

Grapevine



From the President...

Dear friends,

Where has this triennial gone? The last three years have been exciting, busy and really joyous. I have met many of you, some for the first time and some that I have been able to renew friendships with. Even at the cathedral service I met a member who I had worked with 44 years ago and not seen since ...that was certainly special.

So much seems to have happened this year, and that will be reported at the A.G.M. in April , but I must just mention some highlights. A group of our younger members attended the 'mapping the future' conferences, and perhaps next year, with their help, we could run our own.

We were thrilled to welcome Lynne Tembey, our worldwide president , to the diocese last month. For me this was the most uplifting time. Alongside all the visits and informal talks I was able to have deeper conversations about Mothers' Union. The visit was fun but also uplifting. As always, as you processed your banners down the aisle of the cathedral on the Saturday afternoon I had a tear in my eye. Yes, we are certainly 'members one of another'. Thank you to everybody who made the visit such a success, I know that you all worked very hard with your preparations and made Lynne so welcome. I felt very proud to be your president.



Our new project, The Frances Lunch Project, after much thought, preparation and prayer is ready to begin in February half term 2016. A coordinator, Mrs Lyn Ridley, has been appointed and is excited about starting the work. Please consider volunteering to help. Members from all over the diocese will be welcomed onto the team. Perhaps it will be your deanery that will want to have a similar project in the next triennial.



Lynne at Ridgeway

Last week I attended worldwide council at Swanwick. We worked very hard, but again we also had some networking time which I found most valuable. 2016 will be the 140th anniversary of Mothers' Union and plans are

being made to make it a very special year. More about this as and when I have details.

The General Meeting will be held in the Winchester diocese. The service will be on Thursday 22nd September in the afternoon at Winchester cathedral, and the meeting will take place on Friday 23rd September at the Hampshire Court hotel in Basingstoke.

I cannot finish this letter without thanking you all for making this such an enjoyable, uplifting three years. Without the help of ALL of you nothing would have happened. THANK YOU.

Some of our officers and trustees will be retiring at the end of the year . I am so grateful to you all



Lynne at Brackley



for your patient support. Thank you.

A final word. At worldwide conference our chaplain, Bishop Andrew Proud, was talking about relationships, and that is what Mothers' Union is about. He said, "Where the elephants fight, it is the grass that gets trampled". I am glad that in Peterborough diocese the elephants [officers] do not fight so hopefully the grass [grassroots] do not feel trampled.

As we look forward to the next triennial with great anticipation and excitement, I will sign off with my love and prayers,

Barbara

Grapevine Faith and Policy Report



As I write this report I have just sent off the confirmation for our visit to Leicester Cathedral. This venue has proved very popular and I wondered if we might make a visit to a different cathedral next year. Coventry springs to mind because that is closest to where I live but if you have a preference please let me know so that the committee can look at it.

On October 3rd the Anglican Church of Korea celebrated the Anniversary of the Establishment of Mission and Ministry in Korea at the cathedral in Seoul. I was not able to go to this but I did send our love and greetings to Bishop Paul and all our friends in Korea.

The Quiet Events we have held have been very good. The Reverend Canon John Westwood is a good friend of the MU and the evening we spent in Rothwell was much appreciated. Our Chaplain, the Reverend Mandy Cuthbertson, led our Quiet day in Kingsthorpe. Both of these events gave an opportunity to relax and spend time with God as well as with one another. I hope more people will consider attending one of these events in 2016.

Sue Tringham

CELEBRATING 50 YEARS ACTIVE SERVICE IN THE MOTHERS UNION

In July 2015 Dorothy Bishop of the Werrington was joined by our President Barbara Hayes and our Vice President Kay Short along with Deanery members; friends and relatives to celebrate 50 years active service in the Mothers' Union.

Dorothy was enrolled on July 8th 1965 at St Mary's in West Twyford in the Diocese of London and moved to Peterborough in 1975. She has been both Deanery and Branch Treasurer and also held the positions of Secretary and Branch Leader.



Throughout her membership of the Mothers' Union Dorothy has been a faithful steward of her duties. She has lovingly served the Lord with a willing heart. She has demonstrated to those she has met through her ministry, honesty, integrity, trustworthiness, hard work and conscientiousness. She has never failed to respond with joy to the tasks that have been set before her, and has been a fine example to and of the Principles and objects which are fundamental to the Mothers' Union.

