COMMUNICATE

The Diocese of Peterborough



Dear Friends,

As I write this, I am just about to pack my suitcase to go to Durban! Everything that I want to take is next to the suitcase but whether I shall get it all in, is a different matter! By the time you read this, I will have returned! I shall look forward to telling you all about this historic gathering – do invite me to your branch meeting and I can tell you all about it!

I hope you enjoyed your day of celebration on the 18th of July! This was the date set aside across the Diocese for members in branches and deaneries to come together and celebrate all that is MU in our anniversary year – and what a fabulous day it was! Thank you to those who have sent in photographs for our souvenir booklet – and a reminder that it's not too late if you haven't done so…

Another special date in the calendar was Mary Sumner Day, on August the 9th which we celebrated with Evensong at Peterborough Cathedral – what a beautiful service! As always, the sight of all our banners processing up and down the Cathedral is just wonderful, topping and tailing the service that was so joyful – we truly came together in faith, fun and fellowship – and plenty of cake! Thank you to everyone who brought cake for us to share which seemed also rather fitting as we launched our "Ministry of Cake" recipe book. This will be available on the MUe stall alongside the Prayer Book that we have also published – both are £3 each. I also have copies available.

Another successful event this summer has been 'Take Over Church Sunday'. A great opportunity in telling congregations all about MU and what we do!

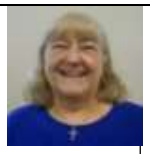
Together, let's be proud and shout out loud so that we will no longer be the Church's best kept secret!

Thank you for all that you do.
With Love,

Helen

Helen Lynett, Diocesan President

Who's Who in MU

Jean Rose Diocesan Secretary 01933 663778  jeanerose@btinternet.com	**Helen Lynett** Diocesan President 07743 317793  helenlynett@btinternet.com	**Revd. Deborah Marsh** Chaplain 01664 474652  debmarsh37@yahoo.com
Nicky Vaughan Vice President 01788 510213  drawers51@gmail.com	**Sylvia Rowley** Diocesan Treasurer 01604 413829 sylvia.rowley@ntlworld.com	**Sue Merrifield** Vice President 01536 238320  donandsuemerrifield@gmail.com
Ruth Gould Trustee 01604 846508  ruthgould139@btinternet.com	**Diocesan Mothers Union Website** https://mothersunionpeterborough.org **Mothers Union Website** https://www.mothersunion.org	**Hazel Goodman** Trustee 07967 838614  hazel@chestnut.clara.net
Barbara Haynes Trustee 01933 222612  Barbarahaynes123@gmail.com	**Away From It All** (AFIA)	**Honor Harris** Trustee 01780 720306  honor54harris@hotmail.co.uk

Diocesan Members Coordinators Archdeaconry of Northampton: Barbara Haynes 01933 222612 Archdeaconry of Oakham: Kay Short 07887 526535	**Indoor Members Coordinator** Hazel Goodman 07967 838614 hazel@chestnut.clara.net

Cards for Members Pam Handley Pamartinhandley7@gmail.com	**Prayer Chain** Julia Freeman 01780 720869	**MU Safeguarding Officer** Sue Merrifield 01536 238320

Celebrating 150 Years of Mothers' Union:
Join Us, Join In – Lighting the Way for Generations to Come

From the Editor

Welcome to the Winter Edition of Communicate and my first as Editor. I would like to introduce myself. I have been a member since 2010 and have had various roles. My main role is as Branch Leader of Saints and Angels branch in Kettering. Together with my husband Raymond we are the MUE reps
This year has been amazing for me. Firstly, being invited by my friend Jo to accompany her to the 150 Anniversary Service in St. Paul's Cathedral together with a member from S. Africa, was something I won't forget for a long time. Jo Pearce had carried the banner for the 100 year celebration. Much to my amazement and my daughter's I managed to appear on Sheffield's Facebook page.

