

Grapevine



From the President...

My friends,

What a positive start to the new triennial with that lovely service after forum when Bishop John commissioned the trustees and officers and speakers ready for the work of the next three years. As we exchanged the peace at the church door as we left to go on our ways I am sure that you all felt, as I did, that the start of the triennial was very special.

This year has been a year of celebration. We have promoted M.U. as we have gone about our celebrations. I congratulate every member, every branch and every deanery for the innovative ways to celebrate and coincidentally raise funds for M.U. Do look for pictures and reports of various events on our website. Thank you all for remembering to wear your badges, especially the 140 year ones. I am pleased to say that I see more and more as I travel about the diocese whether on M.U. business or just on a bus ride or walk. This year we have had fun and fellowship as we have celebrated. That is wonderful.

Our theme for 2017 is Faith in Action. We must continue to shout from the rooftops about the work of Mothers' Union. We must make sure that we tell everybody that we meet. We can all be part of this, whether with prayer support or project work or speaking to our friends, church members, clergy or anybody that will listen. I challenge each and every one of you to introduce a new member.

I am pleased to report that the Francis Lunch Project with its coordinator and volunteers is 'off the ground'. We have new support from other agencies who are happy to become referrers alongside the schools in the St Andrew's area of Kettering. A lot of hard work goes on behind the scenes and it is a super club for the children. Please continue to support this project with, very importantly, prayer and also fund raising.

In my last letter I challenged you to make even more difference in your communities. Always up for a challenge, I have seen that you have done just that. Thank you all.



What a privilege for those of us who were able to go to Winchester cathedral and take part in the service with the Archbishop of Canterbury. To be together with 2000 other members in that lovely cathedral was very special. For those of you who were not there, the sermon and also pictures taken on the day are on the Mothers' Union website. Of course Mary Sumner and her husband George are buried in the cathedral grounds and we visited the grave which Lynne had laid flowers on before the service.

I cannot end my letter without mention of Marian Thompson, a loved and respected V.P. Marian was supportive, compassionate and always so thoughtful. Marian died suddenly in June. We all miss her very much.

Betty Torbell, a past diocesan secretary, was a member for 65 years and she died peacefully in the Spring. She still came to some branch meetings until just before she died. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Thank you for all that you do in the name of Mothers' Union. With my love and prayers, Barbara

Mothers' Union is everywhere.



Whilst enjoying a holiday on the Isle of Man I visited a village which was a testament of life on the island in past times. Entering the small Church what did I find? A notice board with the forthcoming MU events together with a poster. So I took the photo which I hope will be of interest.



140 years of Celebration- Saints and Angels MU Kettering

What a special year for us and so many exciting things happenings culminating in the Service in Winchester Cathedral and the Annual meeting.

At Saints and Angels we have a very competent needlewoman. She has worked a 140 year kneeler which was blessed during the service nearest to Mary Sumner Day and now is in Saint Peter and Paul's Church with the other MU commemorative kneelers. The reasoning was, that the bunting will fade and parties will be forgotten but the kneeler will be a tangible remembrance of this year.



Hazel Goodman, Saints and Angels M.U.

Finance and Central Services Report

Peterborough Diocese was well represented at the Annual Meeting in September. The message was loud and clear, we are making our voices heard and achieving great things but UK membership is falling and real growth is necessary in the ten years leading up to our 150years celebrations.

We need to find more members and to open new branches, we need to reach out to the many people who share our objectives and would be proud to join us. We need to "let our light shine" much more than we do.

On the home front the Draft Constitution is well underway and you will have copies at Forum in November. I thank my unit for the work they have put in to make that possible. Our constitution obviously embeds that of the Mothers' Union as a whole but it also contains the necessary regulations which make our day to day life at Branch and Deanery level focus on our objectives and take action to achieve them.

