

Issue 1/20

January - March 2020

# Newsletter



**Building Hope and Confidence**

## New Members

### Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Leonard's Church, Deal

Sharon Greenwood & Paula Campbell

### Maidstone Archdeaconry

St John The Baptist, Tunstall

Ann West

St Paul's Fellowship

Olive Lindsay

St Nicholas Church, Allington

Gill Poole

## Congratulations

### Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Stephen's Church, Canterbury

**80th Birthday,** Brian Kennett

### Maidstone Archdeaconry

Minster Abbey, Isle of Sheppey

**100th Birthday,** Edna Illingworth

**80th Birthday,** Hazel Harris

### FROM THE EDITOR...



We feature this month messages and information from our overseas links, in our Together in Prayer section. Our theme for 2020 is "Building hope and confidence."

There is a lot going on in the next three months, a Wit and Wisdom evening, Wave of Prayer, Mothering Sunday and Lady Day Services, dates of which you can find in this newsletter, so please take part and enjoy your Mothers' Union membership.

THANK YOU, Generous members added £1605 through the diocesan Smarties Appeal for the future projects fund. The donations were blessed during the Autumn members' meeting. We were all 'spent out' after the Away From It All holiday week and you responded magnificently to our urgent appeal to replenish funds. A DVD is available to show others how we make a difference in helping families. As we will plan towards a supported week for families during Summer 2021 can you or someone you know be part of the next 'buddy team'? Please get in touch!

*David Horwood*

**Front Cover Photos:** Show the people and places described in Danièle Ligneau-Wilton's Together in Prayer section. Top left is training in vegetable planting, top right training women in life saving skills in South Sudan and a cultural performance in the centre, in Nigeria.

Dear friends

2020 is exciting for us in Mothers' Union: reflect on these words from our founder Mary Sumner - "Together we can strengthen one another when we are weak and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Unity is strength."



The theme for 2020 is "Building hope and confidence." and we are preparing to develop and take forward project Metamorphosis in Sheppey/Swale and beyond.

It is good to focus on the achievements and importance of the women that history remembers but we will remember other women that the history books have overlooked. We have a rich treasury of wonderful past members, as those we feature on page 4.

At the end of March it is Mothering Sunday and in our churches many will be making and distributing posies. We support women for whom married life is a challenge. We will offer up prayerful thanks for all parents and carers. This is an opportunity to talk and explain how our wonderful movement works both globally and locally on projects that give fathers, mothers, carers and children the confidence and strength to be able to support themselves through tough times. Why not hold an afternoon tea and raise money for the Make a Mother's Day Appeal?

Our link Diocese of Tarime, Tanzania helped people create kitchen gardens to ensure families can survive through drought periods. Their latest update tells us of the girls' sewing project, still flourishing and teaching them the skills with which to earn a livelihood. Thanks to our Overseas Officer we are extremely fortunate to be in contact with all of our overseas links.

The global mistreatment of women or violations of women's rights continue to be addressed. Activists won a year-long battle with the Tanzanian government when the Court of Appeal of Tanzania in Dar es Salaam rejected an appeal by the government to allow the marriage of a child under the age of 18. Child marriage laws in Tanzania have not historically provided equal gender protection. The Law of Marriage Act 1971 set the minimum age for boys to marry at 18 years old, but Sections 13 and 17 allowed girls to marry at 14 with the consent of the court, and at 15 with parental consent. This ruling means that child marriage is officially considered unconstitutional – and illegal – across the country.

In Canterbury planning is well ahead for hosting the Lambeth Conference in July and there are many opportunities for volunteering. Additionally there will be celebrations to commemorate Thomas Becket in 2020 <https://becket2020.com/> events, over the weekend 3 - 5 April, and throughout the year.

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

# Around The Diocese

## THE ANNUAL MARKET

The addition of vintage games delivered innocent fun at the diocesan market in St Paul's (picture). Garden-size games were on loan from Diocesan House and members therefore had an opportunity to challenge Roger Gentry, Maidstone Archdeaconry Treasurer, at Connect-4. Compliments were paid to Sue Thomas and her refreshment team for a splendid 'meal deal' of crisps, drink and filled rolls. Thank you all for your donations to the raffle, cake, books and gifts stalls and the efforts



of our very enthusiastic stall holders to make us spend. In addition, Rosemary McArragher brought an excellent range of MU literature. The sum of £406.66 was raised for the Diocesan General Fund which is for the operation of the diocese.

