



[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FULL NEWSLETTER](#) IN YOUR  
BROWSER

THEME FOR 2024:  
TRANSFORMATION – NOW!

# OUR NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2024

DIOCESAN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION  
RESULTS



Dear friends

As you will know, the new triennium begins in January 2025. Our current Diocesan President, Deirdre Moll has now served two full terms as Diocesan President and, under the terms of our constitution, cannot stand for re-election again.

During spring of this year, we invited nominations for candidates willing to stand as Diocesan President of Birmingham MU for the 2025-2028 Triennium.

We received nominations for one candidate for the role of Diocesan President, and the Right Reverend Dr Michael Volland, Bishop of Birmingham, has formally approved that nomination. With only one nomination and the approval

of the Bishop, the DP election process as laid out in our Regulations is now complete with no voting required.

**The Board of Trustees are therefore delighted to announce that Rowena Nicholls is formally elected as Diocesan President-elect for the Triennium beginning January 2025.**

Rowena will be well known to you all through her long-standing membership and numerous roles within Birmingham MU - and in particular through her current tenure as Diocesan Vice President. She also serves as MU area coordinator for the South group of branches, and is branch leader at St Laurence Northfield MU. She has also served as Trustee and is one of the MUe reps for Birmingham Diocese.

We invite you all to join us in congratulating Rowena, and to pray that God will guide her as she prepares for her new role.

We will shortly begin the process of nominating candidates for the Diocesan Vice President and Trustee positions. Nomination papers and further details will be sent out to branches over the coming weeks.

May God's blessing be with you all

**MU Birmingham Board of Trustees**

**MESSAGES FROM NATIONAL MU**

**THANK YOU LETTER FROM KING CHARLES**



We are delighted to share some heartwarming news from His Royal Highness, King Charles III with our members and supporters. When the news of his majesty's health struggles with prostate cancer followed by that of Princess Catherine, Princess of Wales, the leadership of Mothers' Union extended their heartfelt prayers and well wishes to the King and the family.

We are delighted to share that King Charles has responded to our letter with a message of deep appreciation for the kindness and support shown by Mothers' Union. He conveyed that our prayers and well wishes have been a source of comfort and strength to him and his family.

This response from the King is a testament to the power of compassion and community. It reaffirms our commitment to support not only our local communities but also those who lead our nation.

Let us continue to keep the King and the Royal Family in our prayers, wishing them strength and good health for the future.

## **DIOCESAN NEWS**

---

### **DIOCESAN VICE PRESIDENT ELECTIONS**



**Following Rowena's appointment as Diocesan President-elect, we are seeking nominations for the role of Diocesan Vice-President. We will be seeking TWO individuals for this role, to work closely with Rowena. VP nominations will open on 19th June 2024, and close on 17th July 2024.**

If you would like to nominate someone for this position, please speak with them first to make sure they are happy to be nominated, and submit your nomination paperwork before the closing date.

