

Issue 4/21

October - December 2021

Newsletter



Celebrating 125
Years

Global Campaign



25th Nov - 10th Dec

Front Cover - The Walk

Little Amal, a 3.5 metre-tall puppet, will walk across the European continent to shine a light on the stories of millions of young refugees. She will travel through 8 countries, welcomed by hundreds of cultural events in cities, towns and villages all along her route. The length and sheer size of the challenge is capturing imaginations even before her first step. She will walk for all the children – many unaccompanied and separated from their families – who are forced to undertake extraordinary journeys under life-threatening conditions. Little Amal will walk so that we don't forget them. Amal's name means HOPE.

The Walk - 21st October 2021

Amal wakes outside Canterbury Cathedral and is given a pilgrim's welcome inside. Joined by the children of Canterbury she will walk to the University of Kent campus where **Refugee Tales** and **Gulbenkian Theatre** have planned a storytelling event to welcome her.

"At a time when public debate is so polarised, and safe and legal routes for refugees are being closed down, art has a critical role to play in changing the conversation and bringing people together. We hope that *The Walk* will shed new light on the journeys refugees are forced to take and galvanise support for a world where everyone seeking asylum has access to a safe passage." *Beth Gardiner-Smith, CEO of Safe Passage*

Fundraising Opportunity for Canterbury Diocese MU

A new fundraising page has been set up which will benefit Canterbury Diocese MU and can be used from now on to support fundraising projects. It is currently being used to support donations for Rita Pengelly who has undertaken a coastal walk in support of AFIA and Marianna's sponsored Haircut 125 in recognition of our Diocese MU Anniversary.



If you would like to consider setting up a fundraising event to support The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Canterbury Branch) using Gofundme as a resource please contact Rachel Thomas
racheltunstallmothersunion@gmail.com

Copy for the next Newsletter to be with Susan Bradley by Friday 29th October 2021.
Please let our Administrator know what is happening in your area.
Send an email to Susan.Bradley@mothersunion.org

Dear Friends

We are walking in the Light of God by the awareness-raising walks for humans and the environment, in the ecology walk to Glasgow for COP26 conference in November and, a dramatic walk for refugees awareness (front cover) which is underway from Turkey to Manchester.



Similarly, we are inspired by the Clewer Initiative craftivism to produce a large link Crochet Chain for highlighting modern day slavery and human trafficking. These will be in the Cathedral during October and November and will support also the 16 days of Activism global campaign against gender violence at Cathedral Prayer time 12-1pm on Thursday 25 November. MSH will present an on-line service on 27th November. Prayer is at the heart of MU and something in which we can all take part.

Remember to let your congregations know that MU is still active. It will be easier for our supporters taking part in activities to make cashless donations directly to the Diocese if you include our GoFundMe link in your advertising materials. Be proactive, prioritise areas of need in your community. That is the way that we will demonstrate the value and blessing of the MU.

Re-imagining MU was introduced after a provincial webinar for DPs with PPC Kathryn. We do need to have those conversations with each other and in the branch so we are sending information to all branch contacts. We will continue the conversation at our sharing day in Canterbury on 2nd November so do come if you can..

Central elections have taken place and WWP Sheran and PPC Kathryn are both re-elected to a second term. The zonal trustee for Canterbury will be Julia Jamieson the current DP Rochester who replaces Nikki Sweatman.

I have been part of the trustee board since 2007 and have been engrossed in compiling a memory book. There are some of us leaving at the end of our term as trustees; myself, Chris and Jean and Revd Wendy who has contributed our newsletter prayer pages.

Be proud to be a member of MU, wear your badge and be prayerful. We will be looking forward to our Advent service. And, May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you wherever he may send you!

Grace and Peace

Marianna Poliszczuk Diocesan President

email: marianna2@compuserve.com

Celebrating Mary Sumner Day



Auctioneer - Sue Spillett

Monday 9th August was Mary Sumner Day and this year it was especially significant as it marked the centenary of our founder's death.



A small team led by our Diocesan Treasurer Sue Thomas and Rita Pengelly, Archdeaconry President for Ashford and Canterbury organised a 'Bible Auction' to mark the event. For those of you unfamiliar with the term it was not an auction

of Bibles but an auction of many and varied donations made by Mothers' Union members. The only stipulation for each donation was that a pertinent Bible verse needed to be attached to the item. It was an enjoyable event and members showed extreme creativity in identifying appropriate verses for items ranging from a pig door stop to a tin of deodorant!



The event was very well supported and enjoyed by all those attending, raising

over £1000 for the AFIA Project and general funds! Everyone enjoyed a light lunch beforehand and took the opportunity to catch up with each other after such a long time without meeting together in person. The afternoon concluded with the cutting of an amazing cake made by Sue Thomas' daughter-in-law Lynne to celebrate 125 years of Mothers' Union in Canterbury Diocese. The day was rounded off at the Cathedral by attending Choral Evensong.



