

Issue 1/22

January— March 2022

# Newsletter



## Transformation-Now!



Our new Trustees: left to right, Rachel Thomas, Rita Pengelly, Sue Spillett, Jackie Curd

### **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](mailto:racheltunstallmothersunion@gmail.com)***

Copy for the next Newsletter to be with Susan Bradley by Friday 4 February 2022.

Please let our Administrator know what is happening in your area.

Send an email to [Susan.Bradley@mothersunion.org](mailto:Susan.Bradley@mothersunion.org)

*Dear Friends,*

If we consult a dictionary for the definition of change we read “making someone or something different or replacing something with something else. Often the replacement is similar to the original but newer or better.”

Christians recognise that last idea... a relationship with Jesus makes our hearts and lives new and better – the best version of itself.

Nowhere does the definition help us with the size of or time taken for the change.

When you read this we will know if the necessary decisions taken at the COP26 Conference and more importantly urgent actions are going to make a difference to our planet’s survival.

In the Mothers’ Union we continue to work for change which may seem smaller in comparison to matters of climate change but that’s really the point: large scale change can only occur as a result of many individual and often tiny changes.

The pandemic’s global impact has changed us all, and the MU is one amongst many organisations that are changing and will continue to look and feel different. The process of this change will be set in the Reimagining MU conference.

This newsletter is looking different too as we have both a new editor, Hedley Grenfell-Banks, and a new approach, whereby a different couple of trustees will be responsible for each issue. A new triennium brings fresh faces to the Trustee board: Sue Thomas, Sandra Goodey and Sally Phillips, are joined by Rita Pengelly, Rachel Thomas, Sue Spillett and Jackie Curd. Together with Susan Bradley (admin), Emma Pennington (chaplain), and every member or friend of MU in Canterbury diocese will work for **Transformation, Now!**...our dynamic and challenging theme for 2022.

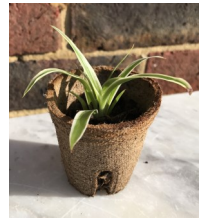
We will formally commission and pray for these board members at the Festival Service in Canterbury Cathedral on Saturday April 2nd at 11am.

When our decisions and actions result from prayer, then I believe we truly are the hands of Jesus reaching out across the world. Mothers’ Union will be represented at the United Nations Commission on the Status for Women, which in March this year will focus on achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in the context of climate change, environmental and disaster risk reduction policies and programmes.

This is a big prayer ask, so watch out for more details.

We will of course continue to pray for our link Dioceses, news of which you will find in this edition. Thanks again to Daniele Ligneau-Wilton, Overseas Links Officer. Together with Sandra (Faith trustee) she will be putting together resources for our annual Wave of Prayer special days 16-18 March.

We are often encouraged to look for as many ways and opportunities to pray for as many things as we can. That can sound overwhelming and unrealistic- and it will be on our own. If you find one way that works, stick to it. If your prayer life is stuck in a rut, try something new. Remember, amongst the endless people and situations in the world you can only pray for one thing at once... but God can hear, receive and act on all of them. Prayer changes things and us!



**Sandra Goodey**

# MU Overseas

Danièle Ligneau-Wilton, Overseas links Officer

I recently received a copy of the first WOMEN ON THE FRONT LINE (WFL) newsletter edited by our friend Jane Namurye former President of Kajo-Keji MU and currently at Lambeth Palace helping Caroline Welby preparing Lambeth 2022 for Women.

Jane writes:

*In the last five years WFL, led by Caroline Welby, has ministered to Bishops' wives, the Mothers Union, and women leaders from across the Anglican Communion.*

*Our work enables these women to share their experiences with others, breaking down their sense of loneliness and providing a supportive environment for spiritual growth and healing. The ministry of Women on the Frontline has impacted positively in the various contexts across the Anglican Communion.*

*This year the pandemic has not deterred the work of WFL. Although we have not been able to make any in person visits, we are pleased to share that, despite the inevitable difficulties with connectivity in the world of zoom and technology, we have had three online reunions with Melanesia, Burundi and South Sudan and Sudan together.*

The newsletter has pictures of Bishops' Wives in their MU uniforms. It includes their testimonies about the impact WFL is making in their lives and in their work of support and reconciliation, whether it is among ethnic tribes, religious groups, or family members.