Of course, there was the magnificent Choral Evensong on the 9th of August in Peterborough Cathedral, banners aloft and voices raised in praise. The service was followed with lots of cake and tea, we are M.U. "the ministry of cake"

Recipients of the Cross of St Augustine for Services to the Anglican Communion included Bev Jullien, in recognition of her "outstanding and exemplary leadership" of the Mothers' Union, of which she was chief executive for 11 years, until June. This is the second-highest international award in the global Anglican Communion, given for exceptional service to the church. What an honour for Bev and MU.

Like many other people I have been knitting pencil cases. However, as Advent is on the horizon I must now put my needles to replenishing the knitted sheep for the travelling Crib

Of course, like most other Branches we took over the Church and had a Deanery afternoon tea.

I do hope that you enjoy reading the magazine and look forward to hearing from you for the Spring Edition.

Thank you to all who contribute to our magazine and thank you to Helen who has been leading us as our Diocesan President.

Hazel
Hazel Goodman

World Day of Prayer celebrates 100 years in 2027

The World Day of Prayer 2027 will take place on Friday, March 5, 2027, marking the 100th centennial anniversary of the global ecumenical movement (1927–2027). Milestone: Celebrating 100 years of uninterrupted global prayer and community action by women across more than 150 countries.



Five Wells Prison

I recently attended a Prison Communities Of Interest meeting – it's great to hear of the amazing work that is going on in Prisons by MU, up and down the Country!

Have you heard of the Welcome Directory? It is a nationwide directory that lists faith communities all willing and able to welcome and support people leaving prison and is a great resource. Is your Church registered?

For more than forty years Prisons Week has prepared prayer literature to enable the Christian community, through individuals and churches, to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons: prisoners and their families, victims of crime and their communities, those working in the criminal justice system and the many people who are involved in caring for those affected by crime on the inside and outside of our prisons. Mothers' Union is one of the sponsors of Prisons week – whilst Prisons Week has passed, please do continue to pray for all those effected by crime.

I have the privilege of volunteering within a Prison Chaplaincy Team helping with Bereavement. Thank you for continuing to donate 'Thinking of You' cards which are passed to prisoners following a bereavement.
I am grateful to Kettering Deanery who continue to pray for any bereaved prisoner, too – they are truly in our thoughts and prayers…

Thank you for all that you continue to contribute for our Prison work across the Diocese.

Helen Lynett



Peterborough Diocese Mothers' Union Prayers

January to June 2027

January

As we review our 150th anniversary year of 2026, Father God, may we as a diocese be open to adapting and changing to ways that grow our membership and our projects, ways that will bring glory to your name. We pray for your guidance for our leadership succession as Helen and the Trustees step down at the end of this new year. Father, inspire with passion the people you are calling to serve Mothers' Union in this diocese for the next triennium. Fill them with your Holy Spirit and set them on fire for You. In Jesus name we ask. **Amen**

February

During this time of Lent, Father God, may we reconsider our place in your world and whether we are fulfilling all that you would have us do, both as Christians and as Mothers' Union members. May our hearts and minds be open to the voice of your Holy Spirit as you guide us in the path you lay before us. In Jesus name we trust you to lead us, for you are our loving shepherd. **Amen**

March

As we progress through Lent to Holy Week, we remember the times we have not stood up for our faith in Jesus Christ, nor brought honour to our Mothers' Union, and we repent of these errors of judgement, but we thank God that forgiveness follows repentance, and resurrection joy follows the sorrow of Good Friday. Thank you, Father God, that you forgive us and offer us eternal life in your Son Jesus Christ. **Amen**

April

We will celebrate your Eucharist and hold a Forum meeting this month at which we will elect a new Diocesan President. Father God may your chosen person be willing to stand and take on this role. Fill them with confidence and excitement as they prepare to lead this diocese forward in the name of Mothers' Union for the coming three years. **Amen**

May

Father God, we ask your blessing on all our projects in this diocese. For our work in the prisons - grant positive communication with Chaplaincy Teams and Governors. For our provision of food bags for school holidays for families in food poverty - grant adequate funding and open doors to receive. For the items we craft in love, both knitted and stitched, Father God, may they be received and accepted with love from the Mothers' Union. In the gifts that we give, as your hands and feet, may all the glory be yours Almighty God. **Amen**

June

We remember all who are sleeping rough and all who are homeless. Although the weather is warming, Lord Jesus, be close to them so they know they are not alone. We thank you for the work of the Daylight Centre in Wellingborough and all who work to alleviate homelessness. We pray also for the food banks run locally by churches and other organisations. Father grant ample funding to keep the banks stocked and change society so there will no longer be families in food poverty. In Jesus name we ask. **Amen**

Diocesan Projects…

Pencil Cases

Thank you to everyone who has been busy making pencil cases in support of our new Diocesan Project, working with the Phoenix Resource Centre.

