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Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Canterbury



A Celebration of Faith

Newsletter - July-September 2016

New Members

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaonries

Holy Trinity Church, Margate Suzanne Lundie

Maidstone Archdeaonry

St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall Sue Thomas and Rachel Thomas both transferred from Holy Trinity Church, Sittingbourne

St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne Brenda Hammond, Thelma Taylor, Florence Court, Wendy Court and Alison Fosher

Congratulations

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaonries

St Leonard's Church, Deal **90th Birthday**, Molly Leivers

St Stephen's Church, Canterbury **90th Birthday**, Kathleen Vinten

St Peter's & St Paul's Church, Ospringe **Long Term Membership**, Peggy Henley, 50 years

Maidstone Archdeaonry

Minster Abbey, Isle of Sheppey **90th Birthday**, Joyce Clark and Kay Edwards

St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall **Long Term Membership**, Pam Gray, 51 years

St Nicholas Church, Allington **80th Birthday**, Gladys MacKay

St Andrew's Church, Barming **Diamond Wedding**, Dorothy Bryant

St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne **97th Birthday**, Florence Court

FROM THE EDITOR...

Some members might like to make a permanent reminder marking the 140th anniversary of the Mothers' Union by producing a kneeler for your church. The link below will give you details of how and where to obtain the pattern and kit.

<https://churchkneelers.com/detail.php?d=515>

If you haven't got access to the internet ask someone who has, and I am sure they will order it for you. Happy cross-stitching.

David Horwood



Front Cover photo:

Our Mothers' Union Trustees being commissioned at our Festival Service in Canterbury Cathedral.

Festival Service and Commissioning of Trustees for the new Triennium



Bishop Trevor Willmott, Nikki Sweatman (Canterbury Provincial President) and Marianna Poliszczuk (Diocesan President) with the Lord Mayor of Canterbury and her Consort and the High Sheriff of Kent.

Those Who Have Died

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaonries

Holy Trinity Church, Margate

Revd Pat Pollard

A Tribute. She contributed consistently and humbly to the priestly ministry here at Holy Trinity since her arrival some six years ago. Ministering from her wheelchair often in much discomfort she has been a remarkable loving servant of Jesus. Her leadership of the Mothers' Union here for four years also saw a great surge forward in membership on Tuesday afternoons, twice monthly, and saw the creation of a young Mothers' Union group meeting on Wednesday evening. This in its way has strengthened our ministry to the Toddler Group and Messy Church and out into the community.

Revd John S. Richardson

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

Elizabeth Hudsmith

Bredgar, Bicknor, Frinsted, Milstead

and Wormshill 5 parishes Church

Brenda Bailey

St Nicholas Church, Allington

Stella Farnworth

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 5th July	Trustee Board Meeting, Diocesan House Boardroom 10.00 am - 1.00 pm
Thursday 28th July	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Friday 29th July	Copy deadline for Newsletter
Saturday 30th July	Saying Goodbye Service in Cathedral at 12.30 pm
Tuesday 9th August	Founders Day, 140th Anniversary Celebrations around the Diocese
Thursday 25th August	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Thursday 8th September	Maidstone Archdeaconry meeting 11.00 am Knightrider Baptist Church, Maidstone
Thursday 22nd September to Friday 23rd	140th Celebration Service in Winchester Cathedral and General Meeting in Basingstoke
Thursday 29th September	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Thursday 29th September	Finance & Diocesan Services Meeting

My dear friends

Mothers' Union is loving, authentic and inclusive; all illustrated wonderfully in the service of commissioning of your trustee board alongside that of the Provincial President. A quarter past the Cathedral bells celebrated the event. My thanks to every one of you who contributed so much to the success of the occasion. I was delighted so many members were able to be there and well done to those in the parade of our historic banners. Come along to our annual meeting in June to see more photos. We have more colour pages in the newsletter; I hope you will enjoy the pictures.



Summer is the season for bbqs and garden parties and plans are well advanced for both as members come together to celebrate our Mary Sumner Founder's Day on 9th August. To raise our visibility in the community branches have held quizzes, beetle drives, skittles, morning coffee and afternoon teas while raising funds for our charitable objectives. Funds are also being raised by Easy Fundraising. Give it a try and recommend it to family, members and friends who shop on-line. (see back cover).

We now have a PowerPoint display CD, available through the Archdeaonries, to show to others what we are doing for the families through an Away From It All Holiday. Do use it at your open mornings, church meetings and any fundraising event.

