



Dear Friends,

As I write this, we have much to look forward to!

The Coronation of King Charles III

There will be lots to celebrate! I am sure we will all be doing things within our families, Church and Community. For those individual branches and deaneries who will celebrate together, please do send in a photo and an article for our next edition. Those who attended our April Forum will have had the opportunity to sign a card on behalf of all members from the Diocese. This will be posted to Buckingham Palace.

Thy Kingdom Come 18th – 25th May 2023

This year, rather than producing an online service, members are encouraged to hold events in their local areas and involve both their own church and other local churches. The expanded remit of TKC this year to *“go the extra mile, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to love and serve those we are praying for or others who are in need”* fits particularly well with our vision and mission, and gives good opportunity to share this with others, who may be less aware of MU.

Resources and ideas are available now on the MU website. Please do take a look.

Annual Gathering, 22nd September 2023, York – all in ONE day!

Book now to avoid disappointment! There will not be another Annual Gathering until 2026, so please do try to come to this one! Further information can be found inside this edition of Communicate.

Thank you!

Thank you for your good wishes on my (early!) retirement. I am delighted that some Branches and Deaneries have invited me to join their meetings and events. Please do invite me to join you at yours – I would love to come along!

A New Bishop

Please continue to join others, in the Diocese, praying for the process in appointing our new Bishop.

Save the Date!

Our Diocesan Festival will take place on 14th September 2024 at Peterborough Cathedral. Details will follow nearer the time.

... and Finally

Thank you, for all that you do, in the name of MU!

With Love

Helen Lynett, Diocesan President

Who's Who in MU

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<p>Cards for Members Pam Handley pamartinhandley@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Prayer Chain Julia Freeman 01780 720869</p>	<p>MU Safeguarding Officer Sue Merrifield 01536 238320</p>

What's in a Hymn?

I am sure we all have a favourite hymn or song. I know I do – several, in fact! We often choose those favourite hymns or worship songs to sing at special services that take place in our lives – for example, a family baptism, wedding or funeral even a memory albeit a happy or sad one.

I was reminded of this, a few weeks ago when I was helping with Sunday School which was taking place in a side room, at Church. I suddenly heard the music to 'We want to see Jesus lifted high' a worship song. Whilst I couldn't join in with the singing of the song, I found myself tapping my feet and it brought back memories of at least 23 years ago. Since those few weeks, I haven't been able to get it out of my head!

These are the lyrics:

We want to see Jesus lifted high
A banner that flies across this land
That all men might see the truth and know
He is the way to heaven
We want to see Jesus lifted high
A banner that flies across this land
That all men might see the truth and know
He is the way to heaven

We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high
We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high

Step by step we're moving forward
Little by little we're taking ground
Every prayer a powerful weapon
Strongholds come tumbling down
And down and down and down
We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high
We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high

We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high
We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high
We want to see Jesus lifted high
We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high
We want to see, we want to see
We want to see Jesus lifted high
We want to see Jesus lifted high

Written by Doug Horley

So... what's the significance of this worship song, to me?

Before it closed, I would occasionally attend Sunday services in the Prison Chapel, at Wellingborough, where the band would play this... It reminds me of those times and particularly those people, who wanted to worship God.

By the time you read this, we will have sung it at our April Forum.

What's your favourite? Let us know and the chances are, we can sing it at a future Forum service, too!

Helena

**Peterborough Diocese
Mothers' Union Prayers
July to December 2023**



I start these prayers with the personal prayer used by our founder Mary Sumner.

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

May we continue to share her passion to touch lives for Christ and reimagine MU.

July

We pray for all children and families as the school holidays start. May this be a time for family fun and adventures. A time for rest and recuperation for all working in schools. However, we are also aware of the additional pressures on families at this time, and tensions in family relationships. We pray for children exposed to any kind of abuse. We give thanks for our AFIA coordinators and those that support our provision for children and families.

August

We give thanks for the passion of our founder Mary Sumner. We pray that we may be prayerful and passionate about sharing the good news of our faith – new life in Christ, abundant life and eternal life. We pray for our friends and families that they may know and feel the love and salvation of Christ.

September

We give thanks that MU has spread worldwide to bring faith and hope and joy to many. We pray for the small group of staff at Mary Sumner House who work passionately to sustain our worldwide charity. We give thanks for the tradition of midday prayers, and those shared across the world on the website. We pray for our own celebrations of the Wave of Prayer service and our link dioceses. We pray and give thanks for our World Wide President Sheran Harper and all worldwide trustees.

October

As we enter the winter season we pray for all who find this time of year more difficult. We pray for our indoor members and those who spend too much time alone. Unite us in the bonds of shared faith. Help us to be aware of the needs of others around us; to share an encouraging smile, send a note, pick up the phone, pop round to visit. We pray for all who care for others in their families and communities.

November

November is a time of Remembrance as we celebrate All Souls, All Saints and Remembrance Day. Help us to remember God’s blessings to us all, new every morning. Give us grateful hearts for those we have loved and lost. May we also value all those around us now, as we journey through life.



