



COMMUNICATE

From our Diocesan President...

I hope you have all had a great Summer! I find myself asking where has the time gone? The Summer just flew by!

Since our last Communicate I attended the MU Leadership Conference in Liverpool - It was quite an intense few days if the truth be told, starting and ending with worship at 7.45am and 9pm. That said the evenings were spent having 'fun' with a quiz as well as a good old fashioned Beetle Drive! It was good to see Kathleen again – I love this photo of us together!



Next year will be a very busy year as we celebrate our 150th anniversary! What will you be doing in your Branch or Deanery?

Do remember to keep a diary of events and take some photos so that we can include them in our Souvenir Album at the end of the year.



You will notice as part of our 150th Anniversary, Mary Sumner House have created new 150 logos along with an upgrade to our Diocesan logo as well as a tweak to an old favourite!



We are looking for a member who would like to take over as Editor of Communicate! If this is something you might be interested in, please do get in touch!

As always, I have so enjoyed visiting Branches and Deanery events - please do remember to invite me to yours, it's always great to share in fellowship!

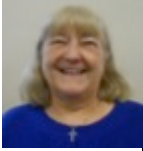
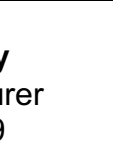
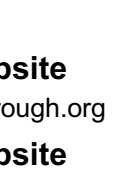
As usual, we have our calendar of events for 2026 at the back of the magazine which will be updated as we go through the year.

Thank you for all that you do.

With Love, 

Helen Lynett, Diocesan President

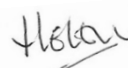
Who's Who in MU

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

Thank you!

Anne and Margaretta are stepping down as our AFIA coordinators at the end of 2025. We are grateful for all that they have done in arranging holidays and days out. During the difficult times of Covid they were very creative in making sure that families were still being cared for.

If you would like to take on this role then please speak to myself or one of the Trustees.



Mumu the Mothers' Union Teddy's Big Adventure

Mumu, our M.U. Teddy volunteered to abseil down from the top of the Tower of Ss. Peter and Pauls' Church Kettering to the gates of the West Drive on Saturday the 6th of September.

Dressed in her new M.U. Knitted frock and proudly displaying her badge she came with me to the Deanery Leaders' meeting in Wollaston, where she enjoyed coffee and cake with Helen, Deanery reps. and Ephena who came with Jill Cannings.



After a light lunch off we went. Mumu was registered and fitted with a harness. We watched her whizz down and land safely. Mumu then received her certificate of Bravery.

She then came home and went for a well-earned rest in her basket.

A very exciting adventure for a little Teddy Bear.

Hazel On behalf of Mumu Saints and Angels M.U. Teddy Bear.

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### SnapShots from around the Diocese



Kettering Deanery  
Mary Sumner Day Service



Wave of Prayer 'Selfie'  
Irthlingborough



Candles  
Wellingborough Deanery  
Wave of Prayer Service



**Peterborough Diocese**  
**Mothers' Union Prayers**  
**January to June 2026**



**January**

Heavenly Father as we start a new year and celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> birthday of Mothers' Union, we pray for all branches in this diocese that their celebrations will draw people in to Join Us and Join In and grow our membership as we build God's Kingdom in our towns and villages.

**Amen**

**February**

In the cold and damp, Father God, we pray for all who are homeless and sleeping rough, that a safe shelter may be found. We pray for all food banks and facilities like the Daylight Centre, who offer help and assistance to those living on the streets. Father God, ensure that ample resources are available to be passed on to those in need. Thank you Father God.

**Amen**

**March**

World Day of Prayer on 6<sup>th</sup> March focuses on Nigeria where we know many Mothers' Union branches are active in their communities. Father we ask for your strength and guidance for all members who seek to bring peace and reconciliation to their families and neighbourhoods. In our own diocese we pray for all efforts to bring hope to hurting people.

**Amen**

**April**

At Eastertime we celebrate our Lord Jesus rising from the tomb to bring eternal life to all believers. As we tell of the good news of resurrection, may we encourage those who don't yet know Jesus as Lord and Saviour to accept Christ in their lives and may Mothers' Union be known as a step on the path to eternal life.

