

# Grapevine



## From the President...

Dear Friends,

This issue I have asked our vice presidents to each write about their time in office . This is the last year of the triennial and we shall all be moving on . The last five years have been so interesting, enjoyable and a time to really see further than 'our patch'. We have all worked together and supported one another all the way.

I do hope that you will all consider and pray about offering yourselves for election this year . Remember that the commitment is only for three years . YOU CAN DO IT.

With my love and prayers , Barbara.

## In the Footsteps of Mary Sumner : Unit Committees, Trustees, Vice Presidents

If it had not been for Mary Sumner I would not be sitting here to-day writing to you. I know that we all try to follow in the steps of our Founder, however, sometimes when we are encouraged to join Unit Committees as reps, accept the responsibilities which go with being a Trustee or Vice President, it is easy to think "I haven't got the time, someone else would be more suitable or I do not have the experience" Imagine where we would be if Mary Sumner had thought that.

2018 is the end of the Triennial and Barbara is standing down as our President. No Trustee or Vice President can stand for more than 6 years so we have vacancies.

We usually meet every Quarter. I joined MUe, Communications Committee because I am nosey and wanted to find out more about what it stood for and to broadcast MU.

I was pleased when I was asked to stand as a Trustee and was fortunate to attend a Training Day. It is the Trustees who decide the correct Protocol, policy making and due care of management for our Diocese.

Vice President entails standing in for the President and having responsibilities for Deaneries so it is useful if you can drive and know how to use a Sat Nav. Attending your Deanery meetings can be rewarding and interesting, finding out how different Branches conduct themselves and learning from them. Listening and only giving advice if required. Sometimes I wonder if we all go to the same Forum!. It is a privilege to serve in this way.

So this year please think carefully and prayerfully. Are you being called to take part, have the enthusiasm and conviction to put your hand up and say "Here I am Lord is it I Lord" I am sure that you will not regret it and will grow with MU.

If you want to find out more have a chat at Forum on 14th April. We all wear our badges.

Hazel

## Triennial Elections are here!

This gives us all a time to ask ourselves if we can contribute to the Mothers' Union in this Diocese. I look back to the time when as a Curate's wife I was asked to be an Enrolling Member; I was shy, sometimes tongue tied and had never had any experience in this direction at all, in fact I had only been a member for 6 months.

But what a wonderful journey I have had and one I never thought I would have. I have seen other members in the same place, blossoming in their positions, knowing this is what Mothers' Union has done for them.

Years ago women did not contribute to our parish services but MU was able to help them, giving them leadership skills and confidence in doing them at branch meetings. These days, of course, women play a very large part in parish and parish services. I thank the Mothers' Union for the confidence and gifts that have enabled me to play a part in our Church.

Do think seriously and prayerfully regarding the elections. It is most rewarding to be a member of the Trustees, a Unit Committee or even a Vice President. These positions enable you to meet so many members in their deaneries, their branches, or churches. It may even encourage you to attend the Annual Meeting wherever it is held.

With love and prayers as you consider these elections. Kay

I became a trustee shortly after I retired in 2009, I have learnt so much more about Mothers' Union from attending the meetings for trustees. When Barbara started her first triennial I was asked to be the Action and Outreach co-ordinator, I felt I could take this role on because I had been a deanery rep for Greater Northampton on that committee. The role was very rewarding not only in working with the AFIA contacts, the Worldwide contact and the coordinator for the Lunch Club, but also I became friends with the contacts from other charities where the knitting was sent. I was asked about 18 months ago to become Vice President as Marian Thompson had passed away. I am responsible for Kettering, Brixworth and Towcester deaneries. What a privilege it is! My own deanery has ten branches in Northampton. Brixworth and Towcester are deaneries with more rural branches which are so positive and active within them which is so inspiring to others!

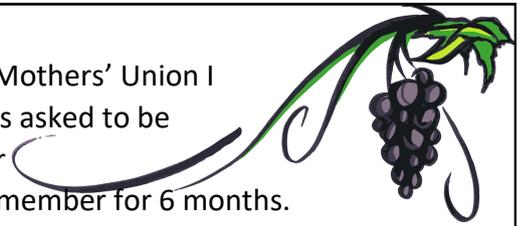
Please consider and pray about becoming a trustee, or a co-ordinator or Vice President. I am humbled by and grateful to the many branches I have also visited as a speaker. I come away with ideas for my own branch of St Albans in Northampton!! Mothers' Union is an inspiring organisation achieving such life transforming work with families all over the world facing adversity.

