



## **A New Triennium!**

It is a huge privilege to have been elected as the next Diocesan President, thank you to all our members for your support. I look forward to the journey we will share together.

So we are at a new beginning, which is appropriate as I write this in Lent and we are looking towards Easter and the new life that comes with the resurrection of Jesus – the new life that Jesus offers to all of us who have declared Him our Lord and Saviour.

We are seeing new beginnings for our Diocesan Members of which we now have nearly 50. They are being divided by Archdeaconry and looked after by Barbara Haynes, covering the Northampton Archdeaconry and Kay Short who will cover the Oakham Archdeaconry. Barbara and Kay will work together to pass on news and information to all our Diocesan Members as well as support each other. They are planning on arranging gatherings for Diocesan Members so that all members will feel connected.

For 2022, our Summer Forum which is usually a shorter, midweek, evening meeting is also changing. This becomes a Saturday meeting (2<sup>nd</sup> July), and will be from 10.30am till 3pm at St Benedict's Church in Northampton. This change is because we are unable to have our normal Spring Forum as we are at the Cathedral for our Diocesan Festival. As we meet at St Benedict's we shall share Communion together and catch up on the news at Forum. I am also asking you to bring your branch or deanery projects, so that we can share ideas across the diocese. It would be great if you would bring the project along with you – a little like 'show and tell'. It will give us all inspiration to be creative.

Another new beginning is our future work with HMP Five Wells. This is a new prison which has opened in Wellingborough. Currently it has around 200 residents (they are no longer called prisoners), and this will expand to nearly 1,600 over the coming months. Christians are being invited to get involved to bring a spiritual element into the prison, so Mothers' Union are keen to be represented in the discussions and we will see how we can help as the prison grows.

We are proud to be members of this wonderful organisation – so let's share our passion! We are encouraged to wear our MU badge and remember - BE PROUD – SHOUT OUT LOUD!

As we start our journey together, I do hope that you will invite me to your events. I am mindful that I work, which was a huge consideration when I was asked to think about taking on this role. Please don't assume that I can't attend, I will always endeavour to be with you, if I can. I look forward to joining you at your events during this year.

I will hold you all in my prayers as I hope you will hold me in yours as we reach out across the world in Jesus' name.

*Helen Lynett*

# Who's Who in MU

<p><b>Jean Rose</b> Diocesan Secretary 01933 663778 jeanerose@btinternet.com</p> 	<p><b>Helen Lynett</b> Diocesan President 07743 317793 helenlynett@btinternet.com</p> 	<p><b>Rev. Deborah Marsh</b> Chaplain 01664 474652 debmarsh37@yahoo.com</p> 
<p><b>Elizabeth Megahey</b> Vice President 01832 275931 / 07712 764626 elizabethmegahey@btinternet.com</p> 	<p><b>Sylvia Rowley</b> Diocesan Treasurer 01604 413829 sylvia.rowley@ntlworld.com</p>	<p><b>Ruth Gould</b> Vice President 01604 846508 ruthgould139@btinternet.com</p> 
<p><b>Jennie Edis</b> Vice President 01733 702088 spiritwings01@gmail.com</p> 	<p>Diocesan Mothers Union Website <a href="http://mothersunionpeterborough.org">http://mothersunionpeterborough.org</a> Mothers Union Website <a href="https://www.mothersunion.org">https://www.mothersunion.org</a></p>	<p><b>Kay Short</b> Vice President 07887 526535 kpgshort@gmail.com</p> 
<p><b>Juliette Dunkley</b> Trustee kjd467@outlook.com</p> 	<p><b>Nicky Vaughan</b> Trustee 01788 510213 drawers51@gmail.com</p> 	<p><b>Hazel Goodman</b> Trustee 07967 838614 hazel@chestnut.clara.net</p> 
<p><b>Barbara Haynes</b> Trustee 01933 222612 Barbarahaynes123@gmail.com</p> 	<p><b>Away From It All</b> (AFIA) Anne Touchin &amp; Margaretha Hallam 01572 820534 anniedt@john-lewis.com</p>	<p><b>Sue Merrifield</b> Trustee 01536 238320 donandsuemerrifield@gmail.com</p> 
<p><b>Diocesan Members Coordinators</b></p> <p>Archdeaconry of Northampton : Barbara Haynes 01933 222612 Archdeaconry of Oakham : Kay Short 07887 526535</p>		
<p><b>Cards for Members</b> Pam Handley pamartinhandley@btinternet.com</p>	<p><b>Prayer Chain</b> Julia Freeman 01780 720869</p>	<p><b>MU Safeguarding Officer</b> Valerie Anslow valerieanslow@icloud.com</p>
<p><b>Jill Cannings</b> Faith &amp; Spirituality  01572 821870 Jillcannings2@gmail.com</p>	<p><b>Hazel &amp; Raymond Goodman</b> MUe  07967 838614 hazel@chestnut.clara.net</p>	<p><b>Lyn Ridley</b> Frances Lunch Club  01536 529426 lynridley52l@virginmedia.com</p>

