

Issue 1/21

January - March 2021

Newsletter



Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

New Members

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Martin and St Paul's Canterbury

Revd Hannah Thompson

St Dunstons, Canterbury

Heather Butcher

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Andrew's, Barming Heath

Marlene Parks

Survivor Handbooks for Refuges - more on page 4

If you have links with one or more local refuge, we would love you to be able to share a copy of the (free of charge) handbook with them.

Please email info@restored-uk.org , copying in Rachael.Anderson@mothersunion.org, with the number of Handbooks that you require.

Restored will then send you the number of requested copies for you to share with your refuge. To preview the book, visit: www.restored-uk.org/handbook

Thank you for partnering with us, and helping provide a lifeline for many women.

Bev Jullien, CEO Mothers' Union and Bekah Legg, Director of Restored

FROM THE EDITOR...



In this issue we have news from overseas, but unfortunately I have obviously little to include from around our Diocese this quarter as many Covid 19 restrictions were still in place.

Please if you can, pass a copy of this to any member that somehow doesn't receive one, or failing that let them read yours.

David Horwood

Front Cover Photo: Dean Robert Willis leads Cathedral morning prayer from the Deanery garden; an online service video on YouTube.

Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 29th January 2021. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: boycieboycie@icloud.com.

Dear friends

I have never felt more sure that we are a powerful source of hope, to give support and express God's love in our everyday contacts.

Midday prayers for members across the globe are enhanced during March with our Wave of Prayer days. There will be a service to celebrate our overseas link dioceses for your meetings and rolling times for supportive prayer over three days.

We are firing up Metamorphosis - our MU approach to community transformation - a process that keeps us rooted in prayer, reflection and bible study and which gives us the confidence to reach out to others. It can equip us with the tools to work with our churches and local communities, to listen, to understand and to discern what God may be calling us to do in partnership.

Your trustees look forward to you joining us in the members' virtual meeting on Monday 8th March. I know not everyone has a computer/laptop/iPad/Tablet/Smart phone, and so we include dial-in numbers available from landlines (charge by your phone provider). Thank you to all those, who have 'given it a go' as these are the nearest we can get to having everyone meeting together. If you would like to contact Susan, there is also the facility for branches to meet by zoom. We will continue the regular informal zoom coffee mornings with midday prayer on the last Thursday of each month.

The pandemic has reminded us of our relatedness to the world and to other people. Bev Jullien CEO says: "We have learned the lessons from COVID-19, including that, meeting the standards people expect of charity - humility, decency, dignity, commitment, accountability - is vitally important to the future of Mothers' Union."

We recognise that its effects will continue to be felt across the world throughout 2021, so as people seek to come to terms with loss of all kinds, from bereavement to loss of livelihood, relationships, wellbeing and other challenges, MU's work of rebuilding hope and confidence will be vital. Do please give prayerful thought as to how you can support this work in our diocese.

As we transit to new experiences, I remind everyone that 2021 is an election year, to find for the next triennium, your Diocesan President, trustee board and other officers. Consider whom to approach. If you are that person I warmly welcome your approach.

Grace and Peace

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



Holy Trinity Milton Regis and St. John the Baptist Tunstall

This year at Tunstall we joined with Milton Regis collecting shoe boxes for Blytheswood Care. I really enjoy collecting items and making up boxes.

On 29th October Rachel and I delivered twenty-two boxes to the Blytheswood centre in Gillingham. We were met by a gentleman called Ralph. He was so pleased that we had managed to collect these boxes, because of the circumstances this year they are expecting much fewer than in previous years. He showed me round the warehouse where they had several piles of boxes and one area filled with tables of spare items. They check the contents of the boxes and add additional items as necessary.

Sue Thomas, Branch Leader

Kajo-Keji face masks

Mothers' Union is fully taking the responsibility of sewing and distributing the face mask and are majorly distributed to the community of

Kajo-Keji for both Internal Displaced People and those who voluntarily return home to clean their home environment while practicing agriculture activities. The target group is for all men, women, disables, vulnerable, youths and children regardless of the denomination, education, tribe or any other mode of discrimination. We have not excluded any person because Corona Virus can affect every human being.

