

Newsletter

October - December 2019



Listen, observe, act - in step with God.

Congratulations

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

All Soul's Church, Cheriton

90th Birthday Audrey Newport

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne 100th Birthday Florrie Court
Afternoon Branch



MODERN SLAVERY HELPLINE
08000 121 700

THERE ARE MORE THAN

136,000

POTENTIAL VICTIMS OF
MODERN SLAVERY

IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

YOU CAN HELP

Autumn Members' Meeting - HIDDEN VOICES, Tuesday 5 November, St Paul's Canterbury, MU partnership with The Clewer Initiative Modern Slavery Human Trafficking – MSHT. Speaker now confirmed Caroline Clarke, Diocese of Rochester anti-slavery advocate, delivering training and awareness raising.

FROM THE EDITOR...



Lots of information this time on the impact Mothers' Union is having here in Britain and around the world, putting families first.

The Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry had a very interesting visit to Beech Grove at Nonington to the Bruderhof community, which is a large family of small families, more of which you can read about elsewhere in this newsletter.

David Horwood

Front Cover Photo: Shows how we are helping less fortunate children and families around the world, from our Summer of Hope Appeals.

Dear friends

Thank you for your invitations - I had the opportunity to wear this splendid MU Nigeria blouse at both Marden's summer party and Allington's 80th birthday celebrations.

Recently I was asked for 'the Mothers' Union hymn' - does anyone know which it might be? I could not find it in my internet search, however I did come across the Lambeth Palace library blog and an interesting archive item on Mary Sumner. Here is the link

<https://lambethpalacelibrary.wordpress.com/2014/11/10/the-mothers-union-in-word-and-deed/>

The zonal trustees are visiting Canterbury on 17th November and will be with Nikki Sweatman at the Cathedral for morning service.

Do come to the Tunstall Church of England School in Sittingbourne on Saturday 9th November. We are hosting an Envisioning Day - for METAMORPHOSIS (stories on the streets) - which has been a successful MU outreach project in Oxford and Ely dioceses and is being extended into Portsmouth and Southwark and next year into our Canterbury diocese. And we will need your help to do this.

Staff from Mary Sumner House will be leading the day and I encourage each branch to source shoes and replicate a mini-exhibit Souls of our Shoes in support of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign to end violence against women and girls. We will again have an extended prayer time in the Cathedral.

Grace and Peace,

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



The Clewer Initiative

The next all members' meeting in Canterbury on 5th November is Hidden Voices, a talk with a couple of short films, from Caroline Clarke, Diocesan Community Engagement Officer and lead on modern slavery, for Rochester Diocese.

Mothers' Union is in partnership with the Clewer Initiative raising awareness against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking.

The Clewer Initiative is enabling Church of England dioceses and wider Church networks to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities and help provide victim support and care.

Modern Slavery, forced labour, can happen anywhere, in cities and towns but also in rural areas. To understand more take a look at the rural toolkit: <https://www.theclewerinitiative.org/rural>

Child exploitation and trafficking are forms of child abuse and against the law. <https://www.modernslaveryhelpline.org/Teens>

Traffickers prey on the vulnerable, on young people who are alone or lacking strong support networks, in foster care, or maybe when there is disruption at home.

It can happen to anyone - not just foreign children as is often thought - taken next door or down the road - it's still classed as trafficking.

Marianna Poliszczuk
Diocesan President



Holy Trinity Church, Margate

The following letter from Lisa is thanks for the support and funds raised by the Holy Trinity Wednesday Evening Group for the Red Box Project which they are currently supporting.

Hi Claire.

What can I say but WOW!! We can't thank you enough for what you, The Mothers' Union group and all of your generous sponsors have done for the project.

These funds will help keep every Red Box topped up until the government step in.

We have decided that we are going to collect from all of our donation points and see what we have been donated. Once we have done that, we can then decide how to divide the money.

From what the schools have told me, knickers are what they're desperate for, so I would imagine, approx £100 will be spent on knickers, £50 on tights and the rest will keep the boxes topped up with sanitary pads etc. I can confirm this in a few weeks.

We also need to make sure the schools have enough supplies before the summer holidays. This will ensure that the girls that need it, have enough to see them through the 6 week break.

Again, thank you all so much for what you have done for The Red Box Project East Kent. Without your generosity, we wouldn't have been able to get a box into as many schools as we have done.

Kind regards,

Lisa

Wendy James, Branch Leader



A letter from one of our Wave of Prayer links

Dear Daniele,

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Our joys as a family and Church know no bound any time we read from you. In fact our spirit is always refresh and lifted up whenever we read your letter.