December

As we enter Advent and a new church year, we give thanks for our Bishops and all clergy. We pray for them and their families. We pray for this season of reflection and eager anticipation of the second coming of Christ. May we reflect the joy of the promise of a new heaven and new earth where there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain. May we be watchful in God’s Kingdom. Sustain and inspire us in our faith and actions.

Forum at St Mary’s Wollaston

All members of Mothers’ Union are invited to Forum. This is a meeting for everyone where the Trustees bring you updates on what is happening in our diocese and in the wider Mothers’ Union. As we are still unable to meet at All Saints in Wellingborough, this year we are trialling meeting at Wollaston. It is more central to the diocese, being just 5 miles outside of Wellingborough. We also have permission to park in Scott Bader, which is directly alongside the church (see plan below). If there is no space in the Commonwealth Hall Car Park (the first one on the right as you go up the drive) then please follow the road round in front of the Georgian Hall and continue straight and you will see a much larger car park there.

Refreshments will be available as you arrive from 9.15am till 9.45am. The service will start at 10am. Refreshments will also be available during the lunch break. Hazel and Raymond are bringing Mothers’ Union cards and gifts to sell. Please do come and support.



Entrance to Church

Entrance to Car Park

Frances Lunch Club

Parcels for children at St. Andrews School.

Helen and Sue went shopping and they bought:



As mentioned by Helen at Forum in November, the F.L.C has transformed; we wanted to reach as many families as we could, so it was agreed that the way forward was to provide supplementary food bags for 10 families at St. Andrews school and the 3 regular families who had come to the F.L.C, in total 13 large bags.

The bags each with a label attached saying “with love from the Mothers’ Union” were packed with goodies by an enthusiastic team, including Helen after the Weekday Eucharist at St. Andrews Church and despatched to the school and to Lyn who would be handing the three out to the families.

As already mentioned, these are in addition to the essential food parcels handed out by the school and we are convinced that they will be well received.

It would be splendid if this could spread out through the Diocese, even if just once a year. If you would like to find out more about this, please get in touch.

To give a practical gift with love is surely a wonderful thing to do.

The Frances Lunch Club

Please send in your articles for the next edition of ComMUNicate by 1st October 2023
to Helen Lynett – helenlynett@btinternet.com
14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. Northants. NN10 9NJ

Thank you

Branch Updates...

To help guide Branch Leaders and committees to run their meetings a Branch Handbook is available. If you do not have one in your Branch, you can download it from the Mothers' Union Peterborough website, search on the Administration page, or contact the Diocesan Secretary, Jean Rose, and she will send you one.

This booklet gives guidance on the roles of officers in your branch but also advises what meetings you may like to hold with your members.

It is helpful to arrange a branch programme which features meetings linked to the annual theme for the year, currently 'Transformation Now'. Meetings should be fun and based on the purposes, aims, values and objectives of the Mothers' Union and help to forward its work.

The list of Mothers' Union speakers is being revised and will be issued to all branches when it is ready. Do note that our Mothers' Union speakers do not charge the branch any money for their travelling nor is any fee payable. Travel expenses are paid for by the diocese, and the speaker claims these back from the Diocesan Treasurer.

The handbook advises that every meeting of the Branch should include an act of worship and a time of prayer. This is a great opportunity to pray for local MU projects, AFIA, Lunch Club and our linked branches.

Your meeting may be the time to decide on a local project that you can carry out within your church or helping your church with some outreach event.

It is also expected that branches will raise funds in support of the objects of Mothers' Union, locally, nationally and throughout the world. Money raised by Mothers' Union members may only be used to support Mothers' Union projects and activities. It cannot be used to give donations to other local charities, even if these are visiting your branch as guest speakers. If members want to give funds to another charity, they will have to take up a personal collection amongst themselves and it should not be entered into the accounts as it is not supported by Mothers' Union. This is a ruling from the Charity Commission so we have to abide by it.

Ideas for meetings on the theme of Transformation Now can be found on the main Mothers' Union website, do have a look, and above all enjoy meeting together, praying together and having fun together.

Forum Meetings 2023

Our Forum meeting on **Thursday 13th July 7pm – 9pm** will be our AGM meeting. Please do try to join us as we will have an update on our annual accounts as well as hear what has been happening, within the Diocese over the last year.

Our Eucharist and Forum Meeting on **Saturday 18th November, starting at 10am**. We are delighted that the Archdeacon of Oakham, The Venerable Alison Booker, will be presiding and preaching at our Eucharist.

As always, it will be lovely to see you!

Crowns and Thrones

2023 will be such an exciting year as it's not very often we see a Coronation. Most of us were brought up knowing our sovereign as Queen Elizabeth II, a few of us still around may remember King George VI and now we are getting ready to welcome King Charles III as our reigning monarch.

During the service at Westminster Abbey on May 6th, Charles will pledge his life to serve his people and country, and he will be rewarded with a crown and sceptre and gain a throne.