Project funding/donor: Following the project proposal, mothers' union of the diocese of Kajo-Keji responded positively through the funding from Jane Namuru Pogo. Her being a close and attentive friend to the situations of people in Kajo-Keji community and the refugees, we are faithfully strong to continue with the support to our people for positive care of our families while testifying God mighty support in our life. The importance of face mask project to the community by branding of the face masks has exposed open market opportunities to mothers' union income generating activities in the tailoring centre.

*Namadi Silivian, Mothers' Union Development Coordinator,
Diocese of Kajo-Keji*



Around the Diocese - MU Live

I would like to thank Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry for their generosity in supplying groceries for the Kitchen, Isle of Thanet who supplied free lunches for vulnerable families during half term.



Yesterday morning while I was listing to the Dean of Canterbury he told the story of a granddaughter commentating to her grandfather as he was cleaning the Cathedral that she could only see the saints in the windows when the sun shined through them, thank you for being those Saints with the light of Christ shining through each and every one of you.

As your new AFIA coordinator I have had the privilege to work with Sue Thomas and Marylyn Collins in choosing the venue for the next AFIA venue, we were so blessed when we went to Ashburnham Place, Battle, East Sussex and we have decided it was the place for our holiday in 2022.

Please can all of you amazing members continue to pray, and fundraise for AFIA, it is a wonderful venture that has been very much a part of our Dioceses's outreach for many years.

Also I have decided to walk to London again, this time I am going along the coast and will be fundraising for AFIA, God willing I hope to do it walking half term at the beginning of June 2021, so watch this space.

Some very talented MU members knitted black dolls for me to send to an Uganda children's home I support, how wonderful are they.



During this pandemic I have heard comments about how it has brought the best out in us, when I hear this comment, I reply. "well you obviously have not meet Mothers' Union members, they are awesome all the time."

Rita Pengelly, Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry President

Domestic Violence Crisis in UK

No more 1 in 3 campaign focused on the hidden pandemic of domestic abuse, incidences of which increased during lockdown. When considering gender violence against women and girls we should also remember that men are also victims. 576,000 men (2.5% men) and 1.2 million (4.8% women) were victims of partner abuse in 2018/19 equating to a ratio of two female victims to every one male victim.



In 2018/19 – 16 men and 80 women were killed at the hands of their current or ex-partner. In terms of refuges/safe houses, currently, there are 37 organisations with 204 spaces with only 40 of those places being dedicated for men. Many parts of the UK have no, or limited, places at all – for instance London has no spaces. The charity Mankind (mankind.org.uk) exists to support male victims of gender violence in the UK.

Chris Cook, St Nicholas Allington Branch

Survivor Handbooks for Refuges

Sometimes, survivors of domestic abuse have been let down so often by people who were meant to love them, that they lose their identity and are frightened to even trust God anymore. Our partner, Restored, have written a Survivors' Handbook from a Christian perspective, providing crucial information and support to survivors of domestic abuse. The inspiration to publish this Handbook came out of Restored's Online Survivors' Network; it became clear that women who have experienced domestic abuse face very similar challenges, but few resources addressing these challenges are available. The handbook is divided into three themes:

- managing the practical realities after leaving an abuser
- healing and recovery after leaving an abuser
- theological issues relating to domestic abuse

Many sections in the Handbook can apply to all female survivors of abuse, with any faith background or none. The Handbook includes chapters on security, protective orders, supporting children, financial and career planning, managing physical and mental health, healing, as well as a section on what the Bible says about domestic abuse, divorce, justice, and forgiveness. Restored recently received an email from a survivor saying how much reading this had meant to her:

'Refuges are underfunded, under resourced and under-staffed. Abused and often very disturbed women are wandering around without purpose... I found my faith and hope - I'm not unique. Wouldn't it be fantastic if this book led others in the direction I am now headed.'

Together in Prayer

January - March 2021

John Sweetman - Social Policy Officer

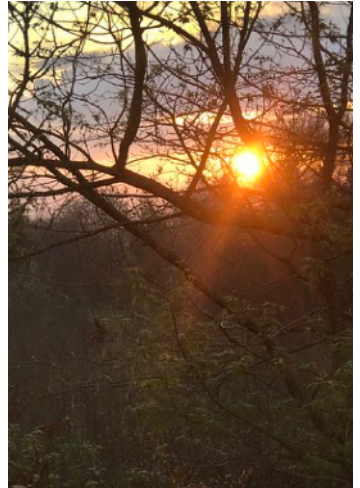
The Old Year and the New Year

There can be no doubt that 2020 has been perhaps the most challenging year which our earthly world had ever had to face together. As I write this message in October 2020 there is no evidence of Covid 19 abating either in this country or world-wide.