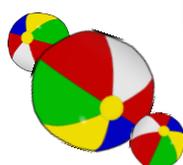
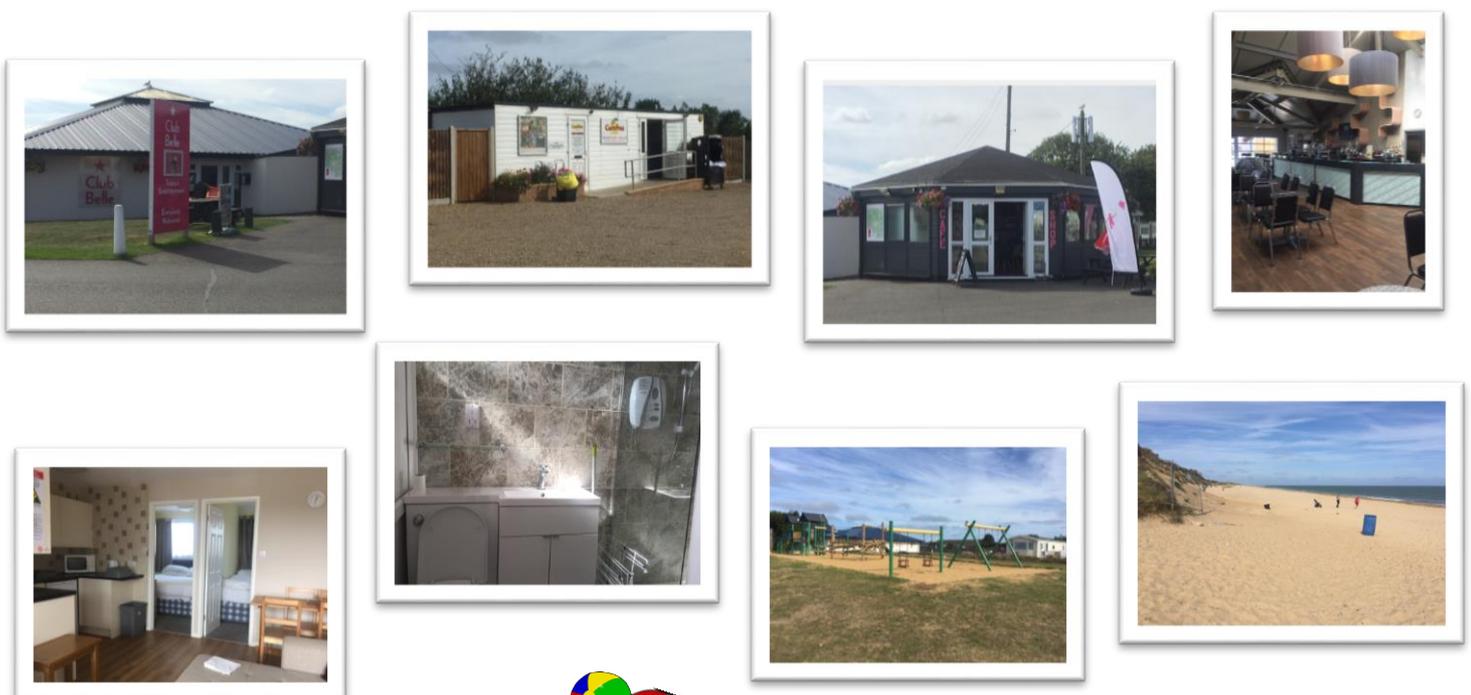


Thank you to Anne & Margarita who coordinate AFIA for our Diocese. They have sent in feedback from the recipients of one of our 2021 AFIA holidays that came too late for their presentation at our November Forum meeting.