Similarly if you are hosting a cake sale at church or having a coffee morning for friends you can take advantage of the free Big Summer Appeal pack from Mothers' Union headquarters: www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/give/big-summer-appeal. This central fundraising initiative will support the work overseas of our Community Development Coordinators and the core charity activities of the MU.

So many more of us are involved in Messy Church and other outreach activities. There will be more news to pass on from the MU leadership conference "Equipping our members to Serve". This is attended by representatives from Dioceses across the UK and Ireland. Updates of activities and daily prayers are posted on the social media Facebook page for Canterbury and our website.

Grace and Peace

Marianna Poliszczuk, Diocesan President

E-mail: marianna2@compuserve.com

Commissioning of Central Trustees at Lambeth Palace

Mothers' Union is one of the greatest of women's groups in the world affirms the Archbishop of Canterbury;

In a moving service in Lambeth Palace on St David's Day, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Rt Hon Justin Welby, affirmed the Worldwide President and the International Board of Trustees in their governance role for the Mothers' Union.

Speaking on *Psalm 6*, The Archbishop said *"The Mothers' Union in so many places is an organisation that listens to the voices of weeping. Whether it's in Burundi, the Congo or South Sudan; whether it's in homes in cities where when the local football team loses there is a 50 percent increase in domestic violence; whether it is in the loneliness of weeping by people who are not suffering physically but are spiritually empty and lost; it is the Mothers' Union that exists in the vision of Mary Sumner to speak of those things that God has provided that bring hope, help and a future. Central to this vision, he said, is "an extraordinary movement to support the family."*

"There has never been a time when the family was not a place that needed the light of Christ shining within it to become what God has called it to be. And you hold that treasure in your hands, and as we go to the reaffirmation that is part of the vision."

He added: *"But there is also such a need for global women's groups. And you are among the most embedded, the most effective, the most widespread. There are few that can rival you – if any."*

Reflecting on United Nations research showing that no major civil conflict since 1945 has ended without the involvement of women's groups, the



Archbishop said the Mothers' Union holds in its hands two aspects of "the most extraordinary treasure that God has brought together."

"You are one of the greatest of women's groups in the world, and you have the treasure of the gospel of reconciliation. What more could be needed to be transforming of the world in which we live?" "Nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills and the villages – doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches, of transforming communities."

Mothers' Union has been at the heart of reconciliation work in many countries in the past twenty years. In Rwanda Mothers' Union came alongside people from all tribal groups to bring about community cohesion as people returned from conflict and promoting women in community leadership to help restore peace. In South Sudan, where conflict continues to tear communities apart, Mothers' Union has the specific role of bringing reconciliation to communities as part of the Relief work of the Anglican Church of Sudan and South Sudan.

We pray for our Overseas Link of Kajo-Keji Diocese in South Sudan for a quick implementation of the peace deal and the deteriorating economic crisis in the country.

St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne

A very happy occasion was the reforming of the branch and enrolment of new members by the Revd James Pettit. Pictured here with the Branch Leader Valerie Hemsley-Flint are the members of the branch with Marianna Poliszczuk

(Diocesan President) and Trustees Jean Sweetman and Rita Pengelly. The event took place during Sunday morning worship.

Marianna Poliszczuk

All Souls Church, Cheriton

Among the many Lady Day services in our Diocese, I attended All Souls Cheriton in my role as Godmother and we were joined by members from St Leonard's Deal. I had a lovely time, they all welcomed me very

warmly, and the service was thoughtful and inspiring. I feel very blessed belonging to MU and it's always great meeting new friend's.

Rita Pengelly



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Registered Charity No. 250124

Around the Diocese

Whitstable Team Fellowship

Whitstable Team MU Branch has undertaken new challenges as from the beginning of 2016. We have now become a Fellowship and are still in the process of finding our way whilst maintaining a long established and what has been, a quite active, membership. It has taken a great deal of thought and prayer, to say nothing of some courage, to take this step.

In 2015 a new committee was not forthcoming but Margaret Lakin-Hall had already agreed to be Branch Leader. There are, at the moment, 34 members in four different churches of the Team Ministry. Many being long—serving MU members and keen to remain within the organisation and to support its Aims and Objectives. On the other hand, many of us are "getting on a bit" and some unable to take active part in the activities of the MU. They are able, however, to offer financial and prayerful support of the organisation.