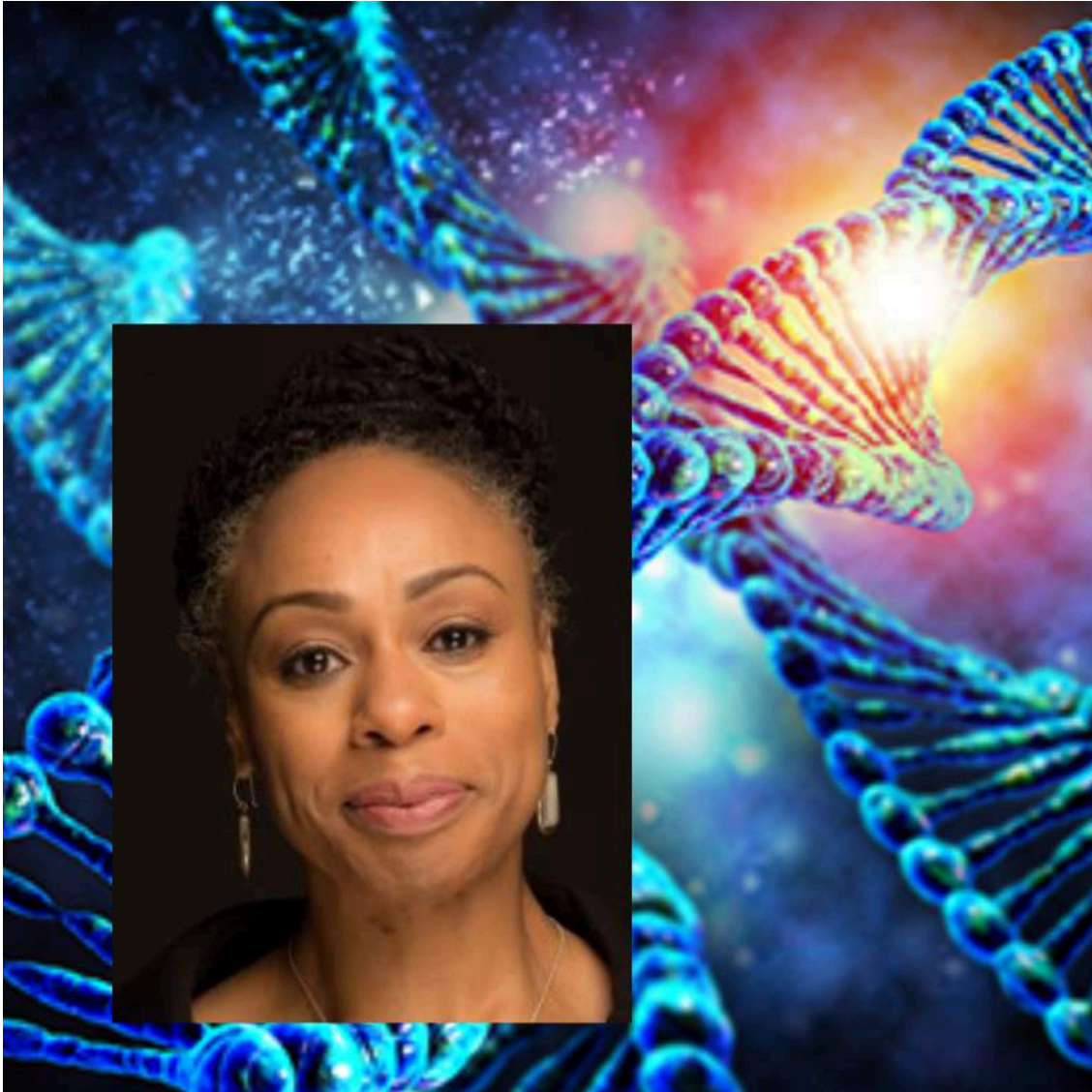
If you wish to stand for nomination as VP, now is the time to speak with those who may wish to nominate you and to seek their support.

If you would like to know more about the VP role and whether it would be right for you, please get in touch. Our Trustees, Rowena (who is our current VP), and Deirdre Moll our current DP, are happy to discuss the role informally with any prospective candidates. This includes explaining what the post entails and how that may work with your own lifestyle and existing commitments. Please contact Liz, Diocesan Secretary, if you would like to speak with them..

Digital and postal nomination packs will be distributed next week. All completed nomination forms should be sent directly to our returning officer, Jackie Brocklebank. You can reach Jackie by email: [brockle241@gmail.com](mailto:brockle241@gmail.com), or by post at **130 Tower Road, Sutton Coldfield, B75 5EE.**

[More information on the MU election process](https://muenterprises.org/birmingham/resources-the-constitution-and-regulations/) can be found in the **Regulations (2019) and Constitution (2019)** on our website:  
<https://muenterprises.org/birmingham/resources-the-constitution-and-regulations/>

## QUIET DAY - 22nd June



Tickets for the 2024 Quiet Day are still available! The details are as follows:

**Saturday 6th July, 10am - 4pm**  
**at The Dupuis Retreat and Conference**  
**Centre, St Paul's Convent, 94 Selly Park Road, B29 7LL.**

Coffee will be served from 10am, with prayers, reflection, and activities from 10.30am until 3pm. The cost (subsidised by MU Birmingham) is £20 per person and includes room hire, refreshments, buffet lunch and afternoon tea with cakes

Our leader will be The Reverend Colleen Shekerie, Chaplain of Birmingham Cathedral, and this year's theme is:

***Seeing is believed... The Invisible made visible.***

Please share this invitation with your branch members and parish - both members and non-members are welcome to attend.

