

Issue 2-22  
April-June 2022

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families  
Diocese of Canterbury

# Newsletter



**Our Mothers' Union Patron for 70 years**

## *Pop up Afternoon Tea*

**Come and join us at St Paul's Church, Canterbury CT1 1NH for a delicious Afternoon Tea and the chance to meet your new Trustee Board.**

**You will also have the opportunity for a guided tour of St Martin's Church which is the oldest church in England in continuous use and a World Heritage Site**

**Saturday 14th May**

**2.00 - 4.30pm**

**£10 per person**

**Please let us know if you would like to come and if you or any of your guests have any special dietary requirements**



**For more information or to book your tea and a tour of St Martin's Church please contact Jackie Curd on 07712432906 or email : [Jcurd.MU@gmail.com](mailto:Jcurd.MU@gmail.com)**

## *Dear Fellow Pilgrims of The Way,*

my prayer for us as we continue on our journey together into this new triennium, with our Risen Lord, is that

our hearts may continue to be filled with the gifts of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self-Control.

As we start to enjoy spring time filled with new life, hope and promise, we have lots to look forward to and be grateful for. During Holy Week let us be thankful once again for the gift of God's Son. Remembering his life and death will once again lead us to the joy of Resurrection on Easter Day and the promise of life everlasting.

Ascension Day can sometimes be overlooked but don't miss out on reflecting that the Father and Son are now reunited in heaven. As Christ promised, he is 'with us always to the very end of the age'.

Pentecost, will be a time to celebrate God's precious gifts of his Holy Spirit to us - his children.

We thank God for our Mothers Union Patron, Queen Elizabeth II in this year of Platinum Jubilee celebrations. Her 70 faithful years of service to her people and the God in whom she trusts is such an example-what a blessing she has been to us all.

I am going to end this letter with the last verse of one of my favourite hymns by Fred Kaan.

*Put Christ into each other's hands, He is love's deepest measure;*

*In love make peace, give peace a chance and share it like a treasure.*

*I want to thank each of you for the treasure you are to our beloved MU.*

*As you read through this newsletter may God guide and encourage you. May you find strength and courage as you seek to be Jesús' hands reaching out across the world*

**Rita Pengelly**



# TRANSFORMATION – NOW!

Good News! The Re-imagining MU Conference which was postponed in January has now been rescheduled for July. But we don't need to wait until then to find out how to transform our mission and service. In the diocese we have a smaller trustee board aiming to share the load and get out into the diocese to meet and encourage members.

There are many ways all of us can move things on: Communities of Interest break our work up into more manageable areas but they are *not just for trustees.*

So, if you have expertise in safeguarding, a passion for social policy or love crafting we'd love to hear from you. These are only three examples. In each newsletter we rejoice to hear about new members; we are also encouraged when we read stories of what God has been doing through your projects or when you've received answers to prayer....

Maybe you got creative with Lent Blessings or have found a great fundraising idea. Whatever it is, no story is too insignificant to inspire others-please keep sending your stories and photos.



# 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.

## 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)

# LET'S HEAR IT FOR REBECCA THOMPSON



*Near to this stone Rebecca Thompson lies,  
Who was both modest, sober, chaste and wise.  
Religion was her study, Leal her care,  
A fervent lover of the house of prayer.*

She was a spinster lady, who spent her entire life looking after her parents. She died on January 20th, 1729, at the age of 35, and her Mum and Dad missed her terribly. I think she must have been a lovely person. I am reminded of her every time I switch lights on or off, because her memorial in the church where I used to live was on the South Transept wall just by the switchboard. Amazing, that I have such a sharp impression of a really rather ordinary person who was born nearly three hundred years ago.

On Rebecca's stone, apart from the details of her death and 'The Maid is not dead, but sleepeth', there are eight lines of verse. The last four are merely a conventional hope that her soul is in Heaven, but the first four are wholly original and concisely descriptive. How carefully chosen are the adjectives! Modest, sober, chaste and wise. But I think it's the word *leal* that endears her most to me. *Religion was her study, Leal her care.*

They say words die when people no longer have use for them. In the case of the gibbet and the Ague, few can regret their current disuse. But that we have forgotten the meaning of *Leal* is a black mark against modern society. *Leal* means true-hearted, faithful, dutiful; the word comes from the same root as *loyal*, but goes a little deeper. Cranmer's 'steadfast loving-kindness' comes close to it, and in the last century a common phrase for Heaven was *The Land o'the Leal*.