The Team Parish has also many burgeoning and progressive outreach opportunities and those of us who are able will, quite naturally, support such initiatives wherever possible.



We, however, do not see this as either a failure nor a problem, An "opportunity" rather. An opportunity to develop and maybe explore different ways of following Mary Sumner's example. Perhaps a more "back to basics" look at what the MU can achieve locally and nationally.

Many of us have extended families as well as extending church fellowships which we are anxious to foster and support in whatever way we can.

We trust in our Lord to be with us as we explore and evolve in a true fellowship with each other and with those we meet and care for in the many, many opportunities we have.

SO WATCH THIS SPACE!

Wendy Bailey

This magazine is produced by Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Canterbury. All items must come with a note of the contributor's name and contact details. The editor reserves the right to edit or not publish anything received. Items are not intended to represent the official position of the Church of England, nor the official position of the Mothers' Union.

Around the Diocese

St Martin & St Paul's Church, Canterbury

We enjoyed the Wave of Prayer very much, it's a lovely service. We preceded this with a shared lunch and then went on to make up the Easter baskets for St Martin's Hospital. This is a fun activity and we fill the baskets with little plants, primulas usually, and a great variety of eggs and chicks, etc.



Our branch has been doing this since long before I appeared on the scene, and they are always very well received.

Marylyn Collins



Stephen's Church, Canterbury

The At Home afternoon tea is a scrumptious annual event.

The tea towel holders are Alice Haller and Rosie Barford, Branch Leader, with the team of cake and sandwich makers, and some of the invited

guests from the Trustee Board and the community.

Each guest received one of the new MU promotional postcards.

Rosie Barford



Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 29th July 2016. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens, Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: boycieboycie@icloud.com.

Around the Diocese

St Michael and All Angels Church, Marden

For the Wave of Prayer members gathered at the home of Rosemary McArragher and the photo shows those present.

Margaret Bradford



St Nicholas Church, Allington

Our Wave of Prayer service was led by Mary Gentry and the readers were from left to right in the photograph:- Mary Gentry, (Branch Leader) Beryl Fletcher, Marianna Poliszczuk (Diocesan President), Jackie Boyle, Jessica Good, Hilary King, Revd Donald Bish (retired) and Roger Gentry (organist).

Fiona Foreman



The Shelter Box Scheme began 13 years ago as a small Cornish charity striving to help families devastated by disaster. The charity now reaches thousands of families in every corner of the world. The box contains enough survival equipment to support 10 people and includes a tent, cooking and other tools, solar lighting, groundsheets and survival blankets. When empty, the box can be used as a washing/baby bath or a cradle.

Members in the photograph from left to right: Beryl Fletcher, Hilary King, Mary Gentry (branch leader) and Jackie Boyle.

Fiona Foreman

Around the Diocese

St John the Baptist Church, Margate

The Mothers' Union held an open morning in the hall and it was an opportunity to tell people what the MU is about. I attended and complimented the Revd Lesley Valiant for the poster she prepared which promoted the wider activities of MU. The event had been widely circulated and included a Fair Trade stall and a breakfast. A good number of people came and it was considered a worthwhile event and finished with midday prayers act of worship.

Marianna Poliszczuk



Bredgar, Bicknor, Frinsted, Milstead and Wormshill 5 parishes Church

Banners were displayed at the Benefice coffee morning at Frinsted Village Hall along with a display of past and present work of our MU. The Branch was formed in 1927 with the parishes of Frinsted and Wormshill and then amalgamated with the 5 churches Bicknor, Bredgar, Frinsted, Milstead and Wormshill. Freshly brewed coffee was served along with cakes displaying the 140th Anniversary Year toppings.

Pat Hobday



MU Knitting -for Special Care Baby Units

As the babies 'knock off' their bonnets we are being asked by Pembury to attach ribbons for the newborns' hats (see picture). Last quarter our knitters forwarded to the Pembury Hospital Special Care Baby Unit, 4 newborn hats; 45 baby hats (assorted sizes); 16 premature size matinee sets and, to the William Harvey hospital 17 first size and 20 second size, 'vent' premature special care bonnets, which do have ribbons. This work continues throughout the year therefore your gifts of wool are gratefully received. Anyone wishing to knit for SCN twiddle muffs for Alzheimer sufferers can contact our Administrator,  Ian Bradley.