**Booking is essential for this event and tickets must be paid for in advance. There are two steps to confirming your ticket.**

**Step 1: RESERVE YOUR PLACE**

**Contact us at [office@mubham.org.uk](mailto:office@mubham.org.uk) with the following details:**

- Name
- Contact email
- Phone number
- Number of tickets required
- Details of any specific dietary requirements

**Step 2: PAY FOR YOUR TICKET**

**Payment should be made by Monday 24th June to secure your booking.**

The easiest way to pay is by a direct bank transfer to our account. Contact Liz in the office for our banking details to make your transfer.

**BISHOP ANNE HOLLINGHURST**



MU Birmingham would like to congratulate the Rt Revd Anne Hollinghurst on her appointment as the new Principal of The Queen's Foundation for Ecumenical Theological Education. Her new role will commence from the end of September 2024, and she will succeed Prof Clive Marsh, who is retiring.

Bishop Anne is currently the Bishop of Aston, and for 16 months was the Acting Bishop of Church of England Birmingham. She is a Diocesan member of MU Birmingham and will be known to you all through her work in supporting our Quiet Days and Festival Services.

The eucharist service to mark her ministry as Bishop of Aston is now confirmed as Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Sept, 3.30 pm at Birmingham Cathedral - please contact Bishop Anne's office for further details.

We wish Bishop Anne all the very best in her new role and thank her for her tireless support of MU Birmingham.

## FESTIVAL SERVICE





It was a joyful occasion when Mothers' Union members from around the Diocese met to celebrate their annual Festival Service at The Cathedral Church of St Philip on Saturday 20 April. The Officiant was The Rt Revd Dr Michael Volland, Bishop of Birmingham, who, we were delighted to know had agreed to be Patron of Mothers' Union in Birmingham. It was a happy surprise to most when Deirdre Moll, Diocesan President, announced that Bishop Michael was joining the Mothers' Union, and Deirdre went on to enrol him.

During the service also Sandra Jongwe was commissioned as a Trustee and it was great to be able to welcome them both into their new roles in Mothers' Union; Bishop Michael as Patron and member of Mothers' Union and Sandra in her new position of Trustee.

At the request of members, the Zimbabwean Singers led the singing for two hymns: Mambo worudo mufudzi (The King of love my shepherd is) and Areruya! Kuna Jesu (Alleluya! Sing to Jesus). Their singing and accompanying drums filled the Cathedral with such a joyful sound. Everyone was smiling, tapping their feet and keeping up with the rhythm as we tried to get our tongues round the words sung in Shona! Thank you Zimbabwe singers and drummers – you were great.

The Intercessions were led by three members of the Worldwide Group, Margaret, Sue and Claire, and were based on our worldwide links, both Mothers' Union and Diocesan. (A link to the intercessions is provided at the end of this article. Please feel free to use these either for private prayer or during a

service.) The Preacher was Maggie Forknell, Co-Warden of Readers, who gave us an engaging and inspiring sermon in which she encouraged us, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to do extraordinary things for Him. To transform the lives of those we 'find' on our way or those amongst who we live and work'. (A link to the sermon may be found at the end of this article).

Of course, part of the pleasure of these Diocesan services is catching up with old friends and it was great to speak to others and marvel about how long we have been attending the annual service. Thanks are due to Solihull branches who provided the refreshments and to all the Cathedral staff who made us so welcome. I do hope you enjoy the photographs taken at the service. If you weren't able to attend this year make a date for next year.

Claire Laland, Past President Mothers' Union Birmingham Diocese  
Canon Emeritus Birmingham Cathedral

*Click here to read a copy of Maggie's sermon:*

<https://mcusercontent.com/6afb734e6d730cb8271a181be/files/dcef3c7b-089a-7a66-754d-efaa52094d17/MaggiesermonApril24.docx>

*Click here to read the prayers of intercession:*

[https://mcusercontent.com/6afb734e6d730cb8271a181be/files/9a768f65-c01d-71d1-db10-1adea0824e46/Intercessions\\_for\\_aricle\\_re\\_service\\_May\\_2024.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/6afb734e6d730cb8271a181be/files/9a768f65-c01d-71d1-db10-1adea0824e46/Intercessions_for_aricle_re_service_May_2024.docx)



**GIFT AID**



Since the government has frozen personal tax allowances more pensioners with private or company pensions have found themselves paying UK tax.