The person referred to us is a young carer who cares for a mother who fell down the stairs. This fall resulted in mother suffering multiple physical damages which causes her much pain. They had to flee from their home because of domestic violence and they struggle with isolation and poverty. The young person has a heavy caring role and her own well-being has suffered under the strain. Her lifelong ambition was to stay near a seal sanctuary and have breakfast with the seals.

The young carer said that it was something she never thought would happen so to be there felt quite unreal. She was able to feed the seals fish heads, which she said was gross, and there was a separate enclosure for baby seals which were so cute. Mum said it was just great to get away, to go somewhere different and to have done some memory making activities in a time of crisis. Thank you so much for making this possible.

Photographs below are of the Holiday Park at Hemsby, along with a typical chalet that our families would stay in, the amenities, play area and beautiful beach!





**Peterborough Diocese  
Mothers' Union Prayers  
July to December 2022**

These prayers have been written by Jill Cannings and are based on the Mothers' Union prayer, which reminds us to give thanks for God's many blessings and commit ourselves to his service in our churches and local communities, and as part of our worldwide ministry and mission.

**JULY**

***Loving Lord we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.***

We give thanks for your faithful love and ultimate sacrifice of your Son on the cross. Through his glorious Resurrection we have new life in Christ, abundant life and eternal life. We give thanks for our shared faith. May we be bold in proclaiming the gospel in words and deeds. We pray for the delayed conference "Reimagining Mothers' Union". For green shoots growing out of our solid roots. For people who may wish to join our branches or become Diocesan members. With God all things are possible. May we always trust in God and join in with his plans.

**AUGUST**

***We pray for families around the world.***

Justin Welby is very enthusiastic about the role of Mothers' Union which supports his worldwide ministry. We give thanks for the passion of our founder Mary Sumner. May we continue to be inspired by her contribution, as we gather for services celebrating her life and heritage. Mothers' Union has spread across the world, bringing faith and joy and hope to individuals and whole communities. We pray for our link Dioceses of Rumbek in Sudan, Soroti in Uganda, Aba Ngwa North and Oyo in Nigeria and NECA (North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba) and for those members who seek to maintain the links.

**SEPTEMBER**

***Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love, through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.***

We pray for all children and families in our communities. We give thanks for Christian outreach in our schools. We pray for all MU members who prayerfully or actively support children's ministry. We give thanks for the ministry of Gen2 – generation to generation, as they seek to respond to the plea in Psalm 145:4 "one generation shall praise God's work to another". We pray for those supporting baptismal ministry. We pray for the Annual gathering which we hope, this year, will be held face to face in Belfast.



## OCTOBER

***Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship...***

We give thanks for our opportunities to gather to pray and worship. We missed this when our churches were closed. We are aware that so many Christians across the world are not free to worship publicly. Let us never be complacent, and let us always count our blessings. We pray for our Chaplain, Revd. Deborah Marsh who will be leading the MU retreat at Launde. May we all be strengthened, sustained and inspired in our faith.

## NOVEMBER

***And in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.***

We pray for Sheran Harper, our worldwide president, and give thanks for her strong faith and leadership. We pray for the worldwide trustee board and all those sharing in midday prayers each day. We give thanks for the staff group at MSH who support us and the world wide work of the Mothers' Union. We pray for our own Diocesan Eucharist and Forum to be held this month. We pray for Global Day as we join with others to raise awareness to combat all forms of abuse and oppression in families.

## DECEMBER

***Mary Sumner's daily prayer: All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.***

As we come to the end of this year we give thanks for all Mothers' Union members past and present. People who have touched our lives for Christ through what they say or do, or just how they are. We give thanks for small acts of human kindness, for an encouraging smile, a timely phone call, a visit or a card. We give thanks for our Diocesan President Helen Lynett, and all officers and Trustees. We pray for all branch and deanery officers. We pray that new people will come forward to become more involved, to bring new ideas and energy. As we pass through Advent into the Christmas season we give thanks that you are a God who chose to come among us. We also look forward to the promise of Christ's second coming in glory. May we always be watchful and serving to build your Kingdom.