Let us pray for the work of WFL and for all the women on the front line.

**Our links** are alive and well. Unfortunately Tarime is no longer with us but we keep them in our prayers.

Our friends in Rwanda are well despite some deaths due to Covid. In Kigali, MU has started a ministry for women on the street, teaching them a new way of living in Christ, training them in practical skills to earn a living, and feeding malnourished children.

## Akoko-Edo, Nigeria

Akoko Edo is in the South of Nigeria, a fairly peaceful part of Nigeria. Victoria Oyekpen (Vicky), the MU President in Akoko-Edo wrote recently:

*I thank you very much for your concern and prayers for us. God will increase the harvest of His church and enable thanksgivings repeatedly in Jesus name. We are fine and leaning on Jesus. Our love to you and to the Mothers' Union in Canterbury. Stay blessed now and always.*





## Dutse, Nigeria

We received a number of messages from Dutse in the summer asking for prayers as kidnappings, torture and killing of people continue close to the Diocese, in North West Nigeria. Cultivating land is made more difficult because of the constant danger the people are facing in addition to the lack of rain. Covid is nothing compared to the daily sufferings people are enduring. They are only sustained by their Faith and prayers.

In October, Bishop Markus Danbinta (who writes on behalf of Mothers Union) wrote:

*We are at the season of harvest. Crops like maize, rice and soya beans are being harvested. However, in Jigawa state and many other states in Northwestern Nigeria, many farmers will not harvest their rice as a result of drought. Rice is mostly consumed more than any other food crop in this area and I sensed that there will be severe famine this year coupled with the insecurity challenges which already devastated the zone and hindered many from cultivating their lands.*

## Kajo-Keji, South Sudan

It was good to hear that people in the camps in Uganda are slowly going back to their homes in Kajo-Keji, and taking charge of their own land at last. Bishop Emmanuel has left Moyo (where the Diocese had taken refuge) and is now based in Kajo-Keji where a MU conference was held this summer for the first time in several years. The main themes were prayers, intercessions, forgiveness and reconciliation.

In the summer, 75 MU members joined forces, and worked on vegetable growing. They also continue mask making (distributed to the community) and dignity kits for girls.



People of Kajo-Keji proud to wear the face masks made by MU.

# Campaigns

**No more 1 in 3 gender violence – men/women photos (M Poliszczuk):**

Canterbury Diocese MU members wear a purple blindfold in solidarity with the No More 1 in 3 Global Day of Action in response to the call for 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence.



l-r Mary Gentry, Mary Cook, Liz Deane



l-r Roger Gentry, Chris Cook, John Sweetman



## Craftivism – Modern Day Slavery

Visual knitted prayer chain of 191 links highlighting modern day slavery and displayed in the Cathedral crypt to coincide with anti-slavery day.



Maidstone Archdeaconry Members from Allington and Hawkhurst: Wendy Hollands, Peggy Stone, Mary Cook, Mervyn Stone.

It is intended to reuse the chains within the twiddle sleeves knitted for those living with dementia. Tunstall MU have used their knitted chains in a church Christmas tree as a sobering counterpoint to the usual festivities, to highlight victims of abuse and exploitation.



## Modern slavery and exploitation NATIONAL HELPLINE 08000 121 700

To mark **Anti-Slavery Day** (18<sup>th</sup> October 2021), the Mothers' Union has spent the summer crocheting giant chains that symbolise the number of unseen victims of modern slavery.

The eye-catching chains have enabled us to raise awareness of the presence of modern slavery to a much wider audience. They are a powerful symbol and we hope that our chain of **191 links** will help people begin to grasp the true scale and horror of the issue in our communities. We hope our collective craftivism in making this chain will result in many conversations about modern slavery and people resolving to take concrete action to report and stop abuse and exploitation.

