



# Newsletter

August—November 2023

"Where would the Anglican Communion be without the Mothers' Union? At home and across the world the Mothers' Union offers the love and hope of Christ, helping to transform communities through teaching, prayer and pastoral care and by working with others to stop violence, injustice and hunger. I'm looking forward to being part of the Annual Gathering this year when I'll be preaching at a special Evensong in York Minster"

Stephen Cottrell Archbishop of York



*In Mary Sumner's footsteps*

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

## BIBLE AUCTION

To celebrate our founder Mary Sumner's day we are holding an auction of items that you can find mentioned in the bible. Simply choose something from a bible reading, purchase it for donation to the auction and attach a label with the bible quote written out and then come along and join in the fun of the auction.

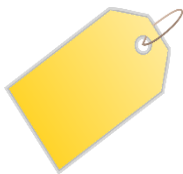


When: Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August

Where: St Paul's Church, Church Street (St Paul's),  
Canterbury CT1 1NH

Time: 12.00 noon for a light lunch.  
2.00pm for the auction

All monies raised from the auction will be donated to the AFIA fund (Away From It All Holidays). Our aim is to take families who wouldn't otherwise get a break away on holiday next summer accompanied by volunteer members of the Mothers' Union.



# WELCOME

Dear Fellow Members,

I am sitting writing this to you on a warm summer's morning. The birds are singing and the flowers are beautiful. Are we not blessed? Years come and go but there are things that remain constant in the evolving world. God our Creator and Father is here for us just as he has been for people throughout time. Mary Sumner was so moved by her faith, that she started in a small quiet way what has become a vast world-wide organisation. She had no idea how it would be transformed, with its huge membership and international status. To her, each person was important and we must try to remember this. A branch and diocese is only as good as each of its members living out their lives in faith and prayer. Keeping true to the aim and objects and caring for families that they touch.

I look forward to seeing you on August 9<sup>th</sup> – Mary Sumner Day – for our Bible Auction (details in this publication) when we can meet together for a happy time to celebrate our founder and raise money for the MU here in this diocese.

I do ask you to pray for the future of the MU in this Diocese and for the Trustee Board. We have just heard the news that Sandra Goodey will be moving away from the diocese in September as her husband is starting work in a new Parish near Bristol. She has been on the Trustee Board since 2017 and has worked hard specializing in the area of Faith, producing our lovely Advent and Festival services among other things. She will be greatly missed. So due to events beyond our control the numbers on the Board have depleted over the past year. Do pray that members will come forward to fill the gaps and strengthen the work and skill of the Trustees. Could this be you?!!

I encourage you to embrace your membership and vow afresh to keep true to your calling, using all the resources available, so that we can go forward with enthusiasm, empowered by our God.

Yours,

Sue Spillett Trustee.

# News From The Branches

Thank you to Tunstall branch for hosting our recent Maidstone Archdeaconry meeting.



## Holy Trinity Margate



Our MU Branch had a Cake Stall at our Church Summer Fair in June to raise funds for AFIA. Cakes were homemade by our Tuesday Afternoon and Evening Groups. We raised £197.73 on the day.

## Tunstall Village Coronation Fair

On Monday the 8th May which was Volunteers Day, the Friends of Tunstall Church held a Coronation Fair in the village hall and grounds. I had a stall advertising Mothers' Union and in particular, AFIA. I sold more than 100 cards and gave out Mothers' Union leaflets. We even had special Mothers' Union bunting made for the occasion. This was a successful event for all and the proceeds I made went to our AFIA Project.



Sue Thomas

# St Cosmus and St Damian in the Blean Mothers' Union Fellowship News from Madagascar



Our church's link with Revd Olivier Rajarison in Ambatondrazaka began in 2008.

Since then Revd Olivier has founded four more churches.

Judy Keay was one of our members who visited

Ambatondrazaka in 2018, and since then she has maintained contact with Revd Olivier's wife, Zo. The following is an up-date of some of the progress being made:



There has been an increase in the fields of vegetables, especially Saonjo (cassava family), which contributes to healthy living.

One of the MU members has managed to purchase a pig, and once it produces piglets, will share with the others.



The sewing machines which Blean funded are being used to make mosquito nets.

Claire, an MU member in Mahatsinjo now weighs all new babies at birth and if below weight, ensures a feeding programme is in place for the mother and baby. These are encouraging signs of one of the messages the team tried to impart during the 2018 visit, that God uses our hands, feet etc.

At the Lambeth Conference last year Judy met Neny Tantely, wife of the Bishop of Antananarivo. Neny remarked it was pleasing to meet someone from Blean, since Judy visited her and Bishop John during the 2018 visit in Madagascar. Zo and Neny have met since.

