



*Dear Friends,*

I hope you have had an enjoyable summer! As I write this, we are in October and the weather is still sunny and warm!

Since the last 'Communicate' ...

We have had the Coronation of King Charles III – see inside for an update on the card that we sent from the Diocese.

We have had the Annual Gathering, in York. Fourteen members from the Diocese attended the Annual Gathering at the York Barbican, which ended with Evensong at York Minster – with the Archbishop of York in attendance!

We have a new Bishop! The Right Reverend Debbie Sellin has been appointed as our new Bishop and we look forward to welcoming her and her family, to the Diocese. I am busy compiling all the information you have sent in for the Branch Postcards – thank you for sending them in – my goodness, thank you for all that you are doing! It is also wonderful to see photographs of all your banners – I look forward to seeing them all at our Diocesan Festival, next year. Do remember to save the date it is on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, at Peterborough Cathedral.

This year we have been able to return to all branches writing Christmas cards for those in Peterborough prison and other communities. For some, this is the only card received so thank you in helping with this important ministry.

Thank you to those who have sent in articles and photos for this edition of Communicate – please do remember if you are holding an event then let's hear about it! If you have had a good speaker, tell us about it! Have you read a good book recently – if so, what was it and why did you like it?

You will see our calendar for 2024 is on the back page. Please do try and come to our Forum meetings they are a fantastic opportunity to come together in 'Faith, Fun and Fellowship' as well as an insight as to what is happening around the Diocese.

I have enjoyed getting out and about the Diocese, visiting branch meetings, sharing worship at various services as well as Coffee Mornings and Afternoon Teas – there is something to be said about the 'Ministry of Cake'! Thank you for making me feel so welcome it has been lovely spending time with you – and for those of you I have yet to meet, I shall have that to look forward to!

With my love and prayers

Helen Lynett, Diocesan President

# Who's Who in MU

|  |   |  |  |  |   |
|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| <b>Jean Rose</b><br>Diocesan Secretary<br>01933 663778<br>jeanerose@btinternet.com   |    | <b>Helen Lynett</b><br>Diocesan President<br>07743 317793<br>helenlynett@btinternet.com  |              | <b>Revd. Deborah Marsh</b><br>Chaplain<br>01664 474652<br>debmarsh37@yahoo.com     |    |
| <b>Elizabeth Megahey</b><br>Vice President<br>01832 275931 /<br>07712 764626<br>elizabethmegahey@btinternet.com  |    | <b>Sylvia Rowley</b><br>Diocesan Treasurer<br>01604 413829<br>sylvia.rowley@ntlworld.com   |  | <b>Ruth Gould</b><br>Vice President<br>01604 846508<br>ruthgould139@btinternet.com |    |
| <b>Jennie Edis</b><br>Vice President<br>01733 702088<br>spiritwings01@gmail.com  |    | Diocesan<br>Mothers Union Website<br><a href="http://mothersunionpeterborough.org">http://mothersunionpeterborough.org</a><br>Mothers Union Website<br><a href="https://www.mothersunion.org">https://www.mothersunion.org</a> |  | <b>Kay Short</b><br>Vice President<br>07887 526535<br>kpgshort@gmail.com           |    |
| <b>Juliette Dunkley</b><br>Trustee<br>kjd467@outlook.com   |   | <b>Nicky Vaughan</b><br>Trustee<br>01788 510213<br>drawers51@gmail.com   |             | <b>Hazel Goodman</b><br>Trustee<br>07967 838614<br>hazel@chestnut.clara.net        |   |
| <b>Barbara Haynes</b><br>Trustee<br>01933 222612<br>Barbarahaynes123@gmail.com   |  | <b>Away From It All</b><br>(AFIA)<br>Anne Touchin<br>& Margareta Hallam<br>07815 569766<br>anniedt@icloud.com  |  | <b>Sue Merrifield</b><br>Trustee<br>01536 238320<br>donandsuemerrifield@gmail.com  |  |
| <b>Diocesan Members Coordinators</b><br>Archdeaconry of Northampton:<br>Barbara Haynes 01933 222612<br>Archdeaconry of Oakham:<br>Kay Short 07887 526535 |   |  | <b>Indoor Members Coordinator</b><br>Hazel Goodman<br>07967 838614<br>hazel@chestnut.clara.net |  |   |
| <b>Cards for Members</b><br>Pam Handley<br>pamartinhandley@btinternet.com  | <b>Prayer Chain</b><br>Julia Freeman<br>01780 720869                                |  | <b>MU Safeguarding Officer</b><br>Sue Merrifield<br>01536 238320                               |  |   |



**Q)** What will happen to all these containers?      **A)** Turn over the page to find out!

### Advent...

Advent marks the beginning of the church's year. It usually begins on the last Sunday in November, although this year it starts on the first Sunday in December and encompasses four Sundays which takes us up to Christmas Eve.