In 2018, Kent Police carried out 171 investigations into slavery offences – our links reflect this crime statistic.

The Mother's Union, in collaboration with The Clewer Initiative (the Church of England's response to modern slavery), was looking for a way to generate interest around Anti-Slavery Day and raise awareness of modern slavery in a COVID-secure way.

The Global Slavery Index estimates there are 136,000 victims of modern slavery in the UK. Traffickers prey on the vulnerable, the homeless, on young people who are alone or lacking strong support networks, in foster care, or maybe when there is disruption at home. Modern Slavery, forced labour, can happen anywhere, not only in cities and towns, at the car wash and nail bar, but also in our rural areas – more than 900 incidents were reported.

**In this sanctuary we ask that you pray for the survivors of abuse and exploitation.**



*Lord, you are a God who sets the captives free. Your Spirit searches restlessly for those in despair, that they may find the life you are calling them to. We pray for those who are being trafficked and callously put to work in our region. On the cross, you were powerless and subject to the cruelty of others. Look with mercy on those who suffer this way. May we, who are blinded by the shallow distractions of daily life, feel the fear of the cornered and be roused to action. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**This is the text  
that was displayed  
alongside the knitted chains  
in the Crypt**

# Together in Prayer

January-February-March 2022

Margaret Bradford, Prayer Circle Coordinator

The New year starts with one step,  
with one foot,  
then the next....

Not a good year for so many.  
Still restrictions,  
Family limitations.  
Travel limitations.  
MU limitations.....and yet they have done so well!

As we settle down into winter, may be alone  
for some.

C S Lewis writes "You are alone but never alone".  
We have the power of prayer.



## A PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

Dear God, Thank you that you make all things new.  
Thank you for all that you've allowed into our lives this past year, the good along  
with the hard things, which have reminded us how much we need you and rely on  
your presence filling every single day. AMEN

## JANUARY

In this month we remember the Conversion of Paul.

From Acts 29: Then Ananias went to the house and entered it. Placing his hands on  
Saul, he said "Brother Saul, the Lord-Jesus, who appeared to you on the road as you  
were coming here-has sent me so that you may see again and be filled with the  
Holy Spirit." Immediately, something like scales fell from Saul's eyes, and he could  
see again. He got up and was baptised.

Almighty God, who caused light of the gospel to shine throughout the world  
through

preaching of your servant Saint Paul: grant that we who celebrate his wonderful  
conversion may follow him in bearing witness to your truth.

## A PRAYER FOR JANUARY

I too was chosen (you did not choose me I chose you) Thank you God for choos-  
ing all of us and thank you for the opportunities we are given to serve through The  
Mothers Union, our Church, our community and those around us. AMEN



## FEBRUARY



This month we remember Joseph and Mary taking Jesus to the temple.

Joseph and Mary took Jesus to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.

When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the law required. Simeon took him in his arms and praised God.

*My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people.*

We give thanks that the tradition of Baptism still remains in churches and that this is more than just a Baptism . It is a promise made in the sight of God, the child's family and friends, and those who love the child. The church is a warm and welcoming place at any stage of life and is open to all.

### A PRAYER FOR FEBRUARY

We give thanks for all who have entered the Church over the last year and ask God to hold them safely in his arms .

We pray for the lonely, missing family and friends. For those struggling to keep warm and well fed and worrying about bills these winter months. AMEN

## MARCH



This month we remember Ash Wednesday. The start of Lent. Palm Sunday. Holy week, the journey towards Easter.

### Ash Wednesday

Each year, Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent and is always 46 days before Easter Sunday. Lent is a 40 day season (not counting Sundays) marked by repentance, fasting, reflection, and ultimately celebration. The 40 day period represents Christ's time of temptation in the wilderness.

Palm Sunday. marks the first day of Holy week. It commemorates Jesus triumphal journey into Jerusalem.

Easter Sunday. One of the most festive events amongst Christians worldwide. It commemorates Jesus Christ's resurrection from the dead.