We like to ring the changes and next year our market will be after the Annual Meeting in June. The sale will be in the afternoon and the date coincides with St Paul's regular 'open lunches' with soup.

*Marianna Poliszczuk, Diocesan President*

## Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

I cannot believe I am writing an article for the January newsletter, scary. I have enjoyed my first year as your Archdeaconry President, although my waist line is increasing due to the wonderful hospitality I receive wherever I go. You as Archdeaconry members inspire with your prayerful care of each other, your continued commitment to Mothers' Union and the support and love you give me, I am truly blessed. I look forward to this new year and all our Risen Saviour has in store for us all as we journey through this year together.

Jeremiah 29: 11-14

"For I know the plans I have for you says the Lord, they are plans for good and not disaster. To give you a future and a hope. In those days when You pray, I will listen. If you look for Me in earnest you will find Me. When you seek Me I will be found by you."

What wonderful promises we have as we go into this new year, we have the sure knowledge that when we pray our Father will listen. He gives us His hope, and when we seek His will, He will answer. Our God is an Awesome God.

God bless you all, love and hugs.

*Rita Pengelly, Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry President .*

### Hawkinge & Acrise Fellowship - A Celebration

On Saturday 28th September a service to mark the 75th Anniversary of the Hawkinge and Acrise Branch of the Mothers' Union was held at St Martin's Church, Acrise. It was fitting that the service took place at St Martin's as it was here that a special service was held in February 1944 to admit ten members into the Mothers' Union. In 1948 Hawkinge joined with Acrise to form the local MU branch which is now the Hawkinge and Acrise Mothers' Union Fellowship.

The service was attended by nearly 70 people made up of current and past members and relatives. Fellowship Leader Janet Hutchings, who organised this significant event with the help of her

members, welcomed everyone with a brief introduction. She was honoured to follow those who had done so much in the past. In recent years, with changes at St Luke's Church in Hawkinge, Baptist Minister Alison Boddington welcomed them to meet at the Baptist Chapel, but because of falling numbers the Fellowship now meets at Janet's home. The good news is that membership is increasing. There followed a moving service made up of prayers, hymns, readings and reminiscences which celebrated the Christian values of the Mothers' Union and its work locally, nationally and globally. It was established in 1876 by Mary Sumner who was inspired by her vision of the Christian responsibilities of motherhood and the need to support mothers as they brought up their children.



Rita Pengelly, Canterbury and Ashford Archdeaconry President, gave a lively address which included her own journey with the Mothers' Union as well as an indication of its important national and international role. There are over four million members in 84 countries who through prayer and Christian action support people in need, of any faith or no faith: for example giving humanitarian relief to 2,500 refugees each year, or helping with emergency aid when natural disasters occur. Nationally the MU is involved in many projects and activities such as providing support to prisoners and their families, or enabling families living under great stress to have a holiday.

*continued on next page*



## Around The Diocese

Sue Prebble spoke of her family's involvement with the Mothers' Union. Her Grandmother, Hilda Rootes, was a founding member of the Acrise group, its first secretary and the driving force behind the formation of the branch. Her aim in forming the group was to provide a support network for the women of rural Acrise in the challenging war years. Sue went on to speak of her mother, Betty Young, whose involvement with the Mother's Union spanned 60 years from joining the Hawkinge and Acrise Branch in 1948, being Enrolling Member for many years from 1964 and becoming Diocesan Literature Secretary in her later years.

The service was a celebration of, and thanksgiving for, members work and commitment to the values of the MU over 75 years. The Thanksgiving Prayer for the inspiration and work of Mary Sumner was given by Diocesan Mothers' Union President, Marianna Poliszczuk, and then all joined in the Mothers' Union Prayer. Praying, enabling and campaigning are aspects of the work of the Mothers' Union based on supporting marriage and a stable family life. Members can look back with pride on the past 75 years and forward with renewed faith in the values of the organisation in challenging times, though the challenges of 2019 are very different to those of 1944.