It's not just MU members making them, other supporters of our project are busy making them too – maybe we will reach 7,000 after all!

Patterns are available on our website.

Thank you!



School Foodbag Project

More Branches are starting to provide foodbags for their local schools to help families over the school holidays. Thank you!

The project has always been available for primary aged children, eligible for Free School Meals. The Trustees have agreed to extend this to cover Secondary-aged pupils too.

Ringing Bells for Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary



Ringing bells are as much an integral part of our churches as our Mothers' Unions are, so I thought why not ring bells for the 150th?
Firstly, with Helen's approval, I contacted the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Church Bell Ringers who were very positive about the idea. Then I contacted Mary Sumner House, to see if they would approve the project, which they did, and then I contacted The Ringing World (the weekly journal for bell ringers) and they very kindly printed an article for me in January 2026. The editor also set up a link for me on BellBoard (an online database to log the ringing of Peals and Quarter Peals). This means that ringing can be linked to an event. To date there are 51 performances listed and these are from all around the country and include cathedral ringing as well as churches.

In our Diocese, I contacted all the towers who have bells and have an active Mothers' Union to see if they could arrange to ring a Quarter Peal or even just general ringing at some point through this year for the anniversary of 150 years of Mothers' Union. The response from most Tower Captains was very positive. I also contacted the Branch Leaders to let them know what was being planned so they could perhaps offer refreshments following the ringing. In many cases, this kind offer was taken up.
There has subsequently been a 2-page article in The Ringing World about Mary Sumner's connection to bell ringing, and also two items in the Peterborough Diocesan Guild of Bell Ringers Newsletter, all great publicity.
So, thank you to the ringers of Brackley, Daventry, Finedon, Guilsborough, Higham Ferrers, Irchester, Irthlingborough, Oakham, Uppingham & Wollaston who are all linked on BellBoard and other towers who may have rung but are not linked.
If your tower hasn't rung, there is still time – the BellBoard link will be available until the end of the year.
Our motto is 'Be Proud, Shout out Loud' – you can't get much louder than a peal of church bells – thank you to everyone who helped bring this idea to fruition.



The Quarter Peal Band at Wollaston Jack, Ben, John, Harry, Paul & Thomas.

Jean Rose



Celebrating MU at St. Botolph's Peterborough

At St Botolph's Mothers Union in Peterborough we have two members who have been lifelong and dedicated members since the early 1960's. Stella Crowson is 101 years old and Audrey Shaw is 97 years old. They absolutely live the Mothers Union and use the Mothers Union prayer book daily.



Jill's 150 holes of golf



During the week 1st to 6th of June I played 150 holes of golf at Greetham Valley. As part of the 150th celebrations of the Mothers' Union my aim was to raise the profile of MU. I promoted my plans via my fellow golfers, friends and MU members. I advised details of my tee times in the mornings and afternoons so that people could come in support. Each day I needed to play 3 loops of nine holes. Ladies from the club

joined me. Some friends and MU members came and walked round in support. Others just turned up for a drink or snack at the golf club. The weather was very mixed every day, with some sunny intervals but lots of wind and rain. I was delighted that Helen Lynett came twice in support and was able to hold the umbrella in windy conditions. It achieved my aim to promote M.U.and the golf has raised £850 so far, much of which is gift aided. Helen kindly presented me with a certificate.

I preached at a recent MU takeover service led by Oakham. I took the golf clubs to the service and went up the nave with them to preach. It certainly grasped people's attention and added to what I chose to say about MU.