### **Diocesan Midday Prayers**

We are delighted that Jill Cannings will lead us in midday prayers on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, gathering from 12.15pm for prayers at 12.30pm.

This will start on 22<sup>nd</sup> MARCH and will be on Zoom

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84506284356>

Meeting ID: 845 0628 4356

# Coffee Time Quiz

Once again, Eileen Jewell, our 'Quiz Mistress' has prepared us a quiz to mull over....

## “HANDS”

As Members, we are the “hands” of the Mothers' Union, and we have been involved in many projects. Do you remember these?

The answers can be found on page 10.

- 1 Many Branches made “Welcoming Banners” for families attending what special service?
- 2 “Pocket Purses” contain a prayer, and what other special thing?
- 3 For whom were “Angel Pockets” designed to hold?
- 4 “Fish and Chip” babies in Africa were sent what bright garments?
- 5 Thousands of “60 rows on 32sts.” have been sewn together to make hundreds of these?
- 6 “Twiddle Quilts and Muffs” help to calm people suffering from this?
- 7 “Baby Basics” have been grateful for garments of which size?
- 8 People going through a difficult time appreciated these to wrap round them.
- 9 Given to people together with scarves “Beanie and Bobble” are types of what?
- 10 Recently “Masks” have been made to protect families from what virus?

There have been many more ways that members have used their HANDS to help others.

New ideas are always welcome.



Please send in your articles for the next edition of ComMUNicate by 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022  
to Helen Lynett – [helenlynett@btinternet.com](mailto:helenlynett@btinternet.com)  
14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. Northants. NN10 9NJ

*Thank you*

## Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;  
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live.  
Amen

As we go about our everyday lives, we do come across a lot of people. They may not all want to stop and have a chat, some may ignore us, some are too busy with their own thoughts to want to engage with others, but that doesn't stop us from being able to pray for them. Sometimes we know what is going on in their lives, we may be aware of marriage difficulties or job losses, or problematic children – we can pray for these things. [Father God, I pray that you will intervene in this situation, by the power of your Holy Spirit, and that you will bring peace, amen]. If we don't know anything about them or their lives we can just pray God's blessing on them and their families. [Father God, please bless this person and their family, amen]. It doesn't matter that we don't know any details, our God surely knows everything.

For those we do engage with, there will be so many prayer opportunities – the health of themselves and their families, special events coming up in their lives, and their future plans just to name a few. Now we have an opportunity to bring God into every situation, just as Mary Sumner prayed "let me touch as many lives as possible for thee". Where there are troubles, encourage them to seek God, or if you are not sure if they have a faith, offer yourself to pray for them and their situation. Rarely do people ever turn down an opportunity even if they are not known as believers – they work on the assumption that "every little helps". Some people may take the view that "it can't do any harm", but we know that God always listens and always acts on our prayers, we know our prayers will be heard. And this is the "quicken" bit. We know from reading our Bibles that every prayer said in faith will be answered, so God will quicken our prayers and give a response.

So it may be by the word we speak (offering to pray or do something – a gesture given in love), it may be by the prayer we breathe or our integrity may be seen by the life we live, and therefore people will trust us to prayer regularly, to not gossip about what we have been told, or even to know that prayers from us have produced results before. We can bring everything to God in prayer.

Our God is a good God, he loves us and cares for us, and we want our friends and neighbours to also experience that love and care. Praying is a lifeline and it can be done anywhere – we don't need to be in church or in our special place where we have our quiet time – God is always with us and always listening to us – so talk to him as you go about your everyday life.

Your walks around where you live may just take a bit more time before you get to where you are going.....

Jean Rose

## Spotlight on **Peterborough & Oundle Deanery**

The Peterborough Deanery currently has 5 active Branches based in Eye, Longthorpe, Oundle, Paston and Werrington; our Vice President is Kay Short and Deanery Leader is Jennie Edis.

Despite the Covid Pandemic our numbers have remained stable with 113 members across the Deanery, including 3 indoor members. We also have 4 Diocesan members, who are invited to attend our Deanery meetings and Branch activities. We recently participated in the Re-Imagining MU survey to identify how members saw the MU and what changes they would like to see brought into place to maintain a visible Christian witness and voice in society.