Earlier this year Revd Olivier's home was burgled and amongst the items stolen was his computer. Fortunately none of the family were harmed. Since communication between us is largely by email, it was decided to fund a replacement computer, and happily communication is restored.

*Mary Cooke*



Bishop Rose is travelling to Madagascar in August so there will be more news in the next edition



## St. Paul's at Maidstone - 100th Birthday Celebration

Mother's Union at St. Paul's Maidstone was founded in 1923. In that year George V was king, Stanley Baldwin was Prime Minister, the Queen Mother married Prince Albert (the future George VI) and the foundation stone was laid at Mary Sumner House!

On 13th July St. Paul's Fellowship group was joined by members from St. Nicholas and St. Andrew's Maidstone. It was a lovely afternoon Tea Party with

plenty of fellowship.



There were displays of the branch archives as well as a sale of crafts from Rwanda and Lesotho (our former Link Dioceses)



The splendid Birthday Cake was cut by Maureen Thomas, a member of St. Paul's.

Many thanks to Edna Tupper and her team for organising the afternoon.

Liz Deane. St. Andrew's MU, Barming Heath, Maidstone.

# Together in Prayer

## AUGUST

Sandra Goodey - Trustee

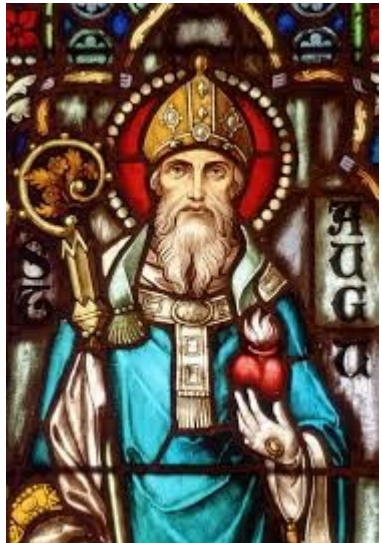
As you all know, on August 9th each year we remember and celebrate the obedience and vision of Mary Sumner. Her most famous prayer is so simple, yet profound

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live.

It is something we would do well to pray daily, as the first line suggests. It got me thinking about other Christians whose lives we remember in the lectionary throughout the year. So I have picked a few whose days fall between now and November, choosing some of their prayers that can give us some fresh ideas for our daily prayer life as we ask God to bless us and the work of the Mothers' Union across the world

**Saint Augustine** - August 28th He wrote many prayers but this poetic prayer to the Holy Spirit echoes much of what Mary Sumner wrote and reminds us that the Holy Spirit will strengthen and protect us

Breathe in me, O Holy Spirit, That my thoughts may all be holy. Act in me, O Holy Spirit, That my work, too, may be holy. Draw my heart, O Holy Spirit, That I love but what is holy. Strengthen me, O Holy Spirit, To defend all that is holy. Guard me, then, O Holy Spirit, That I always may be holy.



# Together in Prayer

## SEPTEMBER

### John Chrysostom 13th September

His prayer at the end of Evensong is well known but I was delighted to find many “arrow” prayers which are attributed to St. John Chrysostom. The description arrow prayers refers to short, frequent thoughts that we direct to God, as a reminder that we are constantly in his presence, and to call down his grace.



### Here are eight :

O Lord, enlighten my heart that evil desires have darkened.  
O Lord, send down Thy grace to help me, that I may glorify Thy name.  
O Lord Jesus Christ, write me in the book of life and grant unto me a good end.  
O Lord, sprinkle into my heart the dew of Thy grace.  
O Lord, quicken in me a good thought.  
O Lord, give me tears and remembrance of death, and contrition.  
O Lord, implant in me the root of all good: Thy fear in my heart.  
O Lord, grant that I may love Thee from all my soul and mind, and in everything do Thy will



# Together in Prayer

## OCTOBER

October 11th St Ethelburga



St Ethelburga, (died 675) Having refused an arranged marriage to a pagan prince, she was banished to a nunnery by her brother, She proved to be a natural leader and became the first Abbess of the great Benedictine Abbey at Barking in Essex, one of the first religious houses for women in the country. She is especially noted for her heroic conduct in caring for the sick during an outbreak of the plague in 664 which eventually killed her and most of her community. During this time she is said to have had a vision of a light “brighter than the sun at noonday” which inspired her and her community to carry out works of great compassion in caring for others. She epitomises a strong woman who exemplifies the virtues of leadership and commitment to social action even to the point of self-sacrifice. St Ethelburga’s Centre in London is a focus for reconciliation and ecology - bringing peace to both people and our planet. Here is one of their prayers

God of life, Every act of violence in our world, between myself and another, destroys a part of your creation. Stir in my heart a renewed sense of reverence for all life. Give me the vision to recognise your spirit in every human being, however they behave towards me. Make possible the impossible by cultivating in me the fertile seed of healing love. May I play my part in breaking the cycle of violence by realising that peace begins with me.

