

Grapevine



From the President...

My dear friends,

2016. A new triennial: 140 years anniversary for Mothers' Union: A celebration of faith.

We have so much to celebrate.

The last three years came and went in a flash it seems, but we achieved so much. Yes. All of us.

To quote our worldwide president we really have supported 'those whose family life has met with adversity'.

When I look back and think about the visits that I have made and the members that I have spoken to, I am reminded of all the wonderful work that you do. For some of us campaigning is very important, this can take up a lot of time, thought and prayer. For many of us the more practical projects are what we excel at. It is always a joy, at forum, to see the bags of teddies, blankets, knitted tops and vests brought in ready to be distributed. On a more individual mission some of us knit prayer shawls and make fiddle aprons. Many branches make up and send around their parishes the travelling cribs during Advent. As a diocese we all share in writing Christmas cards for prisoners and the vulnerable clients at Daylight. We support the women's refuges and local food banks. I am very proud of the variety of work that we do.

In February of this year we finally opened the Frances Lunch Project in Kettering. It is very exciting and I look forward to its progress in the future to other parts of the diocese. Thank you to the start up committee for all their work and also to Lyn and her team of volunteers for their enthusiasm now that the project has begun.

For all of this to happen we are grateful for the prayers of our fellow members.

Let us all use this very special year of celebration to reaffirm all of our projects and to start new ones in each of our own communities and let us share our ideas with one another. The Inspired page on the website is a very good place to start.

I challenge us all to make even more of a difference in our own communities.

Thank you to you all for all that you do and will be doing .

With my love and prayers,

Barbara.

Members of the All Saints M.U. on a parish pilgrimage presented teddies knitted by members to the Holy Family Maternity Hospital in Bethlehem.



Cause for Celebration

(Action and Outreach)



Congratulations to everyone who knitted palm sized teddies or pencil cases or donated the stationary items to go into them for Kate Robinson, I am not sure if she will have room for her clothes in the suitcase when she travels in April!! In her letter in the last issue of Families First Lynne Tembey mentioned knitted prayer shawls which members can knit for someone who is going through a difficult time in their life. As you knit you pray for the person and the shawl is blessed before giving it to that person. It is hoped that the person will feel the love and support from it to help them through their difficulties. It is done on an individual basis and is not a project.

Our prayers have been answered that two members would come forward to take on the rewarding roles of AFIA contacts from Jean and Joy who we would like to thank for their hard work over the six years. Eileen Jewell and Pat Ward have liaised with Jean and Joy and are now wanting to book holidays for this summer. They would like to thank you for the funds you have raised last year for AFIA. Members are asked to look around their neighbourhood for a family who would benefit from an AFIA holiday, they need to state they would like a holiday and have a referrer. Eileen and Pat are eager to receive any requests.

The total collected in November last year for 10 pence on Tuesday money was £1,300.60 which was more than in 2014. So well done everyone!! Ann Harrison has sent a letter to our Wave of Prayer link diocese of Soroti to Grace and Sarah via a gentleman from 'Bees Abroad' who is helping in that area. Jill Goodman will be sending Easter greetings from our diocese to all our Wave of Prayer link dioceses. We look forward to hearing their news.

In our communities we are making a difference in people's lives through reaching out with Christian love. We are bringing relief and comfort to those in great need in partnership with the Daylight and Hope Centres by providing clothing and food items, with Women's Refuges by supplying toiletries, our teddies with love and refreshments for their meeting rooms, and finally the food banks with items of food, toiletries and luxury items of Christmas food.

Finally, three cheers for the half term opening of the doors on our Frances Constable Lunch Project this February at All Saints church, Kettering. Lyn Ridley arranged training in January for the volunteers and two lunches were provided at the February half term. Although the number attending was low the volunteers have expressed that the project itself was a success and the only way is upwards and onwards now!! The project is run in partnership with 'Make Lunch' a national organisation. Both All Saints and St Andrew parish schools have been involved. Members are asked to continue fundraising as it is hoped to spread the project to other deaneries across the diocese. Members are asked to volunteer to train and become involved so that more kitchens can open in other areas and the workload can be spread. Prayers are asked for the project to develop and especially for the following dates this year. March 31st, April 5th and 7th, May 31st, June 2nd, July 26th and 28th, Aug 2nd and 4th, 9th and 11th, 16th and 18th, 23rd and 25th and finally Oct 25th and 27th. Our thanks to Lyn and her volunteers for getting the project off the ground!!

