

STOP...LOOK...LISTEN !

Road Sense

It's Advent: and our minds may be overwhelmed by things to do on the journey to Christmas, by a bewildering onslaught of disturbing news, by demands on our time and limited resources...

How to manage? How to prioritise?

One blessing of Advent is the call for us to STOP – even if for a few moments each day – and in that stillness to LOOK beyond ourselves towards the bigger picture and to LISTEN for God's quiet voice of calm amidst the storm of traffic around us.

For Mothers Union, Advent begins with United Nations' '**16 days of activism against gender-based violence**'. We are asked to find ways to STOP others in their travels – long enough to LOOK at the alarming facts – (that 1 in 3 women worldwide experience some kind of gender-based violence in their lives) - and to LISTEN to the stories of victims. By raising awareness in our local communities, gender-based violence will find it harder to stay hidden behind closed doors, victims will be encouraged to speak out or to seek refuge. Our willingness to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN may be the best Christmas gift imaginable for victims and children in abusive families.

STOP, LOOK and LISTEN is also a call to be mindful of road safety throughout all life's journey. Mothers' Union is called to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN all year round – to help stop the traffic of injustice, to notice where needs go unnoticed, and to listen to inside stories. Faith in Action requires good road sense and a handy prayer map – so thanks to all who contribute to the MU Prayer Diary.

Loving Lord, our faith is in you.

We place our future in your hands as we follow where you lead.

Inspire us with your vision and empower us with your Spirit that we may walk forward together,

knowing you are our guide and companion. Amen.

January 2024

