

Issue 3-22

July-September 2022

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

Diocese of Canterbury

# Newsletter



Bishop Oyekpen and his wife Victoria with 23 newly enrolled Mother's Union members from the Akoko-Edo Diocese. Their MU uniforms, each Diocese of a different colour, are strikingly beautiful, and the women extremely proud. The Bishop and his wife both enrolled the ladies.

## Festival & Commissioning Service – 2nd April

At the previous festival service no-one could have predicted that three years later we would have yet to completely emerge from a global pandemic whilst an incomprehensible war was being waged in Eastern Europe. It was therefore a great blessing to meet together in person to worship-giving thanks for God's provision and guidance in the previous triennium and praying for the way forward as we seek to 'Transform – Now' both ourselves and the Mothers' Union. All the hymns, readings and prayers echoed this theme. It was lovely to start our worship with the procession of a number of banners and the flags of our link dioceses (particularly that carried by the most junior member of our congregation )

They made a colourful backdrop to the simple altar in the crypt with its lit candle and flag of Ukraine for whose citizens we continue to pray daily.

As there is no named Diocesan President at the moment, Canon Emma Pennington was first to be commissioned, as our Chaplain. She then presented the trustees to Bishop Rose as they in turn were commissioned. Sadly, two of our trustees were unable to be present, but were of course included in the prayers of all who were gathered .We were delighted to welcome a number of guests included Sherriff Councillor Anne Decker and her escort. Our MU Provincial President Kathryn, Zonal Trustee Julia and Rochester Diocesan President Margaret-Mary had all travelled some distance to be with us.

In her sermon, Bishop Rose encouraged, challenged and inspired us as we looked at the change in one individual, Zaccheus, and explored in our reading from Corinthians how our freedom in Christ should not be taken for granted but rather give us confidence to change the world around us.



## *Dear Friends*

I hope you were able to enjoy the recent celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee of our Patron, her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. We were treated to such a wide variety of events, both local and national, and such a spectacle of colour and energy. We thank God for her continuing reign of faith and service.

Next month sees the start of the Lambeth Conference (26<sup>th</sup> July to 8<sup>th</sup> August). More details on Page 15. Our members will be manning a reception area at the University of Kent. Please remember those attending the conference in your prayers and those who for various reasons feel that they cannot attend.

“O God, by your grace and Spirit you have raised up witnesses and servants in many lands and cultures: Pour out your blessing upon the churches and provinces of the Anglican Communion, and upon their leaders as they gather for fellowship in the Lambeth Conference, that their diversity may enrich their common witness and service to the honour and glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”.

Our own AFIA holiday takes place 7<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> August in Ashburnham Place. Please pray for those who are leading and helping and for the families attending, that it may be a time of refreshment and fun for all.

I hope to see some of you at the next Pop-Up Afternoon Tea on the 20<sup>th</sup> August at St Peter’s in Boughton Monchelsea. A chance to meet, chat and eat cake!

Finally, I hope that the Summer will be a time of peace and renewal for you all.

With every blessing

***Jackie Curd, General Trustee***



## UPDATES FROM MARY SUMNER HOUSE



We are excited to announce that, after two years of meeting online, we are looking forward to being together in person for the Mothers' Union Annual Gathering 2022 at the Waterfront Hall, part of the International Convention Centre (ICC) in the wonderful city of Belfast on the following dates: 23rd and 24th September 2022.

All the details about the event, including a guide on how to purchase your tickets and an event pack, are available on [our website here](#).

### Jocelyne Razafiarivony's address at UNCSW66

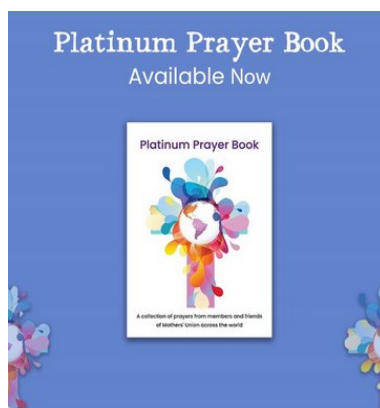
Jocelyne Razafiarivony, the MU provincial coordinator for Madagascar, recently spoke at two UNCSW (United Nations Commission on the Status of Women) events around the relationship between climate change and gender inequality. Her address shone a light on the devastating impact the world's first climate-induced famine has had on women in Madagascar, and the steps that are needed to combat gender inequality in the wake of climate change. Read the [full article here](#).