Mothers' Union can claim back the tax you have paid via "Gift Aid" (25% or  $\frac{1}{4}$  of your membership and/or one off donations) from HM Revenue & Customs provided that you have paid sufficient UK tax in the year to each 5 April. For example, if you have paid £112.60 tax then you can Gift Aid up to £450 so even with a small amount of tax you can Gift Aid your membership. You only need to have paid £8 income tax to Gift Aid your £29 membership.

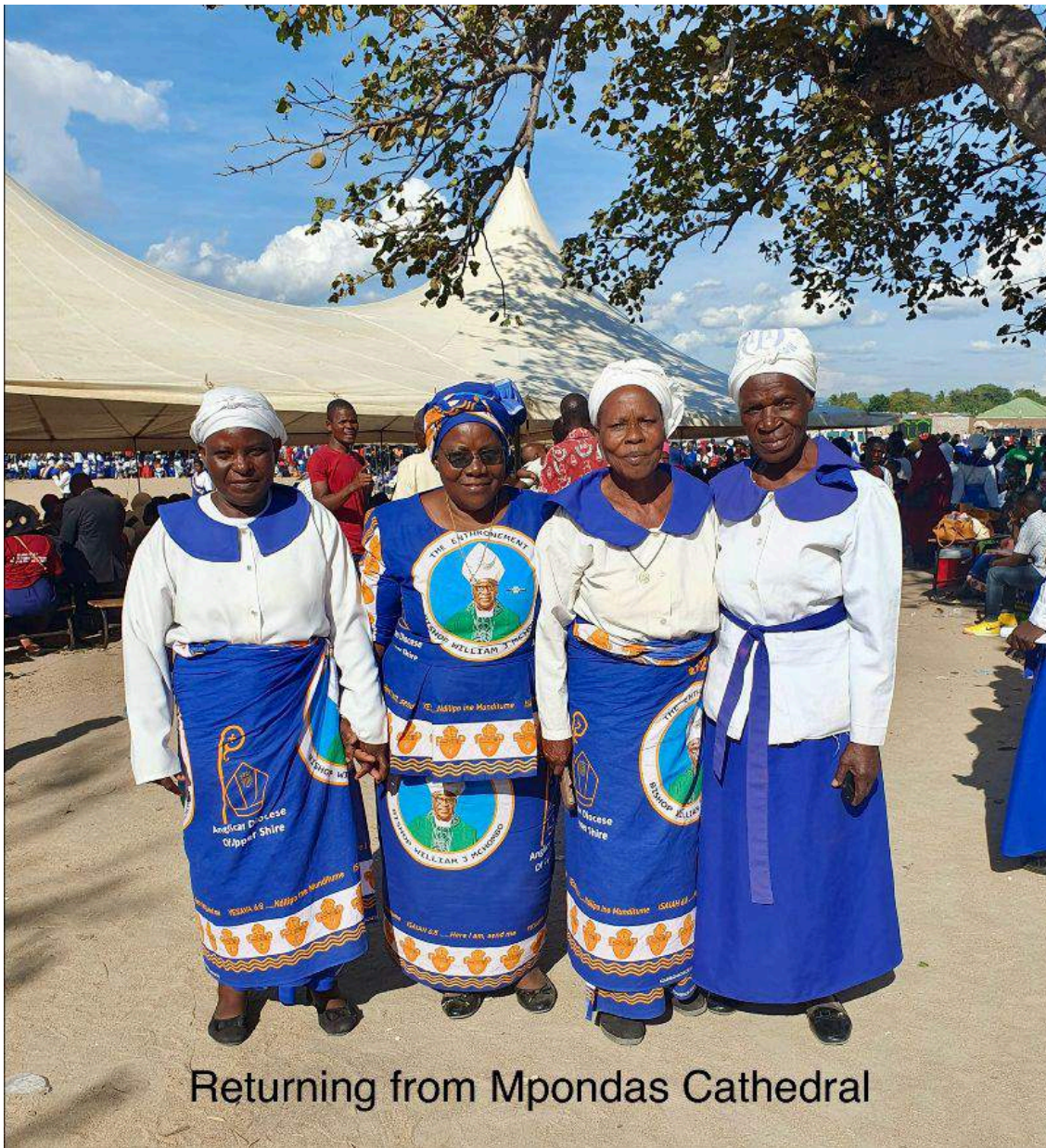
This is an important source of additional income for Mothers' Union so please see if you are eligible to sign up for Gift Aid by checking your P60 which shows the amount of tax you may have paid. If you don't have any income other than the state pension and other benefits and don't pay any UK tax then you are not eligible.