**Amen**

**May**

In this month when Spring begins to turn to Summer, may all those who are in prison be able to see the sunlight and find the hope that is in your Son. Father be a light in lives which have dark places and bring hope and joy to all who are locked away from their freedom. Grant them resilience and protection in our prisons, in Five Wells, Wellingborough, in Peterborough Prison and in HMP Stocken. Thank you Father God.

**Amen**

**June**

As summer comes into bloom, Mothers' Union celebrates its 150<sup>th</sup> birthday with festivities in London. We pray for good media coverage to promote the name and deeds of Mothers' Union across the world, that as we see a need, we act to help. We pray Father God that you encourage our fellow sisters and brothers in other nations to celebrate with us this very special birthday.

**Amen**



## 100 and Not Out!

Although the Mothers' Union branch of Astwell in Brackley Deanery are in abeyance, the members have become Diocesan Members, and still fully participate in all that goes on within MU. Encouraged by Pamela Marley, the members and village community are knitting squares for blankets which Pamela sews together. The latest batch delivered to Africa in August, care of Phoenix Resources, was 27 blankets, bringing their total to 100 blankets completed since Spring 2022.

Pamela and her friends will continue the good work, and who knows they may reach 150 in 2026 in honour of Mothers' Union's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Well done to Helmdon village and thank you for taking Mothers' Union projects to heart.

If you would like to knit squares to make blankets, please see the pattern on the MU Peterborough website on the Crafting page or follow this link

<https://www.mothersunionpeterborough.org/crafting/>

Blankets are sent out to Africa (Djibouti, Somaliland and Ethiopia) or given locally to the Daylight Centre for the rough sleepers. Thank you.



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A new Diocesan Project!

I am delighted to announce that we have a new Diocesan Project!

Thanks to a member of Wollaston & Strixton's MU who is making pencil cases for the Christmas Shoe Box appeal, Phoenix were approached with regard to getting items to fill the pencil cases (maybe knitted or sewn). Phoenix explained that they have their own project of building and fitting out schools in Somaliland, and how would MU feel about providing 7,000 pencil cases to assist with the project! WOW! Mothers' Union will make as many pencil cases as we can, and Phoenix will fill them and send them out to the new schools.

This is an excellent way of getting the Mothers' Union name recognised, further afield.

Patterns will soon be available as well as on our website!

Our 150th Anniversary Celebrations

Thank you to those who have sent in a favourite recipe for our 'Ministry of Cake' recipe book as well as a prayer to be included in our Diocesan 'Anthology of Prayers', both are to celebrate our 150th Anniversary Year.

Our national 150th celebrations take place on the 10th June 2026 with Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral. It will be the official 150th celebratory service for Mothers' Union. Tickets are now available by clicking the link <https://www.mothersunion.org/event/150-celebratory-service/> Tickets are £15 with a booking fee of £1.95, per ticket. When booking your ticket you need to indicate that you are part of Canterbury Province (CAN). The following day, the 11th June 2026, there will be the 150th year Annual Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, next to Mary Sumner House!

MU Sunday Takeover

Throughout the Summer, members are being asked to take part in local church services, sharing the story and impact of MU in their communities. I often find that people are amazed about the work we do, especially locally. Use this opportunity to be proud and shout out loud!

The 18th of July will be our 'Day of Celebration' across the Diocese. Whether it be a Branch or Deanery event, it will be wonderful for us all to celebrate on this day! You could have a celebratory breakfast or an afternoon tea... You could have a guest speaker... You could invite someone along who might like to know more about the work we do... Invite them to 'Join us, Join in'. This could also be a fundraising event towards the 150th Anniversary Fund, supporting the life-changing work of Mothers' Union in Britain and Ireland and in the world's most vulnerable communities..... Any money raised should be sent to Sylvia who will send it to Mary Sumner House on our behalf.

Our celebration service in the Diocese will take place at Evensong in the Cathedral on Mary Sumner Day, August the 9th.

What will you be doing to celebrate in your Branch or Deanery? Don't forget to take photos of your events so that we can include them in our Souvenir book! Use this fantastic opportunity to be proud and shout out loud! Let me know your plans!