### New Platinum Prayer book

To mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee and her 70 years as patron of Mothers' Union, we asked members and friends of Mothers' Union across the world to write a collection of prayers for our new book.

We developed themes that reflect the 70 years of the Queen's reign, Hope, love, resilience, service, faith, joy, family. Under each theme our members and friends have provided a wonderful collection of prayers that celebrate God, bringing comfort and inspiration. Available now from Platinum Prayer Book – Mothers' Union Shop ([mueshop.org](http://mueshop.org))





## NEWS ITEMS FROM BRANCHES

### Holy Trinity Margate Branch

Louisa Clark and Wendy James made some Easter Novelties to sell at Holy Trinity Church Margate. We were able to sell everything, raising £110 for AFIA.



These are posies made by Holy Trinity Branch for Mothering Sunday. The foliage was donated by Heather Weitzel (Mary's daughter-in-law) from her garden. The posies were given to members of the congregation by the young people in our Uniformed Groups.



Susan Hembra, a member of our Branch, had a sponsored haircut to raise money for works in the church. She had ten inches cut off, and raised over £240.



Gabrielle, our youngest member, with our Banner at the Festival Service at Canterbury Cathedral in April

Our members gathered in Church for the Wave of Prayer on Wednesday 16th March and then took Communion in St Mary's Chapel.



Holy Trinity Margate recently had to have some trees felled in the grounds. Joseph Weitzel, a Tree Surgeon who owns 'Top Branch', was employed to carry out the above. Rather than take his fee for the work Joseph donated this to the Church and two charities, one being Mothers' Union for AFIA, which has received £1,100. Joseph is carrying on the work that his Nanny Mary supported throughout her life.

## Minster-in- Sheppey

We were delighted to welcome these three new members on 16th November 2021 enrolled by The Reverend Paul Kite, Vicar of the West Sheppey Benefice.

Left to right: Angela Hoy, Joy Green, Gill Baker



Allington  
Chris Cook with new  
member Irene Shepherd

**Together in Prayer**  
**July - September 2022**  
**Mrs Sally Waters, Lay Reader**  
**St Stephen's Church, Canterbury**

Sally is also an Anna Chaplain who was commissioned in February 2022 to work alongside those caring physically for the elderly, lonely and those living with dementia within the parish

**July**

This month we will welcome Bishops from the worldwide Anglican Communion to Canterbury for the Lambeth Conference. We pray that all will receive a warm welcome and that their time together will be fruitful, enlightening and enjoyable.



We pray for all who respond to your call and offer themselves for full time ministry.

We pray for all in parish ministry.

We pray for chaplains based in various institutions and communities.

We pray for all lay ministers and others who devote their time and energy into the work of building up the Kingdom of God of earth.

‘It was he who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets, some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers, to prepare God’s people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ’.  
Ephesians 4:11-13

We pray for wisdom to recognise and respond to God’s call to each one of us. We pray that we may be guided and strengthened as we do what we can in His name, in our small corner of the world, to build up the family of believers.

Amen

## Together in Prayer

### August

In August our thoughts naturally turn to warmer weather, to holidays, to having fun outside with our families and friends.



We give thanks for the beautiful world we live in, such a wonderful gift from our Heavenly Father.



We pray that we may be good stewards of its wonderful bounty, careful protectors of its beauty and diversity and frugal users of its resources, so that we do not destroy what we have been given and that its beauty, bounty and resources can be enjoyed by future generations.

We pray for our families and friends and neighbours, and ask that differences may be put aside and that we may live together in harmony as members of one family.  
Amen

‘For the beauty of the earth,  
For the beauty of the skies,  
For the love which from our birth,  
Over and around lies.

For the beauty of each hour,  
Of the day and of the night,  
Hill and vale and tree and flower  
Sun and moon and stars of light

Lord of all, to thee we raise,  
This our sacrifice of praise’



## Together in Prayer September

This month sees the start of the new academic year and so we pray for all in education at this time.

We pray for the little ones off to school for the first time. A new start for them, an exciting time, but for some it can be an anxious time too. So we pray they will enjoy the experience and that it will lead on to a lifelong desire to learn.

