



The Diocese of Peterborough



This will be my last contribution in my role as Diocesan President, as I complete my 3 year term this December. It has been a great privilege to serve you. I am grateful to those who have gone before me, and many who have supported me in my role. I am confident that all will be in good hands, as I pass the baton over to Helen Lynett, and the team she will have around her.

After I was elected in March 2018 there was a great deal to learn. God answered prayers and people came forward to various roles. I thank them all for their prayerful and active support. None of us could have predicted the developments in the subsequent years.

My first year proved very busy. As we entered the new Triennial, Sheran Harper was elected as our WWP and I was privileged to go to London to see her commissioned by Archbishop Justin Welby. He spoke very positively about the worldwide role of MU. However, he challenged her (and us) to ensure that MU did not remain the Anglican communion's best kept secret. We all need to raise the profile of MU and share the wide range of things we do. It was a joy to host Sheran for a brief visit to the Diocese. All year I was out and about visiting branches, and this was enhanced by my 70 km prayer pilgrimage.

My second year started with a wonderful trip to Antigua and time spent with Ephena Matthew the DP of one of our link dioceses, NECA (North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba). This re enforced my passion for our worldwide Christian mission and ministry. However, by March we had entered our first lock down and we had to find new, flexible ways to be MU. Many of us embraced Zoom meetings for Trustees, Deanery Leaders and Vice Presidents, Forum and consultation with MSH. I know you found it a difficult time with church worship and branch meetings disrupted. I am grateful that many of you found different ways to keep in touch.

I hoped that year three would have started back more quickly. However, again we needed to be flexible and innovative. We ensured that all members received regular information whether via bulletins, our newsletter "Communicate" or the new MSH publication "Connected". As I have previously reported we kept all our diocesan commitments going throughout the pandemic. Well done to all involved. Our major new commitment was to produce and hand deliver MU clergy packs to 210 clergy in the Diocese. We must all work to ensure that we grow our branches or have more Diocesan members.

On Saturday 27th November we held a major new initiative to mark Global day. You will see a full programme of activity for 2022 in the Calendar, which includes our delayed Diocesan Festival on Saturday 26th March.

Our new theme for 2022 is “the time for transformation is now”. We have solid roots and are seeing some green shoots of growth. During the pandemic we have surprised ourselves by using technology and being flexible. Perhaps we have had more opportunity to trust our faithful God, read our bibles and pray.

With love and thanks and blessings to you all, Jill Cannings

Memories of Pamela Woods

In February 2020, the Oakham branch of MU suffered a great loss, with the death of our Leader, Pamela Woods.



All her married life, Pamela had been an MU member, holding various positions of office. Pamela was very persuasive, when talking to prospective members. Her organisational skills were exceptional, and her expectations were always high. She was definitely a powerhouse. Leading her volunteers / committee members from the front, Pamela was always first to arrive, and last to leave a meeting. She arranged fund raising events each year.

Pamela and her husband Gordon travelled worldwide, never missing an opportunity to meet and encourage local MU members, particularly in Africa. For twenty-five years, Pamela gathered bags of clothes to be sent to Soroti. This led to her being invited to go on three visits there, in the 1990's, as part of a small team, led by the Bishop of Ipswich, who had earlier been her parish Vicar, in Marlborough. Pamela and Gordon marvelled at the positive impact of the Christian faith demonstrated by Soroti MU members, in their faith and actions. This meant that there were always interesting stories to pass on to Oakham branch members.

Pamela encouraged branch members to contribute to meetings, when appropriate. She inspired confidence.

Apart from MU, Pamela was always very welcoming to newcomers to the Church, often inviting them for meals, at her home. She organised Lent Lunches, hosted the Autumn Fayre, and set up the ministry of Parish Nursing.

Pamela is very much missed by the MU, but is always in our minds, whenever we meet.

Helen Bush, Oakham MU.

