



The Diocese of Peterborough

As I write, I wonder where the time has gone, since our Summer Forum meeting, held at the start of July! What a beautiful summer it was too...

At Forum, whilst we held our mini-AGM, we also had an informative Q & A session in preparation for the 'Reimagining MU' conference that Jenny, Jill and myself were attending at the Liverpool Hope University. The conference was a fantastic opportunity for members from all over Britain & Ireland to come together as well as work together in reimagining MU. We came away exhausted but enthused!



Many services and events were held across the Diocese to mark Mary Sumner Day. I had the pleasure of being at St. Peters, Weston Favell where the branch celebrated their 101<sup>st</sup> anniversary (delayed due to Covid). The Deanery also had their beautiful new banner blessed – a wonderful occasion!

I was able to meet with some of the Deanery Leaders and Contacts at the start of September - it's always good to have a catch-up over coffee and cake! This is a great opportunity, for me, to find out what's going on around the Diocese as well as to hear about things that are going well as well as those that are not going so well!

Do you have an idea for a Diocesan Project? Please do let me know if you think of something ...

It's a small World....

It's always exciting when you get to meet new people, only to find out that they are also a member of Mothers' Union! I had the pleasure in meeting Monica who is from Freetown, in Sierra Leone and was staying with relatives, here in Northamptonshire.



Technology helps in keeping family and friends together and it was wonderful to have a surprise phone call from Monica who was celebrating at an MU Family Fun Day!

I want to take this opportunity in thanking you, all, for all that you do in the name Mothers' Union.

With Love



Helen Lynett, Diocesan President

# Who's Who in MU

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## WHAT DOES A PAST DIOCESAN PRESIDENT DO NEXT?

I was very sorry to miss the Diocesan festival in March due to COVID. In the sermon that I had prepared and that was read on my behalf by Revd. Deborah Marsh, I described myself as a **has been, past** President. However, I said that, even as a has been, I remain passionate about Mothers' Union, about touching lives for Christ and building God's Kingdom. In true MU fashion I have been recycled. I have become the Deanery leader for Rutland and Corby and lead on faith and spirituality for MU across the diocese. I will remain on the speakers list.

For 11 years I have served as a Reader in 3 benefices. This has included being chaplain to our local fire brigade. For 2022 I am also chaplain to our High Sheriff. I am blessed to have a busy life, but also have time to enjoy my wonderful friendship bench that you kindly gave me. Do come and share it if you venture to Uppingham.



*Jill Cannings*

## News from Oundle...



We visited Little Gidding one summer afternoon and here we are outside the church. Rev. Fiona Brampton, the Chaplain, gave a brief history of the community there founded by Nicholas Ferrar. We then went into Ferrar House where we had tea and we found out more from one of our members, Judith Hodgson, who had lived there with their family whilst her husband was Warden. A good afternoon and well worth a visit. Coffee, tea and lunches are offered but it is wise to ring up re availability as they get booked up. It is also

a lovely place for Quiet Days & Retreats, where accommodation can be offered.

*Elizabeth Megahey*

**Greater Northampton Deanery** had two reasons to celebrate on Mary Sumner day in August apart from it being Mary Sumner day.

Due to the ongoing uncertainties regarding the Covid pandemic, Weston Favell Branch were unable to celebrate their 100 years anniversary in 2021 and Northampton Deanery had a new Banner to be dedicated, again delayed due to Covid. It was an ideal opportunity to hold the Deanery Mary Sumner day service at St Peters Weston Favell, where the branch could celebrate their 101 years anniversary and to have the new Deanery Banner dedicated at the same service. (The old banner was very heavy and falling to bits) The service was led by the Right Reverend Bishop Andrew Proud, who had been the Mothers Union Central Chaplin and Reverend Canon Beverly Hollis, the vicar of Saint Peters. The banner was kindly donated by a member of the Northampton Deanery Mothers Union and was made by a talented Mothers Union member from Wellingborough. Bishop Andrew told us about the symbolism and importance banners had and still have in leading us forward in hope. It was a joyous occasion to be able to meet and worship together and to look forward in hope. Naturally the service was followed by cups of tea, cake and a lot of chat in the parish hall.