My grateful thanks to all those mentioned for their hard work and efforts to bring all areas of our action and outreach work to those in our deaneries where it will make a difference. There is a real cause for us to celebrate these successes alongside the 140 years anniversary of Mothers' Union.

With love and prayers

Jill

Saints and Angels MU Kettering Advent Service



This was our celebration not only of Advent but also the presentation by Barbara of a Long Service award to Joan Giles who has given 65 years of devoted service to the Mothers' Union.

The hymns had been chosen by our members and Joan read the lesson. Whilst sitting in the Choir of Saints Peter and Paul's Church listening to the voices raised in praise of God joined together in prayer, fellowship and love I thought "It doesn't get much better than this".

Hazel Goodman

On behalf of Saints and Angels MU

Celebrating Caribbean Style!!

As we are now linked with the diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba, Abington MU decided to have their annual summer evening meeting in Caribbean fashion!

Our Rector and his wife, Sue, who is one of our members, kindly allowed us to use their lovely garden to host this event. So one evening last Summer about thirty gathered in 'tropical' evening sunshine to enjoy all things Caribbean. We enjoyed fruit cocktails, some alcoholic (!!), traditional Caribbean food, prepared by members of the church, such as jerk chicken, curried lamb, fried plantain and spicy rice, followed by Jamaican honey cake and tropical fruits. We had Caribbean music (on CDs) but in addition had some wonderful musical entertainment by the very talented Berrill family.



Kathryn is a MU member who, due to work is unable to attend our afternoon meetings, but supports us when she can. Kathryn's husband Matthew, along with Kathryn and their sons William and Edward sang and played musical instruments, the repertoire all having a Caribbean link or theme.

During the evening our Caribbean knowledge was tested with a quiz and there was also the opportunity to have a go at limbo dancing!!

The evening was a great success and everyone enjoyed themselves. MU members, friends and supporters helped raise over £150 for MU funds. I wonder what we can do next year?



Cathy Tinsley

Branch Leader

PETERBOROUGH DIOCESE PRAYERS

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



May 2016

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

Heavenly Father thank you for your church around the world. We pray for Christians who are persecuted for their faith in you. Hold them in the palm of your hand and surround them with your strong towers. Keep their faith strong and their testimony clear, drawing more to believe in your Son, Jesus Christ. Thank you for the freedom to worship you in safety. Help us not to be complacent and keep us ready to serve you and share your love with others. Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

June 2016

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

At this time of year there are many in the world suffering the wounds caused by racism, verbal, internet or physical abuse; others are homeless or starving because they have lost their employment. Open all our hearts that we may learn to know and respect each other and move towards a truly peaceful community of peoples.

July 2016

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 for long summer days and this time for enjoying the beauties of your creation. As we come to the end of the academic year we pray for young people, that you will guide them in decisions to be made for their future.

We ask your blessing on all taking holidays at this time, especially those families helped by AFIA, but also those unable to enjoy any time away because of health or other problems. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

August 2016

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

Heavenly Father we thank you for the opportunities to visit new places when we are on holiday as well as old favourites. Be with us as we show your love and joy to all we meet. We pray for all organisations that especially help children to have holidays. Help us in this holiday time to renew our energy so that we may serve you afresh. We also remember all who work to make holidays a success and bless those who for many different reasons do not go away. Amen

September 2016

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 at the beginning of this new academic year we pray for all students and all who work in schools, colleges and places of learning, especially those who are starting a new chapter of their lives—for happiness, acceptance and perseverance.

We give thanks for Mary, mother of Jesus, as we celebrate her birth, and for the witness and example of all the saints we remember this month, including Matthew, Ninian and Hildegard of Bingen.

We ask God's blessing on the MU AGM taking place this month in Winchester – that it may be a good experience for all who attend.



October 2016

We pray for all members in Cransley and Geddington, Rothwell, Rushton, Saints & Angels, and St. Andrew's branches in Kettering Deanery. Jesus Lord of Life: we thank you that you care for each one of us. Help us to be faithful in all that we do. Give us strength to be different and to stand up for justice and peace. Enable us your servants to carry out your mission on earth through our work worldwide. We pray for all our members – may God be with them so that they may work to your praise and glory. Amen

Mary Sumner day Celebration, Brackley Deanery

This year we celebrate the wonderful achievement of Mothers' Union growing from such a small beginning 140 years ago to the massive worldwide movement it has now become. At a deanery meeting we were discussing what we could do to celebrate this marvellous anniversary.