If you are paying tax and wish to allow Mothers' Union to claim back tax then please ask one of your Branch Officers for a Gift Aid declaration.

Thank you for reading this

Adrian Harris - Gift Aid Administrator

**LINK DIOCESE - MALAWI**



### **Enthronement of Bishop William in Upper Shire (Malawi) Diocese.**

On Apr 20, 2024 the Enthronement of William Chombo as 3rd Anglican Bishop of the Anglican Diocese of Upper Shire (ADUS) took place at St. Peters and Paul Cathedral in Mangochi district .

It was a very exciting and colourful service and we were honoured that the State President, Dr Lazarus Chakwera graced the occasion. All the guilds in the church were there: Mothers' Union, St Agnes Guild, St Monica Guild, St Veronica Guild, Fathers' Union and Brigades were in attendance together with many clergy.

Agnes tells us that they really enjoyed the service and the preaching was very inspiring. It was based on Isaiah's calling. We heard that Bishop Mchomba first refused to accept the post. But after the Provincial meeting, when asked again, he answered God's call as Isaiah did. 'Here I am send me.'

You couldn't mistake the distinctive blue and white uniforms worn by the Mothers Union members from all parts of the diocese as well as some visiting from other diocese who had come to congratulate to congratulate Bishop William. We are sure you will join with us in sending best wishes to Bishop William and his staff.

Agnes Mkoko was one of the many Mothers' Union members that were present at the beautiful service, and she sent the picture above.

## UPDATES FROM OUR PROJECTS

### AFIA



We received a lovely letter of thanks from a family who we supported to visit Drayton Manor Park for an overnight stay. Here is an excerpt from the letter:

*"I wanted to take the time and opportunity to thank yourself and the committee for our lovely gift of our weekend trip . The kids absolutely loved it and made memories for life . Your charity has helped us so very much over the years we are truly blessed . Thanks again"*

If you know any organisations supporting families who may benefit from support by AFIA to access a short break or holiday, please contact the MU office.

### WOMENS' AID



Womens' Aid are now collecting donations to support vulnerable women and children over the summer period. They are particularly in need of the following.

- Vouchers for days out
- Garden and outdoor toys
- Art and craft materials
- Suntan lotion

They also have an ongoing need for toiletries and clothing.

Please contact Diana Murungu - MU Birmingham's project lead - for more information

## PRISONS PROJECT



800 Christmas cards were distributed between Swinfen YOI and HMP Birmingham. Cards are no longer free from MSH, and have to be bought at cost. 120 chocolate gifts were also donated to Swinfen. Presents donated by branches were also distributed – some branches sent money meaning I was able to buy in additional gifts. I attended prison on Christmas day and witnessed two young men being baptised and confirmed.

MU Birmingham have three volunteers who provide weekly cover for Sunday visits to Swinfen. However, the Prisons Project requires additional volunteers with training in bereavement support – please contact project lead Rita Evans via the Diocesan Office if you can help.

- Rita Evans, Prison Project lead

## NEWS FROM OUR BRANCHES

**Here is the latest news from our branches across the Diocese.**

ST ALPHEGE SOLIHULL



Members of St Alphege Mothers' Union hosted the reception for the Bishop of Birmingham, following the Solihull and Yardley Deanery Service at St Alphege Church on Sunday 28th April. It was a time of fellowship and friendship and was a great opportunity to talk to Bishop Michael.