After the service a delicious afternoon tea was served while memories were shared, old acquaintances renewed and new ones made, and photographs and displays of past books, documents and artefacts examined. A letter from the Queen thanked Hawkinge and Acrise Mothers' Union Fellowship for their loyal greetings and sent her best wishes to everyone for a memorable and enjoyable anniversary. It was certainly that. A note to the black & white photo we know as "the famous five" we think was taken in 1957. Betty Young is Sue Prebble's mother. Mrs Harrison is wife of the then incumbent and their son Ted was religious correspondent for the BBC at one time and is an artist, writer.

*Sue Prebble*

HAWKINGE and ACRISE MOTHERS UNION



May Bailey - Betty Young - Ellen Compton - Ida Stockham - Mrs Harrison



# Together in Prayer With Our Diocesan Links

January - February - March 2020

Danièle Ligneau-Wilton - Overseas Links Officer

## KAJO-KEJI, SOUTH SUDAN

MU is still located in Moyo, Uganda, working in the refugee camps. However, they have started to extend their work back to Kajo-Keji, South Sudan, from where people had fled. As hopes for a permanent peace becomes stronger, people are starting to go back “home” to rebuild their lives. 12 November 2019 is earmarked as the start of a Transitional Government of National Unity with the rebel leader.

The MU now have quarterly reports, and we received the latest one covering July through September.

Their activities include a wide range of programmes as follows:

- Training of 400 school girls in the making of reusable sanitary pads.
- Forming “Fathers’ Union” groups.
- Training women in health promotion, life saving exercises and disease prevention.
- Training women in agriculture.

A new MU Committee was set up in September with the aim of helping women develop economic, social, educational, and spiritual skills, as well as devising strategies for settling conflicts. Pastors’ wives are also involved in counselling.

Several challenges have been identified and brought to our attention for prayers:

- Children in the camps are wandering aimlessly; education is limited and the environment is not conducive to learning.
- Women lack basic resources such as fire wood and water.
- They suffer from malnutrition as the only food provided by UNHCR is beans. There is not enough land for women to cultivate and grow decent crops. Consequently stress and conflicts arise in families and divorces are on the increase.
- Girls both in primary and secondary education drop out.

### Let us pray:

Lord Jesus, you were a refugee in Egypt with your parents until it was safe to come home. Give the people of Kajo-Keji strength and courage in these times of hardship as they try to overcome their difficulties. Help them work together and build a new world where peace will prevail. Help the leaders of South Sudan achieve a lasting peace. As people go back to their homeland grant them security and courage to start cultivating the land and rebuilding their homes. Open the hearts of all your children, old and young, and fill them with your abounding love so that they can spread that love in their homes. Grant the Mothers' Union Committee wisdom and patience in all they have set out to achieve.

## Together in Prayer - January

### TARIME, TANZANIA

It was with great sadness that we read of the passing away of Rosemary Ezekiel on 30 September 2019, our MU link Chairperson, with whom we have been corresponding these past three years. She was not only a valuable leader, but also a sewing teacher for the sewing project for girls. Rosemary will be sorely missed and the whole MU Diocese is mourning her.

Rosemary has been replaced by Grace Monge, who is now our link person for Tarime. She wrote the following, very moving letter:

*We are also fine thanking God for giving us free air to continue living in this world, and we believe passionately that our God is a God of surprise, who opens many doors for us. I've experienced both joy and pain as I've spent time with members, hearing their stories, listening to their concerns, finding out how challenges have been faced and overcome. They've inspired, challenged, moved and humbled me, and ultimately, I believe they've made me a better person. I've decided to say that because during our Annual General Meeting, I was not present as my third boy died suddenly by motor accident. He was a Doctor by profession and left a widow with three children. After his burial they informed me of my new position of Chair person for Mother's Union. I was not settled, that's why members visited me with their overviews.*

*I accept your congratulations and condolences. We need your prayers to accomplish our goal.*

The sewing project, started in 2012, is going well. Approximately 50 girls are enrolled. Some visitors supported the project with the purchase of sewing machines and material. In addition to sewing, the girls are taught batik, pillow making, cookery and bible study. The project aims at providing girls with useful skills and preventing school dropouts and under age marriage. However, the compound where the girls meet is not safe because it is not fenced in. Also, some girls come from far away and there is neither hostel nor breakfast provided. Some girls overnight in unsafe accommodations which are not conducive to learning.

We are asked to pray for the success of the project.

