

Grapevine



From the President...

Dear Friends,

We had an exciting year in 2016 celebrating in many ways, our 140th anniversary. We fund raised, we held celebration services, we went to Winchester (where it all began) and one member won a piece of the celebration cake cut at the General Meeting.

Now we must move forward and continue to put our 'Faith in Action'.

Do we share Gods love in a practical way? Do we bring a light into dark places? Do we ask ourselves what would Jesus do? And then put the answer into action? If we do, and I know that we do, we are putting Faith in Action.

I have just been reading the end of year returns. As always I have seen how diverse our programmes and projects are. Last year we were involved in various petitions: we sent Baptism anniversary cards: we gave marriage support: we met in prayer groups : we made Mothering Sunday posies: ran toddler groups: adopted a church children's corner: we gave toiletries to a children's ward for emergency admissions: we visited care homes and also our indoor members: we gave AFIA holidays to families in dark places. **That Is Faith in Action.**

The Francis Lunch project was begun and by the end of the year, with help from friends in the Salvation Army and Homestart, has become well established. We now need extra volunteers

to help---will this be your opportunity to put your Faith in Action? I would like to think so.

Some of us were able to spend a thoughtful morning at the Vigil for the 16 days of activism against violence, and some branches put prayer trees and information in their churches. Please continue the good work, and do not hide your little light under a bush, oh no! Promote Mothers' Union as an active, compassionate & prayerful organisation.



I must bring to your attention that we have been told that all soft toy knitting by members in the name of Mothers' Union has to be suspended until a conformance policy has been decided. I know we all love knitting them, but please, for the time being, don't.

There are many other items that we can, and do knit. In this picture, taken at St Benedict's, there are 140 items of knitting, and not a teddy in sight! Do continue to knit. Your Knitting brings light to so many people both in the Diocese and Worldwide.

This time next year we will be electing a new president and trustee board for the Diocese. I want to encourage you all to begin to pray about this, discuss the positions, and ask members if they would be willing to be nominated. **IT COULD BE YOU. WHY NOT?!**

I would like to thank those members of the trustees, who have taken on new responsibilities. You will see who they are on the back cover of this Grapevine. We welcome our new trustee Judith Perkins onto the board. Thank you Rev Anne for accepting our invitation to become our chaplain. Welcome. Goodbye and best wishes for your next step along the road to Rev Mandy.

Love and prayers
Barbara

Faith and Policy



2017: Another chance to shine as children of God and members of the Mothers' Union. I hope we can look forward to another year of friendship, fellowship and fun engendered by our membership of an organisation more than 140 years young. I hope also there is something in the Faith and Policy programme that will appeal to each member. Here it is:

Wednesday 14th June. QUIET EVENING at St. Mary the Virgin, Northampton, NN4 8EZ

7 – 9 p.m. coffee from 6.30. Conductor to be confirmed. Cost £3 per person. Names to Sue Tringham by 5th June.

Wednesday 21st June. VISIT to Lichfield Cathedral. Tours at 10.30 and 1.30. Eucharist in the cathedral at 12 noon. Cost £6.60 per person. Names to Sue Tringham by 12th June

Wednesday 9th August. SERVICE for Mary Sumner Day at 2.30 p.m. at All Saints' Church, West Haddon, NN6 7AP led by the Reverend Graham Collingridge; followed by tea served in the church. Numbers please to Sue Tringham by 1st August. There will be a special welcome for Diocesan members at this service

September 21st – 23rd. OUR WAVE of PRAYER. I hope you will be able to use the Wave of Prayer service in your Deanery, your branch or at home.

October 17th – 19th. RETREAT at Launde Abbey to be shared with Leicester Diocesan Mothers' Union. Please let me know if you are interested in coming to this.

Further details of all these events will be given to Branch Leaders following Forum on 1st April.

With my love and prayers, Sue Tringham

16 Days Of Activism against Gender Violence Vigil 2nd December at Saints Peter and Paul Kettering

On a cold and bright December morning 16 members of MU from Branches throughout the Diocese met for our Vigil. At 11.00 we commenced with Mary's Story. Candles were lit, prayers said and readings but most of the time was taken up with silent prayers and thoughts. I thought during the Vigil that we were a part of the whole which would be echoed Nation and World wide. At 12.00 each one of us lit a candle and said a prayer as they were shining in our Lady Chapel. Afterwards 13 sat down to share a fellowship lunch of home made soups and bread.