#### **Prayer for the dedication of the banner.**

We dedicate this banner to the glory of God in the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit,

May it be a symbol, visible to all who see it, of our commitment to the advancement of the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life.

Father, we also dedicate ourselves, as individuals and as the Mothers Union in this deanery, to serve you in following Jesus.

Help us to be faithful in worship prayer and Bible reading, and to help others to know your love. We ask this in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen



## A Safe Refuge

During the summer, I spent some time at my daughter's smallholding in Norfolk. My husband and I were looking after their chickens and cats while they went on holiday. We took our caravan and parked up in her garden. Never having had a cat or a chicken before I was a bit dubious about their care, but my daughter had left copious instructions for morning and evening routines and it all went smoothly. We had idyllic weather, very hot with a little breeze, and the cats and chickens got to know us and would follow us around the farm especially when we did a few bits of gardening. A few bugs and beetles were a tasty treat for the chickens.



I did notice, however, that the chickens took great delight in sitting between the car and the caravan. I wondered why, and my husband suggested that they felt safe, protected by the car (a large Land Rover) on one side and the caravan on the other.

In my daily Bible readings I had just read King David's Psalm 18: "2 The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer; my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold". It made me think that the chickens had found protection between the car and the caravan and felt safe from their enemies as each day they would come and sit down in the same place and only eventually go off to explore the woodland and the fields and the rest of the garden, as they had used to do.

The scenario made me think of Mothers' Union, in our branch we feel safe doing the same thing year on year but at some point we need to spread our wings and engage with the bigger world outside our comfort zone. How do we grow if we do not embrace change or do different? We need to step outside our comfort zone, have a discussion rather than a speaker, open our minds to subjects that challenge us to respond, like 'No more 1 in 3', and not just choose 'safe' subjects that we would then say "that was a nice meeting" and forget it once we had reached home.

We need to spread our wings and be challenged, to be shaken, so that we know that the Lord is **our** refuge, **our** stronghold and in all things **He holds us firm**.

*Jean Rose*

**Peterborough Diocese  
Mothers' Union Prayers  
January to June 2023**



These prayers are based on the prayer which was written for the “Re - imagining MU” conference. We put our trust in God to inform plans for us as individuals, groups and all in our worldwide Christian charity.

## **JANUARY**

***Gracious God, we put our trust in you. Give us open hearts and minds to discern your perfect direction for our Mothers' Union***

As we start a New Year we look forward to the plans you have for us and for our families. We pray for our clergy and their families. They will have had a very busy Christmas period. Strengthen, sustain and inspire them in their ministry. Show us where we can prayerfully and actively support. We pray for new plans and programmes for our branches and members. May we open to new ways of sharing our faith, and the passion of our founder Mary Sumner

## **FEBRUARY**

***Affirm us in your love that we may be bold to seek your face.***

In the dark days of winter many may feel cold and lonely. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the images on the news and concerns of the world. We think of these words of the hymn:

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

Look full in his wonderful face

And the things of earth will grow strangely dim

In the light of his glory and grace

We give thanks that we are part of a worldwide ministry and mission.

## **MARCH**

***Strengthen us with resolve to embrace new ways with confidence.***

We pray for Helen Lynett our Diocesan President, for the trustees and all who take on any form of leadership. We pray that others may come forward to use their God given gifts in service. Through his life and teachings Jesus showed us a new way. We have new life in Christ, abundant life and the promise of eternal life. Help us to be bold in proclaiming this good news through words and deeds.



## APRIL

***Unite us in heart and mind that we may move forward with gladness***

During the Easter season we give thanks for the ultimate sacrifice of Christ on the cross. We celebrate again his resurrection. May we be resurrection people each and every day.