However, nothing is all bad and so in preparing prayers for the old year and the new, we can firstly share the message in Revelation 21:5 “Behold I make all things new”. Secondly we can be inspired by the current Mothers’ Union theme of Rebuilding Hope and Confidence.

A Prayer for 2020

Heavenly Father, whose mercy is everlasting, accept our thanks for all the blessings of the year that has past. We give thanks that through the lock down, good neighbourliness has multiplied and new means of communication have been found. We give thanks for all the care given by hospital and nurses and all caring staff through the epidemic and we come beside all who have suffered loss and distress during the past year. In Jesus’ name, we pray. **Amen.**



A Prayer for 2021

Grant, Lord, that as we enter this New Year, we may find rest in your eternal changelessness. May we go forward into 2021 with hope, confidence and courage praying that nations of the world may work more closely together in combatting Covid. We pray for leaders of all nations as they continue to face the issues that Covid has produced. We pray for all who have lost their jobs or businesses that their fortunes may improve in 2021. We pray also for our churches that they will be able to reopen more fully and to provide both word and Sacraments to people and to share more fully in spreading the Good News of Jesus. We pray for ourselves that we may continue to love our neighbours as ourselves. We ask this in the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Together in Prayer

January - Epiphany and Baptisms

We come first in our New Year to the great festival of the Epiphany when we celebrate the visit of the Wise Men or Magi to the baby Jesus. This represents the first sign that Jesus would be King, not just of Israel but of the whole wide world.

Heavenly Father, whose kingdom rules over all, we pray that as the wise men from distant lands brought their gifts to the Christ child and paid him homage, so we may offer our lives to him and rejoice to own him as our King, for the glory of his great name. **Amen.**

Heavenly Father as we give thanks for the special journey which the Wise Men took to bring their gifts to Jesus, we pray for your guidance and support to keep us safe during our journey through life especially as we each face the difficulties which the pandemic has brought. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

As this time in the Christian year we are reminded of the Baptism of Jesus and are especially aware of the problems in providing Baptism that Covid has brought and so we pray:-

Almighty God, we remember that Jesus humbled himself for Baptism and how the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove came down upon Him. We remember with thanksgiving our own Baptism which brought us into the family of God and we pray for all families whose members are seeking Baptism that the time may soon come to make this possible so that they too may join the world wide family of God, Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Together in Prayer

February

We come first this month to the Festival of Candlemas on 2nd February which is 40 days after Christmas. In recent years this Festival has become more widely celebrated. In it we remember the faithfulness of Mary and Joseph in bringing Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated. The duty priest, Simeon, recognises Jesus even in his infancy as being “a light to lighten the gentiles” (Luke 2:33).



Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus, to be a light to lighten our world. Help us to share the light of Christ in our lives and encourage us to shine forth our light more and more among the people we meet. In Jesus name, we pray. **Amen.**

Later in February we enter the season of Lent when we are encouraged to give more time to our devotions and to offer our sacrifices in remembering the great sacrifice that Jesus made for us in dying upon the Cross.

Almighty God, we pray that through the season of Lent, by prayer and study and self-discipline, we may penetrate more deeply into the mystery of Christ's sufferings; that following in the way of his cross and passion we may come to share in the glory and triumph of his resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Together in Prayer

March- Towards Easter

As we progress through Lent, we come to Mothering Sunday. This Sunday was originally known as Refreshment Sunday when traditionally those in service were permitted to go home to their families for the day. Mothering Sunday is celebrated on different Sundays in various parts of the world.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for our own mothers and for all the love, guidance and devotion which they gave us. We pray for mothers throughout the world and especially for those living in poverty, homelessness or abandonment. We give thanks for the efforts made by the Mothers' Union to uphold the joys and privileges and responsibilities of motherhood. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

This month we shall be observing the Wave of Prayer when we pray for our partners in different parts of the world.