It is known as a time for preparation, a reflection in darkness (in the Northern Hemisphere, our winter season gives us longer, darker nights and shorter days). It is a time for renewal of hope and expectation, as we move towards a new beginning as we celebrate again the birth of Jesus Christ, fully man and fully God, into our world. The lighting of candles on an Advent wreath was imported into Britain from northern Europe in the nineteenth century and is now a common practice. One candle is lit each Sunday, until on the fourth Sunday when all are ablaze with light. The candles symbolise the coming of the light into the world.



Advent is a time to take stock of who we are and where we are, particularly in our faith journey. It offers us the opportunity of a new beginning, a chance to transform ourselves from that old person who lived in darkness to a new person who lives in the light and love of God.

This Advent season let us embrace the time and challenge ourselves to review what we do, to discard those things which are not pleasing to God and to welcome new ways of showing Christ to a dark world. As Mothers' Union, our theme for the year is Transformation Now, so let us reconsider our faith in action over Advent and transform our 'doing a little' to 'doing more' in 2024.

*JW*

10p / 20p on Tuesdays

By contributing 10p or 20p on Tuesdays  
you are making a difference  
to Worldwide Funds

Thank you!



10p / 20p on Tuesdays  
By contributing 10p or 20p  
on Tuesdays  
you are making a difference  
to Worldwide Funds  
Thank you!  
Mothers' UNION  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Peterborough

**Cut out the label, stick it to a container and continue to collect on Tuesdays!**

### Speakers from Mereway Fire Station on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2023

The day the firefighters came to Mothers Union

One thing I have noticed since becoming a pensioner (haven't been one long, still a baby!!) is that doctors, police officers (not police men or women, we have to be 'Woke', whatever that means) firefighters (again 'Woke'..) and anyone in authority seem to look like they are 12 years old, or fresh out of school. I suppose that is the sign of the times, we get older and everyone else seems to stay looking young; although I have been told I look very young for my age, around em' 45!?! (or that could just be me not wanting to age!) 'You don't look a day over 65,' as my husband says).

In anyway, I digress. Jamie, Tasher and Louis came to speak to us about safety in the home. They were very helpful and informative; they brought their fire engine with them, the kids were climbing all over it, oh no, wait, I think the 'kids' were in their 60s!! It was all very relaxed and Q and As were a mixture of questions and comments. We were waiting for the Fire fighters 12-month Calendar but none were available! Somehow though, we got a bit caught up with the length of their hoses, but that's another story. (the Churchwarden started it!).

Signing off now, next speaker Police officers. Keep you posted!

*St. Benedict's Church Mothers' Union*





**Peterborough Diocese**  
**Mothers' Union Prayers**  
**January to June 2024**



I am lucky to have a quiet area in my house looking over my lovely market town of Uppingham. I gather prayers that people give me or from MU resources and am using a selection that you may find helpful for the coming months.

**January**

Jesus Christ, light of the world, we walk in the light of your presence; we journey with you by our side. We walk in the company of your people; their fellowship encourages us. We walk towards the light of eternity; the wonders of heaven spur us on. Jesus Christ light of the world as we walk through life inspire us to shine your light in the most effective way; that it would reach those in greatest need. Amen

**February**

Holy Spirit, grant me wisdom to help me in the important decisions I make, so my life may have real meaning and purpose. Grant me understanding to discern how I should lead my life, so as not to waste it, or fritter it away in the pursuit of mundane things. Grant me fortitude to pursue what is good and right and noble, and to shun those things that would take away my inner peace and my true happiness. Then I can happily rejoice in your love. Amen

**March**

As we journey through Lent open our eyes and ears and hearts to experience new insights in your scripture and our worship. May we truly walk the way of the cross humbly giving thanks for the sacrifice of Jesus. And through a good Lent and Holy week lead us to even greater joys at Easter. As resurrection people we have new and abundant life in Christ. May we share our faith with others in words and action. Amen

**April**

Heavenly Father, we praise you for the family of Mothers' Union Worldwide. Open our eyes to the significance of relationship with members worldwide; with those known to us or not. We reach out to our sisters and brothers across the world. Strengthen our commitment to those with whom we share vision and values, wherever we may live. We share your love together as we link hands in unity with our precious family worldwide. Amen

