



COMMUNICATE

From our Diocesan President...

I hope you enjoy this Spring edition of 'ComMUnicate'!
Do remember to send in articles and photos of events that are taking place in your Branch and Deanery.

It's only taken nearly 2½ years, but I have included a photo of myself, as requested by some members!



Thank you for sending in your Branch End of Year forms. I appreciate that there were additional questions to complete but this enables us to learn about the fabulous work that you do, so that it can be reported back to Mary Sumner House.

Since our last edition of 'ComMUnicate':

- ❖ Bishop Debbie's installation at the Cathedral, has taken place.
- ❖ I have delivered 700 Easter cards to HMP Five Wells.
- ❖ Lady Day services will have taken place across the Diocese.
- ❖ Get well wishes have been sent to King Charles and the Princess of Wales.
(Using a knitted prayer square).

Looking ahead to something exciting.... Canterbury Province is holding a gathering for all members on Saturday, 22nd June 2024 at The King's Centre in Oxford. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity to meet members from across the province; share information about what we are doing in our local dioceses; enjoy fellowship; and worship together. There will be plenty of time during the day for socialising and to have some fun too. The event is open to all members and you are welcome to bring friends with you; what a great way to learn about Mothers' Union! There is more information inside this edition of 'ComMUnicate'.

I hope you all have an enjoyable summer and look forward to seeing you at our AGM in July!

With Love,

Helen Lynett, Diocesan President

Who's Who in MU

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





Please join us for our
Diocesan Festival
On Saturday 14th September 2024
at 2pm
Peterborough Cathedral
Followed by Refreshments

We hope that you will join us for our Diocesan Festival at Peterborough Cathedral!

We are delighted that Bishop Debbie will be with us too.

If you would like to invite a friend or your Parish Priest, please cut out the invitation below and give it to them.

Don't forget to bring your banner!

700 Squares? To be or not to be...

Now, I knew that we were prolific knitters but when I first asked for 700 knitted prayer rectangles, even I thought 'What have I done?'. Of course, you and I know that I didn't need to worry as not only did I receive 700 rectangles, I actually received just over 2,000! Even the postman asked me if I had a 'special birthday' due to all the packages I was receiving!

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! THANK YOU

I met with Imam Mohammed at HMP Five Wells and handed over the 700 Easter cards, some 'Thinking of You' cards, two new prayer leaflets as well as clothes for those prisoners who are able to attend a funeral. Imam Mohammed was delighted!

When I first visited the Prison Chapel, the walls were quite bare. Given that there were many squares leftover, I asked Imam Mohammed if we could create a wall hanging, in the shape of a cross, using the squares. This could be created by the Prisoners or ourselves, with me providing felt, double sided tape and 500 squares in such beautiful colours – browns of the earth, greys, blues of the sea and sky, greens of the trees, yellows of the sun with reds, purples and oranges in between. Imam Mohammed thought the prisoners could do this, so a few days later I dropped off all that was needed: 2 rolls of felt, 500 squares, including a laminated copy of the prayer that we used, whilst knitting.



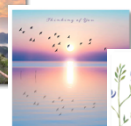
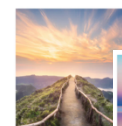
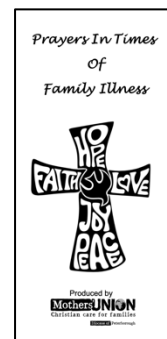
700 Prayer Rectangles



Wall Hanging Kit!



Imam Mohammed receiving some of the Easter cards





Please send in your articles
for the next edition of
ComMUNicate
by 1st October 2024 to:
helenlynett@btinternet.com

Helen Lynett
14 Thornbridge Close
Rushden
Northants
NN10 9NJ

Thank you!

News from St. Katharine's Mothers' Union, Irchester

Our two most recently enrolled members in 2022 and 2023 have done a tremendous variety of knitting since they joined; from jumpers and blankets to prayer rectangles; helped very much by a friend who doesn't live in Irchester.

Their names being Ruth, Avis and Wendy. Wendy, our most recent member lived in South Africa as a young married mother with a small child, when her husband's work took them to Zambia.

She fell in love with the people and particularly the children and babies.

This photograph of fish & chip babies has been her joy and passion, as she remembers the people with great affection and how poor they were.

We are grateful to them all and their 'clicking needles' and particularly to Ruth who 'got us going!'



Bishop Debbie's Installation Service

As a Churchwarden and M.U. member I was privileged to attend Bishop Debbie's installation on 3rd March at the Cathedral.