The Rebecca Thompsons of history make no great mark; they pass no laws, storm no cities, defend no barricades. They spread around them an atmosphere of calm, of love, of sweet-scented devotion which touches perhaps a score of lives and makes them richer, gentler, more understanding of God's love. There have been times when, in a particular place, a town, a country, the chain was complete; when everybody knew a Rebecca and was better for it. Her impact on society was cumulative. No individual changed the fate of nations, but the presence of their multitude inclined a nation towards peace.

Most of us, today, still know a Rebecca Thompson; *Leal* is not wholly lost. But how old is the Rebecca you know? Under thirty-five, or much older? Is the fountain dry, that provided them? Are Faith, and Duty, and Goodness unfashionable, mere rejects on the rubbish-heap of time? If so, and it is difficult to argue that it is not so, are these virtues worth saving? And whose job is it to save them?

It is, of course, our job. The fact that this still claims to be a Christian country enlists you. Everything for which Rebecca Thompson is to be admired, Jesus was. Everything she stood for, he taught.

*Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth; blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.*

# TOGETHER IN PRAYER

April, May and June 2022

Margaret Horwood - Branch Leader  
St Stephen's Church Canterbury



Prayer is the centre of the Mothers' Union and no matter what you can or cannot do, you can always pray: be it for family, MU activities, the sick or giving thanks for something that has happened that is good. God listens to everything we say but we mustn't fall into the trap of listing off everything that he already knows about.

*Loving Lord, we give thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union worldwide and for the vision that Mary Sumner had to help mothers struggling with feelings of inadequacy that could swamp them. May we continue her good works to encourage others to help those in need for whatever reason. Amen*

## APRIL

*The great fifty days between Jesus' resurrection and Pentecost mark the two seasons of Easter and Ascension. Easter is as important a season as Lent, with its mood of rejoicing in contrast to the sombre days which preceded it. It is a pity if we lose sight of this sense of thankfulness too soon after Easter Day itself.*

But on the first day of the week, at early dawn they came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, but when they went in, they did not find the body. While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them. 'Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here but has risen. Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again' The they remembered his words, and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. But Peter got up and ran to the tomb: stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves: then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

*Luke ch 24: v 1 - 12*

*Prayer:*

Risen Lord, giver of hope which sustains our lives now and for eternity we worship you.  
Our hope is in you, our loving Father;  
you have opened the door of heaven through your plan of salvation.  
Our hope is in you, our saviour, Jesus Christ;  
you have paved the way for us to know joyous relationship with God.  
Our hope is in you, our counsellor, Holy Spirit;  
you have shined a light for us to see the love of the Father and the Son.  
Thanks be to God, that we are united together in resurrection hope. *Amen*



*'Praying in every season'*

## MAY

*Ascensiontide is the season when we remember the necessity for the disciples to let go of Jesus, so that he can be present to all people at all times. We also celebrate the kingship of Christ, since his ascension into heaven is seen as the supreme moment when this is confirmed.*

Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands, he blessed them. While he was blessing them, he withdrew from them and was carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy; and they were continually in the temple blessing God.

*Luke ch 24: v 50 -53*

### *Prayers:*

Lord Jesus, we remember how you returned to your Father on the first Ascension Day. Although we cannot see you with our eyes, we know that you are still with us as you promised always to be. We thank you for being our constant friend. Help us to remember that you are near and that you will never fail us. Help us to come to you when we are frightened or disappointed, and may we remember to tell you about our joys as well as our troubles.

*Amen*

O Lord Jesus Christ, who after your resurrection from the dead did gloriously ascend into heaven, grant us the aid of your loving kindness, that according to your promise you may ever dwell with us on earth, and we with you in heaven, where with the Father and the Holy Ghost, you live and reign one God for ever and ever.

*Amen*



## JUNE

*This month we celebrate Father's Day and give thanks for all that fathers give to the family including our Father God.*

*Prayer:*

Almighty God, wow, I'm a Dad. Thank you for such an amazing privilege, but now I really need you. Please give me wisdom, love, strength and patience by the bucketful for the rest of our lives. Make me the best dad I can be.  
*Amen*

*This month we celebrate fully Her Majesty the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. Her succession to the throne happened on 6th February 1952 following the death of her father, King George VI while she was in Kenya and was the first Sovereign in over 200 years to accede whilst abroad. We give thanks for her unstinting duty to her country and her commonwealth and join with her in her celebrations to mark this momentous occasion during this month.*



*Prayer:*

Loving Lord, we thank you that you have given Elizabeth our Queen a heart to serve her people, and have kept her devoted in this service beyond all who were before her: encourage us by her example to serve one another, and to seek the common good, until you call us all to reign with Christ in your eternal kingdom.  
*Amen*



## NEWS ITEMS FROM BRANCHES

St Nicholas Allington enjoyed a meeting to illustrate the Transformation theme by two talented members. Karen Hunter and Jackie Boyle presented their 'works in progress' and historic working. Karen introduced us to 'blackwork' the hand embroidery of the past and Jackie brought her 'worked slipper' displayed at the Textile needlework exhibition in Maidstone museum.