Heavenly Father, we thank you that we are part of a world-wide movement spreading your love far and wide. We pray for all Church and Mothers' Union leaders and members in our Overseas Link Dioceses remembering Kajo Keji in South Sudan as they seek to move back to their homes; Dutse and Akoko-Edo in Nigeria and Tarime in Tanzania as they all seek to combat the efforts of Covid. May God's blessing be with them all. **Amen.**

Later this month we come to Palm Sunday and Holy Week which we trust we may be able to celebrate more fully than last year.

Father in heaven, as your people prepare once more to follow the events of Good Friday and Easter, may we be led by your Spirit to deeper insights into your love and saving grace; that we may love you more and serve you better, for the sake of Him who died for us and rose again, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **Amen.**



Around the Diocese - MU Live

This year has certainly been a challenge for everyone due to the pandemic and government restrictions. Our usual efforts of meeting face to face and supporting each other as a team have been severely hampered. However, some members have been blessed with extra time and/or new opportunities to serve in different ways. Each member has risen to the challenges we have all faced, be that with regard to technology, talking to people through front room windows or printing off newsletters to try and keep communications and morale high. A big thank you to you all for your unwavering support for the work of the Mothers' Union locally, nationally and internationally. The generosity of members who have been able to support the Mothers' Union financial appeal by making monetary or prayerful contributions has been remarkable. I am hoping that the Members' Meeting and the Trustee Board Meeting will identify even more ways that we can communicate and support those without access to the internet. All ideas welcome!

Although toddler groups have ceased and branch and other meetings have only been possible through Zoom (where people have access to the internet) or where branch membership is low enough to satisfy the government maximum restriction (6 people meeting together at one time), members have remained busy with the following projects:

Donations given to the refugee young people in Maidstone.

Knitting Angel pockets and little hats for the Special Care Baby Unit.

Gifts for Priority House.

PPE sewn for NHS professionals.

Shoe boxes filled and distributed.

Home starter boxes to young people.

Donations given to the Women's Refuge. (Letter received saying "*we truly appreciate your kindness and generosity to the refuge. Your donations will make a big difference to most of the women we welcome in our refuge. Thank you so much. The refuge team, Loral and Maria.*")

Donations given to the Street Pastors.

...and much much more. Please can members email details of all MU activities or partnership working so that these can be added by Susan Bradley onto the MU Live database.

I personally took advantage of four of the online webinars organised by Mary Sumner House. These were excellent and I have been able to use the tools I have learnt within my local community already. I am eager for the online Metamorphosis training packages to be developed during the forthcoming year, watch this space! Relationships with organisations on the Isle of Sheppey are being developed with potential projects to joint partner some of the existing projects as we move forward with Metamorphosis.

Sally Phillips, Maidstone Archdeaconry President

Dutse, Nigeria

Dear Daniele,

I am grateful to read from you again after a long break. It always give us joy and hope any time we receive a letter from you; this is because your letters used to come with prayers and encouragement.

The women's conference earlier in October was successful in our own context. God was there and His presence was evidently seen as the conference was done without any hitch. Truly, the women were not on face masks during the conference and I must confess to you that no one put face mask in this part of the country except in a meeting with some few government officials. Right from the beginning, the story behind covid-19 is like a mirage or a Hollywood film. It was politicised and became a means of enrichment by many politicians, medical personnel, security agents and many business people while many of us suffered locked down and hunger. You might have seen or read on how the #ENDSARS protesters looted many stores loaded with palliatives and one wonders why they should keep those palliatives when people are dying of hunger. Many questions were asked why government did not share those palliatives but they covered up with flimsy excuses.

I am sad to hear that covid-19 is ravaging UK and many European countries again. I pray that God will show mercy and bring healing upon you and the entire world. It gladdens my heart to hear that in your own case, the less privileged could be helped. Our Diocese has a population of about 1000 people - clergymen, men, women, youth and children inclusive. Due to the autonomic nature of the Anglican Church in Nigeria, we are expected to raise all finances to pay our workers and run the Diocese as well. I was sad during the peak of the lock down because we could not help those who are in desperate need due to our financial constraint. One other sad experience is we have a government that does not care about the Church, yet they are not happy to see the Church progressing.

All my children with the exception of Benjamin who returned to school last Monday, are all at home. Universities are still closed due strike by lecturers.

