



Listen, observe, act - in step with God.

New Members

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

All Soul's Church, Cheriton

Celia Caswell

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Michael's Church, Maidstone

Frances Callaghan, Irene Horton & Margaret Gatehouse
(transferred from Zambia)

St Michael & All Angels Church,
Marden

Jenny Smith, Alison Bonney Mara Lane
and Kathy Young

St Nicholas Church, Allington,
Maidstone

June Bagshaw and Margaret Jepson

St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne

Andrew Cesana, Anne Holton
and Jenny Jansen

Congratulations

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Andrew's Church, Barming Heath

Diamond Wedding Anniversary,
Pauline and Malcolm Holbrock

St Nicholas Church, Allington

80th Birthday, Hilary King

St Laurence Fellowship Group
Hawkhurst

50th Wedding Anniversary
Peggy and Mervyn Stone

St. Mary and St. Sexburgha, Minster
Abbey, Sheppey.

98th Birthday, Joan Aaron and Gladys Back
99th Birthday, Edna Illingworth

FROM THE EDITOR...



A new year and a new triennium and so may I wish all those taking on new roles, locally, nationally and worldwide, the courage and strength to carry out their duties as best as they are able. We have received an email as follows:

“Receive greetings from the Diocese of Kajo-Keji in Moyo. Thank you for sending your diocesan Mothers’ Union news letter. It is very encouraging and informing.

I am delighted to inform you that MU- DKK has now a new MU development Co-ordinator. She is called Cilivian Namadi, a teacher by profession and had worked with Children Evangelism

Fellowship of South Sudan. I will forward this email to her so that you can share more with her. Thank you,
+Emmanuel Bp DKK.” There are more updates from the Kajo Keji link on page 5.

David Horwood

Front Cover Photo: This is our new Worldwide President, Sheran Harper.

Dear friends,

I am thrilled to walk with you on this journey into our next triennium as we are walking shoulder to shoulder to be in step with God.

A Cross of Nails was presented in Mary Sumner House with our induction into the Cross of Nails Community. This acknowledges and affirms the work MU members are contributing to Peace and Reconciliation across the world.



Let us celebrate and renew our connections with our monthly cathedral prayer time. I am proposing that the Archdeaconries adopt the different months and encourage their branches to attend worship at Noon of the 'last Thursday' in the Crypt, St Gabriel's Chapel.

Saturday 16th March will be a Diocesan celebration day of our overseas links. Every midday we join our fellowship of prayer with members around the world and in turn the members in Canterbury are being prayed for on the annual worldwide Wave of Prayer days 16 - 18 March.

MULOA outcomes of our conversation for what MU DOES well in this Diocese - Acts of kindness and Prayer were the runaway leaders followed by campaigning, working with church, and coming alongside others. Each year, Mothers' Union helps an average of 2,500 struggling families have a break. We look forward to the AFIA week at Lodge Hill in August and helping these families build relationships with those around them to better their future by having time together making special memories.

We welcome growing our new central partnership with The Clewer Initiative. The Hidden Voices resources for schools with Children with a family member in prison and further, to raising our awareness of modern slavery from nail bars to car wash.

The Festival Celebration Service is in the Cathedral on Saturday 27 April. Bring out the banners as we welcome all Trustees and Officers for the new triennium but also to say our farewell to our patron Bishop Trevor Willmott who has announced his retirement from May 2019.

*Grace and Peace, Marianna Poliszczuk Diocesan President,
email: marianna2@compuserve.com*

St Michael and All Angels Church, Maidstone

During a Morning Service on Sunday two new members were enrolled and one transferred from her previous branch in Zambia.

We welcomed Marianna Poliszczuk (Diocesan President) and Jean Sweetman (Archdeaconry President) as well as members from St Andrew's and St Nicholas who joined us in welcoming those newly enrolled.

The new members were Irene Horton and Frances Callaghan, while Margaret Gatehouse was transferred to St Michaels.