**May**

Holy Spirit, come! I want to change! But I find it so hard, I need your help! I want to be more understanding, more patient and gentle with others. I want to rejoice in goodness. Sweep like a refreshing wind, sweep away my selfishness, my pride; that I may be filled with peace. Amen

**June**

Lord of all circumstances, give us your compassion to speak words of comfort to the troubled. Give us your kindness, to bring encouragement to the weary. Give us your gentleness to soothe the hearts of the vulnerable. Give us your patience to minister to the needs of the demanding. Lord of all circumstances, draw us close to those who hurt. Clothe us with compassion to share the sorrow and lessen the pain. Amen

## Peterborough Deanery Project

On June 1<sup>st</sup> members from the Peterborough Deanery took 20 discharge bags, hand made by members, containing toiletries hand towels and flannels to HMP Peterborough.

These were gratefully received by Bev Stevens Custodial Policy Lead for the Women's Prison, and Chancie the manager of the Women's and baby unit.

This was the first delivery of the bags and also wool, children's toys and games and much needed hygiene items to the unit.

Our Deanery project this year is to support the unit and members willingly donated items to go into the bags, and we also had a specific fundraising week where all proceeds would go to support our project.

Branch Leaders and our VP Kay Short had much enjoyment filling the first 10 bags at our Deanery meeting. The bags will be given to the women on discharge, the toys have already been examined and gone to the family room for visiting day and the wool taken to the unit for the women to start making items.

We are waiting for clearance of some members who have volunteered to visit the prison and help with crafting, knitting, listening and hopefully teach basic cooking skills.

We will review the outcome of the bags in September, but we are hoping this will be an ongoing project and look forward to serving the Lord and Promoting MU through this ministry. We welcome your prayer support as we step forward in faith.

*Jennie Edis, Deanery Leader*





### A child's view; when the 'bad' happens

The wind howls, the rain lashes on my windowpane. It's so noisy. I hate loud noises so at least 2 pillows over my head. Dogs bark, windows slam shut; lightning strikes then the loud crash. Oh, I can't take this. I hate Thunder.

I close my eyes tight and straight away I am transported to a lush forest; birds chirrup; parrots cackle; still a bit scary. But then I look up and I see a blue sky with the green of the trees, bright sunlight streaming through.

I'm walking, constantly looking up; someone's hand slips into mine, a strong hand. I look at my hand and suddenly my heart ceases thumping; my mind is suddenly clear and I give a smile, I'm not afraid anymore. I don't understand! Where has the fear gone?

It will be back; it won't stay away for long. But for this moment I feel at peace with the world, with myself; I'm not afraid anymore; I feel safe. I look up, follow the arm of the hand that is in mine, and I see a strong, smiling, almost beautiful face adorned in light.

My heart leaps and I know who he is. He is my Saviour, He is Jesus, my friend, my father, my brother, my sister, my all.

The pain and fear will return and with it all of the above, but I don't mind so much, because I know now, that when the bad happens, He will be with me, sharing the pain and the fear.

For now? I am at peace and no longer afraid.

*Catherine Galvin*

*St. Benedict's Church Hunsbury Mothers Union*



### Higham Deanery Festival

Higham held their Deanery Festival, in September, at St. Peter's Church Irthlingborough.

It was a lovely service that began with the procession of all four branch banners.

The afternoon concluded with a cup of tea and plenty of cake!

## How to Live Longer

I have been reading an article about scientist Robert Putman which says that it has been shown that when you join a group, you cut your risk of dying in the next year by 50%.

Gosh, what's not to like about that?

At Mothers' Union we believe in meeting together for fellowship, to pursue our faith and have a bit of fun on the way. All members are connected together.

Even if you are not very mobile, or are one of our treasured Indoor Members, you are still part of the group, still receiving information both from the Diocese of Peterborough Mothers' Union and also from Mary Sumner House, our head office in London.

Being a part of a group has many benefits –

- ✓ It improves your mental health by giving you a place to share news and views
- ✓ It can be a place where there is a listening ear where you can share your troubles
- ✓ It can be a place of encouragement for the things that you do
- ✓ It can be another place where you meet with Jesus through the kindness and friendship of others good friends will affirm you in what you do, bolstering your self-confidence and confirming you are on the right path in your walk with God and of course, there is usually cake!