Jill Kearns

My Mothers' Union journey began when as a very new mother I ran out of reasons to say "no" to my Enrolling member. It didn't take off until I went to Forum and discovered all the truly amazing things the Mothers' Union does. I can honestly say that since that day I have never stopped being thankful for my membership and for the example of Mary Sumner. I fall short, often; but my life has been enriched by the wonderful people I meet, the splendid branches I visit and the prayerful fellowship I experience. I have been a Trustee, a Unit Coordinator and a Vice President: if I can serve then anyone can, it is a privilege and a joy. I have joined so many inspirational branch meeting, worship and activities that I always feel filled to the brim with the Holy Spirit on the way home—a wonderful gift.

I know that sometimes we feel we do not have as much to offer as others but that simply isn't true. Every member I have met in the Peterborough diocese has a wealth of talents and I urge you to use them for the work of the Mothers' Union—the rewards are greater than the efforts. I am happy to talk to anyone who is considering taking up office, please just come and say hello.

With my love and prayers, Sara



## Faith and Policy



As I write this snow continues to fall upon a white world and Mary Sumner Day in 2017 seems just a glorious memory.

However, we are reminded of her each day as we walk in "In Mary Sumner's Footsteps." She has left us a clear trail to follow and the Worldwide fellowship of our members strive diligently to enrich the lives of families and children everywhere, as our WW Prayer diary reminds us, week by week.

I hope that the programme set out by Faith and Policy will be attractive to you all. In October, from Monday 15th to Wednesday 17th there is the Retreat at Launde Abbey. Please let me know as soon as possible if you want to come. There will be a Quiet Day on June 6th. No further details at present, - watch this space- but it will be led by the Reverend Canon Karen Jongman. The Quiet Evening will be at the Church of the Holy Cross, Daventry on Wednesday 5th September and that will be led by the Reverend Liz Cowley who will focus on Celtic prayer.

I have arranged a visit to the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St. Albans on Wednesday, 13th June. There will be tours of the cathedral at 10.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; and a service of the Eucharist for us all at 12 noon in the Lady Chapel. The cost is £6.50 per person except for those over 60 for whom it will be £6.00 (the typist knows it is less if you are under 16)

Later in the year I hope the committee will meet again to prepare the service for our Wave of Prayer in September. More details of all the events I have mentioned will be sent to your Branch Leader.

With my love and prayers, Sue

### From Despair to Hope

Rothwell Christmas Tree Festival was held at the beginning of December. As this was held during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence Rothwell and Rushton MU not only had their Pop Up Christmas Tree but also a Tree called "From Despair to Hope". This was a poignant tree as message baubles were hung from it together with blank ones beside it for those who wished to add their own thoughts. So it was very moving to see that some of them had been filled in and hung on the tree. A fitting demonstration of 16 Days. Hazel Goodman



### The Ladies of the Church of St Andrew the Apostle, Worthing knit for MU.

One of our ladies Joan Giles, in Saints and Angels MU Kettering was so moved by the "Fish and Chip" knitting and Baby Basics that she told her daughter in law in Worthing who then told her friend. The patterns were posted and the knitting commenced.

Just before Christmas Joan phoned to say that her son had come to see her bringing with him a box of knitting could they bring it to me .

The day after Boxing Day Joan and her son braved the snow to bring their gifts. It was a very large box with a very large amount of hats, jumpers and blankets as you can see from the photo. I sent a letter of thanks on behalf of MU. Hazel Goodman



## **PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE PRAYERS**

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



### **May 2018**

We pray for all members of Denford, Raunds and Ringstead, Finedon, Higham Ferrers, Irchester and Irthlingborough branches in Higham deanery.

Lord Jesus, help us to stand with those who watched your Ascension; and remember with gratitude your earthly ministry and be mindful that it is our hands that must continue the work begun by you. Holy Spirit of God, you came to those members of the Church gathered together and breathed on them the power of your presence. Help us to use that power to carry on the tasks given to us. Trinity of love and power, guide us as we remember the three fold nature of our God and keep us faithful to Baptism vows. Lord, you made us in your own image. Help us to reflect your glory. Amen

### **June 2018**

We pray for all members in Daventry Team, Harpole, Kislingbury and Weedon branches in Daventry deanery.

We give thanks for the example of St. Peter. May we too be steadfast in the faith, ready to defend your name and your Church. As we study the writings of St. Paul help us to understand the teaching of the Church and to live by its precepts. We thank you for all those who will be ordained at St. Peter's tide. May your grace enable them to care for the flock you commit to them. Amen

### **July 2018**

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.

We thank you Lord for our young people and all those belonging to churches in our diocese. We pray that their gifts will be recognised and used for your glory, that they will learn more of you each day and that they will be brave enough to speak out against injustice. We pray that their lives will shine your light into dark corners of their world; that as they face the pressures of the modern and changing world you will give them wisdom. Help them to safely navigate the new virtual world and guide them in all relationships, both on-line and in person, at school, home and in the community. We lift these young people to you, Father of All. Amen

### **August 2018**

We pray for all members in Paulersbury, Tove and Whittlebury branches in Towcester Deanery.