In 2013 Dorothy had the desire to become an ordinary member of the Mothers' Union. She was at that time still an active serving member on the Branch committee and Branch Treasurer. It has been a huge loss not to have her wisdom and guidance on the committee as we seek to serve the Lord and promote the work of the Mothers' Union. It has been an honour and a privilege to share in her ministry and today help her to celebrate 50 years of service in the Mothers' Union.

Dorothy is an example to us all of a quiet spirit working in the background serving the Lord in her daily life and witness; as well as her determination to promote the work of the Mothers Union. We wish her many more years of enjoyment in the Mothers Union, as a much loved and respected member.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE PRAYERS

Linked with **Oyo, North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba,
Rumbek, Soroti, Aba Ngwa North
Birmingham**



December 2015

We pray for all those in the branches of Eye, Longthorpe, Paston, Werrington and the Cathedral Group in Peterborough deanery and for Oundle members in their deanery.

Dear Lord as we prepare for your coming into this world help us to reflect on what our lives have been during the year. Forgive our transgressions and help us once again to listen to your word and follow you. Shine a light into us that we may more clearly see our way to the manger and that you may heal and restore us into your image. Lead us forward into the New Year with confidence that whatever befalls your love enfolds us always.

January 2016

We pray for our Diocesan President, Vice-Presidents, Chaplain, Secretary, Treasurer, Unit Co-ordinators, Emergency Prayer Chain members, Trustees, Deanery Leaders, Branch Leaders and Committee members; and for Lyn Ridley, the co-ordinator for our lunch project.

God and Father of Lord Jesus bless the coming year that we may pass through it in joyful obedience and firm faith. We thank you for gifts of food, warmth and friendship and we pray that you will help us to continue to share what we have with those less fortunate, both at home and abroad. Help us in this New Year to make more space for you. Amen

February 2016

We pray for all those members in the branches of Ketton, Oakham w Braunston and Uppingham branches in Rutland Deanery.

Dear Lord, bless our homes – may they always be a place where our children and grandchildren can feel nurtured, protected and most of all loved. May we guide them to know and love you. We ask this in the name of Jesus. Amen.

March 2016

We pray for all members in Astwell, Brackley, Chenderit and Farthinghoe with Thenford in Brackley Deanery. Heavenly Father we pray for ourselves as we continue our journey through Lent with prayer, fasting as we come closer to you in presence.

May our Lenten disciplines enhance our joy and understanding as we praise your Holy Name in this joyful Eastertide. We thank you that through your death and resurrection we have won the victory and your healing grace and love. Fill us with new life so that we may love one another and do what you want us to do in sharing your love in all that we do in your name. Amen

April 2016

We pray for all members in Pitsford, Ridgeway, Uplands, Welford and Yelvertoft branches in Brixworth Deanery.



Heavenly Father we thank you for your wonderful creation and the new life that it brings. Tulips and catkins, sticky buds and primroses. Many people of the world do not experience these lovely seasons. We pray for those in dry arid countries who long for a drink of clean water and never see flowers bloom. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union in these places around the world as we share your many blessings. Thank you Father. Amen

My Story, Our Story by Freda English

I was asked some years ago
If I ever thought
Of joining Mother's Union.
What was my retort?
'Gossiping old ladies,
sewing, drinking tea.
Oh! You must be joking!
That is not for me!'
What I said was most unkind
Because of course I knew
That MU Members were around
When there were jobs to do.
At Church on every Sunday
To worship, praise and pray,
Visit the sick and lonely,
To help and cheer their day.
Polished pews and cleaned the brass,
Arranged their garden flowers.
Served squash and tea at Tiny Tots.
For cake stalls, baked for hours!
A few years on, then suddenly
One dark December day
My happy life was shattered when
My husband passed away.
MU members were kind and caring
And genuinely concerned.
My anger with God subsided,
Humility I had learned.
Later still, in Holy Week,
I found myself enrolled.
Could only croak my promises,
With a throaty common cold.
Three years a new member,
Three years secretary,
Six years leader of the branch
And three of Deanery.
Put into practice new ideas,
update, improve the old.
Cement new links with friends abroad.
Be positive and bold.