Daphne Tester



St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne, Evening Branch

Last July on one of the hottest days of the year we gave birth to the second MU branch, with the inauguration service, enrolment and transfer of members, conducted by Revd Lesley Jones, who had spent the afternoon with members of the original branch, ironing many items of school uniform for the



community wardrobe scheme. The service took place in Church House where 3 new members, Jenny Jansen, Anne Holton and Andrew Cesana were enrolled and Anne Holman-Baker, Patricia Holman-Baker, Barry Lucas and Valerie Hemsley-Flint were transferred from the afternoon branch. After the service refreshments were kindly provided and served by Anne Holton.

Valerie Hemsley-Flint

Around The Diocese

Holy Trinity Church, Margate

London Marathon Walk

A group of MU members took on and completed a walking marathon to raise funds and awareness of our beloved MU. It was a great experience, a day filled with laughter, aching feet, great companionship and care. Thank you to Archdeaconry President, Margaret Horwood for the beautiful prayer you sent to start us on our way.

We have raised £1,230 so thank you to everyone who supported us with donations and prayers.

Rita Pengelly



Worldwide President



Our new Worldwide President is Mrs Sheran Harper.

Sheran is from Guyana, part of the Anglican Church in the Province of the West Indies and has made history as the first non-British Worldwide President of MU. “I am delighted to accept the role of Worldwide President for the new triennium. I feel very excited and privileged and I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our members who voted to make this dream a reality,” says Sheran.

From the beginning of 2019, Sheran will lead our newly elected Board of Trustees made up of 11 trustees – five from the provinces within Britain & Ireland; and six from the rest of the world. If you wish to see more about Sheran visit the Mothers’ Union website.

David Horwood

St Martin & St Paul's Church, Canterbury

Silver Celebration of "Fisherfolk"

In September 1993, St Martin and St Paul's Mothers' Union started a Baby and Toddler Group and named it Fisherfolk. Twenty-five years on, and it is still going from strength to strength, now open on two mornings a week to cope with the increasing numbers. It has continued in the same pattern, with toys, refreshments and singing, and is run by the branch members, who get to know the mums/carers who bring their children along and chat and help during the morning. It is difficult to imagine the number of children and adults who have been helped and touched by this group over the 25 years.



To mark the occasion, the branch held a celebratory lunch and invited past and present helpers and attendees to come along. A lovely time was had by all, and what a joy it was to see some of the "little" ones of years gone by all grown up! A special cake was cut by Christopher Milnes, the son of one of the founder members, June Milnes, ably assisted by some of the children. The past was remembered, and the future toasted.

Sue Spillett



St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne

June Gouge presents a Sports Shield to House Captains at South Avenue Primary School.

June Gouge

Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 8th February 2019. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: boycieboycie@icloud.com.

Together in Prayer

January - February - March 2019

The Venerable Jo Kelly-Moore, Archdeacon of Canterbury

Jesus said 'I am'

As a new year gets underway we find ourselves almost daily encountering St John's Gospel in the set readings. From the great 'In the beginning was the Word' proclamation of John 1 for Christmas Day to the journey of the days to Epiphany we have encountered the truth of the Word become flesh. As we know, the method by which the Gospel of John invites us to understand and to know Christ, the Word, is markedly different to that of the synoptic Gospels, Matthew, Mark and Luke. One of the well-known features of that difference is the seven 'I am' sayings of Jesus. As 2019 begins then, *Together in Prayer* will invite us to reflect on three of these 'I am' sayings'. Jesus said 'I am the gate', 'I am the light of the world' and 'I am the bread of life'. Don't hesitate however to venture into the others as well!

Part of the genius of the seven 'I am' sayings of Jesus is that none of the imagery has ceased to make sense. While we might need a little bit of interpretive unpacking, two millennia on we all still understand, for example, the notions of a shepherd, a vine, a light and a gate. And bread - well bread remains a daily staple in our diets for most of us.

In the concluding verses of his Gospel John states ... *these things are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the son of God and that through believing you may have life in his name*. As we ponder and pray, may you know that life, in all its fullness.