Our sincere

Our warmest regards your family and the entire people of God at Mary Sumner House.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Bishop and Mrs. Markus Yohanna Danbinta

Bishop of Dutse, Jigawa State, Nigeria

Akoko-Edo, Nigeria

Hello Daniele

I pray for you and all concerned for safety from Covid 19 at anytime and place. God will help MU continue their fellowship and may we live in righteousness and rest in heaven at the end of this life's journey. I am fine and covid 19 is down in Nigeria, so work is regular but in compliance with use of face mask and sanitiser. Remain blessed.

Victoria Oyekpen

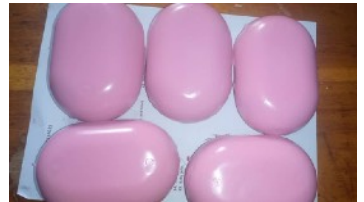
Kajo-Keji, South Sudan

The border between South Sudan and Uganda is now open, so refugees can go home if they choose to do so at their own risk. The situation is still quite volatile and people are afraid to go back after 8 years of war. Nevertheless, some brave souls have returned and the Diocese of Kajo-Keji has a few people working there while the rest remain in Moyo (Uganda). Bishop Emmanuel goes back and forth. Jane's sister is still in the camps with some of her children. Only the 6th formers and last year of primary are allowed in school.

Following Jean's suggestion of a fund raising for soap for the people in the camps, I asked Jane about it. As she is desperate to help her people she started a soap making project with her own tithe. She would like to extend it so as to support the masks and dignity kits making. Any contributions would be welcome. You can send money directly to Jane or to me and I shall forward it. Attached are some of the photos she sent me. What strikes me is that the women look so happy!

No news from Tarime despite many emails. I do wonder what is happening there. With love

Daniele Ligneau-Wilton, Overseas Links Officer



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:

Friday 29th January	Copy deadline for Newsletter
Monday 8 March	Members gathering on-line (International Women's Day)
Tuesday 16th - Thursday 18th March	Wave of Prayer in branches
Sunday 14th March	Mothering Sunday - Make a Mother's Day Campaign
Thursday 25th March	Lady Day meeting and prayer time

In Memoriam

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Leonard's Deal

Molly Leivers

Minster in Sheppey

Pam Edworthy

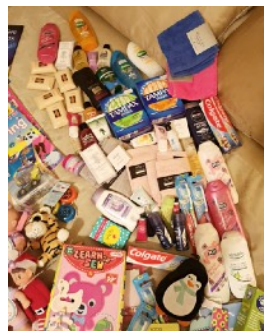
Pam had been a member of the MU for twenty eight years and had served as Branch Leader of Minster in Sheppey for twelve years. She was a well known person attending AGM's at Canterbury, but latterly had become a house member of MU as coming to monthly meetings proved too difficult. Pam always had a cheerful smile and welcome to all and will be sadly missed.

MU Worker for Lesotho

Beatrice Ngozwana

Holy Trinity, Cliftonville

Claire, a young mum from Holy Trinity Cliftonville MU heard about two ladies who were collecting items for a women refuge, a food bank, a children's home, and the homeless, Claire went on to the young mums WhatsApp and asked if anyone had anything they could donate, the response was immediate and generous with many various, lovely things donated. A wonderful example of MU at work. Well done everyone involved.



Around The Diocese

St Stephen's Branch, Canterbury

The PCC at St Stephen's Church has formed a working party to see how the churchyard could be made more attractive to visitors. The churchyard was surveyed by members and a grave commemorating the death of a Constance Halward was discovered which is in a sorry state. Rosie Barford, a member of our branch remembered the name as being on a brass plaque on the MU banner that was in memory of Constance for being MU secretary from 1923 - 1927.



She was intrigued and started some research and found out that Constance had been born in Aston, Birmingham and had married a William Halward from Moseley, Worcestershire in October 1896. They must have come to Canterbury between 1891 and 1893 as William was admitted to the Masons in the city along with a fellow Lay Clerk. In 1911 it would appear that they had moved to Irham/Irlham Villa in Hanover Road, now changed to Beverley Road due to the war, with their three children, and their son had become a chorister at the Cathedral.

Constance died in July 1927. The branch members have decided to adopt the grave and tend it. We are looking into what plants will grow in shaded areas as the grave is in a very shaded part of the churchyard.

Will report back when we have done the work in the spring and planted it up.

Margaret Horwood, Branch Leader

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Registered Charity No. 250124



Mothers' Union Women's Conference last October in Dutse, Nigeria and some of the handicrafts they made.