#### Let us pray:

Lord, be with our sisters and brothers of the Tarime Diocese as they mourn the loss of Rosemary, one of their special leaders and comfort them in their sadness. Be with Grace, as she mourns the loss of her son and give her strength and courage as she undertakes her new position as Chairperson of the Diocese MU. We thank you Lord for the gifts of sewing machines and materials which allow the sewing project to carry on. Help the students achieve their goals. Be with the girls as a companion on the road to school and protect them from any harm and danger. Give them motivation and courage as they pursue their studies in difficult environments, so that they can graduate and be proud of their achievements.



## Together in Prayer - February

### DUTSE, NIGERIA

Bishop Markus Danbinta of the Diocese of Dutse writes regularly and keeps us informed of the situation in his Diocese. He says that, unfortunately, the political situation is not pleasant as people feel they live under military rule. He writes: The target of most of the Northern leaders is to destroy churches. The governor of Kaduna planned to destroy a church which had been standing for over one hundred years; fortunately people began to speak and the governor suspended the demolition of the church. Our Christian children are segregated in the areas of admission and employment. My son, Simon, applied to read medicine and, although he met all the requirements, he was denied admission. He applied a second time and we are hoping that God will favour him. Pray for this young man, and all the young Christians who are in similar situations.

Despite all the difficulties, the Diocese keeps on working and praying for better understanding between Christians and Moslems.

MU in Dutse is described as "a struggling fellowship". However, under the leadership of Mrs Danbinta, they are a strong praying fellowship as described below:

*MU begins every year's activities with a Holy Communion/dedication service to God in the first week of February at St. Peter's Cathedral, Dutse. During this program, the clergy wives and their Secretaries represent all the congregations in the Diocese. This activity is followed by three days of fasting and prayer in the first week of May. At this time, prayers are said for the women and families in our Diocese, the Church of Nigeria, the Anglican Communion and the universal church. We do also pray for our overseas link Fellowship and for the other Dioceses that support Women's work in our Dutse Diocese. The Annual Women's Conference is usually the last week in June. During this Conference, women from all the churches in the Diocese make a sacrifice of four days for the Conference. Presentation of the Presidential Address is one of the key highlights of the conference. In addition, preaching the word, Bible study, craft, sack races, singing competition and Bible Quiz are some of the activities that mark the women's conference. This year, our theme for the conference is WORKING TOGETHER WITH OTHERS from Acts 18:1-4. We celebrate family week in every November. The focus of this program is to educate our church on the significance of the family from God's point of view. This is a time when couples are reminded of the importance of marriage and how to live with a sizzling love that keeps marriage going in spite of age, tribe or environment.*

**Let us pray:** Almighty God, you know the sufferings endured by your people in the Diocese of Dutse. Give them strength in the face of opposition, and courage and perseverance in times of adversity. Be with them as they struggle to build churches and schools. Help them reach out to their Moslem neighbours and sustain them in their efforts to bring understanding and peace to their communities. Soften the hearts of their leaders, and help them find a way to come to Lambeth 2020 where they will be refreshed and restored in order to continue their work back home.

## Together in Prayer - March

### AKOKO EDO, NIGERIA

Our Diocesan link, Victoria Oyekpen, corresponds by texts, and the texts are often a one liner but sometimes include photos. This being said, it is wonderful that we can correspond. Vicky is working a long way away from home as a barrister, and has applied to become a judge. To this effect she took an exam in June with several hundred applicants, but is still awaiting the final decision. A Christian judge and a woman would be a blessing in a country predominantly Moslem. In the meantime she is training for Restorative Justice and will be inducted as a Chartered Mediator and Conciliator in Lagos on 15th November, 2019 and also in Abuja for membership in Arbitration. Please pray for her in this challenging and difficult work.

MU Akoko Edo keeps working with women who have had a traditional marriage and want a church blessing in order to become members of MU. They are also working with girls in order to prevent dropouts from school and underage marriages. To keep close to the girls, they organise cultural and recreational activities as part of their fellowship programs. See picture of a cultural performance by the girls. Other projects include an ultra modern hall and a hostel (see photos) dedicated by the Primate of the Episcopal Church of Nigeria (Anglican Communion) who visited the Diocese of Akoko Edo.