Well done everyone!

Reimagining MU

What are we passionate about?

Re-imagining Mothers' Union is a process to re-imagine Mothers' Union, building on our strengths and adapting to new challenges to become an organisation that will enthuse both existing and potential members and continue the vision of Mary Sumner. It will be the focus of a residential conference in January at the start of the new triennium. Across our Britain & Ireland 42 thousand membership, there are many exciting and interesting ideas and initiatives that can help to build our future. Only a small proportion of members however will be able to attend a conference.

How could we gather the thoughts and experiences of more of our members to shape the content of this process?

Coffee Mornings



Mothers' Union members love to get together and have a chat over a cup of coffee, so we want to hold a series of Coffee Mornings, to encourage as many members as possible to contribute their ideas to **Re-imagining Mothers' Union**. In addition we would like as many members as can, to come along on **2nd November** at St Paul's Canterbury to our sharing day social and a further exchange of ideas.

We would like to invite **you** to host a Re-imagining Mothers' Union Coffee Morning this Autumn. It may be called a Coffee Morning, but these can be held at any time of day, with coffee, tea or even a glass of wine in the evening. The idea is to create a relaxed event when members and supporters can talk openly. Allow around an hour for your discussion – plus some time for socialising.

Coffee Mornings can happen in person either in someone's home, or in a parish hall, with drinks provided. Or you could host a virtual Coffee Morning. **The choice is yours!**

Advent Service 2021



'Light of Hope'

is the theme of our
Annual Advent Service
to be held on
Thursday 2nd December
at 11.00am in Canterbury Cathedral

Speaker
Revd Phil Goodey
St Peter's Church
Boughton Monchelsea



Together in Prayer - September



SEPTEMBER the month of the Harvest Moon and traditionally Harvest Festivals when we give thanks to God for all his mercies. The harvest has been gathered in, the farmers have worked long and hard to sow, tend, cultivate, reap and gather and we rejoice that we have food for another year.

It was the Reverend Robert Hawker who invited the parishioners from his church in the Cornish parish of Morwenstow to his home for a special thanksgiving for the Harvest in 1843 and this became an annual event which soon spread to other Parishes and indeed worldwide.

When I was growing up in Durban, South Africa we celebrated Harvest Festival in our Sunday School and Church and were encouraged to take some gifts of food to Church. I lived in a suburb close to the city of Durban and never saw food growing in fields so most of us took tinned food to church so the area around the Altar resembled a grocery store!

I was so impressed when I first came to England and was working in a rural parish in Devon surrounded by farms growing all kinds of fruit and vegetables and my first Harvest Festival was truly memorable and wonderful! Farmers came bearing crates of cabbages, bags of potatoes, Apples, trays of freshly laid eggs and even freshly picked Mushrooms and we held an Auction which raised a good sum of money to donate to a worthy charity.

Then there was the eagerly anticipated Harvest Supper with delicious local foods and very good entertainment! EVERYONE came to that and I saw people there who never came to any church services which I thought was a bit strange. I was reminded of the poem about a church mouse written by John Betjeman, too long to include here but if you haven't read it do try to find it. However, it was good to see EVERYONE coming together to celebrate God's provision for us and give thanks for the Harvest.

**Almighty and gracious Father,
we give you thanks
for the fruits of the earth in their season
and for the labours of those who harvest them.
Make us, we pray,
faithful stewards of your great bounty,
for the provision of our necessities
and the relief of all who are in need,
to the glory of your Name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
Amen.
*Book of Common Prayer***

Together in Prayer - October



OCTOBER SEASON of mists and mellow fruitfulness,
Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;(Ode to
Autumn- John Keats)

I love Autumn, the changing colours of trees and
shrubs bright green one week leaves can turn into
burnished copper the next is to me one of Mother
Nature's miracles!

I lived in Durban right on the coast of South Africa where we had a sub tropical
climate never very cold and there were no definite seasonal changes all seasons
sort of blended into one, so coming to England was a real revelation as I heard
people talking about doing things in the Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter
rather than in April, June, October or December. I loved seeing the leaves
gathering on the ground and watching children running through them loving the
crunching sound their boots made in the leaves.

But there is also something melancholic about Autumn, reminding me that I am in
the Autumn of my life, 70 plus years have fallen from my tree of life. My earlier
years were bright green, fresh and vibrant but now it's a different story! After the
new birth of Spring Autumn makes me confront the inevitable loss, decay and
death. I have to be careful I don't wallow in self pity thinking of how my life is
ebbing to a close and remind myself that the Circle of Life goes on and that after
Winter comes Spring and God is present in every season of my life until He calls
me home.