Nine years a Prayer Unit rep.
How I loved to be
On Silent Retreat at Ecton House
With like-minded company.
I saw the Daylight Centre's dawn,
AFIA holidays grow.
The Contact Centre, counselling
For young brides and their 'beau'.
Bright red saving boxes
For members overseas.
Now, ten pence on Tuesdays,
Bring to Forum please.
Members' fingers always busy,
Knitting teddies, squares and tops.
Writing cards for prisoners,
Making Banners, drama props.
Nativity Set in Advent
Received in homes with joy,
Telling the Christmas story.
Sheep for every girl and boy.
Phone calls on the Prayer Chain,
Fun days, sponsored walks,
New perspectives to discuss
Form our Speaker's talks.
Protecting children's innocence
From fashion and TV,
From abuse and exploitation.
What challenges we see!
From Mary Sumner's mothers group
A hundred and forty years ago
Through prayer, love, service round the world
Four million members grow.
Prayer is the foundation
Of everything we do.
The Holy Spirit's gifts and strength
Will see each challenge through.
Don't say you are too busy,
No time to join the MU.
Come, young multi-tasking mums,
Our future's up to you!

Prayerful Action

Sara told my branch members of the ladies who pray for the person who is to receive the shawl they are knitting and I thought this was such an inspired idea that I wondered as you pick up your knitting or sewing needles to produce garments for fish and chip babies or teddies, or to sew 'fiddle' aprons whether you could please pray for all of the recipients, wherever they are. As we know these garments are gratefully received so keep praying, knitting and sewing please!! Did you know that some of our teddies have been sent to Calais from the Kettering Deanery 'with our love' to those refugee children stranded there?

Thank you for collecting your 10 pence on Tuesday money for the worldwide fund during the year, and please continue to pray for our Wave of Prayer link dioceses. Finally please pray for the prisoners in Peterborough prison who receive our Christmas cards, and for their families who will be separated from them at Christmas.



**With love and prayers
Jill**

FROM OUR LINK.....

Dear Ann,

Christian greetings to you and the Church in Peterborough Diocese. I am very delighted to be linked to you as a Diocese. My name is Grace Aporu, the new Mothers Union President working with Mrs. Sarah Okodu, the Coordinator in the office who will be conveying your messages to me for I stay far in the village. Rose has retired but still advises us, we shall convey this message to her. May God bless you for that immense ministry you are carrying out in the streets. We appreciate your hard work of knitting. We too do ministry in the Hospital in the Children's, women's and other wards. MU Soroti organizes women's conferences. Mothers Union guides and counsels the youth and the children in Soroti and in Conferences. We make necklaces, money purses etc. but still there is not enough ready market for us to sell to improve upon our livelihoods. So pray with us. May God bless you in whatever you do. Please pray with us due to an extended drought, there has not been a good harvest this year. Families are already experiencing terrible famine. Share with the MU members these verses: Exodus 23:25-26, Psalms 85:9-12, Jeremiah 9:17-20. Continue crying to God for our nations, families, Health Centres in order to achieve our missions. Love and gratitude to all. ***Grace and Sarah CHURCH OF UGANDA—SOROTI DIOCESE***

All Hallows Branch meeting in June was our annual garden meeting and the weather was perfect. We were delighted to welcome Barbara Haynes, our Diocesan President. She told us about her journey through the MU movement and was also very pleased to award long service certificates to three of our members. Pam Wootton for 40 years, Dorothy Knight for 50 years and Shirley Berrill for 60 plus years. A grand total of 150 plus years which we thought was fantastic.





Each year Mothers' Union helps people to have a holiday. Families are able to spend time together away from their stressful situations at home, engage in activities together and have fun. They often experience healing in their relationships by spending this quality time with each other.

We would like to share some of the feedback we have received from the families who have enjoyed 'Away From It All' (AFIA) holidays this summer.

'The family had a wonderful time and they didn't want to come home. The holiday has given the young Mum confidence and she has subsequently accepted a part time job, which she is so thrilled about.'

During the past six summers we have been privileged to have received funding from MU members and friends that has enabled us to provide AFIA holidays for forty four families, i.e. eighty six adults and one hundred and five children. These holidays have meant so much to those who have been offered them. Without your financial help and your prayers, these holidays would not have been possible. We have felt blessed by this ministry, but we now feel it's the right time to hand over the administration of this and to let others share in these blessings.

Arranging AFIA holidays is a practical way to demonstrate Christian care for families and individuals. Branch and Deanery leaders – please take a look around your parishes and deaneries to see if there are one or two MU members who might like to undertake this ministry. Branch members – have a chat with your branch and deanery leaders to find out a bit more about AFIA.