If you have a friend who you think may like to benefit from all these advantages, do bring her or him to your next meeting. Mothers' Union is always welcoming and open to all who are on a journey of faith.

Perhaps our new slogan should be "Extend your life by joining Mothers' Union".

So as well as all living longer, we shall also grow our membership.

Win – win!

*Jean Rose*

### **WANTED!**

The Trustees seek to appoint a  
**Diocesan Treasurer**

The Treasurer must be competent and confident with a full treasurer role including accounts preparation.

If you, or someone you know, might be interested in the role please contact Sylvia Rowley for an informal chat on  
01604 413829

Please send in your articles for the next edition of  
**ComMUnicate**  
by 1<sup>st</sup> March 2024 to:

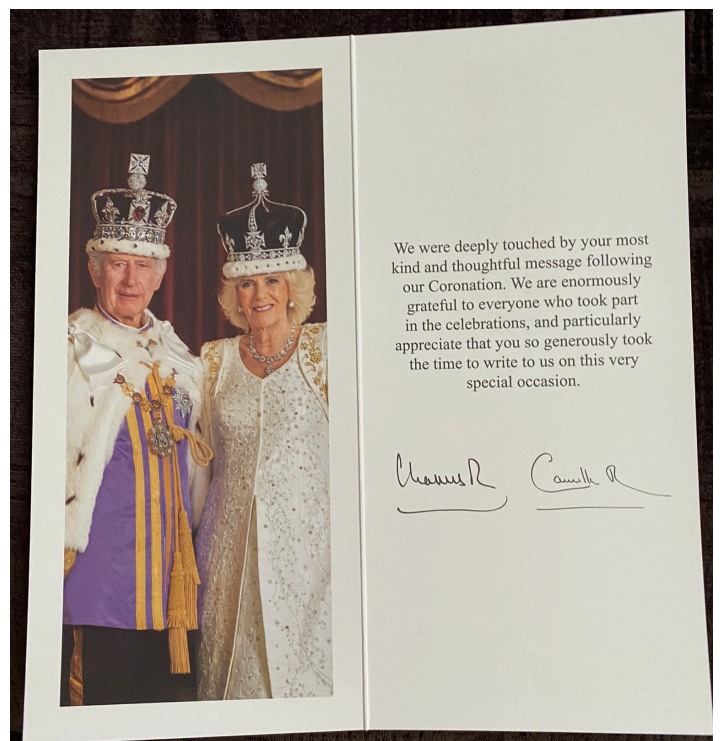
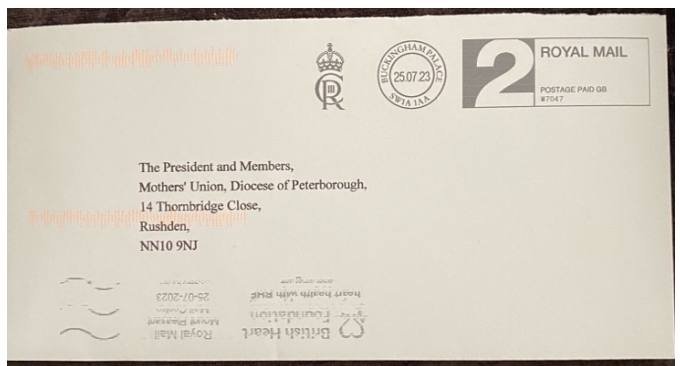
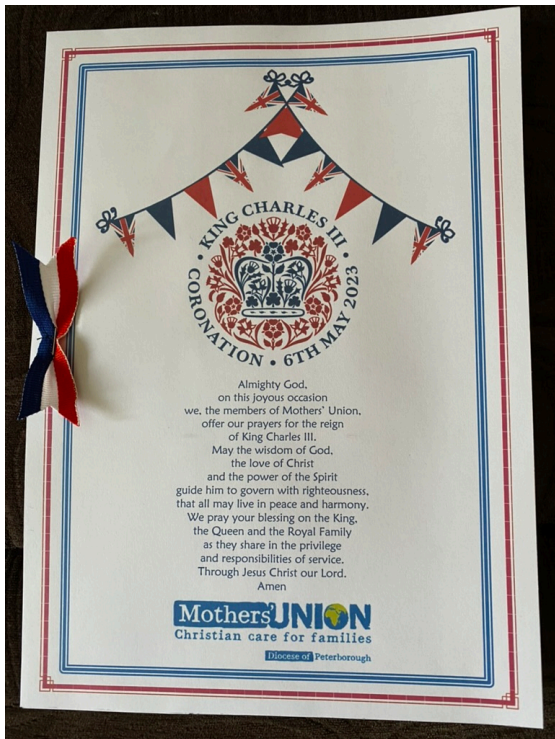
**[helenlynett@btinternet.com](mailto:helenlynett@btinternet.com)**

