



Listen, observe, act - in step with God.

New Members

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall

Rosalind Harris, Joan Mann,
Val Payne and Linda Yates
have transferred to this
Branch.

As you can see, no new members this time, so go out there and bring some to us to help further the Mothers' Union. Friends and supporters - how would you like to join us?

Congratulations

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Leonard's Church, Deal

65th Wedding Anniversary,
Georgina & Bert Curling

Georgina has been a Mothers' Union member for many years, as a branch leader, deanery leader and Trustee, and for some time when St. Leonard's was struggling, she kept us going!

St Peter & St Paul Fellowship,
Ospringe

50 years service as member
Peggy Henley

Maidstone Archdeaconry

50 years service as members

St. Michael and All Angels Church, Ann Rust
Maidstone

Holy Cross Church, Bearsted

Jean Corps

St Andrew's Church,
Barming Heath

Jean Sweetman. Retiring as
Archdeaconry President for Maidstone,
Jean becomes Deputy Diocesan

President in this triennium

If anyone else has achieved 50 Years Long Service please let me know.

FROM THE EDITOR...



This time I am featuring a couple of items that Mothers' Union do in this country and world wide. Please go to the website and see more on these projects and everything else that we do to promote family life and wellbeing in communities around the world.

David Horwood

Front Cover Photo:

The commencement of our 2019 theme In step with God; some of our members after the MU Advent Service in the Cathedral.

Dear friends,

Let's fill the nave of the Cathedral on 27th April to welcome and commission the new and renewing members of your trustee board. I would like also during our Festival Service to affirm the contributions made by all our office holders, mighty volunteers and prayer warriors. The address will be given by our patron Bishop Trevor, in almost his last duty before retirement, and therefore we have an opportunity to say our 'goodbyes'.



I hope that as many as can will bring and process their banners. Do hold on tightly as I remember too well being blown away around the very draughty corner from the Chapter House to the cathedral doors. It will be wonderful to have your support however, maybe ask a congregation member or uniformed group young person to be the carrier and you the supporter?

It has been a busy start to the year with a lot of activity across the Diocese. We have been moving to different areas for the 'all members' and Archdeacons' meetings. And thank you to all who are attending the Cathedral crypt, St Gabriel's chapel, when it is open to MU to lead midday prayers.

Many of you rose to the challenge to take intercessions for our overseas links into your churches for our 'Wave of Prayer Sunday', An opportunity to explain how we are linked to communities worldwide and their special situation being especially pertinent if you also introduced your church to the new Mothering Sunday liturgy of Nurturing Hope in a Hurting World. Does your branch programme give opportunities to learn and reflect on our achievements locally and globally?

These are exciting times of change too for AFIA holiday week as we are moving to a new site. This is an opportunity for a revamp. Additionally we hope the whole family can experience and benefit from some of the Centre's activities.

It is now possible for individuals to become a "Friend" of the central charity. This new relationship category was created in response to member feedback that there exists a sizeable pool of individuals who would like to support our work but are ineligible for full membership. The primary difference of the new category is that a Friend does not have to have been baptised in the name of the Holy Trinity. This will be offered within our Diocesan membership initially but can be linked to a specific branch as desired. 'Friendship' is open to everyone, regardless of belief or background, who wants to support our work. And will be of increasing importance to the health of MU across the diocese.

Welcome to everyone undertaking leadership roles in this new triennium AND In turn a thank you to those who have relinquished posts; not least being our esteemed Administrator/PA Susan Bradley who has retired after an admirable 9 years. Thank you.

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

St Nicholas Church, Allington, Maidstone

In 2018, we had a very interesting talk at our Annual Outreach Meeting with nearly 60 people, including some from the local community, coming to hear Jennifer Simmons, from the Canterbury Cathedral Stitchers, talk to us about her work.

There are 9 ladies who go to the Cathedral once or twice a week to make and repair ecclesiastical vestments and anything else that is needed. Jennifer showed us some lovely copes; six of these are made in three sizes when needed.

The Cathedral's offertory bags were too small for "Gift Aid" envelopes so they were asked to make fifty new bags in a hurry. As they did not have time to embroider the designs, Jennifer went around the diocese photographing churches which were then printed on to fabric, stitched on the bags and the outlines embroidered. They looked wonderful.

We finished the afternoon with an excellent cream tea which was enjoyed by all.

Mary Gentry

St Michael & All Angels Church, Marden

Poppy and wildflower seeds were given to us last year to commemorate the end of World War One, and two of our members Robin and Yvonne Freeman decided to plant them straight away.

They said "they started the seeds off in large pots, and then our son transplanted them into our garden for us. We had 62 clumps altogether, and they looked wonderful". See photo.

Rosemary McArragher



Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 26th April 2019. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: boycieboycie@icloud.com.