We thank God that the election came and gone. The result was not actually what we expected. In our state, Jigawa, all the elective posts were indisputably won by APC. Many of the states are in election tribunal, even the presidential result is in court. We just pray that God will intervene in Nigerian situation and raise for us godly leaders. Nigeria is truly one of the most dangerous countries to live in.

All our children are back to school. I must tell you that it is not easy training our children but we see it as a priority and we bless God for enormous grace in doing that.

The MU is preparing their Diocesan Annual Conference from 27th to 30th June, 2019. The women look forward to a time of fellowship, prayer, Bible Study and many more. They also hope to raise fund to support the women's work in the Diocese and beyond. Please pray for the women.

We have just concluded our Provincial Clergy retreat which began from the 10th to 14th June, 2019. Luckily it came at Pentecost week and our experience at the retreat was superb.

We are praying that as you are preparing for Lambeth 2020, the Lord will guide you in the preparation and execution. We pray that our leaders will reach a compromise to the glory of God for all of us to attend and share fellowship.

Thank you so much for the prayers and love.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Rt. Rev. Markus Yohanna Danbinta

(Bishop, Dutse Diocese, Nigeria)

Together in Prayer

October - November - December 2019

Stories on the Street: Metamorphosis

The Revd Phil Goodey - St Peter's Church, Boughton Monchelsea

Introduction

I never thought I'd say this but I have just attended a fun Diocesan Synod, Wow! One of the presentations was by Revd Steve Coneys the Diocesan Mission and Growth Advisor. He spoke about diocesan vision and Missional Learning Communities. The ideas behind these tie in perfectly with the Mothers' Union new programme called Stories on the Street.

In our Together in Prayer for this quarter I'm going to be telling you some 'Stories on the Street' from my parish where people's lives have been transformed. The names have been changed, but each of these stories shows how God has worked wonderfully in people's lives bringing confidence, hope and joy (three themes Bishop Tim spoke about at the Synod).

Encouraging the church members to have the confidence to share their faith outside of the church building has been a passion of mine for many many years and it has been wonderful to see that happening here in Boughton Monchelsea.

Bible Passage / Reflection

Please read Luke 10: 1 - 23 (Jesus sends out the 72)

Note how much planning Jesus does ahead of sending them out.

(none) Note how much stuff they need to take with them (nothing).

Pray / Challenge

Is God sending you out? Pray for one or two people you know outside of the church, and ask God to give you the courage and opportunity to speak of God to them this week.

Stories on the Street - October

Fourteen months ago, a young couple walked into our Fresh Expression of Church, 'Junction', Darren and Lucy had with them their young son Jack; their story was heart breaking. They had moved to a nearby village, to escape from a stalker that had been abusing Lucy, and two days previously their other son (two weeks before his first birthday) had died of Sudden Death Syndrome. They were lonely, afraid and grief stricken, Lucy's mum had thought that going to church might help and had brought them along. Darren in the past had been involved in drugs and gang violence, he'd also been in prison. He could not read or write, and had almost no experience of church or the christian life, however his mother and Lucy were praying for him.

After the service, two of the leaders of the service, took Darren and Lucy into a side room and listened to their story, then they asked if they could pray with them, they agreed and the two leaders asked if they would like to have Jesus in their lives; Darren without hesitation, prayed for forgiveness and invited Jesus into his life.

The change was immediate and unbelievable. From being sullen, shy and withdrawn Darren's face lit up, and his confidence and happiness transformed him into a whole new person. Spending time with him a year later, I can testify that he is still full of joy at what God has done for him and confidence that God will continue to look after him.

But that is not all God has done, one month later I had the privilege of baptising him in the sea at Tankerton, and a month after that he read the lesson in church confidently without stumbling.

We did nothing, other than being obedient when God placed them in front of us.

Bible Passage / Reflection

Read Acts 16: 20 -33 (Paul and Silas in prison)

Note: Paul and Silas attitude to being in prison.

Note: The Jailer's response to meeting with Jesus.

Prayer / Challenge

Pray for a life changing encounter with Jesus, for yourself and for whom you pray. Are you prepared to be a new person in Christ?

Together in Prayer

Stories on the Street - November

One of my hobbies is Regency Dancing, I organise a class of dancers one evening a week, in the main church building. Soon after we started a couple joined us after meeting me at a social event in the village hall. Janet and Dave, they had not been to church for many years having been subject to criticism and hurt. After dancing with us for a few months, they asked if it would be alright if they came along to a Sunday service. Of course I welcomed them with open arms.

In partnership with the diocese we decided to host a “Deepening Discipleship Course” and Janet asked if she could come along. Over the course of the next few weeks her outlook on life and faith changed dramatically. She started smiling more, and became excited about coming to Church. Jesus had come into her life. She started writing poetry, she learnt to bake cakes, she has even now joined the PCC.