**Please send in your articles for the next edition of ComMUnicAtE by 15th February 2022
to Helen Lynett – helenlynett@btinternet.com
14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. Northants. NN10 9NJ**

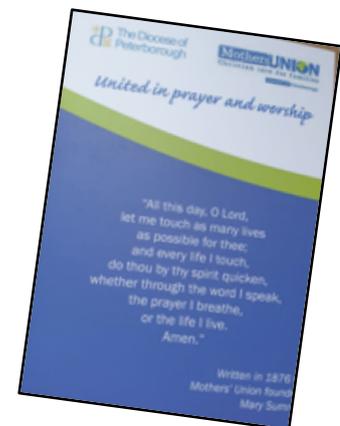
Thank you



Following the death of Prince Philip in April 2021, Jill Cannings sent a card of condolence on behalf of our members to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth.

The Queen is the patron of the Mothers' Union.

Jill received this letter from the Queen's Private Secretary, Sir Edward Young.



Clergy Packs

At the end of June, a group of us came together, at Wollaston, to collate all the information to put in to the Clergy Packs.... including chocolate!

Our morning ended in joining in worship, together, led by our Chaplain, Revd. Deborah.



Branch News...

It has been great to hear news from branches as we all start to meet up with one another.

Saints and Angels M.U. Kettering

We were lucky, the rain stayed away for our first meeting together since 17th March, 2020. Although we have kept in touch by phone, and our monthly newsletter there is no substitute for meeting together.

Our Rector offered the use of the Rectory lawn, which we gratefully accepted. The weather the previous week had been a scorcher but what a change, I remained hopefully optimistic that everything would be OK even up to 1.00 O' clock when there was a clap of thunder. Never the less Raymond loaded the sack barrow with chairs and we trundled up to the Rectory armed with umbrellas, cakes and hope. Sixteen of our members came, together with Justice Tayo Osoba an M.U. Member from Nigeria, who is our guest speaker at our Deanery Mary Sumner Day service, her daughter whose two children are being baptised at the end of August and our new Deacon. The Rector opened the meeting with prayers including a timely reminder of those we have lost and after a little business we all settled down to chat, catch up and eat cake. Clare, our Deacon closed the meeting with the Grace.

We were blessed not only with the weather but also being united in Faith, fun and fellowship. Long may M.U. flourish.

Hazel Goodman

On behalf of Saints and Angels MU



Enjoying Faith Fun and Fellowship on Tuesday 27th July

Diocesan Membership



Kay



Barbara

What is a Diocesan Member?

Members who are unable to attend regular meetings

Who can become a Member?

Any enrolled person

How can I become a Member?

Contact Barbara or Kay for further info

Why a Diocesan Member?

To keep in touch with Diocesan events and activities. As well as invites to Forum and Branch meetings and to receive communications from Mary Sumner House.

Do they meet together?

Yes, 2 times a year

Plans for 2022 for meeting together

Watch this space! Information will be in Communicate.

What would **you** like?

Let us know, we look forward to hearing from you and are excited by our new venture and hope you are too!

Barbara Haynes: (Northampton Archdeaconry) barbara.haynes@ntlworld.com

Kay Short: (Oakham Archdeaconry) kpgshort@gmail.com

Who's Who in MU

Our 'Who's Who in MU' page is being updated with the details of the new Trustee Board.

In the meantime, below are some useful contact details, as of January.

Diocesan President: Helen Lynett 07743 317793 helenlynett@btinternet.com

Diocesan Secretary: Jean Rose 01933 663778 jeanrose@btinternet.com

Diocesan Treasurer: Sylvia Rowley 01604 413829 sylvia.rowley@ntlworld.com

Diocesan Chaplain: Revd. Deborah Marsh debmarsh37@yahoo.com

01664 474652 / 07919385314

**Peterborough Diocese
Mothers' Union Prayers
January to June 2022**



January

Lord God, we ask your blessing on our newly elected Diocesan President, Helen Lynett; for all Vice Presidents and Trustees; and for our MU Chaplain Revd Deborah Marsh. We give thanks for their commitment and leadership and for the dedication and enthusiasm of all Deanery and Branch Leaders.