Marianna Poliszczuk

September

Psalm 74, verses 15 – 17

“It was you who opened springs and streams; you dried-up the ever flowing rivers. The day is yours, and also the night; You established the sun and the moon.”

We are all like springs and streams of water. Like the very veins in our body that keep us going, keep us alive. We stretch out like the streams bringing and sharing our faith with others. With freshness of the clean waters.

We have the day and the night. We have order. A time to sleep and a time to wake. A time to be busy and a time to rest and pray. We can give thanks that we are not in areas of drought or famine. In great risk of fire and devastating storms. We can get help, we have one of the greatest gifts given to mankind. We can communicate.

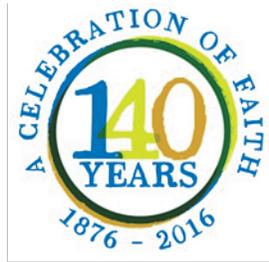
“Where streams of living water flows my ransomed soul he leadeth, and where the verdant pastures grow with food celestial feedeth”

The King of Love my Shepherd is
Words by - Henry Williams Baker

Lord help us with all our gifts to use them wisely.
To share them with others.
May our streams never run dry and cup be ever overflowing . Amen

Please remember in your prayers:

Thursday 22nd to Friday 23rd September	140th Celebration Service and General Meeting
Thursday 29th September	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon, St Gabriel’s Chapel
Thursday 29th September	Finance & Diocesan Services Meeting



Together in Prayer

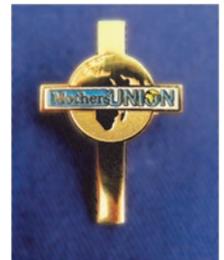
July - August - September 2016

Margaret Bradford - Pastoral Advisor
Maidstone Archdeaconry

For long days and warm evenings, for sun, and for afternoons in the garden,
we thank you, Lord
for cool drinks and summer salads, for relaxation and summer games,
we thank you, Lord
for summer holidays and summer outings, for opportunities to see new places, and to renew acquaintance with familiar ones,
we thank you, Lord
for time to reflect, to renew energies, to plan ahead,
we thank you, Lord.
For summer’s work as well as summer leisure, for summer storms as well as summer stillness,
we thank you, Lord.

Lord of the year, and Lord of years, all times are in your hand; seasons of growth, seasons of refreshments, seasons of waiting and seasons of fruition, are all from you.
Lord, you have given us time. Move us to use it that we may love and please you daily. **Amen**

Anon



July

Ecclesiastes 3, verse 1

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under heaven.”

As the days grow longer with early sunrise and the evenings into late sunshine, let us take time to think about the summer produce we are using. Where does it come from, who produced it, could we take more time to think about the origins of what we are consuming.

Mothers' Union across the world have a few food projects. One such project is the loan of chickens to them. They are able to sell the eggs which enables them to raise enough money for educating their children.

Another story is of the loan of goats. Being able to care for them and sell the milk, again to help with family needs.

“Summer and winter, and spring-time and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To thy great faithfulness, mercy and love”

Great is thy faithfulness - words by Thomas O Chisholm

Let us give thanks for the abundance of fresh groceries available to us all seasons of the year. We pray for those who rise early and stay late to bring us such rewards. Those who tend the fields, those working in factories and those who make deliveries.

Amen

Please remember in your prayers:

Thursday 28th July	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon, St Gabriel's Chapel
Friday 29th July	Copy deadline for Newsletter
Saturday 30th July	Saying Goodbye Service for bereaved parents in Cathedral at 12.30 pm

August

Psalm 24, verses 1 - 2

“The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.”

“The world and all who live in it”

“ No man is a stranger only someone who we have not yet met”

Recently whilst giving a sermon in my local church I looked out on the congregation to find so many people I did not yet know. New houses on new developments in the village. Families full of hope in their new surroundings.

As I drive my car I pass so many such new developments all over our diocese. Perhaps I also pass many people who do not speak my language, have no permanent home, a job, security and a sense of belonging.

“When I needed a neighbour were you there,
were you there.
When I needed a neighbour were you there.
And the creed and the colour
and the name won't matter
were you there”.

When I needed a neighbour - words by Sydney Bertram Carter

Lord may we never pass by on the other side.
Give us the tools to help where we can.
To pray as we should.
To be aware. **Amen**

Please remember in your prayers:

Tuesday 9th August	Mary Sumner Founders Day, 140th Anniversary
Thursday 25th August	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon, St Gabriel's Chapel