# Together in Prayer

## NOVEMBER

**November 6 William Temple Archbishop of Canterbury**

His oft quoted

“The Church is the only society that exists for the benefit of those who are not its members, is well known.

However I also was most encouraged by these two quotes and the following prayer of William Temple:”

“My worth is what I am worth to God; and that is a great deal, for Christ died for me.”



O God of love, we pray thee to give us love:

Love in our thinking, love in our speaking,  
Love in our doing, and love in the hidden places of our souls;  
Love of our neighbours near and far;  
Love of our friends, old and new;  
Love of those with whom we find it hard to bear,  
And love of those who find it hard to bear with us;  
Love of those with whom we work,  
And love of those with whom we take our ease;  
Love in Joy, love in sorrow; Love in life and love in death;  
That so at length we may be worthy to dwell with thee,  
Who art eternal love.  
Amen

So don't forget that our daily MU Wave of Prayer is making a difference. In all we do for Christ, may we do it with love, because he first loved us.



*Turn hope into action this summer, by donating, holding fundraising events, and praying for those who need support. Together we can transform communities.*

For parents and children who need support, who simply need a break, your prayers, gifts and actions this Summer of Hope can make all the difference.



'Threads through Creation' is an astonishing, uplifting textile art exhibition showing at Rochester Cathedral from 29th July to 3rd September.

The show consists of twelve HUGE silk panels (2.7m high, up to nearly 4m wide) re-imagining the creation story from the bible. You'll find the extraordinary scale, vibrant colours, complex designs and spectacular stitching truly breath-taking.

It's one of the largest textile art projects by a single artist, ever. Jacqui Parkinson has a national reputation for large scale work – this is touring twenty cathedrals. She spent three years on the panels, using miles of thread - and eight million stitches!

"It's beautiful, highly enjoyable, a lovely thing to take friends to - and great fun for children too."

See more at [www.creationthreads.co.uk](http://www.creationthreads.co.uk) and [www.rochester cathedral.org](http://www.rochester cathedral.org).  
Admission free (donations welcome)

# Daily Hope Phone Line

Unfortunately the Mothers' Union can no longer broadcast Midday Prayers via Facebook. For those of you not online and would like an alternative means of accessing prayers and hymns on a daily basis the Archbishop has set up this free phone line



Archbishop Justin Welby answers your call with a short message followed by a choice of options:

Press 0 for main menu

Press 1 for hymns we love

Press 2 to hear hymn line

Press 3 spring reflections

Press 4 chair exercises.

Press 5 Church of England Service

Press 6 traditional Morning and Evening Prayers

Press 7 pray for Ukraine

Press 8 write to daily hope or make a donation

Press \* to hear a message from Archbishop Justin Welby

Press # to sleep well with daily hope

## **Mothers' Union Annual Gathering 2023—the last until 2026!**

Organised by Mary Sumner House the Annual Gathering in York will take place at York Barbican on Friday 22nd September 2023. The theme of the meeting will be Transformation — Now!

This will be followed by Evensong in York Minster at 5.30pm where the Archbishop of York will preach.

Tickets for the Annual Gathering cost £23.50 and can be obtained at [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

# Rita Pengelley



Those of you who knew my Mum Rita Pengelley, knew how passionate she was about AFIA (away from it all) a program run by Mothers' Union to support local families. She raised a lot of money through various fundraising events, and walking to London was just one of them. So, to raise money for AFIA and in memory of my amazing Mum, I have decided to walk from Canterbury to Margate (finishing at her flat) on Saturday the 19th of August a total of 26 miles. My Mum's other

love was the sea, so during the summer months, I will also be swimming a total of 26 miles. I will be doing these events with the love and support of my amazing family and friends ♥

*Hazel Elks*

*If you would like to donate online the below link will take you to my Go Fund me page. All donations go straight to The Mothers' Union Canterbury Diocese AFIA fund. <https://gofund.me/f6487387>*

Hazel will be setting off from Canterbury Cathedral at 08.00am on Saturday 19th August. If you free to come along and see off please join us. For more information as to the meeting point please contact Jackie Curd 07712432906

# Sandra Goodey

Sandra Goodey our Trustee and Faith Community of Interest Representative is very sadly leaving us, for pastures new. Her husband Rev Phil Goodey has been appointed Vicar of Highworth with Sevenhampton and Inglesham, Hannington and Broad Blunsdon. Sandra has been a guiding light with all her experience and we are very grateful for everything she has done for the Mother's Union whilst she was with us.