The MU display boards were fully used to give information and provide a focus for others.

I sent the 16 Days poster and the Tri-fold information leaflet to my niece's husband who is Lead Chaplain at Durham University hospital; and received the following reply:

"Just a quickie from work to let you know this has proved very useful to staff including the Director of Nursing, Associate Director who looks after Safeguarding and the chaplaincy team. We've also put the tri-fold leaflet in the chaplaincy information boxes kept in the chapels.

Thanks again for letting us have it, Cheers, Kevin.

Revd. Kevin S Tromans, Lead Chaplain, County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust Chaplaincy

Hazel Goodman, Saints and Angels, Kettering

From Mandy, our outgoing Chaplain:

Mother's Union has been a significant part of my ministry over the last 13 years, and I have been blessed by being a member.

I wanted to say "thank you" for the generous gifts from Mothers' Union in this diocese: for flowers presented at Forum, the lovely Nominations bracelet (which is very special to me, and I have worn ever since), and the Amazon voucher.

With love and prayers, Mandy.

From our new chaplain, Canon Anne Davis...

I feel honoured and privileged to be taking on the role of Mothers' Union chaplain for our diocese.

To briefly introduce myself I am married to Richard, a now retired land-surveyor and we have three grown-up children. For much of my early married life I was a full time mother, being ordained in Chester diocese just after my fortieth birthday nearly eighteen years ago.



We moved to my current parish of St Benedict's Hunsbury in Northampton just one year ago, having spent the previous thirteen years as Rector of a large deprived housing estate just outside Birkenhead.

It was there that I joined the M. U. and have learnt to have great respect for the fantastic work done by so many members both at home and abroad. Often unsung or unnoticed, sadly sometimes belittled, I believe that the ethos and efforts of the Mothers' Union are ever more important in a world where community and compassion seem too often to take a back seat.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the years to come and supporting you in your faith and work.

Blessings Anne

Hymns, Pimms & Puds!

On a lovely summer's evening, back in June last year, All Saint's Wellingborough held a 'Hymns, Pimms & Puds' evening in the Church.

This was in memory of one our members, June Conlon. June was a dedicated member of Mothers' Union both in the branch and was also the A & O Deanery rep.

Hymns..... as people arrived they were given a hymn book as well as a slip of paper to write down their favourite hymn, with a few sentences as to why it was a favourite or had a special memory. These were then put into a basket....

Pimms.... (Or a non alcoholic alternative) was served. People relaxed in their seats as we heard a little about June and her commitment to MU and the life of our Church. We began with one of June's favourite hymns – she always referred to it as the Mothers' Union Hymn...

After that everyone picked out a slip of paper, in turn. We heard why it was a favourite or a special..... Some people had chosen the same hymn. As the evening went on we all enjoyed sharing these special moments and a good old hymn sing was had by all.

Puds.... Members had made a selection of Puds which were enjoyed during the interval – very yummy indeed!

Other Branches from the Deanery joined us as well as members from our congregation. The good news is, out of this, we had a new member join us!

We charged £5 a ticket which included the Pimms & Puds. The Money raised that evening was for the work of MU and also to have something, in Church, in June's memory.

If you are looking for something a bit different – try it.... It's a great opportunity to tell everyone of the wonderful work of MU as well as a great social occasion – who knows, you might just get a new member too!

Helen Lynett, All Saint's Wellingborough.



PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE PRAYERS

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



May 2017

We pray for all members of Denford with Raunds and Ringsted, Finedon, Higham Ferrers, Irchester and Irthlingborough branches in Higham deanery. Heavenly Father we thank you for your love so freely given to us all. We thank you that, through your son Jesus, you have opened the way for us to share fellowship and communion with you and with each other. As we rejoice in the summer sun and rain which germinate the seeds that have been sown, we ask you to bless the seeds in the ground and those in the spirit, so that across the world a harvest of fruitfulness will be gathered in. And so across the world all your children will be fed in body, mind and spirit. Amen

June 2017

We pray for all members in Daventry Team, Harpole, Kislingbury and Weedon branches in Daventry deanery. Loving Lord we give you thanks for all who provide our food, and all who protect us and shield us from harm. We pray for our homes and loved ones; we remember all who have lost their homes or livelihood. Loving Lord, we pray for countries at war, for people facing ethnic violence and hatred. Lord be with them. Amen.

