

Dear Fellow Members

Covid-19 update - MAY 2020

I trust this, my third, letter continues to find you well and coping in a difficult time.

Keep us, good Lord, under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress.

Sustain and support the anxious and fearful, and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen

Please continue to pray...

For doctors and nurses...

For those opening shops etc...

For all those essential services continuing to work...

For those families finding it difficult to be in such close proximity...

For those on their own...

For the homeless...

For those who don't understand the severity of the situation...

For your family and friends...

For yourself...

For those returning to school...

For our Priests as they do what they can – usually through social media – to keep you in touch...

And of course don't forget to thank God for all His goodness...

Even now, with the gradual release we need to pray longer and harder that people will be careful and not flout the guidelines. But so exciting that we can start to look forward to meeting again; whenever that is!

I am still only popping into the office occasionally to check the post etc. I expect that the office will open properly again in September. If you would like something from the office and wish to come in then please do send me an email or telephone me and I will arrange to be there for you.

I can access the office computer from home so will see any messages you send.

I have only heard from a very few regarding receipt of Families Worldwide so have not asked Mary Sumner House for any extra's. This magazine can be accessed on line at the Mary Sumner House website.

Can I remind you that we do still have cards for sale in the office and Doreen is happy to post any to you. Her email is Doreen.mclellan@yahoo.co.uk if you would like to contact her. Also to remind you that if you order direct from MSH then you need to put Gloucester Diocese as the reference in the box.

Can I continue to encourage you to buy or sell your raffle tickets on behalf of AFIA so that the draw can still take place on the day stated. We would still like your donations towards the Hamper prize and donations of other prizes.

Some branch leaders have telephoned their members and sold the raffle tickets that way and sent the money to the office. Perhaps some of you could do the same with friends and family. There are still lots left here in the office and I can post them out to you.

I have no further update on the Mary Sumner Day Picnic but am more hopeful that it may happen.

As soon as I know the situation I will let you know.

The Annual Gathering in Belfast has been cancelled as you will have seen from the bulletin that I forwarded to you.

Registered Charity Number 249912

Diocesan President: Mrs Kay Hensley, 9 Springfield Court, Stonehouse, GL10 2JF Tel: 01453 824910

Diocesan Secretary: Mothers' Union Office, 7A Millers Green, Gloucester, GL1 2BN

Tel: 01452 528621

email: info@mugloucester.org.uk

web: www.mugloucester.org.uk

Office open Tuesday and Friday 10am-3pm (term time only)

I have had some Zoom meetings with other Presidents and with Mary Sumner House. We will all be experts with social media soon!!! The main topics have been the necessity, like many charities, of staying solvent and the way forward after lockdown. All meetings from the centre will be on Zoom or similar until the end of the year. It may well be that a lot of these big meetings will be held in this way more often as it is cost effective. We have not had any guidelines on whether we plan Autumn meetings in our Diocese. So we will continue to hope we can hold our Council in October. It is doubtful whether we will be able to hold our Members Day in September so we will have to be inventive about sending out our Roundabout Magazine. We hope to issue one in September and that we can get it to branches to deliver. It will not be a bumper edition as I was first thinking as there will not be any extra news but we will be issuing slightly more each issue as news comes in. Maybe you would like to send Ruth some thoughts and ideas you have had for keeping in touch with your members over this period. I'm sure we would all like to know how you have kept MU alive in your area. Maybe the younger ones in your branch have been able to help with the many charitable initiatives in your area.

If you haven't already done so, but meant to, please do send an extra donation to Mary Sumner House – they will be so pleased.

KNITTING – we are still happy to receive blankets etc for the hospital. Margaret has been in touch with the hospital and they will let her know when they need a supply. We have a couple of bags full in the office at the moment so there is no rush to bring your knitting in but do hold on to it.

AFIA – Obviously we cannot send anyone on holiday at the moment but expect a rush as soon as it is possible. We hope to have enough money to send all those who ask as they will probably be desperate and, of course, many more people will be hard up after this crisis.

ORDERING ON LINE – don't forget to nominate to MU – all extra income without having to pay! I'll attach the details again in case you have forgotten!

Well, I didn't think I had much to say and I expect I've forgotten something!!

So, finally, may I again suggest that you try to telephone one of your members each day to check they are OK. (I'm sure most of you are doing so anyway) and to keep them up to date on MU matters. It really is important that you let our members know that they are important to us and that their prayers are much valued.

With love and prayers from me and all the Trustees and we look forward to meeting together again.
Keep safe and well.

Kay Hensley – President

p.s. I will send out an order form for 2021 diaries and calendars with this letter so that's a good reason to telephone all your members xxxx

Registered Charity Number 249912

Diocesan President: Mrs Kay Hensley, 9 Springfield Court, Stonehouse, GL10 2JF Tel: 01453 824910

Diocesan Secretary: Mothers' Union Office, 7A Millers Green, Gloucester, GL1 2BN

Tel: 01452 528621

email: info@mugloucester.org.uk

web: www.mugloucester.org.uk

Office open Tuesday and Friday 10am-3pm (term time only)