Here are some more beautiful words to offer in praise and personal commitment  
 "God forgave my sin in Jesus' name, I've been born again in Jesus' name  
 And in Jesus' name I come to you, To share His love as He told me to  
 He said, "Freely, freely you have received, freely, freely give  
 Go in my name, and because you believe, others will know that I live"

## MAY

***Inspire us in our faith that all things are possible with God***

Give us thankful hearts to remember all your blessings to us are new every morning. Help us to reflect on the miracles in scripture and the miracles that continue to happen today. We give thanks for those who have touched our lives for Christ and pray that we may do likewise through an encouraging smile, a kind word, a good deed or a sincere prayer.

## JUNE

***Transform us into a people empowered by the Spirit, overflowing with hope, to effectively serve our communities.***

We give thanks for the inspiration of our World Wide President Sheran Harper and pray for her and all staff at Mary Sumner House. We pray for all Mothers' Union members across the world who serve their communities. In our own strength we can do nothing but inspired by the Spirit all things are possible.

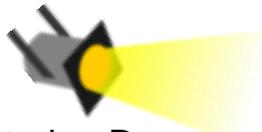
### **Diocesan Midday Prayers**

We are delighted that Jill Cannings continues to lead us in midday prayers on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month, gathering from 12.15pm for prayers at 12.30pm.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84506284356>  
 Meeting ID: 845 0628 4356

**Please send in your articles for the next edition of ComMUNicate by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023  
 to Helen Lynett – [helenlynett@btinternet.com](mailto:helenlynett@btinternet.com)  
 14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. Northants. NN10 9NJ**

*Thank you*



## Spotlight on Kettering Deanery



. Kettering Deanery consists of three Branches, Saints and Angels which is a combination of St. Peter and Paul and St. Michael's Churches in Kettering. Tresham Benefice which is a combination of Holy Trinity, Rothwell; St Leonard's, Loddington; All Saints, Rushton; All Saints, Thorpe Malsor and the Abbey Church of St Mary Pipewell. The third Deanery Branch is St. Andrew's in Kettering. There is no Deanery Leader and the Branches take it in turn to host the Deanery Committee meetings and lead the prayers.

This year after the previous two years hiatus the Lady Day Service was held in St. Michael's hosted by Saints and Angels and Tresham Benefice held the Mary Sumner Day Service. In good Mothers' Union custom both these Services were followed by tea and cake. Under normal circumstances St. Andrew's would have held the Deanery Festival but as it was the Triennial this was at Peterborough Cathedral.

**St Andrew's Branch** - meets on the first Thursday of the month, with the exception of August and December. August is missed due to it being a holiday period and the Church holds a Christmas Fair the first week in December so there are two meetings held in November, the first and last Thursdays. We are trying to expand our horizons a little by utilising the screen we now have in Church for slide shows and instead of always having a talk at meetings going out a bit more for perhaps a meal. In June one of our members opened their garden. This was not only for Mothers' Union but the whole Church. We were originally thinking of August but very thankful we decided on June when the grass was still green! This was very successful and helped raise money for the Summer of Hope.



**Tresham Benefice** - We have 11 members in this small, active Branch. Our latest enrolment was in April 2022. We meet monthly on the third Wednesday afternoon. During both lockdowns we were fortunate to continue our Branch meetings via Zoom with most members able to join in. Members are also active in Pastoral and Baptism teams in the Benefice and assist in other roles to support our Clergy such as twice a year helping with services for the bereaved of recently departed. We host fund raising events, our most recent being the Summer of Hope Garden Party. Our annual Branch outing is held in August and this year we visited Kelmash Hall for a tour of the Gardens followed by afternoon tea. Speakers have been erratic this year as some have had to withdraw late due to Covid. Our knitting goes to Armenia via a link with the Baptist Church in Desborough. The coordinator gave us a most interesting talk in May about the journey of our blankets hats scarfs etc. Also the wider work of the Christian charity working in Armenia that transports all our knitting. We actively support Kettering Food Bank. Currently we are planning the Wave of Prayer Service for September. We have an early Christmas Lunch out in October for members prior to the busy Advent season which is always enjoyed by members. *Penny Knight.*

