**Letter from Our President**

**TRANSFORMATION - NOW!**

Dear Friends,

Welcome to 2022!

 First, let me ask. How are you? This may come as a surprise but this all-important question is one we must ask and answer honestly because too often we do not want anyone to press further if we say otherwise. As things are in the world we are in today, it may not be easy to say “I’m fine”; we may have a good job, a happy marriage, wonderful friends, yet the happenings around the world that include teenagers murdered on streets, and the destruction of human lives in many countries in the world today, leave us gasping for breath and, it appears, we can only watch helplessly.

The talk on climate change remains huge and we are told that if we do not do anything, there will be consequences for the human environment but how effective can all our talks and conferences be in the face of human suffering?

Our theme once again for this triennial is **Transformation – Now!**
What does this mean? It is defined as a “marked change in form, nature or appearance”.
This theme is a challenge in many ways because, as I see it, making a marked change in ourselves or others in our communities does not come easy. So, as an individual, what change will you make or, as a diocese, what change(s) are we going to make for our theme to be realised? Let us pray that whatever we choose to do may it lead us to becoming change agents in God’s world.
Massive thanks to Rev’d Esther Foss our Chaplain, who never fails to deliver. She led us on our Lenten Quiet retreat on zoom under the same theme of transformation. We had a wonderful time . A quote from the retreat: “There will always be rocks in the road ahead of us. Will they be stumbling blocks or stepping stones?” It all depends on how you use them.”

Thanks to all who are taking up roles on the trustee board newly and for all who are staying on. Your labour of love will not be in vain.

So, if you are seeking where to make a change, there are lots happening:
The Communities of Interest is an opportunity to register your interest;
The Re-imagining MU conference scheduled for January will now take place in July in Liverpool;
Would you see this as a chance to get on the transformation bus? We still have lots of vacancies on the Trustee board;
Is God calling you to use your gift to bless others?
The times we are in are challenging and so is our theme, but let me encourage you, if you love the Lord and you have made him your rock, fortress, deliverer and strength (Psalm 18:1-2) then listen to what the Lord says in Joshua 1:9 “ Have I not commanded thee? Be strong and of good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest”

Our Festival service comes up on the 7th of May, please plan to come and make it a truly festival service. Invite your friends, non MU members and all.

Also, Queen Elizabeth II, our MU patron, is celebrating her Platinum Jubilee – 70 years of faithful service to her God, her people and family.
We pray to the Lord to continually bless and keep her.

Finally, let me close in the way I started “How are you?”, may you know the peace and love of God in your hearts daily as you continue to serve him.

Your sister and friend, Comfort