

Grapevine



From the President...

Dear Friends,

Almost another year has rolled by . We have all been busy continuing to put our faith in action. We have seen needs and acted on them . Yes ..everyone of us. Some times it has been prayer that was needed, sometimes a practical action and sometimes support for others and for one another. Whatever the need you have responded.

We prayed for the victims of the Grenfell tower disaster and have offered a holiday for next year for an affected family. These holidays will be coordinated by London diocese.

We have continued to knit hats and scarves, blankets, angel pockets, tops for fish and chip babies and fiddle muffs. We have sewn fiddle aprons. We have supported young people admitted to hospital with toiletries. Just a few examples of our faith in action.

Everything that we do is underpinned by prayer. The faith and policy unit wrote a very good service for us all to follow for our wave of prayer. It was poignant that it was at this time in September that our NE-CA link was so badly effected by the hurricanes in the Caribbean. We are still praying for them as they begin to recover from this dreadful event.

Next year we will be electing a new president. Where will the last 6 years have gone? So much work has been done by you all in that time.

We will also elect new vice presidents, unit coordinators and trustees. Are YOU going to stand for one of these positions? As members every one of you will be eligible. Everyone of you is capable and has so much to bring to one of these positions. Please pray about this, talk also to one another, and be brave. There is lots of support within the membership. Talk to me if you want to know more.

In the deaneries and branches we are so grateful to our leaders. Next year will be the time for elections for branch and deanery officers. This is yet another way to serve Mothers' Union. Remember ALL officers only have to commit to three years.

Please accept the challenge.

As I write to you it is a dreary October day but because I won't be writing again until next SpringI wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a very successful new year as we follow in Mary Sumners' footsteps.

Thank you for all that you do for Mothers' Union.

Love and prayers ,

Barbara

Faith and Policy



I was very pleased that so many of us were able to meet for Mary Sumner day. A church-ful of us gathered at All Saints' Church, West Haddon for a service led by the Reverend Graham Collingridge where our chaplain, the Reverend Canon Anne Davis spoke to us about Mary Sumner herself and somehow the question of stropo women in church came up. There were some lovely hats worn with gusto, if you can wear a hat with gusto! This was also an opportunity for Diocesan members to meet together for lunch.

The Quiet Evening was a real treat. Father Ian Holdsworth talked to us about silence and between his talks our times of quiet were enriched by a selection of beautiful icons. A week later 48 of us enjoyed a visit to Lichfield cathedral. In spite of a number of distractions, such as the organ being tuned, this was a good day, with much to see and explore.

Earlier in the year the Faith and Policy committee met to write the service for our Wave of Prayer. More recently we have been directing our energy and enthusiasm to putting together a little book-let of prayer. This comprises one page for each day, with a thought to guide us and two prayers to use during that day. Our hope is that it will be useful. There is a copy for each member and it comes with love from us all.

There has been a questionnaire about membership which was sent out by Mary Sumner House at the end of July, due back in September: not the best timing for us to meet together and complete it, but I am pleased that some of us did so.

The theme for next year is "In Mary Sumner's footsteps." This challenges us all, a challenge I hope we can accept and act upon.

With my love and prayers

Sue Tringham

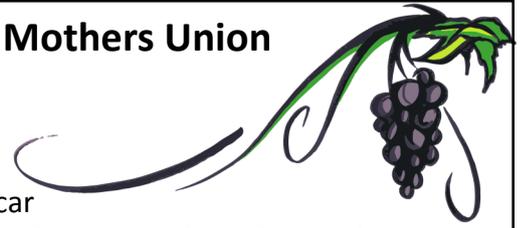
MU Celebrations at Abington Church

Abington Church Mothers' Union were delighted that Barbara Haynes, Diocesan President, accepted their invitation for her to present two long service awards on Sunday 8th October. Pamela Cummings and Margaret Kirby have each been an MU member for 60 years and so it was a very special occasion celebrating this achievement during the 10 am Eucharist service, surrounded by other MU members, family and friends. Barbara spoke of her pleasure at meeting members and the importance of acknowledging the many years of service and commitment given to MU by Pamela and Margaret. Both ladies were presented with a certificate and small rose plant. She also welcomed our Associate Priest Revd. Chrys Tremththanmor as a member to the branch. Chrys had previously been enrolled in to Mothers' Union in Bridgend, Wales, so it was a fitting occasion for her to have her membership transferred. After the service the branch members had a celebratory photograph together.