Lord, we thank you for the glory shown to Peter, James and John as you stood on the Mount of the Transfiguration. Help us to be aware of that glory and to listen to you, as the chosen one of the Father. We thank you for Mary Sumner and the wonderful opportunity you have given to all members to follow in her footsteps; and to enjoy the fun and fellowship we have with one another. Amen

## September 2018



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

Father, we pray for our Diocesan Festival, that it will be an inspiration for many who come forward to take up new challenges, knowing that you are with them. We remember the Wave of Prayer as it travels round this wonderful world you have given us. Here, in our diocese, we begin to see and smell the signs of Autumn, with its wonderful changing colours, the beginning of the leaves falling and the collecting of autumn fruits and we remember that this too is part of your plan for us and for our earth. Help us, Lord, to protect it and share its fruits and beauty with others. Amen

## October 2018

We pray for all members in Cransley and Geddington, Rothwell, Rushton, Saints & Angels, and St. Andrew's branches in Kettering Deanery.

Loving Lord, we thank you for this season of mists and mellow fruitfulness, for the glorious days of autumn and for the harvest. Bless to our use all the corn, the vegetables and the fruit that have come to maturity and give to us grateful hearts. Bless those who have no harvest; those in this country who are hungry and need to use Food Banks, our Daylight Centre and cannot provide food for their families. Give us generous hearts that they may not be hungry. We remember also those in other countries, with a harvest less bountiful than our own and all those who, driven from their own homes are dependent on the charity of others. O Lord, help us to feed the world. Amen

## November 2018

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

Heavenly Father as we remember All Saints Day at the beginning of this month, we thank you for all the wonderful saintly people who have encouraged and nurtured us in our spiritual lives. Hold them close to you Lord. We pray for our young people at this time of bonfires and fireworks. Help them as they have fun and keep them from harm. Bless all those who care for our young people, teachers, youth workers and especially parents. We remember those who mourn the loved ones they have lost and we thank you as we remember those who laid down their lives in order that we might have life and have it more abundantly. We ask these things, and thank you for your many blessings to us, in Jesus' name. Amen

## December 2018

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, help us to prepare our hearts for the coming of your Son. Bless the figures of Mary and Joseph which visit so many of our parishes as a reminder of the journey they undertook from Nazareth to Bethlehem. May they be to families and children who welcome them into their homes a symbol of your coming. And as we join in the joy of your coming give us the thankful hearts of Mary and Joseph, the humility of the shepherds and the perseverance of the Wise Men so that we all, led by the same star, may worship you in truth and honour. Amen

## MULOA – Mothers Union Listens Observes Acts

Training in MULOA at Swanwick Conference Centre: We were given the opportunity to learn about the possible effects of MULOA on membership to further the work of MU. We split into small study groups at different times .

The walls were papered with the results on flip charts and we will see it all on our website soon. We came away on Friday lunchtime with our “tool kit” to share all of this with members. So Sylvia And I will be arranging sessions in a branch near you very soon. Barbara

### Two prayers for MULOA

May Jesus himself and God our Father, who reached out in love and surprised us with gifts of unending help and confidence, put a fresh heart in us, invigorate our work and enliven our speech.

We pray that our God will make us fit for what he’s called us to be, that he’ll fill our good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy, so that it all amounts to something.



### Oakham and Braunston

Congratulations to Joyce Halliday who, on 22nd November 2017, celebrated 60 years MU membership with some of her fellow members and the Diocesan President, Barbara Haynes.



Harold Killingback of Brooke near Braunston recently made new Communion plate for Guli Francis-Dehqani, the first Bishop of Loughborough (a suffragan Bishopric of Leicester) which were presented at the Service of Welcome held at Leicester Cathedral on 2nd December 2017. This was attended by many of those who had travelled to Canterbury for Guli’s Consecration. They were then privileged to receive Holy Communion at their Christmas meeting from Guli using the new Loughborough chalice. A question and answer session followed the service and Pamela Woods presented the new Bishop of Loughborough with a glass vase engraved with the Mothers’ Union emblem. Viv Ufton



### News From Eye

St Matthew's Church in Eye held an Advent Wreath Festival in December last year. This was a new venture for Eye Church and was deemed to be a success having a total of 44 wreaths entered.

The picture is of the wreath entered by Eye Mother's Union. Several members loaned their badges for the weekend to make the centre of the flowers.