At the beginning of this New Year, we pray for the forthcoming conference: *Reimagining the MU across the world at 145 years*. May the delegates be inspired with a fresh vision to share with their members.

O Lord, as the years change, may we find rest in your eternal changelessness. Help us to meet this new year bravely, in the faith that, while life changes all around us, you are always the same, guiding us with your wisdom and protecting us with your love; through our Saviour Jesus Christ.

William Temple (1881-1944)

February

Heavenly Father, we pray for MU members of Ketton, Oakham, Corby and Uppingham branches in the Rutland Deanery.

The annual *World Day of Prayer* will be held on 4th March, but much preparation takes place this month. Let us ask for God's blessing on this initiative and the rôle we might play.

Lord God, thank you for loving us, for extending to each one of us your generous welcome. Thank you for giving each of us an important rôle as members of Christ's body, connecting us as family and as community around the world. Help us to work as community, offering radical hospitality to those who come into our church, into our homes, and into our lives. In Christ's name, and as his disciples, we pray. Amen.

Ana Gobledale – Thy Kingdom Come 2021

March

Gracious Lord, we pray for the MU members of Astwell, Brackley, Chenderit and Farthinghoe with Thenford in the Brackley Deanery.

Lent begins on 2nd, but March is also a month of celebration: 25th Lady Day, when we give thanks for Mary's 'Yes' at her Annunciation; 26th MU Diocesan Festival Service at Peterborough Cathedral – a time of fellowship and encouragement as we gather to worship our generous God and ask his blessing on the work of the MU; and 27th Mothering Sunday, when we give thanks for Mother Church and pray for all mothers around the world.

Lord Jesus, as your mother Mary cared for you throughout your earthly life, so may all mothers care for their children, giving comfort and courage, praise and advice, sharing laughter and tears. Help them to be patient and understanding: to know when to act and when to stand back, so that their children may grow up to know your love and presence in their lives. Lord Jesus, hear our prayer.

United in Prayer & Worship, MU 2002 p.65



April

Creator Lord, we pray for the MU members of Pitsford, Ridgeway, Uplands, Welford and Yelvertoft in the Brixworth Deanery.

As we complete our pilgrimage through the weeks of Lent, and gather together to celebrate the Good News of the risen Lord, let us not keep this gift to ourselves but find ways to share the love of the crucified and risen Jesus with our families, friends and neighbours.

The whole bright world rejoices now: **with laughing cheer! with boundless joy!**
The birds do sing on every bough: **Alleluia!**

Then shout beneath the racing skies: **with laughing cheer! with boundless joy!**
To him who rose that we might rise: **Alleluia!**

God, Father, Son and Holy Ghost: **with laughing cheer! with boundless joy!**
Our God most high, our joy, our boast: **Alleluia!**

Easter carol (seventeenth century)

May

Loving Lord, we pray for MU members of Finedon, Higham Ferrers, Irchester, and Irthlingborough in the Higham Deanery.

Thy Kingdom Come: let us join the global wave of prayer calling all Christians to pray between Ascension and Pentecost for more people to come to know the love and peace of Jesus Christ. May 26th - 5th June 2022.

Father, by your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.**

You came in Jesus to bring good news to the poor,
sight to the blind, freedom to the captives,
and salvation to your people:

anoint us with your Spirit: **bring in your kingdom.....**

Lord of the Church,

hear our prayer, and make us one in heart and mind

to serve you in Christ our Lord. Amen.

Patterns for Worship 1989

June

Almighty God, we pray for the MU members of Daventry, Harpole and Weedon in the Daventry Deanery.

As we celebrate the Feast Day of Peter and Paul on the 29th let us pray for all those to be made Deacon and Priest at the Cathedral at this time. Let us pray for our own local clergy that they will be inspired by the Clergy Packs and feel drawn to support the work of the MU.