July 2017

We pray for all those members in the branches of Abington, Kingsthorpe, Christ Church, Holy Trinity w St. Paul, St. Alban's, St. Michael's, Weston Favell, St. Benedict's, St. James's and St. Mary's in Greater Northampton Deanery. Heavenly Father, thank you for all your love and care you surround us with. We pray now for the young people as they prepare to leave school for work or further education. Bless them and guide them as they set out into the work place or start their chosen courses. As we think of young people, we think of all the young refugees who have come to settle in Great Britain, may they feel safe and secure as they settle into new communities. Bless those who help them, may they know a real fulfilment in this very special work. We ask all these things in the name of your son Jesus Christ. Amen

August 2017

We pray for all members in Paulersbury, Tove with Whittlebury branches in Towcester Deanery. Loving Lord, for seaside and countryside, here and abroad, we thank you for holidays and for friends and families to enjoy them with. After 140 years of fellowship we thank you for our membership of the Mothers' Union. Bless us as we remember Mary Sumner on August 9th and meet together with Branch and Diocesan members: to give thanks for the past and to look forward to the future and our part in it. We are bold to ask this in the name of our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

September 2017

We pray for our links:

Midlands Cluster: Birmingham, Jackie; Coventry, Jane; Derby, Wendy; Hereford, Linda; Leicester, Margaret; Lichfield, Sue; Worcester, Liz and Peterborough, Barbara.

Oyo in Nigeria: Rachel

Rumbek in South Sudan: Hellen and Rebecca

Soroti in Uganda: Rose and Sarah

North eastern Caribbean and Aruba: Ingrid

Aba Ngwa North in Nigeria: Odoinyenfe and Ethel

Heavenly Father we thank you for the summer and time for relaxation with family and friends. We pray for our Branches as they reconvene, refreshed and commencing new programmes. We give thanks for the Away From It All Holidays and pray for the families as they return to everyday life, trusting that their holi-

days have been fruitful and a time to renew relationships. At the start of a new term we pray for children, particularly those facing fresh experiences in new schools and for those leaving home for the first time. We pray also for the parents and teachers, for all to gain knowledge and to grow in wisdom. May we know your presence, Heavenly Father, in all that we do to further the work of the Mothers' Union in our diocese. Amen



October 2017

We pray for all members in Rothwell with Rushton, Saints & Angels, and St. Andrew's with Cransley branches in Kettering Deanery. Lord Jesus Christ we thank you for your faithfulness and obedience, the example you gave us to live lives worthy of your calling. Guard and protect our members whose faith is being tested through poverty, disease, famine, war or oppression. Strengthen them in their weakness, comfort them in their sorrow and give them joy and peace as they recall all you have done for them. Help us all to be ever thankful for your grace so lavishly poured out for us. Amen

November 2017

We pray for all the members in All Hallows, All Saints', St. Barnabas, Orlingbury & Harrowden, Earls Barton and Wollaston & Strixton branches in Wellingborough Deanery. Heavenly Father, this month we pray for our world as we remember world wars and for personnel still suffering in any way from their experiences. We remember areas where there is unrest, making people's lives unbearable. May the leaders of these countries find a solution that suits all, enabling people to live in safety and harmony. We give thanks for the organisations helping war victims, often fearing for their lives as they deliver much needed food and other provisions. We pray for Barbara as she leads Forum this month and for Unit Co-ordinators as they report on the activities of their units and for Deaneries as they meet to discuss future programmes. Amen

Weedon news

Weedon members have celebrated the 140th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union with two events promoting this global organisation.

In August we held a fundraising afternoon which was well supported by friends and visitors who enjoyed partaking of cream teas and bargains on the stalls. The proceeds of this event, advertised to be shared equally between the Big Summer Appeal and our own branch, enabled us to boost our funds and also to donate £100 for the Appeal.