I have never attended an Installation of a Bishop so probably a first and last given my age.

I had to rush from church duties to meet our Priest.

I travelled with my fellow warden and Priest to the Cathedral as we were told to be seated by 2.20pm.

The processions seemed to go on forever.

Finally, the service.

It's a bit like the state opening of parliament with Praise My Soul the King of Heaven opening hymn.

Knocking of Shut Cathedral doors.

The service took over 1.30 hours

Including greetings.

Reading of mandate's.

Declarations.

Anointing.

Installation.

Affirmation of commitment.

Prayers were led by Bishop Debbie.

This service embraced all aspects of the Anglican Communion.

The Archbishop of Canterbury's representative giving the lead canonical notice.

Lovely to see Kingsthorpe school choir and Bishop Stopford Children centre stage.

Also, the Korean Bishops who wrote a special prayer.

(This lovely link is ongoing we here in M.U. instrumental in forming it).

The Music and organist splendid.

Bishop Debbie's husband Paul read the lesson Isaiah 35 and Debbie's sermon opened with a question to us all.

What do you hope for?

Concluding the service with the hymn Love Divine all Love Excelling.

What a day to remember.

Bishop Debbie has a softly spoken Scottish accent and blue in her vestments.

Lovely.



Penny Knight

**Peterborough Diocese
Mothers' Union Prayers
July to December 2024**



Thank you to Jill Cannings, our Faith & Spirituality Community of Interest Lead, for writing these prayers.

July

Heavenly Father, lord of the Sabbath, we pray for times of rest and recuperation, to still the usual patterns of life and give rest and peace. We pray for children who have taken exams and may be going onto a new school, college, university or work. May they be inspired to take on new experiences and challenges. Keep them safe from all the unhelpful and damaging distractions of life. For those who have come to know you Lord, keep them close, and for those who do not, give them opportunities to explore life and faith. We pray for our own family members and pray they will have witnessed the love of Christ in us.

Amen

August

We pray for all families during the holiday period. This can be a time of fun and time spent together. It can also however be stressful for parents and other carers. We give thanks for the M U AFIA holidays and all those who make this possible by arranging or fundraising. We pray that we may again be inspired by our founder Mary Sumner as we near the 150th anniversary of our great worldwide charity. Bless our acts of worship and gatherings as we celebrate her life and seek to move forward inspired, by her passion to support Christian family life.

Amen

September

This can be a time for new beginnings. We pray for our clergy and their families. Sustain, strengthen and inspire them in their ministry. We pray for all those who offer their gifts in support of our churches and communities. As MU members guide and equip us to play our part. May we wear our badges with pride as we proclaim our faith in word and action. In our wave of prayer services we thank God for the spread of faith and hope and joy across the world. We pray for our triennial MU service at the cathedral. May it be a time of great fellowship and inspiration.

Amen

October

As autumn comes let us wonder at the beauty of the seasons. The colours of the trees and miracle of God's creation. We are also mindful of our impact on the environment. Severe weather seems more apparent for us. However, the impact can be devastating across the world. We pray for lives impacted by floods or storms and at the other extreme, fires and drought. Guide us to do what we can, to pray purposefully and act responsibly. We give thanks for our diocesan president Helen and all who serve in any roles of responsibility. We pray that others will come forward to serve for the new triennial.

Amen

November

November is a season of Remembrance. First and foremost, we remember all that God has done for us. May each Eucharist be a real celebration and time to remember Christ's sacrifice, to seek redemption and to move forward as Resurrection people. At All Saints and All Souls, we remember with thanks all those who have gone before us. We give thanks for their influence on our faith journeys. We give thanks for all we have loved and lost and commend them to God's faithful care. Comfort all who mourn. Remembrance Sunday remains so important as we remember those who have given their lives for our freedom. We are appalled by the ongoing images of war on our TV screens and continue to pray for Ukraine and the Middle East.

Amen

December

As we enter the season of Advent, we pray that we may hear afresh the messages from the well known scriptures and carols. Inspire our worship. So many people are walking in darkness without faith. May they be led to the light as they join us at various services and seasonal activities. We pray for those involved in children's ministry in our churches and schools. We pray for all who will find this season difficult for various reasons. Help us to be aware of the needs of others and respond in love. Light has come into the world and will not be extinguished.

Amen

Diocesan Quiet Day

Saturday May 18th at St Mary's Church Wollaston (NN29 7RJ)

Alone; with others; in society: Who am I and where is God?