Worldwide President



New Worldwide President Sheran Harper and members at her Service of Thanksgiving in St George's Cathedral, Georgetown, Guyana

Former Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey

Awarded the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's 2019 New Year's Honours for her services to Mothers' Union, women and families.

Lynne, who has served tirelessly as Worldwide President for six years, said, "When I learned that I was to be awarded with the OBE, I was filled with amazement. I feel truly privileged. I have greatly loved my time as Worldwide President. Our members are incredible in all they strive to achieve, changing hearts, minds and lives in wonderful ways. To receive the OBE from Her Majesty and the Cross of St Augustine from the Archbishop of Canterbury is so humbling. I accept these awards through God's grace and in recognition of the worldwide members it has been an honour and joy to serve."

Lynne has been involved with Mothers' Union for almost 40 years. She has served in leadership roles locally as branch leader and deanery leader and regionally as Vice President of the Diocese of Carlisle and Provincial President of York. For the past six years she has served as Worldwide President, a position she stepped down from at the end of 2018.

David Horwood

Holy Trinity Church, Broadstairs and Hawkinge & Acrise Fellowship Group

I was privileged to have been invited by the Mothers' Union branch of Holy Trinity Broadstairs to attend the Wednesday morning Communion Service in December to join them in their celebration of 20 years as a branch. Members of the branch were involved with the Communion, and this was followed by sausage rolls, mince pies, cakes and bubbly!! It was a very joyous occasion and the next to last one I attended in my role of Archdeaconry President for Canterbury and Ashford. The attached photo shows the members raising a glass!!

My last occasion was an invitation to join the Hawkinge and Acrise MU Fellowship Group for their Christmas meeting. This was as usual a wonderful occasion with lots of things happening including an enrolment which Rita Pengelly (their Godmother and Archdeaconry President elect) and I did jointly. There were raffles, an auction of goods and wonderful refreshments. This was just the occasion on which to finish my term and I would like to thank each and everyone of you for your love, support, fellowship and friendship over the last six years. No doubt I will bump into a good number of you at future events but in the meantime I wish you all the very best.



Margaret Horwood, outgoing Archdeaconry President for Canterbury and Ashford

St Nicholas Church, Allington

Members enjoyed a special Christmas lunch and were able to thank the retiring leadership team for the branch and guest Jean Sweetman. In the photo are: Mary Gentry, Jean Sweetman, Marianna Poliszczuk, Roger Gentry.



Together in Prayer

April - May - June 2019

The Revd Lesley Valiant, Chaplain

We now come to the end of the time of penitence, prayer and self –denial, along with reading and meditating on God’s Word, which we call Lent. It is worth recalling that, in the early Christian Church, the season was observed by those preparing for Baptism at Easter. Only later was it recognised that, by careful keeping of the 40 days, all Christians can make it a time of repentance with the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and so grow in faith and devotion to our Lord.

Baptism is about washing clean and forgiveness, and symbolises the death and burial of our old way of life: professing faith in Christ then going down under the water and coming out of the water symbolises rising to a new way of life with Christ.

Read St. Paul’s words in Romans 6.

Now is a good time to declare our faith in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. Together in Prayer, over these three months, we take a look at the words of Acclamation from our Eucharistic prayers. The Response to: Great is the mystery of Faith.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, by the power of your Holy Spirit you give to your faithful people new life in the water of Baptism. Guide and strengthen us by your Sprit so we may serve you in faith and love as we follow your ways and will for us. **Amen.**

Lent is a time of sacrifice, sacrificing things that we don’t really need, in favour of those whose need is far greater than ours. It is also a time to sacrifice the shackles of your life, the things that hold you back, in favour of a God who has given everything, including His Son – for His love of you..

April

Christ has died...

We are approaching the Easter season, the time when we remember all that Jesus did for us on the cross and by rising again. Through His death, Jesus paid the price to release us from slavery to sin.

Read Romans 6:3-7, Ephesians 1:7-10

After being beaten by the soldiers Jesus was led away to be crucified in the company of two thieves. Mary, his mother, and some of his friends kept watch by the cross. Jesus prayed for his enemies, 'Father forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing'. Good Friday is the time of Christ's death on the cross for us. Christ has died: He went willingly to his death knowing that was what his father wanted of him; obedient to the last. Some will ask: "why didn't God save Jesus that day?"



Because He was too busy saving us!

For Christians the Cross is a symbol that reminds us of all God has done for us through Jesus. The cross is the assurance that God has done everything needed for our salvation with Jesus paying the price.

Prayer: Lord forgive us our sins at this time, make in us a new and contrite heart that we may receive from you perfect forgiveness and peace. **Amen.**

Saturday 27th April

Triennium Festival Service, Nave of
Canterbury Cathedral at 11.00 am

Hold in prayer all members
undertaking leadership roles in our
diocese.

Together in Prayer

May

Christ has risen...