One of my favourite Saints is Francis of Assisi and we celebrate his feast day on 4th
October. Francis loved the whole of God's creation and I'm sure he too would have
loved Autumn, us spend some of our Autumn days reflecting on his great prayer

**Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is hatred let me bring your love
Where there is injury, your pardon Lord
And where there is doubt true faith in You
Make me a channel of your peace
Where there is despair in life let me bring hope
Where there is darkness only light
And where there's sadness ever joy
Oh, Master grant that I may never seek
So much to be consoled as to console
To be understood as to understand
To be loved as to love with all my soul
Make me a channel of your peace
It is in pardoning that we are pardoned
It is in giving to all men that we receive
And in dying that we are born to eternal life.**

Together in Prayer - November

NOVEMBER



*Remember, remember, the Fifth of November,
Gunpowder treason and plot
I see no reason why gunpowder treason
Should ever be forgot*

As I am writing this reflection I'm feeling very sad and anxious as I see all the videos coming out of Durban where serious rioting is happening. Shopping Malls have been

destroyed contents of the shops looted. Fires have been started. The main highway into Kwa Zulu Natal has been blocked off and large lorries carrying produce, fuel, milk etc into the Province have been burnt and no traffic is being allowed through.

Friends tell me food is already in short supply with supermarket shelves totally empty, no bread or milk deliveries. Baby formula and nappies are not available. Vaccines not being administered due to venues doing the vaccinations have been destroyed. At least one water reservoir serving Durban has been damaged and now electrical sub stations are being targeted.

Fire, such a powerful force, our picture shows a gardener sweeping up the fallen leaves and perhaps he will set fire to them but hopefully he will be careful and keep a watchful eye on the flames. Guy Fawkes had no intention of being careful, his heart was set on destroying the Parliament and he'd made his plans accordingly. Thankfully his plan was thwarted.

African people often use fire to show their anger and at one time in South Africa's history a really brutal instrument of torture and death was devised- putting a motor tyre around the body of the victim, filling it with petrol and setting fire to it, this was called 'Necklacing.' During these days of rioting and looting fires have destroyed Libraries, shops, businesses, motor vehicles, lives and the economy of the country. Who knows what the final cost of this anarchy will be or how long it will take to rebuild the country. Hopefully by the time you are reading this reflection the rebuilding will be happening but right now all I find myself repeating over and over again is this heartfelt prayer

***'God bless Africa,
Guard her children
Guide her Leaders
And give her Peace. Amen***

I ask YOU to join me in using this prayer not only for South Africa but for the whole of the Continent of Africa

Together in Prayer - December



Of course **DECEMBER** means CHRISTMAS!

We Christians have the season of Advent during which we prepare ourselves for the celebration of the anniversary of the Birth of the Christ child.

I think it was on the my first Christmas in England someone sent me a beautiful Christmas card which showed God walking down a big staircase cradling a baby in his arms and the caption

was 'At the first Christmas God walked down the steps of Heaven carrying His Baby Son.'

What a lovely thought that is! God the Father entrusting his Son to His people here on earth. But what did mankind do? Rejected that great gift and crucified Him! So what are YOU going to do with that generous Gift as you celebrate Christmas 2021?

It's been a hard year for so many of us but God has been with us and we have much to be thankful for. So in the midst of all the jollity, feasting and fun take time to unwrap God's special Gift which he's given YOU and be careful you don't throw the Baby in the Manger out with the tinsel and torn wrapping paper!

- C** is for Calm amidst all the clamour of consumerism that surrounds Christmas
- H** is for Holly –the red berries reminding us of Christ's blood shed for us
- R** is for Rudolph with his bright red nose – give thanks for all animals especially those who are ill treated and unloved
- I** is for the Inn , Jesus was born in an outbuilding in a strange place – pray for the homeless that they will find a place to sleep
- S** is for Salvation won for us by Christ
- T** is for Tinsel that sparkles and glitters – may we too be bright and shiny
- M** is for Money , may we spend it wisely at the Season and remember the Poor among us
- A** is for Angels, let us be ministering Angels to those who are hurting, lonely or marginalised
- S** is for Simplicity, let our Christmas be simple.

May the joy, love and peace of the Christ Child be yours this Christmas
Revd Wendy Jackson-Hill

Goodbye & Thank You !



December 2021 marks the end of another triennium and time to say 'Goodbye' to four of our Trustees, Diocesan President Marianna Poliszczuk, Deputy Diocesan President Jean Sweetman, Wendy Jackson-Hill and Chris Cook General Trustees.

They are all extremely grateful for the encouragement and support that they have received from fellow Trustees, Branch Officers and Mothers' Union members. All members are asked to continue to support and pray for the new Trustee Board which will take over responsibility for the management and organisation of Mothers' Union in Canterbury Diocese from January 2022.

A New Triennium !