We are delighted that our Diocesan Quiet will be led by Revd. Lakshmi Jeffries
Who is the Vicar of Wootton, Northampton.

Times are as follows:

Arrival from 10.30am

Session 1: 11am – 12pm

Session 2: 12pm – 1pm

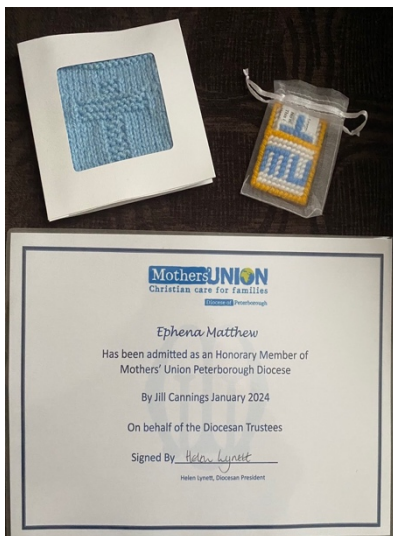
Lunch 1pm – 2pm

Please bring a packed lunch, drinks will be provided.

Eucharist & Address 2pm – 3pm

Worldwide News...

Following my successful trip to Antigua in January 2020 when I first met Ephena Matthew the Diocesan President of NECA (North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba) I returned again in January 2024. In the meantime, Ephena has met many of our members via Zoom, and attending a range of MU events including the annual meeting in York. She trained and worked as a nurse in Leicester and still has family in England, so will return each year. Helen and the trustees decided to make her an honorary member of Peterborough diocese MU. I was able to present her with a certificate and gifts and meet the new DP Lyneth Freeland. While in Antigua I worshipped with Ephena and was invited to many MU events. Though MU started in England, we can learn a lot from our worldwide sisters. They are very visible in their resplendent uniforms.



News from past links who have remained our friends...

A recent meeting between Kettering Deanery and S Korea took place over Zoom. The link between us had been established between our Churches and had flourished. Because of the historic links MU has with S Korea, we thought that it would be good to extend this. Sue Tringham, who has been involved with the Church in S Korea, for a number of years, also joined.

Our first question was how the structure of MU in S Korea differed from the UK. From my understanding there are three provinces in S Korea and all churches fall within a Diocese as here. Baptism, of course, is the only criteria for membership. As we continued to listen to our S Korean friends the differences were explored. All Brides automatically become MU members. There is no formal enrolment as here and meetings don't seem to be as formal. In the past subscriptions were collected as we do, however, most now pay at their meetings perhaps £6 or £7 per month. Some do continue to pay annually, and smaller Branches pay less.

I did ask if Men could join MU but I don't think this is a concept they have considered yet. Our second question was about the strength of the support between MU and the Church. They prepare lunches after services and hold special Bible reading days. Members get together for special Bible study days and my feeling is that this could be compared to our Forums.

As we listened to our fellow members it became clear that we would not have time to cover all the questions as this was our first get together and get to know one another.

There will be more meetings. It was noted that there was no member from Gangnam so this needs to be addressed.

We all said the Mothers' Union prayer, what a wonderful way of ending our first meeting and joining us together!

Hazel Goodman

Taking the First Step

Miracles do still happen but sometimes they are slow miracles rather than instant. I was reminded about the story of the ten lepers who were healed of their leprosy by Jesus, but only as they did as he said, and went to show themselves to the Priest. They were healed as they went, but they had to step out for the healing to happen. The Gospels note that only one of them came back to say thank you. I would like to bet that his healing was permanent! I have had problems with my nose for about 15 years which means I was unable to smell anything. When the farmers are manuring the fields, it's a helpful disability but when you really want to smell perfume, scented candles, newly-cut grass, bacon cooking, or hot coffee, then it's a definite disadvantage. You learn to live with it. Fortunately, I have never been called on to identify a gas leak or anything more serious, apart from burning the toast! However, after countless visits to doctors, hospitals and three operations later, I was still unable to smell anything until this year. During all this time, I have prayed for God to restore my nasal sensors, those few little cells in your nose which are the key to smelling. Very occasionally, I would think it had come back a little only for it to disappear again.