#### Let us pray:

Lord, you know the hearts of each one of your children. Grant the people of Akoko-Edo the wisdom to know what is right for them, and help them achieve their goals. Be with Vicky as she works hard to help her people in the field of justice and peace. Give her strength and courage as she pursues her judicial work as well as her leadership work for the Mothers' Union. Be a beacon of light for the women and girls who are looking for the right way forward. Bless them and keep them safe in your love.



### St John the Baptist, Tunstall

Tunstall Mothers' Union welcomed Ann West as a member and in the photograph from left to right are; Sally Phillips, Maidstone Archdeaconry President, Ann West, Rev'd. Alan Pinnegar and Branch leader Sue Thomas.

*Sue Thomas, Branch Leader*



### St Andrew's, Barming Heath

Having heard about the generous offer made by the London Beach Hotel in Tenterden whereby they refund the cost of lunch (cost of the food excluding drinks) for charity, I decided to invite some friends to share an enjoyable lunch whilst raising funds for AFIA. As well as friends from outside MU there were members of St Andrew's, Barming Heath and St Michael and All Angels, Maidstone, who were happy to oblige and raised £428.00.

*Doreen Larkin*



Jean Sweetman, Doreen Larkin and representative from London Beach Hotel

## Around The Diocese

### St Michael's Church, Sittingbourne - Afternoon Group



Florrie Court celebrated her 100th birthday at a party with family and friends.

*June Gouge, Secretary*

### South East Diocesan Presidents

This is the fellowship of Diocesan Presidents in our South East Cluster at a recent leadership conference at High Leigh. The 30 Diocesan Presidents for Canterbury Province meet twice a year. These are get-togethers arranged for reporting on new initiatives in our dioceses and to swap good ideas and learn about best practice. There are often departmental heads from Mary Sumner House attending to explain the vision of worldwide Mothers' Union. Last year all of the Britain and Ireland Diocesan Presidents met for MULOA



Back row, left to right: Marianna, DP Canterbury; Comfort, DP Southwark; Kim, DP St Albans; Kathryn, DP Chichester; Maureen, DP Oxford; Sue, DP London. Front row, left to right: Julia, DP Rochester; Judith, DP Chelmsford; Antonia, DP Guildford and Tonie, DP Europe.

days and established an action framework. This has been incorporated into a global framework ratified at the worldwide conference in Rwanda. The key messages are our advocacy for gender justice; to be active in peace and reconciliation; and, to foster all that builds up self-reliance.

*Marianna Poliszczuk, Diocesan President*



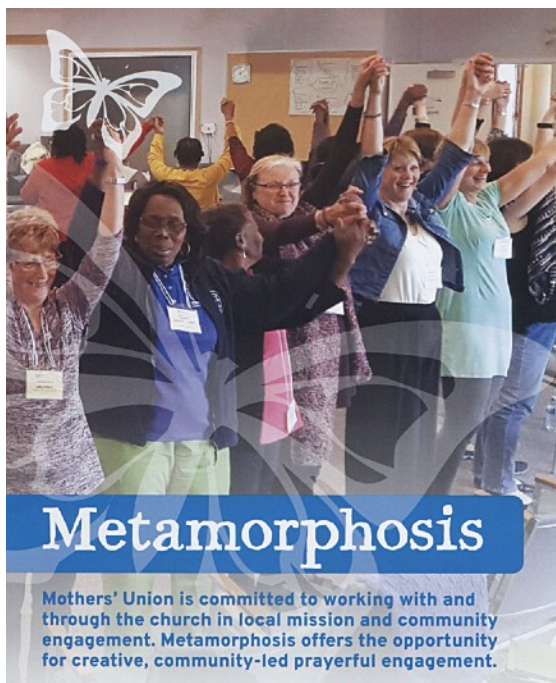
# Metamorphosis

METAMORPHOSIS is Mothers' Union's approach to enabling and supporting meaningful relationships with God. Through these dialogues we have been inspiring transformation in individuals, churches and communities across 10 countries for over a decade.

In the UK and Ireland, our Metamorphosis approach combines different tools, techniques and suggestions to enable and equip churches to identify the skills, experience and gifts within the church that can be used to transform their communities from the inside out, help others and identify strengths within the community that can be built upon.

It is achieved through creative exercises and engaging bible-based workshops that can involve all members of the community and allow churches to put their learning into practice. As a result, churches can expect to see transformation in their communities through taking action, building skills, developing relationships. Experience has also shown that faith in God and confidence also grow.