A prayer to set us on our way:

Jesus you said 'I am the bread of life', nourish me as I pray.
You said 'I am the light of the world', help me to walk in your light.
You said 'I am the gate', welcome me into your sure and certain love.
You said 'I am the good shepherd', keep me open to your leading.
You said 'I am the resurrection and the life', may my life reflect yours.
You said 'I am the way, the truth and the life', walking in your way may I bear your truth.
You said 'I am the true vine', help me always to stay close to you, always.
Amen.

January

Jesus said '*I am the Gate*' John 10:9

This third of the 'I am' sayings of Jesus is most likely the least known of the seven. Jesus said 'I am the gate'. After all, it emerges in the midst of one of the best known when Jesus says 'I am the good shepherd'. That is the context of its known interpretation then.

Far from the open green fields of our county, in a very different landscape farming of the ancient world would have seen the farmer know his small flock well, and indeed seek safe lodging for them each night to protect them from the risks of theft or attack.

With that in mind the image of the gate holds for us several key images as we pray. First it is a statement of identity. Jesus says I am the only way into the sheep fold, the way to God, and therefore to life, is through me. Others have come and have tried to offer entry by other means, but 'I am the gate'. What is more those who enter, who are known, are being saved. They are being brought into the fold that is life rather than being snatched up for their destruction.

The gate is the only way to life.

Let us pray ...

Jesus says *to you* 'I am the gate'. Let Christ lead you into God's love.
Jesus knows *you* by name. Be reminded that you are known by God and precious in his sight. Hear God calling you by name. The gate is the way to safety and to life. Where in your journey, or the journeys of those dear to you, do you need that assurance? Bring those situations to God in prayer.



Jesus you are the gate.
You know me by name and you welcome me.
Draw me deeper into you.
Keep me and those I care for safe in your love.
In your holy and eternal name. **Amen.**

Together in Prayer

February

Jesus said, '*I am the Light of the World*' John 8:12

By the arrival of February, we can feel a little deprived of light. We are ready for the dark days of winter to give way to the spring. Not only by the literal darkness of the winter season, we are also confronted by much darkness in our world of suffering and hatred. Jesus proclamation 'I am the light of the world' is the hope and truth which cuts across our darkness and offers us a new perspective and a new way of being for the world.

We know that throughout God's relationship with his people, revealed over and over again in the pages of the Old Testament, God was trying to encourage them to move out of the darkness into the light - to choose the way of his kingdom and not the kingdoms of the world. The same is true in the Gospels as Emmanuel, God with God's people, seeks to show them that the Light for all the world had come. Jesus lived and died knowing the reality of the darkness, the evil of the world, yet he overcame it.

'I am the light of the world' Jesus says. The assurance is that whatever darkness seeks to achieve, it has not and cannot for eternity overcome the light.

Let us pray...

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Let yourself dwell in that light.
The light lets us see ourselves and the world
as they really are.
In prayer let the light of Christ bring hope,
the offer of a new perspective or new way of
being, to the places in your life, of the lives
of those dear to you, which are in darkness.

Holy and Eternal God you are the first light
cutting through the void.
You are the final light
which we shall enjoy forever.
Help us to welcome the light and walk in its ways.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



Together in Prayer

March

Jesus said '*I am the Bread of Life*' - John 6:35

'I am the bread of life' is the first 'I am' saying in John's Gospel. The first five chapters of John's Gospel are action packed. From John the Baptist's proclamation of the coming Messiah, Jesus' ministry is swiftly in action and miracles abound. Perhaps not surprisingly then that this saying of Jesus comes straight after the feeding of the 5000, the miracle interpreted. Miracles as sign posts to God, here Jesus is trying to help God's people understand and look beyond the temporal (i.e. filling their stomachs again) to the eternal. In other words that he is the long awaited Messiah, God in their midst. He is their life source, their nourishment, the bread of life.

This month sees the Lenten journey begin. We know then that this image points to the ultimate demonstration of the life of God made known in Christ, his death and resurrection. Jesus would repeat this image around the table with his friends as he shared a last supper with them and told them of his body broken for them.

This first 'I am' saying of Jesus holds both the history transforming truth of Christ, crucified and risen, and the intimate truth that in Christ is our nourishment for daily living.

Let us pray...

Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life'.
Let yourself be nourished as you pray.
Where is there spiritual hunger in your life?
To know God more? To hear God's call more
clearly? To find an answer you are seeking?
Bring these to Christ, the bread of life, in
prayer.

Jesus, you are the bread of life.
Nourish me with your love
that I may know your will,
and serve you in your world,
where there is much hunger,
for the sake of your kingdom. **Amen.**



Diocese of Kajo Keji

Here is an update on the visit by some of our members to the South Sudan refugees. Rita & Simon Pengelly received an email from Irene Mutonyi about some money spent, kindly given by the Camio group. It is as follows:

“I purchased the sewing machines from Kampala on Monday and I thank God we managed to get two instead of one because the prices were discounted for us. Please receive the attached receipts and pictures of machines.



We are locating the zones within the camp where the machines will be operating together with the Mothers' Union and the trained ladies. The new ladies who will be given the machine will require 1 or 2 days of training on how to use them. We shall use the already trained ladies to do this. However, our challenge will be facilitation for transport of the trainers and initial small materials for the 2 groups. Our thought is to allocate a machine to a group of 10-20 ladies with a leader within a camp.

Thank you so much for supporting and helping teenage girls and women acquire a Dignity kit. This not only supports hygiene but also promotes humanity, education, and it is income generating activity and sustainability for the Mothers' Union.

Blessings, Irene.”

When Dreams Come True

Recently in a letter from MAF (the Flying for Life charity) a Communications Officer was in an orphanage in Kajo Keji, South Sudan and met a young woman who was crawling about on her hands and knees. It turned out her wheelchair had broken and she was desperate to be mobile to get an education. MAF was able to fly a new wheelchair (kindly donated by a disabled man) to her. Unfortunately the war in South Sudan reached this young woman's town and she fled. After many months the Communications Officer found her in a refugee camp in Uganda, but she had had to leave her wheelchair behind. The same donor gave a replacement wheelchair which was again flown by MAF to the refugee camp, which will enable this young woman to finish her education. I include this story because Kajo Keji, South Sudan is a province in our Overseas Link, Wave of Prayer and some of our members went to these refugees camps last year. Our prayers are answered in different ways to support the workers and membership in these linked dioceses.

David Horwood

Canterbury Diocesan MU Celebrates in Wales

14 members from Canterbury Diocese duly paid our tolls and travelled over the Severn Bridge to Swansea to attend the Mothers' Union General Meeting on 17th/18th September. Despite the closure of the M20 most of us arrived by mid-afternoon on the previous Saturday.

We all attended one of the two Celebration Services at St. Mary's Church, Swansea, a Church which had been destroyed in air raids in 1941 and completely rebuilt. Most of us attended the afternoon service when the address was given by the Archbishop of Wales, the Most. Reverend John Davies who was a close colleague of the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. In his address Archbishop Davies reminded us of our role of feeding and tending our sheep following the example of Jesus. He stressed the importance of MULO, listening to needs, observing what requires to be done and then acting to do what is necessary. The service had a real Welsh flavour with hymns, choruses and readings including "Guide me, O thou great redeemer", a Dylan Thomas poem and a choir rendering of "All through the Night." Those attending the evening service were addressed by the Bishop of St. David's, the Rt. Revd. Joanna Penberthy.

The General Meeting the following day was held in the large Brangwyn Hall and there was ample space for all delegates with separate rooms for exhibitions and displays. This was the last Meeting to be presided over by Lynne Tembey who completes the six years as our President at the end of December. (Votes for her successor have just taken place, there being three candidates). In her Conference address, Lynne reminded us to "be strong in the Lord" with all our activities grounded in prayer. We were informed of many steps being taken to modernise the Mothers' Union such as a new Constitution, the concept of unit committees, a new prayer book and the MULO slogan of listening, observing and acting. Lynne gave us a resume of over 30 countries which she had visited during her six years as Worldwide President. She concluded that we should enjoy our membership, that we should never be surprised at what God can do and at all times trust and obey.



General Meeting Swansea

We were also addressed by MU Chief Executive, Bev Jullien, who also laid stress on steps to modernise including the redesign of Families First magazine and the enhanced use of the MU Web Site. She also emphasised the need to have faith and prayer at heart wrapped around by fellowship, action for families and care for the vulnerable.