### St Stephen's Canterbury

Members of the St Stephen's Mothers' Union, Margaret Horwood (Branch Leader), Sally Waters and Rosie Barford planting up the grave of a fellow member Constance Halward who was branch secretary between 1923 and 1927.



Branch members made Christingles and then held a short Christingle service in the church led by the Rector and MU member, the Revd Kevin Maddy

**CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL FESTIVAL SERVICE**  
**SATURDAY 2 APRIL 11.00AM**



### **St Stephen's Branch**

Branch leader Margaret Horwood with Aileen and Martin Gardham, members of her branch, who've flown off to start a new life in Australia. We wish them God's blessings in their new life



### **Tunstall branch.**

Celebrations to mark "big" birthdays were held by Tunstall branch. Four members celebrated big birthdays in 2021. They are from left to right Peggy Moseley 80, Rachel Thomas 40, Barbara Wills

### **Holy Trinity Margate**

The Branch had a stall at the Holy Trinity Church Christmas Fair on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We sold a variety of goods including Christmas Decorations, Bric-a-Brac and we ran a Teddy Tombola with a guaranteed win of a Teddy/Soft Toy. We donated our takings to the church.



Our Wednesday Evening Group made Mary's Cottages (above) to help with Washing Up/Cleaning. They also ran a Lucky Dip for children. These raised funds for AFIA.

### **Holy Trinity Church Donation to AFIA**

At a Mission, Ministry & Outreach Meeting Clifford, our Vicar, wanted ideas for a church donation this year which would help families. Wendy suggested Mother's Union AFIA and as a MU member himself he welcomed this suggestion. This was agreed by PCC, and so a donation of £500 was sent to Sue Thomas at the end of last year.

### **Christmas Gifts**

Our Tuesday Afternoon Group made a collection of Christmas Gifts for Sevenscore Mental Health Unit and Copperfields Assisted Living Apartments. The gifts are made up of knitted bedsocks and toiletries for both male and female. These were delivered in early December and welcomed by both units.

## Maidstone Archdeaconry

### New Members

St Michael & All Angels Maidstone: Sara Dray – Enrolment 5<sup>th</sup> December during Sunday Mass. Marianna Poliszczuk (Diocesan President) was present.

Lenham: Gillian Symes – Enrolment in October

We have one member who will have been a member for 50 years in May; her name is Margaret Smith, member of St Andrews Barming Heath, Maidstone.

At St Michael and All Angels Maidstone MU several of us have been knitting and crocheting over the past couple of years making and distributing Twiddlemuffs for the Care homes in our Parish .Valerie,Irene and Margaret have been busy using either their own wool or that donated by others. This is an ongoing project and so far between us we have made approximately 40-50 muffs.

These have been given to Elizabeth Bryson (our vicar's wife) who is an Anna Chaplain and distributed to two Care homes in our parish with Dementia patients where they have been gratefully received . Others have been given to another home by our Reader Dr Eleanor Relle where the residents were apparently fighting over them so much so that another rush batch had to be produced!

It is great to hear that they are proving so useful . I have seen the benefit they can produce from personal experience having made one some time ago for a friend with Dementia who apparently still uses it constantly .

Margaret Gatehouse

What is a Twiddlemuff?

They're knitted muffs with items attached to keep dementia patients' hands active and busy. They contain strands of textured ribbons, beads, and various fabrics attached both inside and outside. People with dementia often have restless hands and like to have something to keep their hands occupied.