The key to success is good communication in both directions between the Diocese level and the branch level. To ensure this every unit needs a representative from every Deanery. Although representation in F and CS is good and we get things done, there are still some Deaneries not represented and that weakens the communication chain. If your Deanery does not have a representative for each of the four units please try to make sure that it does.

David Dyer.

Brixworth Deanery

A big celebration for our 140th took place at the Church of St. Lawrence, Long Buckby on August 9th: a service of thanksgiving was followed by tea and cake with many children's activities on offer, followed in the evening by a barbecue. Later at the Buckby Feast 140 squares were sold which raised £140 for the cause.

Faith and Policy

I hope that many of you have been able to respond to the Sex and Relationships Education Membership Discussion Paper. As mothers and grandmothers we have a wealth of experience in supporting children and young people and we are therefore in a good position to understand the issues which they face and to have an opinion about school based sex and relationships education.

A study published earlier this year revealed that of children between 11 and 16, 53% have been exposed to pornography, 94% of this group have seen pornography before they are 14. This is a matter which calls for our prayers: both for those responsible for protecting children from inappropriate content on line and for those young people who have witnessed it.

This year has seen our country celebrating the outstanding example of leadership given by our patron, Her Majesty the Queen, an enormous cause for thanksgiving. It has also seen, following the result of the referendum, a change in the leadership of our government. As the negotiations for Brexit begin we need to support the new ministers with prayer: most of all that the proceedings will be undertaken in a spirit of concord and an absence of rancour.

With my love and prayers, Sue Tringham

16 Days of Activism Gender Violence Against Women and Girls

25th November "International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women" to 10th December "Human Rights Day"



Do we care? -Why we should! Just a few facts you should know.

The increase in on-line abuse has increased dramatically The most serious being Revenge Porn "None consensual sharing of images of an intimate nature" and Cyber stalking using on line technology to penetrate the "real world" These forms of VAWG mean that places like home, which should be safe, are no longer safe.

Throughout the world women and girls are subject to many different forms of violence including physical, sexual, emotional and financial abuse. Violence affects women and girls from all backgrounds and happens across all stages of life; and is perpetrated by partners and family members as well as strangers.

One in three women globally will experience domestic abuse at some point in their lifetime (WHO).

In 2012, one in two woman killed in a homicide was killed by a partner, former partner, or family member. One in 20 men was killed in the same way in this same year (UN Women).

4.5m people worldwide are victims of forced sexual exploitation. 98% of these are women (UN Women).

Domestic abuse counts for 75% of violence against women

Female Genital Mutilation is a truly abhorrent practice which we cannot understand, however, "cutting" is practised here, and prosecution is difficult

Each year, 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Violence unites individuals and organisations to raise awareness of, and call for an end to, all forms of violence against women and girls. Mothers' Union believes in particular that prevention needs to focus on teaching children and adults about loving and respectful relationships; that there are laws against all forms of violence and abuse and the means to enforce them; that those experiencing violence are supported, and that perpetrators are brought to justice and rehabilitated.

We are being asked this year to light a candle to highlight this issue, at mid day every Friday beginning on 25th November until 10th December. Saints and Angels Mothers' Union in Kettering will be holding a Diocesan vigil in Saint Peter and Paul's Church on Friday 2nd December from 11.00am until 12.00 noon. This is open to all and will be followed by a simple Faith Lunch. Please try and come or join us in your homes in prayer. If you would like to learn more please contact me using the details on the back of Grapevine. Thank you, Hazel Goodman.

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE PRAYERS

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



November 2016

We pray for all those in the branches of All Hallows, All Saints, St. Barnabas, Orlingbury & Harrowden and Wollaston & Strixton in Wellingborough Deanery.

O Lord our Father may we be like the fireworks with which we remember the Fifth of November. Like the sparklers may we shine brightly in a world which does not acknowledge you, like the Catherine wheels may we follow the examples of your saints and like the rockets may we direct all people towards the glory you have created for us. Amen.

December 2016

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.