On November 26<sup>th</sup> members joined the Global Day March through Peterborough to a vigil in the Cathedral as we remembered those who suffer any kind of domestic violence or abuse. It was the perfect scenario to demonstrate how the MU is working in collaboration with other agencies; and to raise awareness of the problem and highlight the help that is available.

Our Deanery Festival was held at Werrington in 2021 where the Branch also celebrated their 101 years of active service. A joyous occasion as we met with friends from across the Deanery face to face after so many months of zoom meetings etc.

Branches unite together to provide for the homeless and children and babies through our knitting and provide chocolates for the prisoners for Christmas, a much-appreciated gift of love.

We are a close network of members with a united vision to serve our communities and churches and demonstrate the love of Christ to all we meet.

### **Branch Activities**

#### **Eye**

Eye Branch has had the usual covid problems in the last year, but we kept knitting; and Maggie kept cycling to collect and deliver it all. We managed to start meeting again in September with a 'bring and share' meal which was enjoyed by everyone; we may include it on our regular programme in future.

October and November meetings were those rescheduled from the previous year. Our vicar Rev Colin told us about the Great War, Women, Memorial and Memory which raised many aspects not often thought about.

In November Jill told us about her trip to Antigua, her photos helped brighten a dull November.

December saw the popular event of carols and mince-pies.

We resume meetings in March with hopefully a full programme and renewed vigour.

#### **Longthorpe**

We continued to meet via zoom during the pandemic restrictions, following our normal pattern of a service and a speaker. This proved very successful with speakers from as far away as Leeds. Throughout this period, we were greatly supported by our Vicar

the Rev Jackie Bullen who is also a member. Members remained enthusiastic about continuing to meet via zoom.

We meet on the First Thursday of each month in St Botolphs and have a different speaker each month. We found hidden talents amongst our members and a very interesting talk was given by Edwina Miller regarding her hobby of wood carving. In November we had 3 new members join us, having waited patiently during the pandemic for normality to return to become full members.

In December we celebrated Advent and in January, Epiphany, with services. We look forward to 2022 being a year in which we can continue to meet in person.

### **Oundle**

Although many of our members are elderly, we prayerfully support the Baptism of children, unfortunately during lock down we had no new baptisms.

We were kept well informed of all Diocesan matters during the Pandemic by regular postings through the letterbox by our Branch Leader.

August was our first gathering together when we enjoyed a tea party in the garden of our Branch Leader Elizabeth Megahey.

We resumed our meetings in September with a talk by our Assistant Vicar, while in November we were privileged to have a talk from Phillipa Frewin, an illustrator for the Lion Children's Bible.

Our December meeting was great fun as we shared Christmas thoughts together, and we were blessed to be able to share Holy Communion in February followed by a lunch. We are very much a Branch that is vibrant and alive.



### **Paston**

Paston is a small but busy Branch. During the pandemic we met in the Park when possible and were kept fully informed of all that was happening in the wider MU. It was a joy to welcome churches and MU members from across the PE4 area of Peterborough to our Annual Advent Service. This was led by our vicar Rev. Paul who gave a very inspiring talk.

For the first time since lock down we were able to serve refreshments after the service and enjoy fellowship together. It was so delightful to be able to see old and new friends after so long being isolated from each other.

In January the church wanted to restart monthly coffee mornings and the members eagerly manned the Bric-a-brac stall and served refreshments. Everyone was so pleased to have the opportunity to chat and laugh together.

## Werrington

Werrington is a thriving Branch with 7 new members being admitted in November and 2 in January. We usually meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month.

During 2021 we engaged in different fundraising activities as we started to come out of the National lock down. These included a cycle ride around the Churches in and around Peterborough and a Garden Party with stalls organised by our Branch Leader. We entered the Scarecrow Trail and the Christmas Tree Trail; different events to unite the community together.

We also united with the WI to make beautiful poppies to cascade around the War Memorial to honour the fallen in both WW1 and WW2. It was a real joy implementing each other in this way and the community were very impressed with the result.

We started a new initiative called 'Storybirds' in January. This is a time when parents and carers can bring pre-school children into the church to listen to Bible stories and other children's stories and hopefully start them on a journey of faith. We have between 5 and 9 children regularly attending and it is a joy to see their confidence growing as for most it is the first time they have been able to socialise in larger groups.