Cathy Tinsley, Branch Leader

News from St Botolph's, Longthorpe Mothers Union



In July 2016 St Botolph's Church Longthorpe said goodbye to our vicar Cannon Bill Croft. Cannon Bill had been a valued supporter of our Mothers Union branch since he came to St Botolph's in 2004.

On Wednesday March 15th 2017 during our interregnum, St Botolph's Mothers Union were pleased to welcome three new members. The Revd. Barbara Howitt our Assisting Priest admitted, Mrs Pam Hendry (our youngest member) Mrs Laura Hodges (our eldest member) and Mrs Lillian Hodges (a transferred member)

This photo was taken on August 16th 2017, to show our youngest and eldest members together with Revd. Barbara Howitt (centre).

Following a nine-month interregnum we have a new vicar, the Revd. Jackie Bullen.



Revd. Jackie Bullen was Instituted and Inducted at St Botolph's Church on April 1st 2017. It was a wonderful day when the church was bursting at the seams.

Our Mothers Union was actively involved with the church's welcome to our new vicar, along with the superb buffet that was available for everyone after the service.

On Wednesday August 16th 2017 The Revd. Jackie admitted Mrs Jayne Pawley and Revd. Barbara Howitt (former member)

Our membership currently stands at 40. Five new members in one year is quite an achievement for us and our year hasn't finished yet!

Ann Green Secretary St Botolph's Mothers Union



Lady Day at Middleton Cheney

Members from across Brackley Deanery met at the beautiful church in Middleton Cheney for their Lady Day service. It was a really excellent occasion with a moving service, some stirring singing followed by very tasty cake!

A highlight of the service was the presentation made by our President, Barbara, to Kathleen Thomas for a enviable 61 years service. The photo shows (from the left) Rosemary Jarvis, Deanery Secretary, Ann Smith, Deanery Leader, Barbara Haynes, Diocesan President and member, Kathleen Thomas.



PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE PRAYERS

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



December 2017

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.

As we approach Advent we pray for time for studying, devotion and quiet anticipation as we await the coming of the baby Jesus.

May we know Jesus' presence in all the hectic preparations for Christmas. We remember the lonely and the Agencies who are opening their doors to the homeless. For those serving abroad in the Services and for their families as they miss their presence.

We give thanks for the many blessings we receive this Christmas time through the birth of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

January 2018

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 our Father in Heaven help us as we resolve to help families across the world by relieving poverty, feeding the hungry and creating an environment where sexual and physical abuse are a thing of the past.

We pray for those who by day and night maintain the public services; working in health, healing and social care. Lord be with them. Amen

February 2018

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

Dear Lord as we come to the season of Lent, and our three commitments of giving, fasting and prayer, be with us. Though we ourselves may be poor let us remember those less fortunate than ourselves and that a kind word and a smile are another way of giving. Inspire us to make use of what we 'give up' for Lent. As we fast may we still buy food and drink and donate it to our local food bank so that others may benefit from our denial. May all we do be surrounded and supported by prayer, remembering not only our own Branches and Diocese but also our Worldwide Mothers' Union family. Amen

March 2018

We pray for all members in Astwell, Brackley, Chenderit and Farthinghoe with Thenford in Brackley Deanery. Dear Lord, this time of Lent is for us a time of reflection, a time of repentance, a time of hope and a time of healing. We remember you Lord, a light in a dark place, hope in a broken world and new life into dry bones.

Thank you Lord for this new life we have in you and help us to share the good news of your salvation with others. Amen

April 2018



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

Loving Lord, we come to you with joy, we rejoice in your love and salvation for all. We thank you for the gift of life. Lord, we thank you for the wonders of the world. Help us to use wisely all that you have given us.

Loving Lord we thank you for all who have shown your love. We pray for the newly baptised and confirmed and for those recently engaged and married. May they know your love and peace. Amen

Action & Outreach

Hello to you all once again, I sadly missed the date last time to get an article in for Grapevine, so here goes - a big 'Thank You' to Jill Kearns who has moved from Action & Outreach Co-ordinator to be Vice-President – still keeping her hand in as she is attached to our Unit.

I hope that you were all praying especially for our link in the Caribbean during the hurricanes that went over that area. Some of the staff from Mary Sumner House were visiting at the time for a conference and met the new President Ephena Matthew.

I received this e-mail from Nicola at MSH who was one of the staff members visiting

“You may have seen on Facebook, Twitter or the MU website that North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba has been badly affected by Hurricane Irma. News is still emerging and the true extent may well not be known for a little while (another hurricane is following close behind). Ephena Matthew who is the new President returns home from our meeting next Thursday and will then meet with members of the diocese relief committee to plan next steps. I just thought you would especially want to know so that your members can be praying for their link.”