King Charles III

We too can celebrate that when we become Christians, we are also promised a crown and a throne. Our crowns of glory are assigned to us when Christ will return, or as Peter puts it in 1 Peter chapter 5 “And when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that will never fade away”. Here Peter is encouraging the believers that when Christ will come again, all believers will receive a crown of glory – gosh what a celebration that will be! We also have thrones waiting for us in heaven, in Paul’s letter to the Ephesian Church in chapter 2 it says “it is by grace you have been saved. And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus” – if we are being seated with Christ then it’s got to be on a throne, hasn’t it? James and John argued who was greater and who would sit on the thrones to the left and right of Christ, Jesus said neither, as it wasn’t for him to decide, but I’m happy that when I get to heaven, I will be seated with my Lord and Saviour, and what an even greater party that will be.

Jean Rose

MOTHERS' UNION ANNUAL GATHERING 2023 FRIDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER, YORK

**BOOK
NOW!**



GATHERING AND SERVICE ON THE SAME DAY - 11am - 7pm

Join us in wonderful York for a day of fellowship, information, and inspiration.

The theme is Transformation in Action, with a keynote address by Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President, prayer and reflections with Bishop Emma, our Central Chaplain and inspiring member stories from here and overseas.

Evensong at York Minster with the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell follows. There will not be another Annual Gathering until 2026, our 150th Year, so don't miss out!



Book now:

www.mothersunion.org/annualgathering23

Talk to fellow members and your DP and arrange to travel together!



"Where would the Anglican Communion be without the Mothers' Union? At home and across the world the Mothers' Union offers the love and hope of Christ, helping to transform communities through teaching, prayer and pastoral care and by working with others to stop violence, injustice and hunger. I'm looking forward to being part of the Annual Gathering this year when I'll be preaching at a special Evensong in York Minster"

Stephen Cottrell, Archbishop of York

Mothers' Union charity number 240531



I know that many of you have already got your ticket to attend the Annual Meeting in York and have made plans to travel together – and if you haven't, it's not too late **BUT** don't leave it too long, September will be here before you know it! Look forward to seeing you there!

Knitting!

Thank you, to everyone, who knits for our MU projects!

One of the things I wanted to do, when I retired, was to learn to knit! I have started to knit squares to make a blanket – this is helping me to get my practice in! I'm on my 6th square – only another 57 to go!

Below are some photographs of poppy displays – they are stunning!



Global Day
Saturday
26th November 2022



A group of us met in Peterborough and walked behind an MU banner wearing purple ribbons, scarves and 'No more 1 in 3' badges, giving out leaflets to people in the busy city centre. We stood, silently, outside St John's Church and were very pleased at how many people responded positively to us. After a very welcome coffee and cake in the church café we had a thoughtful and interactive service led by the Reverend Michelle Dalliston. A big thank you to everyone who made Global Day so successful and memorable.



Spotlight on Daventry Deanery



Daventry Holy Cross

Daventry branch has very good support from their Priest Rev. Dawn Stokes, who is a member of the MU. In the last eighteen months, 7 new members have joined the branch. The branch's involvement with its church, provides 100 mini-Easter Eggs for the congregation, 100 posies are made for Mothering Sunday and it supports Daventry Area Community Transport (DACT) for Holy Cross. The branch has a full programme, trying to have a quiet afternoon each year and an outing. Last year they went to Earls Barton to look at the church and have lunch at Jeyes Coffee Shop.

Harpole All Saints

Harpole branch has 13 members, most are elderly which causes difficulties. The branch is run entirely, by Hazel and Roger Fountain who are both members and whose work is vital. For 30 years the branch has been organising a knitted Travelling Nativity. Last year was its first outing after covid and it was a great success, 83, children and parents were at the crib service on Christmas Eve. Hazel has also started a "Mums and Tots" group, which is well attended with 15 parents registered. The year started with a very successful New Year's Party with a visiting pianist and lots of rousing singing. They also had a visit to Duston Retirement Village with a simple service in their chapel. Forthcoming events include the regular summer lunch, fund raising for the church at the Summer Fete and serving teas at Harpole Scarecrow Festival to raise money for MU charities.

Weedon Bec. St. Peter & St. Paul

Weedon is the smallest of the three branches in the Daventry Deanery and is very successfully run by committee. It is still very active having a full programme of meetings, outings, services and an annual cream tea in August. Although the majority of members are elderly, they still like to attend the annual Deanery Advent Carol Service, held by tradition at Newnham. I think Weedon is an example to other branches, don't give up if you can't get officers, you can come together and run a very successful branch by committee.

Diocesan Quiet Day

Saturday May 13th, 2023 at St. Mary's Church, Wollaston NN29 7RJ

We are delighted that our Quiet Day will be led by Bishop Andrew Proud, a past MU Central Chaplain and a MU member.

Arrival will be from 10.30am with the first morning session starting at 11am.

Refreshments will be available at the start and at lunch time.

Please bring a packed lunch with you.

Cost £5. It would be helpful to know numbers – please contact Jill Cannings on 01572 821870 / jillcannings2@gmail.com



Calendar 2023

Date	Event	Location / Notes
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
22.09.23	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!