Helen

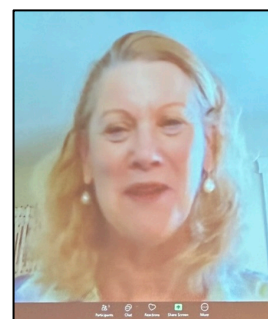
~~~~~ Provincial Gathering, Oxford.

We had a great day at Oxford when 7 of us attended the Provincial Gathering! It is always good to hear what is happening in other Dioceses as well seeing their displays. After lunch we were joined by Kathleen via Zoom as she was home, in Canada!

You can imagine my surprise when she mentioned my name and our project with the knitted squares – she even held one up! WOW!

Thank you, for all that you do and the support you give!

Helen



Puppy Nanny

My son has a new job after over twenty years working for one company, he is now actually following a dream that he has had since a teenager, working with church sound systems. It's a bit of a culture shock as since Covid he has been mostly working from home (wfh, as the Gen Z say) but now is either in the office or out and about visiting churches. His dog, Watney, (all the puppies in the litter were named after beers or lagers!) is coming to see his Puppy Nanny much more frequently than ever before.



It's a big change for our fox red Labrador part-time adoptee, but also for us, it's like having a toddler back in the house! Although he is technically now a teenager, he will try and climb on the sofa or have a quick nap on the bed if no one is looking, and he definitely knows where the biscuits are kept (dog biscuits, of course), and he has even made a brief appearance on the Trustee Zoom meeting in October (we had him for an all-nighter then)!

I can't complain, he is a very good dog, he warns us when the postman has been and he does enjoy being in our garden, we haven't seen a pigeon in weeks!

Change can be difficult, as many of us who are in interregnum know, (although we are not supposed to call it that any more – churches are now in vacancy when the Incumbent leaves). Church life feels very different, services may change, different faces appear to lead things, some activities may alter or stop altogether - and it's all a bit unsettling.

But thank the Lord our faith and promise of salvation do not depend on the Vicar who has just left us – our trust and hope is built on what Jesus Christ did for us on the cross, He died so that we might live, and our foundation is built on loving God, and knowing He loves us, through the relationship we now have with Jesus. My friend Ben's favourite Bible verse is "Jesus Christ is the same, yesterday, today, and forever" (Hebrews 13 v8), and so it is. No matter what changes around us, Jesus is the same, he is our friend, he is our Saviour, he is our Lord and always just a breath away, and he is unchanging – the one certain thing we can hang on to in life - **Jesus**.

Jean Rose

Please send in your articles for the next edition of ComMUNicate
by 6th March 2026 to: helenlynett@btinternet.com

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Thank you!



**Diocese of
Peterborough**

Calendar 2026



Date	Event	Location / Notes
16.1.2026	Branch Returns to Deanery Leader	
31.1.2026	Deanery Leader returns to DP	14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. NN10 9NJ
31.1.2026	Accounts to Treasurer	
25.2.2026	VP Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
28.2.2026	Subs to Treasurer	
6.3.2026	World Day of Prayer	In churches
18.3.2026	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
25.3.2026	Lady Day	In Branch or Deanery
5.4.2026	Easter Day	
18.4.2026	Eucharist & Forum	10am
3.6.2026	VP Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
10.6.2026	150 th Celebratory Service	5pm Evensong, St. Paul's Cathedral
11.6.2026	'Annual Gathering'	The Emmanuel Centre, London (Next to Mary Sumner House)
24.6.2026	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
9.7.2026	Forum AGM	7pm – 9pm
18.7.2026	'Day of Celebration'	In Branch or Deanery
9.8.2026	Mary Sumner Day Evensong	3.30pm Peterborough Cathedral
5.9.2026	Deanery Leader Coffee Morning	
21- 23.9.2026	Wave of Prayer	In Branch or Deanery
6.10.2026	VP Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
21.10.2026	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
14.11.2026	Eucharist & Forum	10am
	Deanery Meetings	
25.11 - 10.12.2026	16 Days of Activism	In Branch or Deanery

Reminder: All members are invited to attend Forum meetings.
Refreshments are provided – please bring your own lunch when applicable.

We look forward to seeing you there!