Thank you to everyone who made the delicious cakes and to people for their generous donation to Mothers' Union AFIA fund. Revd Nick enrolled two new members - Susan Camm and Julie Norman into St Alphege Branch of Mothers' Union, at our meeting on Thursday 2nd May.

**DATE FOR YOUR DIARY:** We are holding an open Zoom meeting on 5th August where Susan Leach will be speaking on the subject of the suffragettes movement. Please contact Liz in the office (or Susan Leach at St Alphege branch) for further details.

ZIMBABWE BRANCH





We attended the MU Festival service in April and led the congregation in two songs of worship. We were also delighted to see one of our members - Sandra Jongwe - enrolled as a Trustee for MU.

#### ST LAURENCE, NORTHFIELD



#### FAMILY CRAFT SESSIONS

St Laurence Mothers' Union has held Family Craft Sessions during school holidays to provide a free activity for families to enjoy. In October and February half terms the sessions were from 10am – 2pm with a free lunch but due to

their popularity they were shortened to two 2 hour sessions to offer more places! A grant was received from the MU Pat Law Legacy Fund to help set up the project, and parents make donations, if they are able to afford it.

#### ST JAMES, HILL



In May members of St. James', Hill & All Saints, Sutton Coldfield, were led by Jackie Brocklebank and Sally Cox to think about the future of Mothers' Union and what changes we can make to encourage new members.

#### ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, KNOWLE



In Knowle in May we celebrated our branch 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary, starting with a service in church. This gave a great opportunity to thank God for our past and to share happy reminiscences and amusing stories from our members as well as enjoying listening to our guest speaker Martin Stephenson, who not only gave a message of encouragement but delighted members with news of his family connection with Mary Sumner herself!

We spent time praying for the future, and our vicar Geoff Lanham dedicated our

new banner, reflecting MU's emphasis on Christian family life. Then followed time in our hall, with a drama written by Margaret Fulford, displays and scrapbooks to bring back memories and lots of chat over afternoon tea. How wonderful it was to be able to welcome amongst our guests, some past members, current trustees and many who had helped us along the way.

Whilst we have just celebrated 60 years, we are aware that there was a branch in Knowle back in 1895, but records suggest that it had petered out by 1920, but oddly, it seems to have existed briefly in 1931 - all a bit of a mystery!

Anyway, back to 2024 and we are now looking forward to a visit in June of Lin Nugent, looking at domestic abuse and the Rise Up project and then in July to Rachel and Mike Hill telling us about work with Friends International amongst overseas students in Birmingham. We believe that we have much for which to thank our Loving Heavenly Father!

- Ann Bower, Knowle.

## AROUND THE DIOCESE — NEWS OF MEMBERS



### **Birthdays**

#### **ST LAURENCE, NORTHFIELD**

Marian Evans - 90 year

Al Wallace, St Laurence - 80 years

Marian Evans, St Laurence - 90 years

### **Membership Anniversaries**

#### **ST LAURENCE, NORTHFIELD**

Barbara Croft, St Laurence - 50 years

Margund Rowe, St Laurence - 65 years

### **In Memorium**

#### **ST JAMES, HILL**

Gill Clifford - a person of great faith and determination who will be much missed.

## MOTHERS UNION ENTERPRISES



The [MUe website](#) sells a variety of gifts and cards, including food hampers, childrens' gifts, and cards for seasonal celebrations.

Birmingham MU receives a commission from Mary Sumner House for all items purchased through the website, or through our MUe representatives. So, if you're ordering online, **don't forget to say that you're from Birmingham Diocese so we can earn a commission for the Diocesan funds!** In 2021 we received £589.79 in commissions – some very valuable income for our work here in Birmingham. Some Dioceses get three times this amount – so come on, let's get ordering!

Contact our MUe reps if you would like to order items directly from the diocese. Don't forget, they are always very willing to come along to any branch meetings or events with their box of goodies!