On May 30 we have Ascension, when Christ was taken up to heaven, seen by the disciples. Christ is risen: Yes, he rose from the dead on Easter Sunday, but the Ascension is Christ ascending to heaven, in full view of the disciples, to take his place at the right hand of God. Until he does that, the Holy Spirit is unable to come to earth. Christ risen from the grave could still only be in one place at once; the Holy Spirit can be everywhere at the same time. Only after Jesus rose from the dead could God's plan fully be understood that it was His purpose in sending His Son to unite all in one body, with Christ as the head.



Read the words of St. Paul in 1 Cor 15: 1–7

Prayer: As we await the risen Christ, let us recall how He saved his people in past times and now has sent His Son to be our Redeemer; let us pray that through this Easter celebration God may bring to perfection in each of us the saving work He has begun. **Amen.**

Together in Prayer

June

Christ will come again...

In June we celebrate Pentecost, the time of the coming of the Holy Spirit. Christ will come again: but until he does, we have the Holy Spirit living with and in us. If you find it hard imagining the Holy Spirit living in you, just think of it as God's presence living in you, guiding you, helping you and comforting you.



Jesus will come again to complete His work of salvation.

Read His words of comfort and reassurance in John 14:1-4

God's work of redemption is an ongoing process, the final phase of which began with the coming of the Christ-child, and will culminate in His second coming. Many of Jesus' followers expected Him to return in their life time so worked tirelessly taking the gospel to all nations. We need to be prepared and put our trust in God that He will make everything right in the end.

Prayer: Lord of all power and might, the author and giver of all good things: graft into our hearts love for you, increase in us true faith, nourish us in all goodness and keep us for eternal life. **Amen.**

Together in Prayer

AFIA Holiday

Away From It All (AFIA) is a Mothers' Union holiday scheme, primarily funded by our members, to give the opportunity of a break to those who are experiencing stress in their family life. On average, we help 2,500 people to have a holiday each year. Families are able to spend time together away from their stressful situations at home, engage in activities together and have fun. They often experience healing in their relationships by spending this quality time with each other.



Mothers' Union's involved with AFIA will:

- Help fund part of the cost of a holiday
- Cover a family's travel expenses,
- Pay for a whole holiday or day trip
- Organise family weeks for groups of families to have a break with activities and outings.

A number of our dioceses also have mobile homes they fund so that numerous families can enjoy a holiday together throughout the year. Families hoping to have an AFIA holiday don't have to be a member of a church or our organisation and you can apply for yourselves or recommend someone else for a holiday. We will try to find the most suitable holiday, because everyone is different!

How to apply

Would you or someone that you know benefit from an AFIA holiday? Contact your local Mothers' Union holiday coordinator, Marianna Poliszczuk, who will then contact the family and ask them to fill in an application form. (Please note: people can nominate themselves or their friends but anyone applying for a holiday will also be asked to provide details of someone who knows them in a professional capacity, such as a vicar, teacher, or social worker). *From the Mothers' Union website.*

David Horwood

We are seeking families with children under 11 years for the AFIA holiday week that will take place Sunday 18th – Saturday 24th August at Lodge Hill, near Pulborough. It is situated in 32 acres of woodland in the South Downs National Park.

Mothers' Union Projects

Across the world in 2017, Mothers' Union members, acting as volunteers in their local communities, touched the lives of over 750,000 people in 84 countries.

They did this as part of their personal commitment to show their faith in action, by reaching out to do what is needed, however small, wherever it is needed, often reaching communities which others struggle to reach. They do this in their own time, using their own resources.

In addition, funds raised centrally enable training, support and guidance for larger-scale projects which address needs identified in a number of different countries. The common thread of these larger projects is that Mothers' Union members work with fellow members in their communities, in order to help them to help themselves – often, as in Uganda, enabling them to “soar like Eagles out of poverty”. These projects, funded by individual members and partner donors, support over 100,000 people each year.

In a number of countries, the work of members is supported and nurtured by a very small number of professional workers, known as **“Community Development Coordinators”**

Local projects are necessarily diverse, because they respond directly to local needs, and more can be found out about them on the country pages on the website.



Community Development Coordinators (CDC's) are professionally trained community development staff, employed by local Mothers' Unions to help and support members as they engage with their churches and wider community. They help equip and empower members to reach their potential and transform their communities through grassroots projects.

There are more than 300 CDC's working in over 30 countries across the globe. While the focus of each CDC's role may vary, it's essence is the same - they offer advice and support to leaders and members enabling them to identify needs and establish or develop Mothers' Union projects that meet those needs. They work to bring increased skills, relevance and capacity to the practical outreach our members make locally. As well as working in their own area, they often attend regional and national events so that their skills and expertise can be shared with a wider group of people whilst also bringing back new ideas. *From the Mothers' Union website.*

Around The Diocese

A belated happy new year everyone and I pray it's a year filled with the love, purpose, hope, grace and joy of our Risen Lord.

