***Leader*** Let us pray
Word of God open the mouths of those who are silent and afraid. Give speech to those who have no voice. Teach us to hear the words beneath the silence. Bear witness to the cries that are the beginning of speech. Open our ears to each other so that when we listen and speak we may recognise in our words your Word and make it flesh**. Amen**

***Leader.*** We say together **the Lord’s Prayer**.

**The Mothers’ Union Prayer** is shared with all our members around the world, and so, together with members in Tanzania, Swaziland, Nigeria and North India we say:

**Loving Lord
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.
We pray for families around the world.
Bless the members of the Mothers’ Union
as we seek to share your love
through the encouragement, strengthening
and support of marriage and family life.
Empowered by your spirit
may we be united in prayer and worship,
and in love and service reach out as your hands
across the world.
In Jesus name. Amen**

**Bless our feet that they might tread the path prepared.
Bless our hands that they might show your love’s embrace.
Bless our words that they might share your grace and peace.**

**Amen**

****

**Wave of Prayer, 5 - 7 January 2019**

***Silence or quiet music while we leave behind our busy lives and quiet ourselves in God’s presence.***

***Leader:*** We say together:

**Loving Lord, we give thanks that you have prepared our way and strengthened us at every stage with hope and resolve.**

***Leader:*** God of unchanging power,your Holy Spirit enables us to proclaim your love in challenging times and places.

Give to the members of Mothers’ Union steadfastness, fresh understanding and a clear vision, that together, we may respond to the call to be your disciples and so rejoice in the blessings of your kingdom.

**We ask this in the name of Him who gave His life that ours might flourish, your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

***Leader:*** Loving Lord,we thank you for the path laid before us and that you accompany us on our journey.

We pray for the flourishing of Mothers’ Union as we adapt to the needs of this present age and entrust ourselves to God to lead us forward. Give us open ears, eyes and hearts that we may act with insight and integrity to make a difference in our world.

### As we walk into the future with faith may our pace be set by our perfect guide; neither running ahead nor lagging behind, but always in step with God. Amen

***FIRST BIBLE READING* *1 Samuel 3:9-10***

Eli told Samuel, ‘Go and lie down, and if he calls you, say, “Speak, Lord,

for your servant is listening.”’ So Samuel went and lay down in his place.

10The Lord came and stood there, calling as at the other times, ‘Samuel! Samuel!’ Then Samuel said, ‘Speak, for your servant is listening.’

**All: Almighty Lord, we thank you that we can dwell in your presence through the love of Christ. Amen**

***SECOND BIBLE READING.  James 1:19***

Let everyone be quick to hear, be a careful, thoughtful listener, slow to speak, a speaker of carefully chosen words, and slow to anger, patient, reflective, forgiving.

***Silence or quiet music while we reflect on what we have heard.***

***Leader:***  May We Seek to fulfil these readings as we take up the theme for this year *of Listening, Observing, and Acting in Step with God*.

***Six candles are lit to represent our linked dioceses.***

*(The next six prayers can be read by individuals or the leader)*

We ask God’s blessing on the Diocesan President and members in Swaziland and on their work visiting prisoners and providing toys and nappies to children born to prisoners. We pray for their work distributing food to drought stricken-areas and helping orphans to cope with life. **Amen**

In Aguata, Nigeria we pray for their Diocesan President and members and their work to improve conditions in their communities, reaching out to widows, widowers and orphans to help them cope with life. **Amen**

Also in Nigeria we ask God's blessing on the Diocesan President and members in Lagos Mainland. May their conferences, retreats and counselling bring comfort, hope and inspiration. **Amen**

The Diocesan President and members in Ruaha, Tanzania, ask for prayer for Neema Crafts and their work with disabled people, and especially for the guest house run by the disabled. **Amen**

We move to North India to pray for Chotanagpur diocese and their ministry to the sick, broken families, the elderly and raising children in Christian teaching. **Amen**

Finally we pray for our own diocese of Norwich. We give thanks for all we have achieved in the past year and pray especially for our new Chaplain Andrew and the new Trustee Board. We pray that someone will respond to God's call to take up the reins of leadership and come forward as our President. We ask God's blessing on the work of AFIA, Angel Tree, Baby Basics, Loving for Life and Time Norfolk and on the re-settlement of Syrian refugees in our area. **Amen**