Cards have been sent to our links for Mary Sumner Day and the 'Wave of Prayer' time, and of course at the November Forum I will be getting all of you present to sign cards for Christmas. Please continue to pray for all our links.

Pat & Eileen have arranged five holidays this year to the Carefree Holiday Site at Hemsby, They have also arranged a day out for a lady who was unable to cope with a holiday, together with her daughter who is her carer, and her 4year old great grandson. They already have one booking for next year. Carefree Holidays are willing to provide the welcoming packs for each family. Please remember AFIA when you are fundraising so that we can continue to arrange holidays in 2018.

Thank you very much for once again writing out the Christmas Cards, the majority of which will go to Peterborough Prison. They are very much appreciated. Some will also go to the AFIA families, the Daylight Centre, the Lunch Club and Diocesan members.

Thank you very much for all the knitting you do, I have had lots of 'Fish & Chip' baby knitting which Jill Kearns passes on.

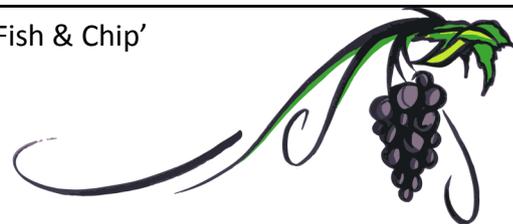
Baby Basics also need lots of knitting for new born – 3 month old babies – Hats, Jackets Mittens and Bootees as well as shawls.

A big 'Thank You' to the Inner Wheel who have had all out Tops and the rest of the blankets, unfortunately they have closed their branch, but I have found another outlet with the Torch Trust.

Hats, Scarves and Mittens/Gloves will go to the Samaritans Purse project

Thank you all very much for all the work you do in your Branches, I wish you all a peaceful Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year

God Bless, Jill



Pauline Jacobs and Hazel Goodman (pictured on the left), friends of Northamptonshire Historic Churches Trust, met up at the Study Day held on 12th August in Guilsborough Church, where they spent a time of fellowship beside the MU banner. Both Pauline and Hazel are MUE Unit Committee members.

They spent the rest of the day with other friends of NHCT exploring and finding out about churches around Northamptonshire. The day was led by Mr. Bruce Bailey and was very enjoyable.



Hazel Goodman, Saints and Angels, Kettering.

Pastoral Cards

Please remember that the diocese would like to send cards for special birthdays, thinking of you, get well, sympathy, wedding, congratulations etc.—just any occasion you feel any member would appreciate us acknowledging. This is for any member in your group, not just an attendee at Forum.

If possible, please give me as much notice as you can of the event although I realise this isn't always an option.

Please either email me the details or phone me (leave a message if I am out and I will get back to you).

The cards are waiting to be written!

Thank you, - Pam Handley

Closing date for the next Grapevine is 1st March 2018—Copy to Sara Ridley—contacts on back page



These lovely photos are from Peterborough Deanery Festival which was held on May 4th at Eye Church. They were also celebrating 100 years since the branch began at Eye. We had an informal service with music by our Worship group and a talk by Barbara on Faith in Action. Tea afterwards was accompanied by photos of many events held over the years scrolling on a screen which brought back many memories. The cake was cut by Pat Kendall (branch leader) and Barbara.

Social Policy

The Faith and Policy unit committee has continued to look at the problem of Female Genital Mutilation. First, the facts. FGM is a traditional cultural practice which involves the cutting or removal of the external female genitals. It results in pain as well as emotional and health problems, often life-long. Most FGM takes place in 28 African countries as well as in some communities in the Middle East and Asia. As a result of immigration and refugee movements FGM can also be found in other countries including most European countries, the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Second, positive action. Ann-Marie Wilson, who works for the Church Missionary Society, set up in 2010 the charity, 28 Too Many. The charity's aim is to provide knowledge, tools, best practice and support networks which help anti-FGM campaigners and organisations working with communities to bring about a sustainable change and to end FGM. Ann-Marie gave this testimony, "I'm proud of the fact that 11 years ago, a 10 year old girl walked into my life while I was volunteering at a refugee camp in West Darfur; she'd had FGM and then been raped and became pregnant and even though we couldn't do much for her (apart from giving her and her baby a safe delivery) I began to worry about other girls. I'm proud that instead of just being worried or traumatised or tearful, I was moved to action. I gave up my job as an HR consultant, my regular income and comfortable life in the West to do something." If you want to know more and would like to support what she is doing either google "28 too many" or visit the web-site www.28toomany.org

I know this is something we want to support.

Sue Tringham

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