We wish Sandra and Phil every blessing in their new adventures in Bristol.





# 16 Days of Activism

**25th November to 10th December**

The 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence is an annual international campaign that starts on 25th November, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against gender based violence, and runs until 10th December, Human Rights Day

The presence of a Red Bench (chair) in a public location aims to raise awareness of domestic violence taking place in our midst.

Is this something you could set up in your church?

## **A PRAYER FOR RELEASING HIDDEN VOICES**

*Heavenly Father,  
who sees the unseen and notices the unnoticed,  
help each of us to hear the Hidden Voices of those  
who pray for release from slavery and exploitation,  
so that we may give ourselves more fully to the service of your saving love,  
and be strengthened together as agents of your healing and hope,  
through Jesus Christ,  
who himself came to serve as a slave,  
so as to bring freedom and grace to all.*

**Amen**

Written by The Rt Revd Dr Alastair Redfern, Chair of The Clewer Initiative.

## **Take a seat to take a stand**



# In Memorium

Annette Vale 86. ST Paul's Boxley.

Ruth Reeves 95. Sutton Valence & Bearsted. Ruth was a champion knitter for baby tops for Africa.

Pauline Byrne Holy Trinity, Milton Regis. A full obituary to Pauline will be in the next issue.

## Members Meeting Tuesday 7th November 2023

Coffee available from 10.00am and then we will start the meeting with Holy Communion at 10.30am followed by the business part of the meeting and our guest speaker. All invited for lunch afterwards (Homemade soup and cake) in the Parish Centre

## ADVENT SERVICE

**Our annual Advent Service will be held in the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral on Monday 4th December at 11.00am. Our guest preacher will be the Dean of Canterbury The Very Reverend Dr David Monteith.**

**We hope you will all be able to join us.**

Copy deadline for the next edition of the Diocesan Newsletter is 29th October 2023. All articles to [jcurd.mu@gmail.com](mailto:jcurd.mu@gmail.com)

## TRUSTEE BOARD

Sandra Goodey	Trustee and Faith Co-ordinator
Susan Thomas	Trustee and Treasurer
Rachel Thomas	Trustee and Fundraising Co-ordinator
Susan Spillett	Trustee Diocesan Members Co-ordinator
Jackie Curd	Trustee, DNL Editor and Safeguarding Officer
Debbie Smith	Trustee Domestic Abuse Community of Interest
Rev Emma Pennington	Chaplain

Any member of the Trustee Board can be contacted via email—

[MUtrusteeBoard@gmail.com](mailto:MUtrusteeBoard@gmail.com) or Jackie Curd 07712432906

Please think seriously about joining the Trustee Board and continue to pray for us all

## Please remember in your prayers

Wednesday 9th August	Mary Sumner Day Lunch and Bible Auction, St Paul's, Canterbury 12.00 lunch, 2.00pm Auction
Saturday 19th August	Sponsored Walk from Canterbury to Margate in aid of AFIA
Thursday 14th September	Trustee Board Meeting
Friday 22nd September	Annual Gathering in York
Thursday 28th September	Cathedral Prayer Time 12.00 in the Crypt
Wednesday 4th October	Maidstone Archdeaconry Meeting
Thursday 19th October	Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry Meeting
Thursday 26th October	Cathedral Prayer Time 12.00 in the Crypt
Friday 29th October	Deadline for DNL
Tuesday 7th November	Members Meeting at St Paul's, Canterbury
Thursday 9th November	Trustee Board Meeting
Thursday 23rd November	Cathedral Prayer Time in the Crypt
25th November—10th December	16 days of Activism
Monday 4th December	Advent Service in Canterbury Cathedral 11.00am

## Cathedral Prayer Time

Cathedral Prayer Time is open to all and coordinated by Margaret Horwood. It takes place in the Jesus Chapel in the Cathedral Crypt at 12.00. Each month the prayers are compiled by a different contributor and if you are coming into Canterbury on the last Thursday of the month please feel free to come and join us.

## MU EMERGENCY PRAYER CHAIN

Please contact Margaret Bradford on 01622 832454 or  
email : [mrsbusby@btinternet.com](mailto:mrsbusby@btinternet.com)