know, it is not possible to produce '**MU Matters**' as such, at this time. Therefore we are combining it with NNs with news, views etc. from the branches each month. So I am asking you, please, to send your Cluster Co-ordinator anything that you think would be of interest from your branch, and she will, hopefully send it on to Nicky Over and me. So important birthdays, exciting news, events etc. – anything that we would like to know about - send to your CC! And if you can send the odd photo then go for it!
- **DP Nomination form.** You will shortly be receiving a nomination form for the next triennium's Diocesan President. This is for members of Council to use (DP& VP; Past DPs; Magazine Editor; Trustees; Cluster Co-ordinators; Branch Leaders; DMs' Rep & 5 nominated DMs). Make sure you ask your nominee that she is willing to stand!

With much love, and every blessing,

Nickie

PTO



Craft Session

Christianity Mothers' Union Branch hosted a socially-distanced craft event in church with an invitation extended to all church members. This event was oversubscribed, so members are planning to host a similar event leading up to Christmas – these are aimed to be just social events and not fundraising.

Olive Tree Gift

Back in the summer, members of Mothers' Union in Teignmouth gave an olive tree to Revd Roderick Withnell, their retiring Team Rector. The note in the picture has quotations from Jeremiah, Hebrews, Genesis and Revelation, thanking Revd Withnell for his ministry among them and wishing him well in his retirement.



16 days of Activism against Gender-based Violence & the MU Global Action Day

Details of the 16 Days Campaign and the Global Day on 5th December that is part of it can be found in full on the MU website. Our plans are shaping up.

Most activities will be online this year. For the Global Day, plans are well-advanced to pre-record a service of worship and prayer in three locations, involving a short message from all three Bishops in our Diocese. The service will be uploaded to suitable media, such as YouTube. We are also trying to see if we can have the part of the Cathedral facing the Green lit up in the colours of the 16 Days campaign, ie gold and purple, possibly including the 16 Days logo. Cost and the equipment may be issues, and effective publicity and communication will also be integral to these plans.



In addition to that, members have been asked to write to their MP about the Domestic Abuse Bill which is going through the House of Lords at present. Our Diocesan Bishops throughout England have also been asked to exert influence on their counterparts in the Lords to have 2 areas of the Bill strengthened.

John Vinton

No More 1 in 3

This year's 16 Days slogan is: **No More 1 in 3**, referring to the 1 in every 3 women worldwide who has suffered domestic or sexual abuse. One of the things Mothers' Union is doing to support this campaign is to organise an Online Protest, which needs a group of 3 people – Social Distancing and Covid regulations apply, involving your household is easiest – one has a cross over her mouth and you make a short video on your phone or take a photo and send it to Mothers' Union in accordance with the instructions and full information which can be found on the central website. Here is a very moving photo taken by member Anna Venables, with 3 generations of women in it! Anna has sent her photo in for the protest.