Recently she told me that in the beginning a lot of what happened in church was a mystery to her, and even though she is quite intelligent, the language of church was quite difficult for her to understand. Her passion has become working out how to communicate the Gospel in the ways that people outside the church can understand. She wants to make it easy for people to find Jesus the way they want to.

Bible Passage / Reflection

Read Acts 10: 11 - 15

Note: They went to pray outside the city, and met strangers

Note: Lydia ministered to them from the very start.

Pray / Challenge

Go to a cafe or restaurant, get a cup of tea or coffee and sit and pray for the staff and the customers around you and be prepared for God’s Spirit to move.

What is he going to do? Make going and praying there a habit.

How does it feel to be served by the staff, rather than to serve?

Together in Prayer

Stories on the Street - December

The Christmas story is one where Christ leaves heaven to spend time on earth; as the Message version of the Bible puts it “God moved into the neighbourhood”. As a church we have become very focussed on trying to get more people into church. Salt is no use in the saltshaker, it needs to be out on the plate to transform the flavour of the food. We as salt need to be outside the church transforming our world.

One lady Katie in our Fresh Expression wanted to make a difference to the people of Boughton Monchelsea: a wealthy, middle-class, semi-rural village. Like the MULO process she listened, observed and identified that one of the main issues in the neighbourhood was loneliness. With a friend she acted to set up “Helping Hands” a local group of volunteers with a coordinator and mobile phone. She now has a network of about forty volunteers drawn from the village (and not just the church), who visit, provide lifts, collect shopping, and do little bits of DIY (changing light-bulbs) for local residents who are lonely and housebound.

A local restaurant heard of what they were doing and offered to host a discount evening meal once a month for any of her clients who would like to come. They now fill the restaurant every time they meet. For many it's the only time they get to leave the house that month.

Some of her clients have now started coming to church as a result of the loving care that has been shown them.

Bible Passage Reflection

Read Acts 4: 32 -37

Are you one in heart and mind with the believers around you?

Who is “anyone who is in need” in your community?

Pray / Challenge

Ask God to show you where you are not one in heart and mind with the people round you, and pray that God opens your eyes to the needs of your community.

Together in Prayer

St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean MU Fellowship

On a sunny afternoon in June, Blean Fellowship were delighted to welcome Rita Pengelly (Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry President) to afternoon tea. Rita spoke about activities in which Fellowship members might participate, and Revd Eileen Routh gave news from Ambatondrasaka, Madagascar, where she with two other MU members had visited last year. Blean Church has been linked with the church in Ambatondrasaka for ten years, and in that time FIVE other churches have been established in the area. Part of the visit involved time with MU members, teaching and helping them in confidence building, basic health care, hygiene and family matters.



Following the visit the MU members in the villages have been teaching other women about washing hands, and they are also now getting together to learn sewing skills. The wife of the parish priest is working with them and teaching the women to read. Blean members are now in regular contact with the MU members in the area, and we want to build on this relationship. *Mary Cooke*

Bruderhof - Visit to Beech Grove

On a beautiful Summer's day members of the Canterbury and Ashford Archdeaconries went to Nonington to visit the Bruderhof Community and we were greeted by Ann Kurtz. We first visited the Workshop making play equipment for children which is sold to gain an income.



On the lawn were some large circles of chairs where we sat to enjoy a welcome and short service. The community have their own school and as the children were out on visits we were able to see the classrooms, bright with their paintings, also the Library. Many nationalities are represented here so that language study is important. From the oldest to the babies they live in families in houses in the grounds, and they all work on site as a Community. Here is a quotation which shows their Ethos "Love your neighbour Share every thing." "Where everyone is cared for, everyone belongs." All income, talents and energy are pooled as their belief is that God wants to transform our world here and now, and our day ended with a picnic and informal chat with members of the community. *Dorothy Manning*

Around The Diocese - Faith

Diocesan Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage

On Saturday the 8th June some enthusiastic Mothers' Union members took part in supporting Barbara Wallace the Canterbury Diocese Changing Lives Prayer Network Coordinator and the Day of Prayer and Pilgrimage in the Cathedral. We had a team to welcome the pilgrims as they arrived and a team to serve tea and coffee, plus some lovely yummy MU cakes. The Living Well team were there to offer prayer and we also had the



pleasure of offering hospitality to our Archbishop.

We all agreed that we enjoyed our time together and felt blessed to be able to serve others and talk about our beloved MU.

Rita Pengelly, Canterbury and Ashford Archdeaconry President

MU @ Home

At our recent Trustee Meeting we were thinking about the Members who are house bound through age, disability or illness and how important it is for us to make them feel valued and still a part of our wonderful MU Fellowship.

