

Nickie's Notes No. 14

First of all a HUGE thank you for all who attended Council on 6th – it was so good to see so many, and so affirming that you seemed almost as excited about the restructuring as I am!

Dates and events:-

25th November -10th December – 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM – see below

Friday 30th November – ST. STEPHEN'S FAIR

Friday 7th December – Office Closes for Christmas

Tuesday 5th FEBRUARY 2019 – Commissioning Service in the Cathedral! Make sure you're there!

What happened at Autumn Council. There was a very good turnout at Council and it seemed that most branches were represented. You will get the full report in due course but I felt that there are things you should know before then. Firstly, we all had a bit of a shock when Miranda, our secretary, heard the news that her mother-in-law had died that morning, so she had to leave early. **So, PLEASE, if anyone took any notes about anything could you send them to me asap, as there was no one to take the minutes.** This would especially apply to the restructuring notes from the Clusters.

In my report I mentioned that

- I had been elected for a further 3 years as DP;
- Rosemary Tull and Anne Hawken had completed their time as Trustees and were presented with tokens;
- we have 6 new **Trustees**;
- members need to be aware of the changes for ordering **Families First**;
- the new **Branch Assessment forms** sent to you need to be completed by the end of December (please!);
- following on from the example of Mary Sumner House, we need to consider abolishing the Units and forming '**Communities of Interest**' where individuals sharing the same interests work together;
- all branches should have the opportunity to experience **MULOA** workshops, either in one go, or at two meetings, or one meeting plus a talk on next year's theme;
- there are still one or two branches who have not submitted or updated their **database**
- we need to look at the proposed **restructuring** of the MU in the diocese. **This was voted in.**

Before lunch Sarah and Helen from Christianity talked about the ups and downs of fostering – a most informative and moving experience for us all.

In the afternoon we met in our proposed Clusters and had a very positive and affirming discussion.

*The **Raffle (£121)** and **donations (£128)** are both going towards the shortfall for AFIA. Thanks.*

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence – there will be **two silent vigils** held, **24th November at Bideford** and **27th November outside St Stephen's in Exeter**. These last about an hour and need 8 or so folk for each. Please get in touch with John Vinton if you would like to take part in either.

St. Stephen's Fair. This annual event is not only a good way of raising valuable funds and the profile of MU, but is such a happy occasion for us all to meet up and do our bit! There will be the usual stalls:- **MUe, cakes, sweets, produce, Christmas Gifts, toiletries and the £1 stall.** Mince pies will be most welcome for the refreshments. Please supply as much for the stalls as you can, **AND TAKE HOME ANY UNSOLD GOODIES AFTERWARDS!** Thank you.

May I wish you all a meaningful Advent, a blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year!

With every blessing and love, *Nickie*