Janet Dawkins



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

## At the Hub

The tower of St James the Great rises above the surrounding countryside at Paulerspury, a distant, iconic view for travellers driving south along the A5 from Towcester. In the spirit of Mothers' Union, three members of

St James' are at the hub of the Church's life. Through meetings for prayer and fellowship and in the offering of post-service refreshments, "Tea or coffee?" members of the Mothers' Union contribute to the generation of our social life. Seasonal mince pies and pancakes, Mothering Sunday daffodils, Harvest and St. George's Day lunches have been the faithful work of the many decades of commitment inspired by Mollie Dunkley, our leader, together with Phyllis Allen and Doreen Blackwell.

A special feature of Mothers' Union hospitality for several years has been Doreen's hosting of a delicious annual supper for members at her lovely cottage home, prior to Advent. Here, Phyl, who lived in the cottage when a child, recalls looking through a window with her mother, also a member of Mothers' Union in her time, and viewing the snow-covered fields leading up the hill to Church, and a shepherd moving with his lantern amongst his flock.

Val and Lesley, Pat and Brigit wish, as we move through 2018, to mark the work of three fellow members who are very much "at the Hub" of St James'. We are thankful for all that they mean to us.



## Social Policy

In the last Grapevine I wrote about Female Genital Mutilation and the organisation set up by Anne Marie Wilson to combat this. At Forum I spoke of Nimco Ali. She was born in Somalia, then, at the age of 4, came to the UK; at the age of seven she underwent FGM during a holiday in Djibouti. It is four years since she began her campaign and then she said that everyone's response was, "it's a customary act." When she returned to the UK and told her teacher about her experience the reply was, "it is something that happens to girls like you." She says that now everyone has realised it's "not this seedy thing. It's an organised crime against girls." She reports that there is real progress being made: a cutter in Somalia told Nimco that she hasn't operated on a UK girl for three years. Please continue to pray for these girls and for this "crime against girls" to be ended.

There is our own Frances Lunch Club and for many of us support of the local Food Bank. Most of us find it difficult to understand how essential the Food Bank has become for many families. It's a sticking plaster, not the answer to a deep seated problem of 2018. It raises concerns for us all as members of Mothers' Union and we are all mindful of how we might alleviate the poverty that prevents parents from being able, here in Northamptonshire in the centre of a prosperous Britain, to feed their children. It calls for prayer of course but also for deep thinking about how we might find a solution that will give parents back their self-respect and ensure that no child, no person, goes hungry while we are full of food, and, many of us, over weight.

With my love and prayers for us all, Sue

## IMPC



As IMPC Correspondents we are in touch with Indoor Members across the Diocese three times during the year. We do not know to whom we are writing and the success of the scheme is entirely dependent upon our lists being accurate. There is an opportunity for all branches to update details of their indoor members in the annual returns, but please could branches keep us updated through the year. It is distressing for all parties to have a letter returned marked "Not Here", or a family member contact us to say their mother has died when we have sent a card. To save any inappropriate mailings we would really appreciate your help.

Thank you very much.

Jenny Overson and Elizabeth Addley.

### **Diocesan Officers**

|                  |  |   |
|------------------|--|---|
| President:       | Mrs. Barbara Haynes  | 5 Roberts Street, Wellingborough, NN8 3HY<br>Tel: 01933 222612<br>Email: <a href="mailto:president@mothersunionpeterborough.org">president@mothersunionpeterborough.org</a> |
| Secretary:       | Mrs Helen Lynett   |   |
| Treasurer:       | Mrs. Sylvia Rowley   |   |
| Vice-Presidents: | Mrs. Kay Short<br>Mrs Jill Kearns<br>Mrs. Hazel Goodman<br>Mrs Sara Ridley |   |
| Chaplain:        | Rev'd. Canon Anne Davis  |   |

### **Unit Coordinators**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Fundraising, Communication and MU Enterprises:                   | Mrs. Meg Dyer   |
| Faith and Policy:  | Mrs Sue Tringham  |
| Action & Outreach:   | Mrs Jill Goodman  |
| Finance and Central Services and Training Co-ordinator:          | Mr David Dyer   |
| Emergency Prayer Chain:  | Julia Freeman      Tel: 01780 720869  |
| World Wide:  | Mrs Jill Goodman  |
| IMPC:  | Jenny Overson and Elizabeth Addley  |
| Diocesan Members:  | Mrs Pam Handley   |
| AFIA:  | Mrs. Eileen Jewell and Pat Ward   |
| Social Policy Representative:                                    | <i>vacant</i>   |
| Families First Co-ordinator:                                     | Mrs Jean Rose   |
| Frances Constable Lunch Project co-ordinator:                    | Mrs Lyn Ridley  |
| Safeguarding Officer   | Valerie Anslow  |
| Data Protection Officer  | <i>vacant</i>   |
| <i>Grapevine copy to:</i><br>42 Watersmeet, Northampton, NN1 5SG | Email: <a href="mailto:sara.ridley1@btinternet.com">sara.ridley1@btinternet.com</a> |