Heavenly Father thank you for this time of Advent, hope, expectancy and new life. As the world looks forward to celebrating Christmas, may many be drawn to Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the world. You came to bring peace and we really need you to bring peace to our nations in this world. Peace so that families can live in safety and not have to travel over vast continents to find a safe place. We ask these things in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen

January 2017

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.

Heavenly Father as we enter a new calendar year help us to take on board the theme for 2017. Let each of us resolve how we may put it into action and make our faith a reality. In this way may we bring those around us to an understanding of what we have achieved in the past 140 years, what we will practise today so that our organisation may grow as we proclaim our FAITH IN ACTION. Amen.

February 2017

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

Loving Saviour, we remember at the beginning of this month your presentation in the Temple and we ask you to bless all babies and young people who come to be baptised into the family of your church. Help us to welcome them and guide the parents and god-parents so that those whom we receive in your name may be nurtured in your faith and may come to see you more clearly, love you more dearly and follow you more nearly day by day. Amen.

March 2017

We pray for all members in Astwell, Brackley, Chenderit and Farthinghoe with Thenford in Brackley Deanery.

In this time of uncertainty we pray for all who need our prayers.

We give you thanks for our homes, families and friends, and all love and care for us.

We thank you for your Son Jesus Christ, for his steadfast obedience by which he overcame the temptations of this world. By dying for us he overcame death and rose to life again through which we are raised to the life of your kingdom. Amen.



April 2017

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

Father as we remember the Passion of your Son, His crucifixion and His glorious resurrection help us not to forget those who stood at the foot of the cross and also suffered. We pray not only for all mothers who have lost children but for the whole family who through loss also grieve. Help us Lord, even though perhaps we ourselves do not know that grief, to hold out a helping hand, share your peace and love with our prayers and your promise of life ever after to all who have had the loss of a child. Amen.

Faith and Policy

Once again the unit has been busy this year. I hope that by now the Prayer Chain notices are on display in the churches of the diocese. Several clergy have welcomed these and at my own Deanery Synod meeting the speaker who was talking about prayer commended the use of the Prayer Chain to those present.

The 46 of us who went to Southwell had excellent guides who shared their love of the minster with us and showed us the secrets of the building. Their enthusiasm was infectious and I think we all enjoyed the day we spent there.

We had a glorious day at Irchester: the sun shone and enabled some of the more hardy of us to walk in the country park as well as to enjoy the addresses of the Reverend Catherine Lomas based on the Blessed Virgin Mary, whose birth we celebrated that day.

A Quiet Evening in Wellingborough was spent with the Reverend Christine Ostler in contemplation of baptism and marriage; and, as I write this, we are still looking forward to our Advent day at Werrington with the Reverend Diane Johnson where the theme will be "Waiting"

We have been able to share with Leicester Mothers' Union a retreat at Launde Abbey. The Reverend Rosy Fairhurst was our conductor and we are grateful to Leicester members who made it possible for us to have these few days away together.

We are looking forward to 2017 and will be following the theme suggested by Mary Sumner House, Faith in Action. This gives us all the opportunity to practise what we believe and to demonstrate to those around us what it is that drives us in our membership of the Mothers' Union. This is a theme that each one of us can take up: our faith needs to be supported by action and this is true for every member. For some action will be individual, working in the community or the immediate family, for others the effort will be communal, perhaps working with another organisation, but whatever we do we are as Trish Hayward used to say, 'ordinary women achieving extra-ordinary things.' After the glorious celebrations of our 140th birthday let us all be inspired to put Faith into Action.

With my love and prayers

Sue Tringham

Brackley Deanery



This lovely new Banner for the Astwell Benefice was presented at the Brackley Deanery Mary Sumner Day celebratory service in Helmdon.

It was a lovely reflective service, celebrating the work of the Mothers' Union and giving thanks for the culmination of the 140 mile walk undertaken by Helen Overson. This amazing effort supported by so many has raised over £900 for the Literacy Fund and Special Relief to date.

It was also a time to remember with love and gratitude the service of Marian Thompson.