“I have been impressed by Metamorphosis, the way in which it has drawn in and energised people from churches that are not structured around regular discussion or Bible study groups. The commitment and excitement in the room has been tangible. Metamorphosis has opened up the Scriptures in new ways, and played an important part in developing outward-focused churches with a fresh desire to engage with their local communities.” Revd. Canon Mike Booker, Bishop's Change Officer for Market Towns.



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Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 7th February 2020. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: [boycieboycie@icloud.com](mailto:boycieboycie@icloud.com).

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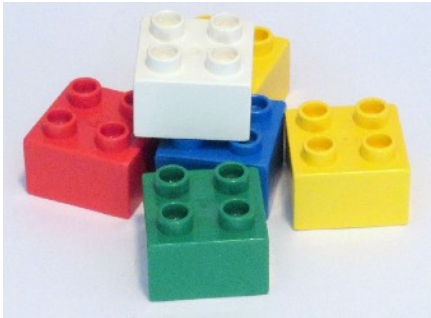


# The theme for 2020 is “Building hope and confidence.”

During our global listening process MULOA (Mothers’ Union Listens, Observes and Acts) the voices of over 200,000 members worldwide have been heard. This has enabled Worldwide Council to draw together key emerging elements, and thus shape the way forward for us as a movement. “Building hope and confidence” has been placed at the heart of our call to support individuals and families to transform their lives. As we build our hope and confidence in God we will be inspired and equipped to build hope and confidence in others, in both local and global context.

So our themed resources for 2020 aim to help us live out our faith to build hope and confidence in ourselves as well as those we support, and to nurture our faith as we continue to walk forward in step with God.

The resources available are on the Mothers’ Union website; [mothersunion.org](http://mothersunion.org)



and are: Service of Thanksgiving, Lady Day Celebrations, Prayers and Bible verses, Quotes, Stories of change, Prayer reflection, God’s Word as our foundation, Being confident about MU, What do I do well?

## Those Who Have Died

### Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Dunstan’s Church, Canterbury	Jenny Brooks
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St Leonard’s Church, Deal	Jean Ainley
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### Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Nicholas Church, Allington	Eunice Vane
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St John the Baptist Church, Tunstall	Janet Littlejohns
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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.

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# Dates for your Diary

## Please remember in your prayers:

Wednesday 15th January	Finance & D S Meeting, 7.00pm
Saturday 18th January	Wit and Wisdom, Allington (Maidstone Archdeaconry)
Wednesday 22nd January	Trustee Board Meeting, Diocesan House 10.00 am to 1.00 pm
Thursday 30th January	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Friday 7th February	Copy deadline for Diocesan Newsletter
Thursday 27th February	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon St Gabriel's Chapel
Wednesday 4th March	Members' Meeting, St Paul's Church, Canterbury, 10.30am - BYO lunch 1.00 - 2.00pm
Monday 16th - Wednesday 18th March	Wave of Prayer in branches
Sunday 22nd March	Mothering Sunday - MAMD Appeal
Wednesday 25th March	Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry Lady Day Service at St Paul's Church, Canterbury, at 11.00 led by Rev'd Wendy Jackson-Hill
Thursday 26th March	Cathedral Prayer Time, 12 noon-1.00pm St Gabriel's Chapel

## Contacts

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Canterbury Diocese website: [www.muenterprises.org/canterburymu](http://www.muenterprises.org/canterburymu)

Registered Charity No. 250124

# Mothering Sunday



Introducing the 2020 **Make a Mother's Day** gift range.

As part of Mothering Sunday, Mothers' Union have been promoting giving a gift to other women in need.

This year our theme is 'growing in confidence, strength and peace' which feels apt for a range of gifts that will inspire women and girls to tackle the issues they face and be the positive change their families and communities need.

These include, providing opportunities to learn parenting skills or attend projects giving individuals the confidence and strength to be able to support themselves, bible study classes that will benefit a mother and her family, teaching women and girls how to find their voice and speak about their rights, developing their literacy and numeracy skills, opportunities to join our AFIA program and providing much needed support to families.

There is also an option to make a memorial gift and have your prayer card placed in the chapel at Mary Sumner House, London. Thank you for helping to nurture hope and building peace among communities this Mothering Sunday – choose your gifts from the website;

[makeamothersday.org](http://makeamothersday.org)