O God, source of every good gift and sure foundation of our unity, as we honour and revere Saints Peter and Paul, grant your Church a share in their zeal for preaching the gospel. Strengthen our faith to be witnesses, even unto death, of the one Lord, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God for ever and ever. Amen.

Collect for Peter and Paul

Birthday Surprise

As a judge, Elizabeth Megahey was unable to enter the Photo Competition....

Had Elizabeth been able to do so, this is the photo she would have submitted.

Elizabeth opened the front door to a birthday surprise ~ I'm sure you can guess what they played!



News from Ridgeway Branch

In December 2020, members knitted 950 Christmas Stockings to put round the villages of Long Buckby, West Haddon, Watford and Winwick with great success.

Two big collections took place at Easter and Christmas for the Daventry Food Bank.

The last Wednesday in June we finally met for coffee / raffle at the Pytchley Hotel, West Haddon. The following Sunday we had a stall at the classic car event at Watford Village selling 95 squares at £1 each with a cash prize of £25 to win, a bottle of bubbly and a bottle of wine for MU funds.

On Wednesday 28th July, we managed to meet for our summer evening meal – a thoroughly wonderful time to be together again. Plans are now in place for a new knitting project for the four villages this Christmas.



Photo Competition

'Life During Lockdown'



Thank you to those who entered the Photo Competition

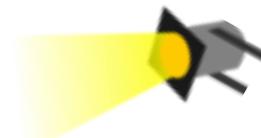
The winner is...

Pam Handley
Church Easter Yarn Bombing





Spotlight on Rutland Deanery



Rutland is well known as England's smallest county, within Leicestershire. We have two towns, the county town of Oakham and the smaller town of Uppingham, both of which have MU branches based at their respective Parish churches; the third branch is at the village of Ketton. A new branch has been started at Corby, which although in Northamptonshire, will join Rutland deanery for geographical reasons; we have been unable to get together principally due to Covid.

Deanery activities have been curtailed since 2020; previously we met together three times a year, for a Deanery Festival service in May, to celebrate Mary Sumner Day in August, and for a quiet morning in October. I am delighted to report that Jill Cannings will become our new Deanery Leader in 2022, and I am sure that we shall resume our meetings in some form, when we are permitted.

Uppingham Branch meets monthly, starting with a Eucharist in church, then moving to our Church Hall for refreshments and a social time. We often have a speaker to inform and challenge us; one of our most memorable was a lady who told us about Hamlin Fistula, a charity set up in Addis Ababa. Following that meeting a number of members started knitting blankets, only to be stopped by Covid - we were not allowed to send them abroad!!

We emerged from lockdown gradually, having the full support of our Rector and curate (both members). We began with our Eucharist service only, then taking refreshment at the Falcon, our nearest 'watering hole'. We took a photo there of two new members, Sue and Georgina (with baby Rowan); it was a real blessing to be able to sit together in the sunshine! Our first big meeting was a cream tea in a member's garden; the sun shone, the cakes were plentiful and much enjoyed. We were able to hold a Wave of Prayer service, and recently we have held a Beetle drive and Afternoon tea; everyone had great fun with much concentration! For the rest of this year we look forward to enrolling two more members and our Christmas party!



Oakham Mother's Union news.

We had a good meeting on Mary Sumner Day, a lovely service in church. Rev Michael Wilson officiated followed by a lunch at the Wisteria Hotel – a great day and everybody enjoyed being together again.

On September 16th we met in church and combined our meeting with a Wave of Prayer service led by Rev Simon Aley.

Just to let you know we are still on the map! Hoping and praying for brighter days ahead.

What Does Mothers' Union (MU) Do?

This is a frequently asked question by anyone who is encouraged to join MU. Indeed, The Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd. Justin Welby, has described MU as 'a best kept secret'!