**Helen Lynett  
14 Thornbridge Close  
Rushden  
Northants  
NN10 9NJ**

*Thank you!*



In preparation for the coronation of King Charles III, those at our April Forum signed a card that was then posted to the King, holding him in our prayers.... It was posted in the rather appropriate post box near to where I live.... A few months later, I received a rather lovely card – what a wonderful surprise!





## Saints and Angels Kettering share memories

Our meetings always try to focus on the aims and objectives of M.U.

In April, we thought it might be nice for each of us to bring something which held special significance for us in our lives, our Faith and relationship with the Church and M.U.

The picture of our table with our offerings is below. We all spoke about what each precious object meant to us and of course looked at each other's. What lovely and sometimes poignant memories they all held. I know that we enjoyed chatting and sharing these memories with one another.

These offerings I feel truly reflected what M.U is Faith Fellowship and Fun and how these three words can transform our lives.





## Spotlight on **Brackley Deanery**



Brackley Deanery used to have several village branches but now the only branch is at St Peter's.

St Peter's Church is situated in the old town area of Brackley, which is in the southern-most part of the Diocese. In 2023 the church is celebrating its 800-year anniversary since the first known vicar although the church dates to the Norman era.

There has been a Mothers' Union branch at St Peter's for many decades and our membership is in the range of thirty. We meet ten times a year, with our March meeting being our AGM, and after the business meeting we move from the church to the church extension for an on-site cooked lunch which is prepared by one of our members.

Our other nine meetings consist of speakers and activities as varied as possible and are open to non-members as well. This is also the case at our monthly communion service held on the first Tuesday of the month.

We try to take part in as many events as possible but with an aging membership who are not mobile it does limit our scope. We used to have a dedicated "Teddy" knitting circle until legislation took that away. We do have knitters producing other items. We also fund raise for the church and this year managed to supply new Bibles for baptism candidates something we intend to continue with.

We are very lucky to have a supportive Vicar who knew nothing about the organisation until he joined our church in 2019.

### **Forum Meetings 2024**

Our Eucharist and Forum Meeting on **Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, starting at 10am.**

Our Forum meeting on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> 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 16<sup>th</sup> November, starting at 10am.**

*As always, it will be lovely to see you!*





## Calendar 2024

| Date               | Event                            | Location / Notes  |
|--------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| 17.1.2024          | Branch Returns to Deanery Leader |   |
| 31.1.2024          | Deanery Leader returns to DP     | 14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. NN10 9NJ                 |
| 31.1.2024          | Accounts to Treasurer            |   |
| 13.2.2024          | VP Meeting                       | 7pm – 9pm on Zoom                                       |
| 12.3.2024          | Trustees Meeting                 | 7pm – 9pm on Zoom                                       |
| 28.2.2024          | Subs to Treasurer                |   |
| 1.3.2024           | World Day of Prayer              | In churches   |
| 25.3.2024          | Lady Day                         | In Branch or Deanery                                    |
| 31.3.2024          | Easter Day                       |   |
| 13.4.2024          | Forum                            | 10am at St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ   |
|                    | Deanery meetings                 |   |
| 14.5.2024          | VP Meeting                       | 7pm – 9pm on Zoom                                       |
| 11.6.2024          | Trustees Meeting                 | 7pm – 9pm on Zoom                                       |
| 11.7.2024          | Forum AGM                        | 7pm – 9pm St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ |
|                    | Deanery Meetings                 |   |
| 9.8.2024           | Mary Sumner Day                  |   |
| 7.9.2024           | Deanery Leader Coffee Morning    |   |
| 14.9.2024          | Diocesan Festival                | 2pm, Peterborough Cathedral                             |
| 21-23.9.2024       | Wave of Prayer                   | In Branch or Deanery                                    |
| 8.10.2024          | VP Meeting                       | 7pm – 9pm on Zoom                                       |
| 22.10.2024         | Trustees Meeting                 | 7pm – 9pm on Zoom                                       |
|                    |                                  |   |
| 16.11.2024         | Eucharist & Forum                | 10am at St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ   |
|                    | Deanery Meetings                 |   |
| 25.11 - 10.12.2024 | 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!