**St Dunstan’s Mothers’ Union**

Members of the Mothers’ Union are extremely proud of our founder, Mary Sumner and how her vision has shaped our organisation today.

On the 9thAugust each year we celebrate her life and achievements. This year, I was thinking about the early beginnings of our own branch of the MU at St Dunstan’s and of the women who were the first members. They must have sat in the same pews in church we do today nearly 100 years ago – probably heavily corseted and sporting 20 inch waists! I wondered what they were like and what they would think of the world we live in now.

Since the year 1918 there have been enormous changes to our world, many for the better, particularly for women. The early members may be pleased to know the Mothers’ Union is still there and going strong – perhaps a little larger than the one they knew, now with over 4 million members throughout the world. As always, MU is working hard to make a difference and constantly trying to make our world a better place for families to live in.

Recently, I was interested to hear the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Most Revd. Justin Welby say of the MU in Sudan, “You are the heart and love of the Church. May God bless you.” In a sermon at the inauguration of the Anglican Communion’s newest and 39th Province, Sudan, he also said, “Provinces of Mothers’ Union around the world are praying for you today and always.” I wonder what the St Dunstan’s MU members of 1918 would make of this amazing achievement - where the Sudanese MU has initiated illiteracy programmes for women and encouraged many to save and be able to set up their own businesses.

I hope you’ll be able to join us in some of the events we are planning for next year to celebrate the St Dunstan’s MU centenary year. We’ll let you have all the details as they emerge.

On Monday, 7th August we held our Annual Cream Tea in Sally Steele’s pretty garden in Scotsdale Close, and unlike previous years, it didn’t rain. Vast quantities of cream scones and cups of tea were consumed and by the noise level - there was lots of chatting and laughter too - a good time was had by all. Thank you again Sally for being such an excellent hostess.

**Coming up in our programme :**

On Thursday, 31st August at 12.00 noon in the church hall we will be holding our annual MU Wave of Prayer. Please come and join us as we pray together for other members in our linked dioceses.

On Monday, 4th September we have a change to our scheduled programme - our Mission Priest Felicity has kindly agreed to speak to us on her own personal journey to a vocation in ordained ministry. Please come and join us – you’ll be very welcome.

**Sue Wass**