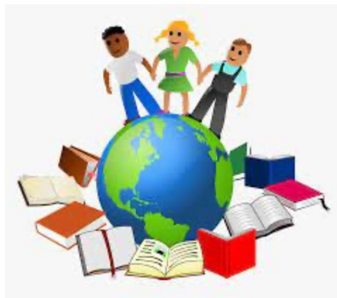


We pray for older children moving to a new school and pray that this too will be a positive experience for them.

We remember in our prayers teachers and ancillary staff, parents and carers, and all in education of children and young people.

May this academic year be a successful one for all involved.

Amen



## Together in Prayer

### September - continued

At the other end of the age range, please pray for the elderly and those living with dementia, and for all who care for them, In particular please pray for the work of Anna Chaplains. They work alongside those caring physically for the older generation and show friendship and support, spend time listening to and praying with the older person and their carers and offer both spiritual and social gatherings in order to relieve loneliness and isolation.

Lord God, we pray for the work of Anna Chaplains, asking you to give them sensitivity and a true desire to show your love to those who are elderly and those living with dementia. We pray for all who are in the latter stages of life, help them to see they are valued members of every community, help them to value themselves, to see they still have so much to offer.

Whether we are young or old, we are all valued members of God's family and so we pray for harmony across the generations.

Amen





St Martin's and St Paul's branch held an Easter Craft afternoon. Great fun was had decorating Easter biscuits, making an Easter Garden, filling Easter Baskets with spring plants and lots of easter chocolates to decorate the wards and corridors of a local hospital, and sewing blue and yellow ribbon lapel badges in support of Ukraine.

The following week we held an all-age party that hadn't been able to take place in the New Year. No end of fun was had with all the old party games and a very filling tea.



St Mary's, Lenham: Wave of Prayer





Some members from **All Soul's, Cheriton** behind a table with items that were collected and given to the Refuge Centre.

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Andrews Barming Heath

John and Jean Sweetman celebrate their Diamond wedding in June 2022.

Also Margaret Smith has been a Long serving member for 50 years in May.

## INTERNATIONAL

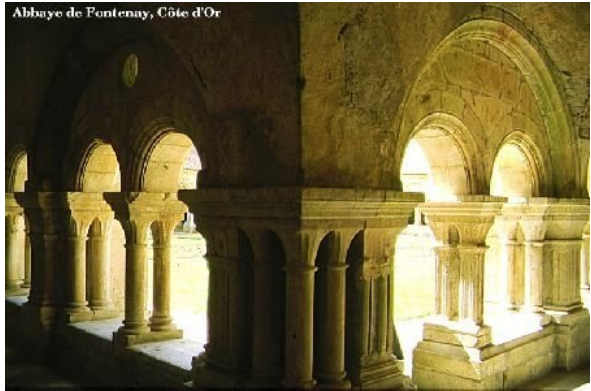


Family flag bearers for worldwide link flag of South Sudan: Imogen Poliszczuk and Farrell. In the Cathedral service Bp Rose commenced her address by singling out the six-year-old and singing her Sunday school favourite 'Zacchaeus was a wee little man.'



# FONTENAY

By the end of the eleventh century the life of a monk in the Duchy of Burgundy was very different from what St. Benedict had originally intended. The thousand monasteries of the Cluniac order were rich and powerful; the mother house at Cluny included in its



buildings the biggest church in Christendom. The monks ate off silver, their light came from golden candlesticks. Wherever the wind blew, said the people, the monks collected rent.

In the year 1122 a young man of 21 entered the Abbey of Cîteaux. So plainly out of the ordinary was he, that within three years he was Abbot. We know him now as Saint Bernard, and he founded the Cistercian order in reaction against the extravagances of Cluny. In the North of Burgundy he founded new Abbeys, on barren sites, their buildings of the most extreme simplicity. Stone and wood and iron were his materials, and the monks did their own building and farming. They slept in a communal dormitory, on straw mattresses, without heating, in the same rough habits they wore in the daytime. They ate boiled vegetables and drank spring water. Each day brought seven hours of worship, seven hours of rest and eight hours of work. The other two hours were for meals and meetings. A Cistercian Abbey was in theory self-supporting; it collected no tithes, owned no land, accepted no rich gifts.

The Abbey of Fontenay was begun in 1118, massive, simple, beautiful. The monks dug iron ore from a nearby hill and smelted and worked the iron in a vast forge. The streams of the area were canalized for water-power, and the waste water fed a series of trout ponds and fountains which gave the Abbey its name.