## In Memoriam

### Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

All Soul's, Cheriton: **Evelyn Craig** and **Iris Bowshell**

City Centre Parish: **Doris Taylor**

SS Cosmas and Damian Fellowship: **Dr Jim Appleyard**

Whitstable Team Fellowship Group: **Barbara McKane**

### Maidstone Archdeaconry

Lenham: **Rev. Nigel Fry**

St Michael & All Angels, Maidstone: **Ann Rust**

St John the Baptist, Tunstall: **Steph Spinks**

St Andrews, Barming Heath Maidstone: **Dorothy Bryant** and **Freda Pearce**



## 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.

gofundme

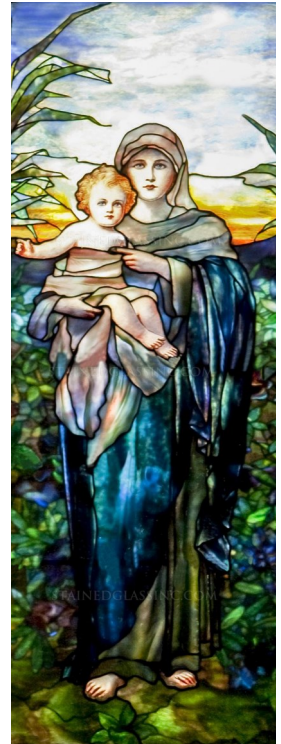
If you would like to consider setting up a fundraising event to support The Mothers' Union (Diocese of Canterbury Branch) using Gofundme as a resource please contact Rachel Thomas

***racheltunstallmothersunion@gmail.com***

## Prayers for Mothering Sunday

Loving God,  
Thank you for mums and children  
and for all the joy of family life.  
Be with those who are grieving  
because they have no mother;  
Be close to those who are struggling  
because they have no children;  
Be near to those who are sad  
because they are far apart from those they love.  
Let your love be present in every home,  
And help your church to have eyes to see and ears  
to hear the needs of all who come.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Thank you God for the love of our mothers:  
thank you God for their care and concern;  
thank you God for the joys they have shared with us;  
thank you God for the pains they have borne for us;  
thank you God for all that they give us;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



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Copy for the next Newsletter to be with Susan Bradley by Friday 4 May 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)

# Update of contacts list

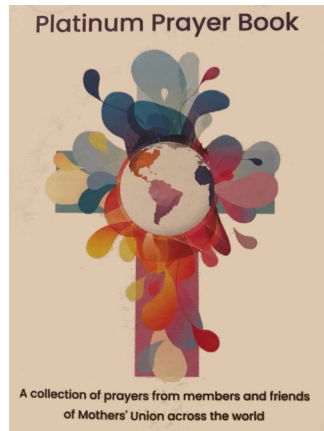
Administrator: Susan Bradley 01303 864289 Wingmore, Brady Road,  
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MU Emergency Prayer Chain: Margaret Bradford 01580713180  
Email: [mrsbusyb@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbusyb@btinternet.com)

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



## To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

and her 70 years as our patron,

MU members & friends across the world were asked to contribute prayers on themes that reflect the Queen's reign: hope, love, resilience, service, faith, joy and family. 100% of the profits from this book will support the work of Mothers' Union, helping to stop violence, poverty and injustice.

£3.80 from [www.mueshop.org](http://www.mueshop.org)

# **MOTHERS' UNION DIOCESE OF CANTERBURY**

## **DATES FOR April-June 2022**

### **Transformation Now!**

Sunday 27th March	Mothering Sunday (MAMD Appeal MSH)
Saturday 2nd April	Festival Service (Commissioning Trustees) 11am Canterbury Cathedral
Sunday 17th April	Easter Sunday
Friday 22nd April	Copy deadline DNL 3.22
Thursday 28th April	Cathedral Prayer Time Jesus Chapel 12 noon
Friday 29th April	TB Mtg (Accounts) 10.15am Diocesan House
Monday 9th – Wednesday 11th May	PROVINCIAL HIGH LEIGH – DPs Canterbury
Thursday 12th May	Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry Meeting 10.30 – 12.30, St Paul's, Canterbury
26th May – 5th June	"Thy kingdom come" Coventry cathedral /Global moment on-line
Thursday 26th May	NO Cathedral Prayer Time Diocesan Day of prayer & Pilgrimage Canterbury tbc
Tuesday 21st June	ANNUAL MEETING at St Paul's Church, Canterbury 10.30am – 12.30pm confirmed
Thursday 30th June	Cathedral Prayer Time Jesus Chapel 12 noon

### **A chance to get away from it all**



The Mothers' Union in Canterbury Diocese is planning another 'Away From It All' Holiday. Pandemic permitting, it will happen during 7-13 August 2022 at Ashburnham Place. This is a free holiday for families in need, and is open to families of all shapes and sizes, (max age of children 11) of all faiths and none. The need may be financial, but it could simply be that they are going through a difficult time and need some breathing space. There will be MU members on the holiday to provide support and a variety of children's activities, plus outings will also be on offer. Please spread the word and contact Marylyn Collins on [office@martinpaul.org](mailto:office@martinpaul.org) for more information.