### Diocesan Prayer Chain

Prayer is something we can all do – we hold our nearest and dearest up in prayer to God, and we pray for others that we don't know but God does, we just lift them up to Him when a need arises.

Do use our Mothers' Union Prayer Chain – ring Julia if you would like to become a member of the chain, and ring Julia if you know of someone in need of prayer.

Julia Freeman  
01780 720869

### Quiet Day

A Quiet Day has been arranged on Saturday, 14th May 2022 at St. Mary's Church, Higham Ferrers. The day will be led by Revd Debbie Smith Wilds, the curate at Uppingham and a MU member. Refreshments will be available at the start and at lunch time but please bring a packed lunch with you. Arrival will be from 10.30am with the view to starting the morning session at 11am. There will be a second session after lunch. You are all very welcome to come along. Please indicate to Jill Cannings 01572 821870 if you would like to attend, just to assist with catering. Thank you.

### Answers to the 'Hands Quiz' on Page 6

1 Baptism. 2 a Cross. 3 Still-born babies. 4 Jumper & Hat. 5 Blankets.  
6 Dementia. 7 First. 8 Prayer Shawl. 9 Hat. 10 Covid.

## Blankets to Romania

Wellingborough Deanery have knitted forty-two blankets this year. These have been sent to Romania through the Blythwood Care charity. These have gone out to Eastern Europe with their annual Christmas Shoe Box appeal. Knitting still continues as we start to build up items to send out in 2022. Thank you to everyone who has supported by knitting squares and whole blankets, your help is much appreciated.



## Knitted Blankets for the Mothers' Union – A Square at a Time

If you would like to knit blankets for the Mothers' Union, we would very much appreciate it. These will go to families who live in poverty in Eastern Europe.

We would like adult-sized blankets, 4 feet wide by 6 feet long (122cm x 183cm).

This can be achieved by knitting squares 7 inches wide by 8 inches long (18cm x 20cm). The number of stitches will depend on the size of the needles and the thickness of the wool.

As a guide using double-knitting wool and a pair of no. 9 needles (3.75mm) it will be 32 stitches by 60 rows.

It will take 63 squares to make up a blanket.

If you just want to knit squares and let someone else put them together, that is fine. We appreciate any help we can get. Thank you.

Completed blankets and squares to go to :

Jean Rose

2 Manchester Road, Wollaston NN29 7SR

Phone 01933 663778

## Christmas Tree Festival at Holy Trinity Rothwell

For the Christmas Trees Festival, the Mothers' Union tree was themed on candles and we asked visitors to place the names of those who had died during the Covid pandemic on cards on to the tree.

By the end of the festival the tree was full. Canon John blessed the tree on the Monday at the end of our Festival.

Penny Knight



### Calendar 2022

Date	Event	Location / Notes
17.4.2022	Easter	
	Deanery meetings	
24.5.2022	VP Meeting	Zoom – Time to be arranged
7.6.2022	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
11.6.2022	Diocesan Members Afternoon Tea	2.30pm, Kettering
2.7.2022	Eucharist & Forum	10.30am – 3pm at St Benedict's, Hunsbury Hill, N'ton. NN4 9UG
	Deanery Meetings	
9.8.2022	Mary Sumner Day	
10.9.2022	Deanery Leader Coffee Morning	Wollaston
21-23.9.2022	Wave of Prayer	In Branch or Deanery
23-24.9.2022	Annual Meeting	Belfast
20.9.2022	VP Meeting	Zoom – Time to be arranged
4.10.2022	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
24-26.10.22	Launde Retreat	
29.10.2022	Diocesan Members Coffee Morning	10.30am Northampton
19.11.2022	Eucharist & Forum	10.30am – 3pm at St Benedict's, Hunsbury Hill, N'ton. NN4 9UG
	Deanery Meetings	
25.11 - 10.12 2022	16 Days of Activism	In Branch or Deanery

**Reminder.** All members are invited to attend Forum meetings at St. Benedict's, West Hunsbury, where there will be a Service of Holy Communion, followed by the current news on what is happening in our Diocese.

Please bring a packed lunch with you. Drinks are provided.