In my own Branch we have some Members who cannot get to meetings anymore, they've been Members for many years and made a valuable contribution, now it is up to US to show care, concern and compassion by visiting them, sending a card or note or making a phone call. Being alone at home can be so difficult and even a brief visit can make all the difference. So in all our Branches / Fellowships let us be creative in thinking how we can make that difference.

Revd Wendy Jackson-Hill, General Trustee and Pastoral Advisor

The prayer I breathe

I love this phrase from Mary Summer's Prayer- it shows that praying is essential for our existence, not just an optional extra.

When I joined the MU, members had to buy a prayer diary which only about a third of us did...now we all have Families Worldwide and have seemingly endless other resources to encourage us to pray.

I have had a variety of roles in MU, both locally and nationally, in seven different dioceses but encouraging members to develop their faith is central to all I do.

- Can I encourage you to read and use the middle pages of this newsletter - this quarter you will find some encouraging stories of how God is changing lives and some personal challenges too.

- Margaret coordinates our prayer chain and would love many more of you to use it.

- MUe have produced three new reasonably priced pocket sized booklets (one of the contributors is our own Rita Pengelly)

- Finally can I mention the wonderfully revamped Families First which has plenty of articles to help and inspire you...I particularly recommend Adrian Plass with his slightly sideways look on life.



Margaret Bradford & Sandra Goodey

- From time to time we receive news from MU central such as the recent Harvest Family Service.

Do contact me if there's anything I can help with faith-wise, either individually or to speak in your branches and fellowships.

Sandra Goodey

Trustee/Faith Coordinator

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07540 526666

Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 25th October 2019. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: boycieboycie@icloud.com.

Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals...

Occasional Offices, as they're known in the trade keep many a parish priest busy and they are very grateful when the MU gets involved in this ministry. We, the trustees, hear a few isolated tales, mostly regarding baptisms but we suspect there is much more going on in this area that we know nothing about. Maybe your branch has members who are prayer partners to wedding couples....perhaps your fellowship sponsors a copy of Hand in Hand for baptism families....

Whatever it is we would like to know and if you felt you could write a little something for this publication too, so much the better.

Please could you email Susan with a few lines about any specific MU work you undertake in these 3 areas.

sbradleymu@gmail.com

Sandra Goodey

Trustee/Faith coordinator

Those Who Have Died

Diocesan Member	Bessie Turner
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Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

SS Peter & Paul Church, Ospringe Fellowship Group	June Akhurst
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Holy Trinity Church, Margate	Phyllis Watts
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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.

Dates for your Diary

Please remember in your prayers:

Saturday 12th October	Annual Market, St Paul's Church, Canterbury, 10.30 - 2.00pm
Sunday 13th October	UNA Peace Service in Cathedral 6.30pm
Friday 25th October	Copy deadline for Diocesan Newsletter
Thursday 31st October	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Tuesday 5th November	Members' Meeting, Hidden Voices 10.00 am
Saturday 9th November	Envisioning Day for Metamorphosis at St Paul's Church, Canterbury
Wednesday 20th November	Trustee Board Meeting, Diocesan House 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Sunday 17th November	Morning Service with Zone Trustees in Canterbury Cathedral
Monday 25th November to Tuesday 10th December	Campaign-16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence, Shift the Blame
Thursday 28th November	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon-1.00pm St Gabriel's Chapel
Friday 6th December	MU Advent Service 11.00 am in Quire of Canterbury Cathedral, speaker Helen Clarke
Thursday 26th December	NO Cathedral Prayer Time

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Canterbury Diocese website: www.muenterprises.org/canterburymu

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Mothers' Union - Mary Sumner House

Central Chaplain

We are delighted to announce that the Bishop of Penrith, Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson is to be our new Central Chaplain.

Bishop Emma says; "I am honoured to have been asked to take on this role. I have long admired the work of the Mothers' Union in its worldwide reach. Now, more than ever, the ministry of Mothers' Union in sharing the good news of Jesus, in supporting family life, in influencing positive change in our communities, and in giving voice to the issues facing women and girls globally, is of vital importance".



General Synod

At the Church of England Synod in York (5th-9th July) Mothers' Union was out in force, supporting Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, who was attending as an Anglican Communion guest.

Sheran was honoured with an invitation to give an Address in the Opening Session, during which she shared stories of the



impact members were having in Britain and around the world, at the end of which she received a standing ovation. Said Susan Baker, Provincial President Elect for Canterbury, "It truly felt like a new beginning for Mothers' Union in Britain and Ireland" *Editors note; If you go to the Mothers' Union website and to the news page you can find Sheran's address to the Synod.*