By chance our deanery treasurer had resigned and Helen Overson the daughter of an Astwell branch member had been invited to the meeting to see if she would be interested in becoming treasurer. While we were discussing ways we could commemorate Mary Sumner day, Helen suddenly said 'I'll do a 140 mile sponsored walk for you'.

Needless to say we all welcomed this offer and Helen is also our new deanery treasurer. We bought Helen and a friend Sallie Connery who is doing some of the walk with her, MU tee shirts so people will know which organisation they are walking for.

The walk is starting on Whit Sunday (May 15th) at Astwell Castle and we shall walk about 2 miles to Helmdon church for the benefice service at 11am. The talk during the service will be about Mary Sumner and Helen's chosen charities. Her chosen charities are: Special Relief and Literacy and Financial Education programmes. Sponsor forms will be available. Following the service there will be a 'Bring and share' picnic lunch and then Helen and anyone else who wishes to join her will walk about 15 miles round the 6 churches which make up the Astwell benefice.

Helen also plans to go to other places in the country to continue her sponsored walk. Members of MU are hoping to join Helen for part of the walk.

Ann Smith, Astwell Branch

As the Mothers' Union is celebrating 140 years some special commemorative items have been produced. There is a badge at £2.95, 10 balloons for £3.00, stickers £1.85 per sheet, cake toppers 30 for £3.50, a ball point and pen set £10.95, a vase £ 22.50 and a jute bag £6.95. If you want any for a special celebration I can order them for you. here are some new designs in nearly all the categories of the cards.

I can pre- order diaries, year planners and calendars from May onwards so if you have an order please let me know.

Meg Dyer

Congratulations to Earls Barton member Margaret Harrison will be 90 on 2nd April 2016. She was born in 1926 in Earls Barton and has lived in there all her life. She was baptised, confirmed and married in All Saints Church, Earls Barton. She has 3 children: 2 daughters and a son, 7 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.



Margaret was enrolled as an MU Member in 1959, 57 years ago. She still attends our meetings and knits for us as well as supporting the Mothers' Union any way she can. The Earls Barton branch recently sent her photo and signature to Mary Sumner House to be included in the card they are to send to her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, to celebrate her 90th birthday.

Faith and Policy

What's on offer? Something for everyone I hope from Faith and Policy this year. You could always try something new. If you are daunted by the idea of a whole day to be spent quietly why not join us for an evening? Many members find a couple of hours spent in peaceful relaxation enormously refreshing. You could regard it as a challenge: the company is good and we think you would enjoy it.

The Quiet Evening is on Wednesday, July 20th at St. Barnabas's church in Wellingborough. The theme of our time together is Celebration, with our own 140th anniversary as well as the Queen's 90th birthday in mind. It will be led by the Reverend Christine Ostler.

There are two days to choose from: or why not come to both? On Thursday, September 8th our conductor will be the Reverend Catherine Lomas and on Thursday, 10th November the Reverend Diane Johnson will be looking towards Advent. She has called her day "Waiting" and we will meet in the church of St. John the Baptist with Emmanuel in Werrington.

Our visits to Leicester cathedral have proved very popular. This year we are going to Southwell Minster. Some of us were able to be there for the evening service before the Annual Meeting last year. The tours will be at 10.45 and 2.15 with the opportunity to join together for a Holy Communion service in the quire at 12 noon. Before each tour there is the chance to watch a 30 minute film – I would need to know numbers for this as well of course for the tour of the cathedral. I hope there is something here to whet your appetite. If not the obvious solution is to join our committee and make sure we do what you want next year. You would be very welcome: either for one visit to see what you think of us or for a more permanent seat among us.

With my love and prayers, Sue Tringham

News from St Benedict's, Northampton

The St Benedict's Branch of the Mothers' Union are attempting to knit 140 items as our celebration for the 140th Anniversary of the forming of the Mothers' Union. We would like to do this in time to display our efforts at our Annual Summer Lunch on Monday 25th July here at St Benedict's Church in Northampton.

Closing date for the next Grapevine is 1st October 2016—Copy to Sara Ridley—contacts on back page

The Mothers' Union, Our Mission



We are celebrating 140 years of our wonderful organisation this year and so it seems an appropriate time to renew our familiarity with our Mission. The words below are from Mary Sumner House and everything we do is in support of them.