The first thing I want to say is, a big thank you to the Canterbury and Ashford Archdeaconry for giving me the opportunity to serve them, Mothers' Union and our Father for the next three years. Please continue to pray that together we have fun, support each other, learn from each other, encourage each other and serve each other and our communities near and far.



Please email or phone me if you have any questions, problems, or new initiatives. I cannot promise to know the answers but am sure that together and with a little help from our wonderful friend Margaret we can find one.

I look forward to meeting those of you I have not yet met and those I already have. Please come and join us at our Archdeaconry meetings, together we can and with God's help make a difference. Next meeting Thursday 20th June, in Canterbury.

I love Mary Sumner's Prayer,

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee,
and every life I touch, do Thou by Thy Spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen

And as we continue to pray for each other, our communities and the work we do, I would ask that you please pray for me, as I seek to follow our Saviour and serve you.

Rita Pengelly, Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry President

Editor note;

Welcome to our new Archdeaconry Presidents. We will introduce Maidstone Archdeaconry President, Sally Phillips in the next issue. The meeting in Sittingbourne is in the morning on Friday 7th June.

Contacts

Administrator

VACANCY

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Mothers' Union Website: www.mothersunion.org

Registered Charity No. 250124

Those Who Have Died

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Nicholas Church Allington, Jessica Good
Maidstone

Jessica was a faithful dedicated member of the Mothers' Union for over 66 years both in her London Church and here in Allington. She was the person everyone went to for help and advice and held many positions in our Branch and the Deanery and was on most of the church rotas. She took Communion to the house-bound and visited the sick and elderly, and we remember her with love and affection.

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Martin & St Paul's Church, Bill Moss
Canterbury

St Stephen's Church, Canterbury Colin Goldsack

Minster Abbey, Isle of Sheppey Gladys Bax

St Peter & St Paul Fellowship, Ospringe Pam Bell

Dates for your Diary

Please remember in your prayers:

Friday 5th April	Finance and Diocesan Services Meeting 7.00 pm
Sunday 21st April	Easter Sunday
Thursday 25th April	No Cathedral Prayer Time
Friday 26th April	Copy deadline for Diocesan Newsletter
Saturday 27th April	Triennium Festival Service, Nave of Canterbury Cathedral at 11.00 am
Wednesday 1st May	Trustee Board Meeting (Accounts), Diocesan House 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Thursday 30th May	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Tuesday 18th June	Annual Meeting, St Paul's Church, Canterbury, 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
Thursday 27th June	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel

Around The Diocese

The Real Easter Egg



Out of the 80 million Easter eggs sold in this part of the world every year, The Real Easter Egg is the only one which has a copy of the Easter story in the box, is made of Fairtrade chocolate and which supports charitable projects. So **please**, if you buy an Easter egg for someone, make it this one.



Annual Meeting

We are to hold a raffle to be drawn at the Annual Meeting in June, for this Quilt designed and worked by Carol Walker, of Marden in aid of the Diocesan Project Fund, to assist in the funding of AFIA this year.

Quilting is a wonderful craft and some groups in our diocese are making small 16 in by 20 in quilts for premature babies. The quilts are not for the baby to sleep under as their quilt sits on the top of their incubator. Come what may, the parents keep the quilt as a personal reminder of the loving care their baby received.

Listen, observe, act - in step with God

Our Patron the Bishop of Dover is retiring

Bishop Trevor's Diocesan farewell will be on Saturday 11th May after Evensong in the Cathedral, which starts at 4pm . If you or your church would like to make a financial gift to thank Bishop Trevor and Margaret for their ministry, you can contribute to their retirement collection, by sending a cheque made payable to 'CDBF - Bishop Trevor Farewell' to the Finance Team at Diocesan House, Lady Wootton's Green, Canterbury CT1 1NQ.



Thy Kingdom Come is a global prayer movement, which invites Christians around the world to pray during the 9 days between Ascension and Pentecost (30th May – 9th June 2019). What started out as an invitation from the Archbishops of Canterbury and York in 2016 to the Church of England, has grown into an international and ecumenical call to prayer .

Mothers' Union are delighted to once again to be hosting our Thy Kingdom Come Global Service at Coventry Cathedral, on the 31st May at 2pm. Members and non-members alike are welcome to come to this very special family service, suitable for all ages. It will be attended by our new Worldwide President Sheran Harper and other guests.

God our rock,
when the path is uneven,
when our feet feel unsteady,
when we lose sight of our destination,
walk with us.

Refresh our vision,
renew our strength,
and guide us in your ways,
Amen.

Taken from "The Briefing" Canterbury Diocese

**2019 Theme: Listen,
observe, act - in step
with God**