After St. Bernard's death, his Cistercians went the way of the Cluniacs before them; they became richer, fatter, lazier. The Abbeys decayed, and when they were dissolved at the Revolution, few mourned their passing. The land and buildings were sold to finance the revolutionary wars.

In 1789, the Abbey of Fontenay was sold to a factory-owner, who turned it into a paper-mill. He sold it on to the Montgolfier family, inventors of the hot-air balloon. The balloons, in fact, were constructed out of paper made at Fontenay. A branch of the same family still owns the place, but in 1906 they closed the factory and began the work of restoration that continues to this day.

In 1981, when UNESCO was drawing up the list of World Heritage Sites, Fontenay was among the first to be listed. It is a very special place. founded by a very special man and still permeated with his spirit.

# In Memoriam

Milton Regis Branch  
mourns the loss of John De-lacy Mann .

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry:  
Holy Trinity, Margate: Valerie Walsh



Dorothy Chapman died on Monday 18th April. She celebrated her 100th Birthday in August 2021.

Dorothy had been Member of Mother's Union at Holy Trinity Margate for many years and rarely missed a meeting. She supported and was active at many Branch and Archdeaconry events.

Anne Kent died peacefully at home after a long illness. She'd been a loyal member of St Leonard's Branch for many years and will be sorely missed by all of us.



In March we said goodbye to one of our oldest members Joan O'Rawe. Joan joined Tunstall Mothers Union forty years ago. She served as branch secretary from 1997 to 2006 and was branch leader from 2008 to 2014. Joan was a very loyal member and supported all our activities. Joan attended her last meeting in January and was disappointed that her hospital appointment clashed with our February meeting: she passed away on the day of our March meeting. We will miss her smiley face .

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copy for the next edition to Sandra Goodey  
([sandra.goodey@gmail.com](mailto:sandra.goodey@gmail.com)) by 5th September  
Please let us know what is happening in your area.

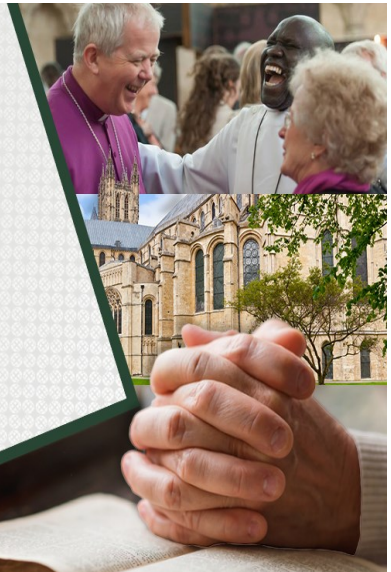
# The Lambeth Conference

The Lambeth Conference is a gathering of bishops from across the Anglican Communion for prayer and reflection, fellowship and dialogue on church and world affairs. The theme for this year's conference is 'God's Church for God's World – walking, listening and witnessing together'; the conference will explore what it means for the Anglican Communion to be responsive to the needs of a 21st Century world. Many of the Bishops will be accompanied by their wives, and Daniele Ligneau-Wilton is co-ordinating the 'spouses chill-out venue' on behalf of the Mother's Union at the Conference. This will be a marquee, centrally located on the UKC campus, which will offer refreshments, crafts and a possibility to relax. She has asked if MU members would be willing to provide extra clothing for our unpredictable weather in the UK during the Lambeth Conference. Many Bishops and spouses come unprepared, and it is always useful to have a cupboard full of extra clothes for our guests. We are talking of fleeces, jumpers, raincoats, socks, trainers etc. If you have anything to offer, please contact Daniele directly: [ligneauwilton@gmail.com](mailto:ligneauwilton@gmail.com).

## Welcome to Canterbury

A new hospitality and  
welcome programme for  
the Lambeth Conference

LAMBETH  
CONFERENCE  
God's Church for God's world



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# *Pop up Afternoon Tea*

**Come and join us at St Peter's Church,  
Boughton Monchelsea ME17 4BU for a delicious  
Afternoon Tea and the chance to meet your new  
Trustee Board.**

**Saturday 20th August**

**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 please contact  
Jackie Curd on 07712432906  
or email :  
[Jcurd.MU@gmail.com](mailto:Jcurd.MU@gmail.com)