**Saints and Angels M.U.** We have enjoyed being back together, holding meetings and services, sharing our faith and fellowship with one another. To celebrate the Platinum Jubilee we helped decorate the Church with bunting as suggested by MU and we also held the Platinum Jubilee quiz which we all enjoyed although a strong cup of tea and cake was very welcome.

### **Visit by Korean Bishops to Kettering on Mary Sumner Day**

Saints Peter and Paul's Church, as the town's Civic Church, was asked to host a visit by three Korean Bishops, Moses, Peter, & Onesimus, with Seng Woo, a Deacon, married to Bishop Moses, and Bishop John. Peterborough Diocese MU has had strong links with South Korea for a number of years and Ss Peter and Paul also have a link with Father Adok in Osan. Kay Short, Jo Pearce and I were invited to join the group.

The visit started with Morning Prayer some of which was conducted in Korean and as it was Mary Sumner Day, David our Rector gave M.U. special mention and I said the collect for Mary Sumner Day.

After this, photos were taken and I gave each Bishop, on behalf of MU a card and worldwide badge.

We said our goodbyes, whilst Kay shot off to Northampton for a Mary Sumner Day service and Jo and I attended one in Rothwell in the afternoon. It was a very special morning and one which I will treasure for a long time. *Hazel Goodman*



### **Hilary Whitwell Marshalling**

As well as my involvement with Mothers' Union I am a member of Girl Guiding and have been for many years. Her Majesty the Queen was the Patron of both of the organisations that I belong to and I have loved and admired her all my life. It was with much sadness that I learned of her death but I was very pleased to hear, though Guiding, that I could go up to London and 'do my bit' by helping with marshalling during the official period of mourning. I was asked to go to London Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> September and work with other members of Girl Guiding at Oxford Circus, offering advice and giving information to visitors to London as to where to go and how to get there etc. My shift was for six hours and was very busy, it was nice to think that I was able to help people from all over the Country find their way to a place to leave their flowers or to the Lying in State but one of the most common questions that we were asked was 'where is Primark in Oxford Street!' At the end of my shift my feet were aching from standing but I had made some new friends and felt that I had helped, in a very small way, with the smooth running of the lead up to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Funeral.



*Hilary Whitwell* - Branch Leader of St. Andrew's Church, Kettering.

## Future Forum Meetings

At our Summer Forum, it was suggested that we might reduce the length of the meeting.

This was discussed at Trustees. It was felt that our worship is important and we would not want this time, together, shortened. What else could we reduce, time wise? Again, Forum is the time that we come together, as a Diocese to find out what is happening, not only in the Diocese but further afield... What could we shorten? The outcome of our discussion is that the Trustees agreed to continue meeting 10.30am – 3pm but we will endeavour to include comfort breaks.

Historically, we have held our Forum meetings in Wellingborough as it is ideally situated in the centre of the Diocese.

Many of you will know that we had to move from holding Forum at All Saints', Wellingborough as the side of the Church Hall had been damaged, putting it out of action. Here we are, some 2 years on and it is still out of action...

I am grateful to Revd. Griff and the Branch at St. Benedict's, Northampton who have welcomed us to their Church for our meetings and to Juliette and the Branch who have provided refreshments.

However, it is time to move back to a more central location and I am delighted that from April 2023, we will be holding our Forum meetings at St. Mary's, Wollaston. We are fortunate to have been able to secure parking at Scott Bader – which is situated right next door to the Church. I am grateful to Revd. Adrian Morton in allowing us to hold our meetings there.