But now, I have a slow miracle – when I realise I can actually smell something, and it is a joy to suddenly realise that you can smell something, I say thank you God that I can smell that coffee, or thank you God that I can smell the fabric softener in the washing machine, or thank you God that I can smell someone's perfume. Thanking God each time, is a small step towards claiming a miracle of healing. I do believe that being thankful for what we have, even if it is not yet perfect, is a good way to exercise our faith. Cultivating an attitude of gratitude is essential to living a positive life and brings about huge benefits to one's personality. I am sure that happiness is linked to being grateful to God for all he has given us, and when you think about it, we have safe, comfortable lives in the U.K. – we are not subjected to bombs, warring armies and localised fighting. We have roofs over our heads and food on the table, and even though we may have issues with our government, we do live in a safe country. So, when you have your prayer time, thank God for all he has given us, and thank him for all he does for us, however small, and you too may see a slow miracle occur as you step out in faith.

Jean Rose

What's in a badge?

I am very privileged to be the current custodian of the MU Brooch that is worn by the Peterborough Diocesan President! It has been handed down, DP to DP for many years.

When I first became a Trustee in the Diocese, Meg Dyer was the Diocesan President and she encouraged us all to wear our badge with pride. Why? It got MU noticed; It was a talking point; It was a way of knowing that we were all part of the same family, even if we had never met before! The same encouragement followed when Barbara became DP and then Jill and now it is the same for me... But what's in a badge and how has the MU badge changed over the years?

Well... I have many MU badges over the 30 years since first becoming a member. Some I have been given – a silver MU badge in the shape of the MU logo, when I stepped down from being Deanery Leader, as well as a silver MU cross badge, received as a gift. I came across a marcasite MU badge on 'ebay' one day and 'won' the item for £19.50! When I held it for the first time, I wondered who it might have belonged to, how long they had been a member for and at what branch they would have belonged to.... Then I came across a gold MU badge and so bought that... whilst looking at these badges I also came across a round badge. The description said it was an MU badge but how can it be, it didn't have MU on the front but a picture of Mary and child... however, on the back it says 'The Mothers' Union Incorporated Founded 1876'. So how old could that badge be?

So.... Please do remember to wear your MU badge when you are out and about – for all those members who have gone before us.



Be proud and shout out loud!

Photos from around the Diocese



Wreath Festival



Global Day at Peterborough – 25th November 2023

PROVINCIAL GATHERING INFORMATION 22nd June 2024

Hope to see you there!

Canterbury Province is holding a gathering for all members on Saturday, 22nd June 2024 at The King's Centre in Oxford. This is going to be a wonderful opportunity to meet members from across the province; share information about what we are doing in our local dioceses; enjoy fellowship; and worship together. There will be plenty of time during the day for socialising and to have some fun too. The event is open to all members and you are welcome to bring friends with you; what a great way to learn about Mothers' Union.

AGENDA

10am	Venue open
10.30am	Gathering opens with Welcome and Worship Morning includes: Presentations by 2 Clusters Hymns We Love – presented by Pippa and Steve Cramer
12 Midday	Service with Communion
1 – 2.30pm (approx.)	LUNCH (please bring your own)
2.30pm	Afternoon includes: Presentations by 2 Clusters Andy Kind – comedian
4.30pm (approx.)	Notices! Thoughts for next year Close with prayers and the Grace
5-5.30pm	End of our day

INFORMATION

Venue The King's Centre, Thames Hall, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES

Tickets £20 per person and are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/mothers-union

Time Doors open 10am
Meeting 10.30am – 4.30pm
Coffee/tea - on arrival and at lunchtime

Food Please bring your own lunch/food
There is no onsite catering

Parking There is limited car parking onsite and we will give priority to those needing disabled/accessible parking. Please apply by ticking the appropriate box when buying your ticket **AND** email MUgathering2024@muoxford.org.uk with your name and car registration

Walking route - From Oxford Train Station to The King's Centre, please see map overleaf

Seacourt Park & Ride - 234 Botley Rd, Oxford, OX2 0HP, Bus to **Osney Island** bus stop and a 10 minute walk

Accommodation - There is good availability at **Premier Inn Botley** (register there for free car parking in adjacent car park) and **Premier Inn Cowley** free on-site car parking) <https://www.premierinn.com/gb/en/home.html>
Rooms in **Oxford University Colleges** can be booked via <https://www.universityrooms.com/en-GB/city/oxford/home/>



Calendar 2024

Date	Event	Location / Notes
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	
23.11.2024	Global Day	
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!

Elections for 2025 – 2027 Triennium

Elections for Vice Presidents and Trustees will take place at our November Forum.

Please pray for the election process and for those who are considering taking on these roles.