Six years ago, we were both very shy about offering to undertake this task. We thought, we'll wait and see what happens . . . in the meantime, someone else might offer to do it. But what if no one does? How are these families and individuals going to experience God's love for them away from all the stresses and strains at home. How else are children going to be able to join in with conversations in their new classrooms about their summertime seaside adventures when they return to school in September? Think about the creation of all those wonderful memories of seaside holidays, playing in the sand with buckets and spades, making sandcastles, the warmth of sand between the children's little toes, and the experience of paddling in the sea and jumping over the waves.

One of our initial concerns about arranging AFIA holidays, was how we would prioritise the holiday applications we received. Our fears were completely unfounded. Each year, there has always been enough finance to cover the costs of the holidays, and an amount to carry forward to the next year. The same is true for 2016. Some finance is there to start off next year's holidays. This work is ready to continue with your help.

Please prayerfully consider undertaking this ministry with a friend, and if that 'still small voice' is prompting you to do this, please feel free to contact us and we will happily answer your questions and provide all the help we can. We have received a great deal of pleasure all that is needed for this task is a little spare time, some stationery and a telephone.

Joy and Jean

Diocesan Officers

President: Mrs. Barbara Haynes 5 Roberts Street, Wellingborough, NN8 3HY
Tel: 01933 222612 president@mothersunionpeterborough.org

Secretary: Mrs Helen Lynett 154 Midland Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1NF
Tel: 07842 806871 secretary@mothersunionpeterborough.org

Treasurer: Mrs. Sylvia Rowley 223 Fullingdale Road, Northampton, NN3 2QH
Tel/Email 01604 413829 sylvia.rowley@ntlworld.com

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Kay Short 11 Cytringan Close, Kettering, NN15 6GW.
Tel: 01536 310633 kpgshort@googlemail.com

Mrs. Marian Thompson 2 Cedar Close, Brackley, NN13 6EW
Tel/email: 01280 703751 marian.e.thompson@btinternet.com

Mrs. Eileen Jewell 41 Harvey Road, Wellingborough, NN8 2BW
Tel 01933 224128 Email: ejewell1@btinternet.com

Mrs Sara Ridley 42 Watersmeet, Northampton, NN1 5SG
Tel: 01604 635468 Email: sara.ridley1@btinternet.com

Chaplain: Rev'd. Mandy Cuthbertson St. Marks Vicarage, Queensway, Wellingborough NN8 3SD
Tel: 01933 673893 amanda.cuthbertson123@gmail.com

Unit Co-ordinators

Fundraising, Communication Mrs. Meg Dyer 22 Nene Crescent, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6SG
And MU Enterprises Tel/Email 01572 771564 Email: culmhouse@aol.com

Faith and Policy : Mrs Sue Tringham 41 West End, West Haddon, Northampton NN6 7AY
Tel: 01788 510275 sandyandsue@btinternet.com

Action & Outreach: Mrs Jill Kearns 4 Snetterton Close, Northampton, NN3 6EG
Tel: 01604 495462 Email: jmkearns@hotmail.com

Finance and Central Services: Mr David Dyer 22 Nene Crescent, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6SG
Tel/Email 01572 771564 culmhouse@aol.com

Training Co-ordinator: Mr David Dyer *as above*

Emergency Prayer Chain: Mrs Doreen Lambert Tel: 01536 710692

World Wide: Mrs Jill Goodman 158 Weedon Road, Northampton, NN5 5DA
Tel: 01604 464668 Email: jill.g@ntlworld.com

IMPC: Jenny Overson 01295 760677 and Elizabeth Addley 01295 710313

Pastoral Cards: Pam Handley Tel: 01604 714 560 pamartinhandley@btinternet.com

AFIA: *vacant*

Social Policy Rep. Mrs Penny Knight 24a Manor Road, Rothwell, Northants, NN14 6JE
Tel: 01536 710874 Email: penny.knight@live.co.uk

Families First Co-ordinator: Mrs Jean Rose 2 Manchester Road, Wollaston, Northants. NN29 7SR
Tel: 01933 663778 jeanerose@btinternet.com

Frances Constable Lunch Mrs Lyn Ridley 58 Britannia Road, Kettering, NN16 9RY

Project Coordinator Tel: 01536 529426 sridley254@btinternet.com