Keep the Date!
Saturday 2nd April 2022
Canterbury Cathedral
11.00am Festival Service



Rebuilding Hope and Confidence

St Nicholas Allington



.We had the wonderful opportunity to restart our branch meetings in July!

Approximately 30 members and friends gathered together in fellowship and love and took the opportunity to chat and catch up with each other in person after such a long time!

We were fortunate to have John Cunningham visit us, a local singer and

songwriter, who entertained us with some of his music. Needless to say there was plenty of tea and cake on offer!

Mary Gentry produced cards and also jams, chutneys and marmalade were on sale.

All proceeds were shared between the Summer of Hope Appeal and AFIA and just over £150 was raised!

Chris Cook
Branch Leader



St Andrew's Barming Heath



During the repeated lock downs which we have endured for nearly 18 months, many Branches have faced the challenge of trying to keep our members active and interested. Here at St Andrew's, Barming Heath, our Branch Committee under the leadership of Liz Deane has organised a series of garden parties throughout the summer months. Up to six members have been invited to each garden party and they have been held in the gardens of five different members.

We have found this to be a very practicable way of keeping members engaged with what is happening in the Mothers' Union movement.

Around the Diocese - MU Live

It has also had a special benefit for those members who live alone to have a chat with others over a cup of tea or coffee with some delicious cakes and scones which members have made.

We are hoping it will be possible for our members to meet together as a whole in our Church Hall from September onwards.

John Sweetman

Holy Trinity Margate

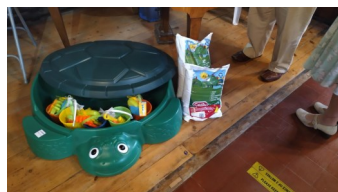
Holy Trinity Margate MU Branch are celebrating both Mary Sumner Day and 125 years of MU in the Diocese by members enjoying a Strawberry Cream Tea at the Walpole Bay Hotel in Margate. We have also knitted flowers to decorate our Flower Box which we planted up earlier this Summer. This stands in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church. We are still knitting more flowers as we want to decorate all the Flower Boxes around the Church.



Wendy James
Branch Leader

St Saviour's Westgate

A new mother and toddler group has been established at St Saviour's Westgate and the Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry have been able to supply a sandpit and some books.



Around the Diocese - MU Live

Community Wardrobe Sittingbourne

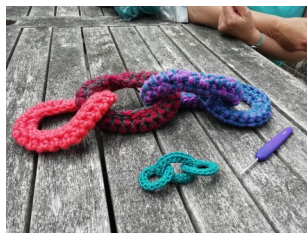


Mothers' Union have again been involved with the Community Wardrobe Scheme in Canterbury and Sittingbourne. This provides the opportunity to obtain school uniform items that have been either pre-loved or donated brand new. School uniform can now be quite expensive and this scheme assists those who might be struggling financially. Sue Thomas attended a recent

event and was able to assist families with their uniform requirements.

Modern Slavery & Clewer Initiative

Anti-Slavery day is 18th October and a number of MU branches and dioceses throughout the country are embarking on a project to make crochet chains to symbolise the continuing problem of modern slavery



in this country.. Bristol Diocese are making 951 chains to represent the statistical number of people in their area who are considered to be subject to modern slavery. The chains are to be exhibited in Bristol Cathedral to highlight this continuing problem within our society. The pattern is available on our website or contact our Administrator.

Newsletter Editor Required!

We are looking for members with hidden talents that could be used to support Mothers' Union in Canterbury Diocese!

Currently there is a vacancy for an editor and compiler for this Diocesan Newsletter and if there is anyone who has skills using Microsoft Publisher or any other desktop publishing program please step forward! The task is not onerous and will enable the four times a year newsletter provided for each member to continue!

Dates for your Diary

Please remember in your prayers

Saturday 25th September	Annual Gathering 2021 - A virtual event
Thursday 30th September	Zoom Coffee Lounge with Midday Prayers
Thursday 14th October	Maidstone Archdeacons Meeting
Thursday 28th October	Zoom Coffee Lounge with Midday Prayers
Friday 29th October	Copy deadline for DNL
Tuesday 2nd November	Sharing Day 10.30am
Thursday 25th November	Cathedral Prayer Time (16 Days of Activism)
Thursday 2nd December	Advent Service Canterbury Cathedral

Congratulations

Betty Ovenden on completing 20 years with the MU Prayer Chain!

Barbara Wills of Tunstall Branch who celebrates her 90th birthday!

In Memoriam

All Saints Cheriton
Holy Trinity Margate

Barbara Mills Betty Gibson
Mary Weitzel - a member of the branch for 40 years
and responsible for ensuring the continuance of MU
at Holy Trinity when it faced closure.

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Canterbury Diocese website: www.muenterprises.org/canterburymu

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Get ready for 2022



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www.mueshop.org**