We were reminded that it really does rain in

Wales but most of us had time before the Conference to explore places of interest, including The Mumbles, the Gower Peninsula, the Dylan Thomas Museum and the house where Dylan Thomas grew up.

The next Conference will take place in Portsmouth on 17th/18th September and we hope that the nearer location will enable more members from our Diocese to attend.

John Sweetman, Social Policy Officer

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Diocesan Website: www.muenterprises.org/canterburymu

Mothers' Union Website: www.mothersunion.org

Registered Charity No. 250124

Those Who Have Died

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Laurence Fellowship Group, Connie Jeffrey
Hawkhurst

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Mary & St Ethelburga Church, Jocelyn Lees
Lyminge

St Dunstan's Church, Canterbury Liz Ritchie

City Centre, Canterbury Dorrie Stone

Dates for your Diary

Please remember in your prayers:

Wednesday 16th January	Trustee Board Meeting 10.00 Diocesan House Boardroom
Wednesday 23rd January	Finance and Diocesan Services Meeting 7.00 pm
Thursday 31st January	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Friday 8th February	Copy deadline for Diocesan Newsletter
Thursday 28th February	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Tuesday 5th March	Members' Meeting 10.30 am in Maidstone - Venue to be arranged Bring lunch 1.00 - 2.00 pm
Saturday 16th March	Overseas Links Service & Celebration St Paul's Church 10.30 am
Saturday 16th March - 18th March	Diocesan Wave of Prayer day
Monday 25th March	Lady Day Service, St Nicholas Church, Allington, Maidstone at 11.00 am
Thursday 28th March	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Sunday 31st March	Mothering Sunday (MAMD Appeal MSH)

Around The Diocese

Annual Market

We had a successful time with the stalls full of goodies which sold well and with many people having the ploughman's lunch. We made £507 towards our diocesan funds so thanks to everyone that came on the day and to the contributions that people made. Keen shoppers at the MU Literature stall (picture)

David Horwood



St Nicholas Church, Allington, Maidstone

Revd Barry Knott, for his first MU duty, anointed two members enrolled during a corporate communion at St Nicholas, Allington. Mary Gentry, Branch Leader, thanked him for his address for Mothers' Union being an effective people of mission. The many visitors enjoyed also a community coffee morning by the Children's Society.

Marianna Poliszczuk

Photo l to r: Marianna Poliszczuk, June Bagshaw, Revd Barry Knott, Margaret Jepson and Mary Gentry



Making Cakes, Jams, Chutneys and anything you intend to sell or be consumed by someone else.

Please make a note to display ALL ingredients used. People have allergies and intolerance to various items which can have serious repercussions on them.

This newsletter 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

2019 Theme

“Listen, observe, act – in step with God.”

2019 is a year of new beginnings for Mothers' Union, with the start of the next triennium, many new officers appointed at all levels of service and updated constitution and structures. It is also the year which sees the coming together of our global conversations to prayerfully inform our way forward as a movement. As we gain clarity about our God-given purpose and direction in both local and global context we will be energised and inspired for what lies ahead. As the future unfolds we will continue to listen and observe in order to act with insight and integrity; neither running ahead nor lagging behind, but always in step with God.

Wave of Prayer

Meeting the President of MU Diocese Akoko Edo and The Right Revd Jolly Oyekpen

It was a last minute decision: a phone call upon our return from abroad at the weekend asking me to go to North London to meet Vicky (Victoria Oyekpen) who was in London for regular check ups on her glaucoma. They are leaving for home the next day, so I drove to meet them and had a two hour meeting with Vicky and Bishop Jolly. I gave them our last Diocesan newsletters and my MU cross as I had nothing else.... and they gave me two booklets on their Diocese in Nigeria which I shall study then pass on to you all. Lovely couple.

Unfortunately we shall not see them at Lambeth 2020 as their Primate decided to boycott the Conference.

I shall write a summary of our talk asap when I have a breather but I thought you would enjoy this photo.

Daniele Ligneau-Wilton A & O Overseas Officer.