Below are just a few things MU does:

- Prays
- Offers friendship and fellowship
- Encourages and supports family life
- Fund raises for MU charities in the UK and worldwide
- In normal (ie non Covid times) holds meetings which include a short service led by a member or by clergy
- Forums are held twice a year where members support each other and share initiatives
- In May, St Mary's, Ketton MU held an enrolling service attended by Diocesan President, Jill Cannings, at which a new member was admitted
- June was a strawberry tea party in the Vicarage garden by kind invitation of Rev Olwen Woolcock
- In August Mary Sumner Day was celebrated in St Mary's with a service led by Rev Olwen Woolcock (please see fuller report below)
- This year's Wave of Prayer in St Mary's, during September, was run by the members, with prayers, readings and hymns. The talk took the form of an update on recent Deanery events, the highlight being a visit to Uppingham by Ephena the Diocesan President for North East Caribbean & Aruba (NECA). The collection was given to MU charities.
- Peterborough Diocese charities include Away From It All (AFIA), which gives the opportunity for disadvantaged families, who would not be able to have a holiday, to go to a static caravan on the Norfolk coast for a break. AFIA also offers day trips to older folk. In Kettering there is a holiday time lunch club run for families with children who would otherwise go hungry. The Daylight Centre, in Wellingborough, supports the homeless with food and clothing.

On August 11th, Mothers' Union members met in church for a special Service of Thanksgiving, led by Reverend Olwen Woolcock, to commemorate 100 years since the death of Mary Sumner, the founder of Mothers' Union. Mary was a clergyman's wife living in Old Alresford in the Winchester Diocese. She wanted to encourage Christian values and care within the family. Since 1876 the organisation has progressed from the first, small meeting of mothers in a room in the vicarage, to the worldwide organisation it is today. The previous day, two members from Ketton represented the branch at an Uppingham MU fund raising garden party hosted by Joy and Chris Sworn in Preston. About fifty MU members attended including Jill Cannings who is Diocesan President and Reverend Canon Rachel Watts, Rector of Uppingham. A delicious afternoon tea made by members was enjoyed by all. Janet Wardle, our acting Deanery Leader, thanked the hosts.





Calendar 2022

Date	Event	Location / Notes
31.1.2022	Deanery Leader returns to DP	14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. NN10 9NJ
31.1.2022	Accounts to Treasurer	
8.2.2022	VP Meeting	Zoom – Time to be arranged
22.2.2022	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
28.2.2022	Subs to Treasurer	
4.3.2022	Women's World Day of Prayer	In churches
25.3.2022	Lady Day	In Branch or Deanery
26.3.2022	Triennial Service	2pm at Peterborough Cathedral
17.4.2022	Easter	
	Deanery meetings	
24.5.2022	VP Meeting	Zoom – Time to be arranged
7.6.2022	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
11.6.2022	Diocesan Members Afternoon Tea	2.30pm, Kettering
2.7.2022	Eucharist & Forum	10.30am – 3pm at St Benedict's, Hunsbury Hill, N'ton. NN4 9UG
	Deanery Meetings	
9.8.2022	Mary Sumner Day	
10.9.2022	Deanery Leader Coffee Morning	Wollaston
21-23.9.2022	Wave of Prayer	In Branch or Deanery
23-24.9.2022	Annual Meeting	Belfast
20.9.2022	VP Meeting	Zoom – Time to be arranged
4.10.2022	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
24-26.10.22	Launde Retreat	
29.10.2022	Diocesan Members Coffee Morning	10.30am Northampton
19.11.2022	Eucharist & Forum	10.30am – 3pm at St Benedict's, Hunsbury Hill, N'ton. NN4 9UG
	Deanery Meetings	
25.11 - 10.12 2022	16 Days of Activism	In Branch or Deanery

Reminder: All members are invited to attend Forum meetings at St. Benedict's, West Hunsbury, where there will be a Service of Holy Communion, followed by the current news on what is happening in our Diocese.

Please bring a packed lunch with you. Drinks are provided.

Look forward to seeing you there!