News from Wollaston & Strixton

Long Service Awards

There was a special celebration in July 2016 when we congratulated Mrs Dora Mallows on 66 years of membership and 50 years of membership for Mrs Joan Lewry, both ladies are residents of Wollaston, Dora having lived here all her life. Joan has travelled the world a bit but has now put down roots in Wollaston.

Diocesan President Barbara Haynes came to present long-service certificates and to re-admit a past member Mrs Jean Loakes.



Left to right : Mrs Jean Loakes, readmitted as a member, Diocesan President Mrs Barbara Haynes, Mrs Dora Mallows with her certificate for 66 years of membership and Mrs Joan Lewry with her certificate for 50 years of membership.

Happy Birthday Mothers' Union



Wollaston & Strixton Branch have got on board with doing something to celebrate 140 years of Mothers' Union. With the assistance of the benefice congregations, they have collected together 140 items of toiletries which will be given to the Wellingborough Women's Refuge. Items include, toothbrushes, toothpaste, hair brushes, tissues, deodorant, shower gel, hair shampoo, flannels and towels.

Left to right : Mrs Ruth Turner, Mrs Jean Loakes, & Mrs Andrea Drage, some of the members of Wollaston & Strixton branch and the toiletries they have collected.

Jean Rose, Branch Leader

Closing date for the next Grapevine is 1st February 2016—Copy to Sara Ridley—contacts on back page

Summer of Celebration

(Action and Outreach)



In July I was privileged to attend the Annual Summer Lunch at St Benedict's branch in the Northampton deanery. The branch had challenged themselves to knit 140 garments which were for 'fish and chip' babies and blankets mainly. Also a friend of Nessie Mills, from the Bath and Wells diocese, had brought a car boot full of knitting too!!

In August Helen Overson, the new deanery treasurer for Brackley, completed her 140 mile walk for Mothers' Union. Congratulations to her! Weston Favell branch collected 140 tinned and packet goods for the food bank. Other branches sold 140 cakes for their fundraising coffee mornings and afternoon teas. I read with great pleasure in 'Families First' that Mothers' Union had raised just over £1.1 million towards the £1.4 million hoped to be raised by the end of the year. Well done one and all!!!

In September I attended the Annual meeting in Basingstoke for the 140 years celebration. The service in Winchester cathedral started the celebrations off. If you can listen to the sermon given by Archbishop Justin please do so. Firstly he talked about the past history of Mothers' Union and how our work is underpinned by prayer, summing up with the words 'thus far'. Then he talked about our future which resonated with tones of the theme for 2017 'Faith in Action'.

At the Annual meeting Daniel McAllister talked about our mission plan towards our 150 year celebration. Three DVDs are being sent to all branches. Two will show members the projects taking place both in Britain and Ireland and abroad. The third is a promotional DVD for those asked to talk about Mothers' Union to non-members.

Our Chief Executive, Bev, talked about Mothers' Union working alongside the Children's Society to help refugee children that have been displaced by war. The way forward is for us to work in partnership with other charities to achieve far more than working alone.

As you can read there is a real cause for us to celebrate all these successes during the 140 years anniversary of Mothers' Union as we prepare for next year's theme of 'Faith in Action' in which I hope the Action and Outreach projects in our diocese will reflect this theme.

With love and prayers, Jill Kearns

Away From It All

Firstly we would like to say a big thank you for the support and money raised for AFIA.

Next a thank you for the referrals which we received from all over the diocese from clergy and branch leaders.

We managed to send two families on a weeks holiday and a further family on a fun day out. They all enjoyed themselves and were blessed with lovely sunny weather.

We did find some requests came very near the holiday season and we were unable to find accommodation. Now that school aged children are restricted to school holidays the accommodation gets booked early. If there is a need for a holiday that is likely to be still relevant into next summer please apply early in the new year or before. It also gives the family time to save and plan.

Thank you, Eileen Jewell and Pat Ward

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