The Mothers' Union was established in 1876. Its purpose was to encourage parents in caring for their children, not just physically and mentally but also spiritually. From the outset it recognised that strong relationships and the role of family, however defined, are crucial in building healthy communities.

Our Vision

Whilst the ways in which we operate to fulfil that need may be different from that of the world of the 19th century, our vision today is still of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships. This is the essence of our work.

Our Mission

We aim to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities worldwide. We can do this through the promotion of stable marriage, family life and the protection of children. This is our mission. It is what we aim to achieve.

Our Values

There are more than four million members of Mothers' Union today in 83 countries around the world. Each member subscribes to the same values; the moral and ethical codes that are central to the ways in which we operate.

Firstly, we are firmly rooted in a voluntary ethos centred on mutual respect and collaboration.

Secondly, our governance, leadership, and programmes are driven by and undertaken through members within their own communities worldwide.

Thirdly, we work with people of all faiths and none.

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.

Amen.

Diocesan Officers

President: Mrs. Barbara Haynes 5 Roberts Street, Wellingborough, NN8 3HY
Tel: 01933 222612 president@mothersunionpeterborough.org

Secretary: Mrs Helen Lynett 154 Midland Road, Wellingborough, NN8 1NF
Tel: 07842 806871 secretary@mothersunionpeterborough.org

Treasurer: Mrs. Sylvia Rowley 223 Fullingdale Road, Northampton, NN3 2QH
Tel/Email 01604 413829 sylvia.rowley@ntlworld.com

Vice-Presidents: Mrs. Kay Short 11 Cytringan Close, Kettering, NN15 6GW.
Tel: 01536 310633 kpgshort@googlemail.com

Mrs. Marian Thompson 2 Cedar Close, Brackley, NN13 6EW
Tel/email: 01280 703751 marian.e.thompson@btinternet.com

Mrs. Hazel Goodman 8 Chestnut Avenue, Kettering, NN15 7BG
Tel 01536 522269 Email: hazel@chestnut.clara.net

Mrs Sara Ridley 42 Watersmeet, Northampton, NN1 5SG
Tel: 01604 635468 Email: sara.ridley1@btinternet.com

Chaplain: Rev'd. Canon Mandy Cuthbertson St. Marks Vicarage, Queensway, Wellingborough NN8 3SD
Tel: 01933 673893 amanda.cuthbertson123@gmail.com



Unit Co-ordinators

Fundraising, Communication Mrs. Meg Dyer 22 Nene Crescent, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6SG
And MU Enterprises Tel/Email 01572 771564 Email: culmhouse@aol.com

Faith and Policy : Mrs Sue Tringham 41 West End, West Haddon, Northampton NN6 7AY
Tel: 01788 510275 sandyandsue@btinternet.com

Action & Outreach: Mrs Jill Kearns 4 Snetterton Close, Northampton, NN3 6EG
Tel: 01604 495462 Email: jmkearns@hotmail.com

Finance and Central Services: Mr David Dyer 22 Nene Crescent, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6SG
And Training Co-ordinator Tel/Email 01572 771564 culmhouse@aol.com

Emergency Prayer Chain: Julia Freeman Tel: 01780 720869

World Wide: Mrs Jill Goodman 158 Weedon Road, Northampton, NN5 5DA
Tel: 01604 464668 Email: jill.g@ntlworld.com

IMPC: Jenny Overson 01295 760677 and Elizabeth Addley 01295 710313

Diocesan Members: Mrs Pam Handley Tel: 01604 714 560 pamartinhandley@btinternet.com

AFIA: Mrs. Eileen Jewell 41 Harvey Road, Wellingborough, NN8 2BW
And Pat Ward Tel 01933 224128 Email: ejewell1@btinternet.com

Social Policy Rep. Mrs Jennie Eddis 60 Church Street, Werrington, Peterborough PE4 6QE
Tel: 01733 702088 Email: Jennie134@ntlworld.com

Families First Co-ordinator: Mrs Jean Rose 2 Manchester Road, Wollaston, Northants. NN29 7SR
Tel: 01933 663778 jeanrose@btinternet.com

Frances Constable Lunch Project co-ordinator Mrs Lyn Ridley 58 Britannia Road, Kettering, NN16 9RY
Tel: 01536 529426 sridley254@btinternet.com