## An Honour for Uppingham Member

I have been involved in volunteering since she was 23 years old and this has taken many forms, mostly involving children and also health. I feel that being a volunteer is a way of giving something back to the community in the best way possible.... By giving your time. Everyone has a skill that they can offer to other and one of the greatest things is making others feel part of the family of the Church and to know that we are all being looked after by God and our friends. Mothers' Union is the family of God and our family is spread across the World.

I was greatly honoured to receive the 'British Empire Medal' in our Queen's birthday honours list 2021 and collected my medal from Rutland's Lord Lieutenant in November 2021. If that wasn't enough, I was then invited to the Queen's Garden party on 11<sup>th</sup> May this year. It did rain but my spirit was not dampened and I was able to share the day with some amazing people even if I didn't actually rub shoulders with Royalty.

Thank you to everyone to volunteers for Mothers' Union and all the Charities and Organisations across the world.



*Janet Thompson* BEM

## Blankets from Astwell

Earlier this year 95-year-old Pam Marley read the appeal in the MU spring magazine for knitted squares to be made into blankets and asked me to publicise it. Pam was willing to do all the sewing to make squares into blankets. She has just sent me this letter to let people know what has happened.

'In response to the request in Communicate, 12 hand knitted blankets (8 very large and 4 smaller) made and given by Astwell MU mostly Helmdon members and friends, are now on their way to Ukraine by the Blythswood Charity. They will be distributed to hospitals and orphanages before Christmas.

Many thanks to all who knitted and gave wool.

As there is an ongoing need, knitters and gifts of wool will always be appreciated.'



*Ann Smith*, Astwell Benefice Branch Leader

## Crafting

Knitted squares, vests and hats  
Bootees, mittens, and lots of chats  
Patterns available, try and see  
What gifts of love can knitted be.

Blankets, cardigans, mittens too  
All created by wonderful you.  
Members all over come together and knit  
Each one of them happily doing their bit  
To spread love and joy to those in need  
Bright colours and warmth planting a seed.

Showing God's love in practical ways  
As the apostle James in the Bible says.  
Words without actions are dead indeed  
Mothers' Union shows love to those in need.

So much appreciated by those who receive  
our gifts of love from those who believe  
That God loves all, parent and child  
Our prayer that all will reconcile.

Blessings abound spreading joy and hope  
to families who cannot cope,  
But better yet for those who give  
Blessings from above as long as you live.



*JW*



## Calendar 2023

Date	Event	Location / Notes
31.1.2023	Deanery Leader returns to DP	14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. NN10 9NJ
31.1.2023	Accounts to Deanery Leader	
7.2.2023	VP Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
10.2.2023	Accounts to Treasurer	
21.2.2023	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
16.2.2023	Subs to Deanery Leader	
28.2.2023	Subs to Treasurer	
3.3.2023	Women's World Day of Prayer	In churches
25.3.2023	Lady Day	In Branch or Deanery
9.4.2023	Easter Day	
15.4.2023	Forum	10am at St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ
	Deanery meetings	
23.5.2023	VP Meeting	Zoom – Time to be arranged
6.6.2023	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
13.7.2023	Forum AGM	7pm – 9pm St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ
	Deanery Meetings	
9.8.2023	Mary Sumner Day	
9.9.2023	Deanery Leader Coffee Morning	
19.9.2023	VP Meeting	Zoom – Time to be arranged
21-23.9.2023	Wave of Prayer	In Branch or Deanery
Date TBC	Annual Meeting	York
3.10.2023	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
18.11.2023	Eucharist & Forum	10am at St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ
	Deanery Meetings	
25.11 - 10.12 2023	16 Days of Activism	In Branch or Deanery

**Reminder.** All members are invited to attend Forum meetings at St. Mary's Church, Wollaston. Parking is available at Scott Bader – their entrance is to the right of the Church. Refreshments are provided – please bring your own lunch when applicable.

We look forward to seeing you there!