***St. Dunstan’s Mothers’ Union***

I was moved to read on the Mothers’ Union website that “MU is battling barriers to peace worldwide by getting women’s voices heard in peace and reconciliation.”

Since MU was founded in 1876 it has sought to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children and to support those whose lives have met with adversity. Around the world, many of our 4 million members in the 83 countries in which they live and work, are confronting women’s roles as peace builders and reconcilers head on. MU members are directly affected by the everyday realities of war. They are peacemakers at an individual level, in families and within their communities, as well as advocating with decision makers and those involved in formal peace channels.

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, MU practically supports women affected by sexual violence in conflict and advocates on their behalf with decision makers at national and international level. In South Sudan MU members are actively involved in getting women’s voices heard throughout the peace processes.

Despite their experiences, women should not be viewed as passive victims of armed conflict. Women can be powerful actors in peacebuilding and dynamic drivers of peace.

MU is also looking at how, as an international network and one of the oldest women’s organization in the world, it can work in a coordinated manner to advocate for peace. When we look at the need around us and see communities devastated by violence and conflict, our response must be to act and to make sure that we speak up for and raise the voices of women around the world. What an amazing organisation!

Coming up on our programme :

On Saturday, 25th March at 11.00 am we are hosting the annual Deanery Lady Day Service, followed by a sandwich lunch in the church hall. This is a lovely service so do hope you can join us.

On Monday 24th April at 12.00 noon in the church hall we have our Buffet Lunch. Please see any member of the committee if you’d like to come – you’d be most welcome.

**Sue Wass**