We take this journey every year and remember Christ's journey. We know he is with us always. We can pray through the Holy Spirit.

### AN EASTER PRAYER

Dear Lord, we are so privileged to make this journey with you every year.

Perhaps new Christians are making this journey for the first time. Let us help them and show them why it means so much to us. We celebrate Easter with many traditions. Not least with Easter eggs for our young. A sign of new life in Christ.

May we start with a new beginning, new hope, new Purpose. Embracing all who would follow you. AMEN

## NEWS ITEMS FROM BRANCHES

The attached photo is of Mary Weitzel helping to plant up the Mothers' Union Flower Box at Holy Trinity Church Margate. This was a few months before she died on the 20th August this year aged 96 years. Mary had been a member of the Branch for over 50 years and had taken an active role as a Branch Leader and on the Committee. When membership declined, she had prayed for new members to be enrolled and her prayers were answered as we now have 27 men and women across all ages in the Branch.



Photo: Daphne Tester (Leader) and Elizabeth Bryson (Speaker). St Michael's Maidstone presented donations of knitted crosses for the Anna Chaplaincy for residents in care homes in their area.

## A New Triennium !

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



# Knitted or Crochet Crosses



Using double knitting yarn and 4mm needles cast on 10 stitches  
Knit 28 rows (also known as garter stitch)  
Cast on 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows  
Knit 10 rows  
Cast off 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows.  
Knit 14 rows  
Cast on 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows  
Knit 10 rows  
Cast off 6 stitches at the beginning of the next 2 rows  
Knit 28 rows on remaining 10 stitches  
Cast off leaving tail for sewing up.  
Fold in half and sew up putting a little stuffing between the two crosses being sewn together.

For crochet version use the above instructions but replace knit (garter stitch) with double crochet.

Place each one in an individual bag with a blessing or verse

Due to the current COVID and the need to sanitise we suggest that you bag each one and add the blessing into the bag, but first very lightly spray each one with antibacterial spray (not to soak them but to sanitise them),

then put them in the bags before handing out.

– you can laminate the blessing but doesn't matter if it isn't.

The sprays are easy to get and can be cheap but effective.

Just to ensure we are being careful at the moment with things.

Suggested verses to include with them:

Isaiah 41 :10 - Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.

Psalms 28:7

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.

May the Hope of Jesus Christ be with you at Christmas and Always Love from the Church of ....

## A Blessing

May the Lord bless you  
and take care of you.  
May the Lord be kind  
and gracious to you.  
May the Lord look on you  
with favour and give you peace.  
And the Lord said,  
'If they pronounce  
my name as a  
blessing on the  
people of Israel,  
I will bless them.'

Numbers 6:24-27

# New Members



**Holy Trinity Margate:** John Huffman, our Curate and Christine Reeves were enrolled at Holy Trinity Margate on Tuesday 12th October 2021. Dorothy Manning, Margaret Jennings & Gwen Hobday have transferred to Holy Trinity Margate as their Branch at Holy Trinity Broadstairs has unfortunately closed.



**John the Baptist, Tunstall**  
photo (Sandra Goodey & Sue Thomas):

Enrolment at St John the Baptist Tunstall - Marianna Poliszczuk, Sandra Smitherman-Banks, Susan Thomas, Branch leader, Revd Paula Jardine-Rose, and Sandra Goodey.

## St Nicholas Allington

New member David Arnott pictured With Marianna Poliszczuk,



St Michael and all angels, Marden fellowship:

## Marden MU Enrolment

We had our first branch MU Communion Service this year in Church on 15th September and were so pleased to enrol two new members, our vicar Rev Nicky Harvey and our Reader Sarah Emmanuel. We also welcome Marion Arbuckle, an MU member who has recently moved to Marden from Guildford. After the service our members enjoyed a cheese and wine social gathering.

To encourage our new members: Ann Rust, of St. Michael and all Angels Maidstone, has just celebrated 50 years of membership!



## MU Live

(archdeaconry news)

Maidstone Day Centre for homeless donations – photo (M Poliszczuk):  
Edna Tucker met with Brian, Thea and Mandy to drop off the donation.