Take over the Church service at Oakham Branch





Before the service
Preparing the banners before processing down the Nave at Peterborough Cathedral



After the service.
A feast of cake and tea. The cakes were provided by the members themselves

The Way we were in 1964

I have been browsing through some very old copies of Home and Family from 1964 to 1972 and how things have changed. All members were mentioned formally, for example I would have been Mrs Goodman and Raymond would not have existed. However, basically all most of the advice given in the articles has not changed much nor has the Mothers' Union ethos.
I have picked out a couple of items which I thought were interesting and they are:-



Talking about Toys

" The shop windows are full of them ……. They are intensely important to a child all the year round. Play is a serious matter, it is a way they learn about our complex world, acquire new skills and exercise the imagination. Toys are the tools of all this important activity."

Christmas Biscuits-something a child could help with



4oz self raising flour, 1oz sugar, pinch of salt, 2oz margarine, 1 dessertspoon of drinking chocolate, 1 drop of vanilla essence. Butter icing, silver balls for decorating.
Put flour, sugar and salt into a large basin, add the margarine cut into small pieces and rub into flour mixture with clean fingertips. When there are no lumps let add the chocolate and vanilla essence. Break egg into a basin and beat with a fork. Take two dessertspoons of the egg and work into the flour to make a firm but not sticky lump. If the mixture is too dry add more egg.
Place dough onto a floured board and roll out thinly. Stamp out with cutters and bake on a greased baking tray in centre of moderate oven 355 centigrade or gas mark 4 for about 12 minutes. Cool on wire tray. Decorate with coloured butter icing, silver balls or glace cherries.
My guess is that in this overcautious age the small silver balls would not be considered appropriate!

Home and Family Christmas 1964

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

Car Parking for Mothers' Union at St Mary's Church Wollaston

We are grateful to Scott Bader for allowing us to park in their car park which is adjacent to the church.

There is limited parking at the SB Commonwealth Hall (1st turning on the right when entering the SB property), further parking is available by following the roadway around past Wollaston Hall to the end of the road. There will be a few minutes' walk back to the church from this parking area.



16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence against Women and Girls

The 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence runs annually from 25 November to 10 December. Initiated in 1991, the campaign aims to end violence against women and girls.

• Symbol: The colour orange represents hope for a future free from violence.

• Key Dates: Includes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women (25 Nov) and Human Rights Day (10 Dec), alongside other observances

We will be supporting Global Awareness Day in Peterborough on Saturday the 21st of November at 10.45.

Please send in your articles for the next edition of ComMUnicate
by March the 5th to hazel@chestnut.clara.net
Hazel Goodman
8 Chestnut Avenue
Kettering
Northants
NN15 7BG

Thank you!

Calendar 2027

Date	Event	Location / Notes
15.1.2027	Branch Returns to Deanery Leader	
29.1.2027	Deanery Leader returns to DP	14 Thornbridge Close, Rushden. NN10 9NJ
29.1.2027	Accounts to Treasurer	
23.2.2027	VP Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
26.2.2027	Subs to Treasurer	
5.3.2027	World Day of Prayer	In churches
16.3.2027	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
28.3.2027	Easter Day	
5.4.2027	Lady Day	In Branch or Deanery
17.4.2027	Forum	10am at St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ
08.6.2027	VP Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
22.6.2027	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
15.7.2027	Forum AGM	7pm – 9pm St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ
9.8.2027	Mary Sumner Day	'Take Over Church' Sunday
11.9.2027	Deanery Leader Coffee Morning	10am at St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ
21-23.9.2027	Wave of Prayer	In Branch or Deanery
5.10.2027	VP Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
19.10.2027	Trustees Meeting	7pm – 9pm on Zoom
13.11.2027	Eucharist & Forum	10am at St. Mary's Wollaston, Wellingborough NN29 7RJ
	Deanery Meetings	
25.11 - 10.12.2027	16 Days of Activism	In Branch or Deanery

Reminder: All members are invited to attend Forum meetings at St. Mary's Church, Wollaston. Refreshments are provided – please bring your own lunch when applicable.
We look forward to seeing you there!