Our MUe representatives for Birmingham are:  
**Lynn Penny and Rowena Nicholls.**

Please contact the office on [office@mubham.org.uk](mailto:office@mubham.org.uk) for more information on placing an order

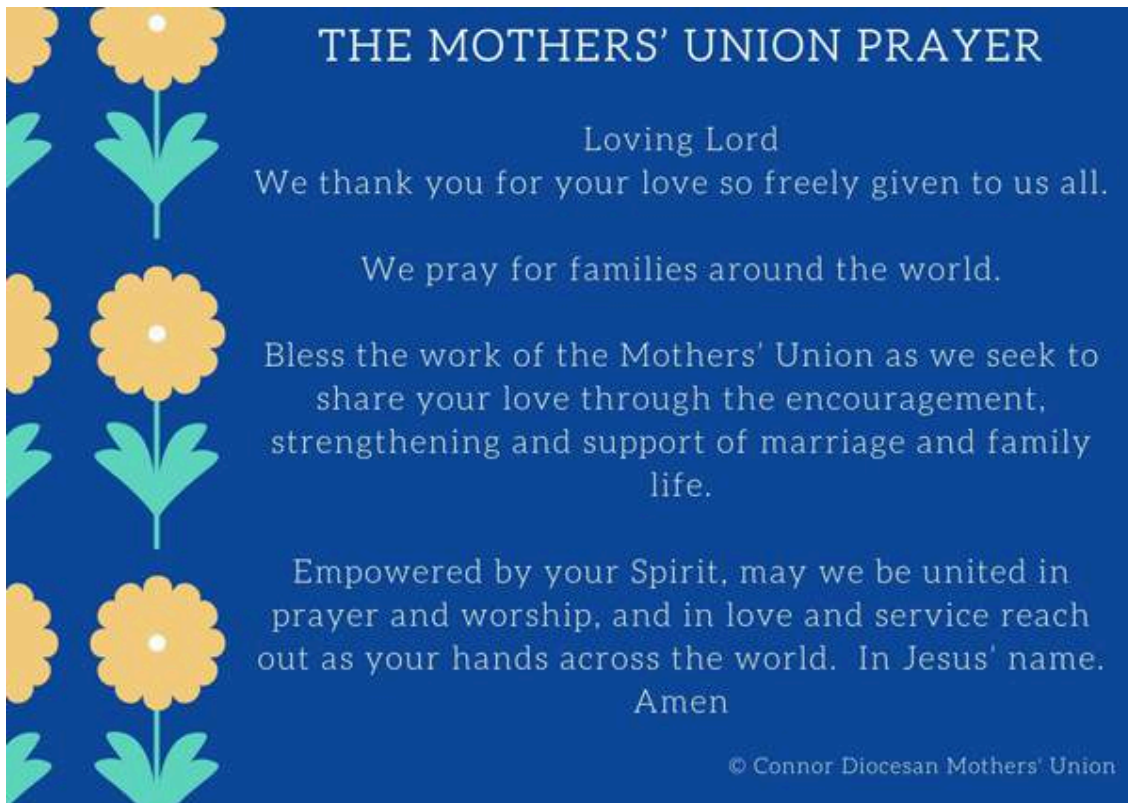
The MUe website can be found at: <https://mueshop.org>

## FIND US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/BirminghamMothersUnion/>

Twitter: [https://twitter.com/birmingham\\_mu](https://twitter.com/birmingham_mu)

Website: <https://muenterprises.org/birmingham/>



Please get in touch if you require more information.

With warm wishes,  
Deirdre Moll, Diocesan President

---

**Find Out More**

---

[View this email in your browser](#)



---

*Copyright ©2019 Birmingham Mothers' Union, All rights reserved.*

**Mothers' Union Office**

The Church of England Birmingham  
JOHN CADBURY HOUSE  
190 Corporation Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6QD

0121 643 0938

Email: [office@mubham.org.uk](mailto:office@mubham.org.uk)

Want to change how you receive these emails?  
You can update your preferences or unsubscribe from this list.

---

This email was sent to <<Email Address>>

[why did I get this?](#) [unsubscribe from this list](#) [update subscription preferences](#)

Mothers' Union Diocese of Birmingham · 1 Colmore Row · Birmingham, B3 2BJ · United Kingdom