### IN MEMORIAM

Maidstone Archdeaconry,  
St Michael and All Angels Church

**Mary Pattisson**

Canterbury & Ashford  
Archdeaconry, All Soul's, Cheriton

**Bobby Barton,  
Betty Gibson,  
Barbara Mills  
and Revd Janet Thornby.**



# Rita Ends her Walk



Diocesan President Comfort Fearon and members of Southwark Diocese Mothers' Union met with Rita Pengelly at the end of her fundraising walk for AFIA when she received a blessing in Southwark Cathedral from Bishop Christopher.



The AFIA holiday week is 7-13 August 2022 in Ashburnham Place.

John Sweetman is retiring from Social Policy and we thank him for his tireless dedication to Mothers' Union. This is an opportunity to liaise with Mothers' Union Central on National campaigns in the role of Social Policy Officer. .



*A Happy New Year to One and All!*

# Update of contacts list

Administrator: Susan Bradley 01303 864289 Wingmore, Brady Road,  
Lyminge CT18 8EU: E-mail: sbradleymu@gmail.com

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry President: Rita Pengelly 07843 613744  
E-mail: rita\_pengelly@hotmail.com

Maidstone Archdeaconry Trustee: Sally Phillips 07807303016;  
E-mail: sallyPhillipsMU@outlook.com

MU Emergency Prayer Chain: Margaret Bradford 01580713180  
E-mail: mrsbusyb@btinternet.com

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

## Future Dates

**January 7-9**

**Re-imagining MU Conference**

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup> January  
10.15am Diocesan House**

**Trustee Board Meeting**

**Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> January (tbc)  
Zoom**

**Cathedral Prayer Time /**

**Thursday 24th February (tbc)  
Zoom**

**Cathedral Prayer Time /**

**Tuesday 8 March**

**Members' Meeting 10.30am  
St Paul's Parish Centre,  
Canterbury**

**Wednesday 16 – Friday 18 March**

**Wave of Prayer – branches  
prayer times tba**

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March**

**Archdeaconry Lady Day Ser-  
vices tbc**

**Sunday 27th March**

**Mothering Sunday (MAMD  
Appeal MSH)**

**Thursday 31st March**

**Cathedral Prayer Time/Zoom  
tbc**

# 2022 Theme: Transformation - Now!

Our evolving response to the effects of a global pandemic combined with the start of a new triennium presents an opportunity to look to the future with fresh vision as we adapt and learn to thrive in these changing times.

In 2020/21, Mothers' Union members showed amazing resilience, responsiveness and adaptability. Now is the time to build on this experience to:

- Transform ourselves, personally and spiritually, to live out our faith
  - Transform the churches and communities we work with and of which we are a part to reflect Christ's kingdom
  - Transform Mothers' Union to be relevant for 21st century life.
- We hope these theme resources will offer a starting point for this transformation.  
*For with God nothing shall be impossible (Luke 1:37)*

## Steps to transformation

When we start to think about transformation - whether for ourselves, our churches and communities or Mothers' Union - we tend to approach this from our experiences and the way we have done things in the past. Use one of these light-hearted activities to help your group open their minds to wider possibilities.

## Prayers and Bible verses

Prayers and Bible verses on the theme of Transformation - Now!

## The Big Idea

A game to help you think about the resources you have within your group that you might use to transform the churches and communities we work with - or to transform Mothers' Union in your local area.

## Timeline

An activity to help us learn from the past - and to plan for the future.

## Transforming our groups

During periods of lockdown and social distancing, Mothers' Union took on a whole new look! As we start a new triennium, it's a great time to look ahead at how we might meet, what we might do and how we keep in touch in 2022 and beyond.

## Reflection - New heavens and a new earth

A biblical reflection on Isaiah 65:17 - 25 and the vision of new heavens and a new earth.

## A Service of Thanksgiving

A Thanksgiving Service linked to the Annual Theme which can be adapted for various occasions.

All these resources  
are available at  
[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)