On two weekends in December a Christmas Tree Festival was held in our Church attracting many visitors, another opportunity to promote the MU. Our branch sponsored and decorated a tree with the 140th Anniversary theme, along with a display of photos and artefacts from home and overseas, dating from a nineteenth century branch photo to a twenty first century one of World Wide President Lynn Temby with Barbara Haynes at Brackley during her visit to the Diocese.

At our Epiphany meeting, we were pleased to welcome anew member to our branch.

Freda English, Weedon branch.



St. Benedicts Northampton



For a number of years our Summer Lunch has been the high point of our fundraising, welcoming local branches to meet together whilst fundraising. This year under the guidance of our new Vicar and M.U. Chaplain we shall continue as before but with a rather simpler meal of sandwiches followed by fresh fruit and cream.

This will enable us to focus on a warm welcome and the same chance to meet up together whilst raising funds for overseas with fun and friendship. We look forward to meeting you all again this year on Monday 24th July. Numbers would be appreciated.

Nessie Mills, Branch Leader St. Benedicts M.U.

Join the MU heritage—an article for non-members written by Jill Cannings



Audrey Day, MU member (far right), hosted a gathering of MU branch leaders. In order of service we have Brenda Mason, Edna Quinlan, Ione Roseveare. Elizabeth Megahey. Sonja Lennon and Chris. Chris Maskell was followed by Robin Robson and I followed her in 2013. We remain a large branch, but need new members to carry on the work in our community, and support to the work of MU worldwide. Each year we send over £2000 to support the work of MU overseas.

Are you passionate about supporting Christian family life? Members are actively and prayerfully involved in supporting our Sunday school/ the foodbank/ the choir/ the ministry team/ leading the serving team/ the prayer group/ the Daylight centre/ Messy church/ Open the Book/ children's activities for Christmas at Uppingham/ baptismal follow up/ house groups/ church fundraising and the roving players who have entertained us at Harvest!

Next year we have a full programme of meetings, speakers, quiet days and outings. Come and join us to continue the heritage. Full details available from Jill Cannings.

Closing date for the next Grapevine is 1st October 2017—Copy to Sara Ridley—contacts on back page

News from the International Officer



Last November

Marie Wright, the International Officer for the Inner Wheel Club of Northampton West, sent some photos and information of where our knitting from Peterborough Mothers' Union is sent to and who receives the items.

In September of last year our local Christian women's refuge in Northampton called 'Eve' took possession of some of our knitted garments for the families living in the refuge.

In November of last year the blankets, hats, teddies and jumpers were sent to their Knysna school project for orphans in South Africa, who as you can see from these photos were pleased to receive them. Our knitted pencil cases were sent by them to children in Uganda.



Jill Kearns, Vice President



Trustee Quiet Day

In February of this year, the Trustees enjoyed a very thought provoking Quiet day, led by our new Chaplain, during which we reflected upon some of the lesser considered women of the bible. We met in the peaceful setting of the home of our Faith and Policy Coordinator, Sue Tringham and through reading, silent reflection and gentle guidance from Anne, contemplated the examples of women of faith.

I don't go to many Quiet Days— I am not by nature a quiet person—those who know me will appreciate that, but as I sat with my eyes closed, trying to imagine what life must have been like for Hagar, Sarah, Ruth and Naomi in turn, I felt a closeness with them I had not experienced before. I do not pretend that my life is at all like theirs, I have never known such hardships, but my faith has been tested albeit in a lesser way. Opening my eyes to the vision of delicate snowdrops in Sue's garden, I could truly be thankful for the love and fellowship of the Mothers' Union. The feeling has lasted and, as I type, I can feel the emotion of knowing I belong to a loving and supportive organisation. Midday prayers, for which I pause during my working day, has the same effect—bringing me closer to God, borne up by my fellow members worshipping with one voice.

I am now a convert to Quiet days and, if you haven't been on one, I urge you to try it, even if like me, you aren't a naturally quiet or restful person. Sue Tringham is organising several this year, both in the evening and during the day and will willingly share the details. Her contacts are on the back of Grapevine. Sara Ridley

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