

# in touch

London Diocesan News



Summer 2016



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families



*Dear friends,*

Our theme for this year -  
**"Celebration of Faith"** –and yes we are certainly celebrating in so many different ways.

In March Den and I had the privilege of attending the reappointing of Lynne Tembey as our Worldwide President by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the beautiful chapel in Lambeth Palace. During the Service Archbishop Justin Welby said he "praises God" for the Mothers' Union and what we do.

He continued by saying "Mothers Union is one of the greatest women's groups in the world, and has the treasure of the gospel of reconciliation. There are few that can rival you – if any. Nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills, and the villages – doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches and transforming communities". We were all so moved and encouraged by the real sense of support and appreciation given by the Archbishop.

In April we all celebrated our Patron, Queen Elizabeth 11's 90th Birthday and look forward to her official Birthday celebrations in June with a Royal Tea Party in The Mall and a Procession of all the Charities to which the Queen is Patron, including Mothers' Union! In August Mary Sumner House will once again be hosting "Open Days" so that members can help celebrate 140 years of the work of the Mothers Union and we can join in the evensong at Westminster Abbey on Mary Sumner Day, 9<sup>th</sup> August. In September there will be a Celebration Service in Winchester where MU all began and our General Meeting in Basingstoke.

2016 is a very special year for Mothers' Union as we celebrate 140 years of faithful service. Faith has been at the heart of MU since Mary Sumner decided to begin a society in 1876.

The Lord is good.  
His unfailing love continues forever  
and his faithfulness continues to each generation. (Psalm 100:5)

*Love  
Margaret*

### **Willesden Area**

Mrs Grace Smith migrated to Florida last year. She had tirelessly worked for Mothers' Union as Branch Leader at St. Michael Tokyngton for 11 years and is sorely missed. Annette Cole who has been voted in as the new leader stated that they have been privileged to have had Grace as their Branch Leader and she has left a legacy of a new Branch Banner which she made before leaving the UK. We wish her and her husband God's richest blessings in their future endeavours.



**Annette Cole**

Grace making our new banner





## **Willesden Area - Lady Day Service**

35 members attended The Willesden Area Lady Day Service on Saturday 9 April at St Augustine's Church, Wembley Park, led by Rev Angela Hopkins from Holy Innocent's Church, Kingsbury.

The service commenced with the hymn "Brother, Sister, Let Me Serve You" and also included the reading of a poem by John Birch called "Exploring the Word" which begins with "When does an ordinary life become extraordinary and ended with When God enters in, Forgives sin, Allows us to begin again when we repeat those words of Mary "May it be to me as you say".

Rev Angela spoke about this in her sermon. Mary was ordinary, however she found favour with God, and her words of acceptance of God's will for her changed everything and made her extraordinary. We to, when we allow God into our lives can be extraordinary; we are all unique and special. During the service we, the members, rededicated ourselves to God's purposes for the Mothers' Union, for His praise and glory. The service ended with us singing "Bind us together, Lord, bind us together in love"..

After the service our Diocesan President, Margaret, answered members' questions on the Mothers' Union and we then enjoyed fellowship over a Bring and Share Lunch.

It was altogether a very inspiring day.

**Valerie Stemp**  
Willesden Area Member



## **A Royal Tea Party**

January and February can be a bit of an anticlimax after the excitement of Christmas and the New Year, but not at All Saints' Church in East Finchley. Every year we MU members hold a tea party, and we invite members of the congregation and other MU members in the Central Barnet Deanery. This year we were delighted to welcome our Diocesan President Margaret Blazey and our Area Vice-President Sue Johnson among our guests.

In 2016 it was our 32<sup>nd</sup> such party, and because it was held on 6 February – the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne – we made it a Royal Tea Party with flags and bunting, Victoria sponges and Balmoral shortbread!

As usual we served mulled wine as everyone arrived, always appreciated on a winter's afternoon. Then after time for everyone to relax and chat we sat down to afternoon tea: sandwiches and savouries, scones and cakes and then (in proper party fashion) individual jellies. We don't make any charge for the tea but in proper MU style we do hold a raffle, and this year it raised over £80 for London Diocesan projects.

We received many compliments on the table decorations and the refreshments, and I like to think we have set a high standard for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party in the Mall to meet.

**Sally Atkinson**  
All Saint's East Finchley



## Edmonton Area Lady Day Service

The Edmonton Area Lady Day Service was very well attended by over 80 members and about 10 banners were processed including the London Diocese travel banner.



it was a privilege to have Bev Jullien, the Mothers Union Chief Executive with us and great to see that she commented on her Face Book Page the next day "Wonderful to be part of the Lady Day service for the Edmonton Area at Hornsey Parish Church; great to meet so many current members and also admit 25 new members". The new members were from St.Aldhelms where we are so pleased to say the branch has been resurrected and also one new member from the host church. As Father Ben pointed out it was so appropriate that these members were saying "yes" to Mothers Union as Mary said 'yes' to God. A very uplifting and encouraging Service.



It was the first occasion that my MU member daughter had been able to attend and it gave her the bigger picture of the organisation. The effort that members make to get to events is greatly appreciated. Let us continue to follow Mary Sumner's vision and make our 140<sup>th</sup> anniversary a year of celebration.

**Sue Johnson**

## Looking forward with the new Bishop of Edmonton

It was fantastic that almost 50 members from the Area came to St Alphege on the 23<sup>rd</sup> February to welcome Bishop Rob to Mothers' Union in the Edmonton Area as part of his listening tour. He has been travelling around the Area talking and listening to different groups in the community. We went into groups to discuss "what our community means to us" and "what difference do we make in our community". After lots of discussions many suggestions were shared so that we may move forward in our mission together. These have been communicated to +Rob and we hope that after July we will see some of our suggestions become reality.

**Sue Johnson**

## Christ the Saviour- Ealing

A new leader Pauline McCalla was commissioned for Christ The Saviour Ealing. Margaret presented her with the certificate and she was supported by Mothers' Union members and the Willesden Area Vice President Liz Holmes. Pauline will be a great asset to the branch and she is encouraged by her members and the clergy. We wish her well and remember her in our prayers.

**Liz Holmes**





## Families and People in need

The Mothers Union supports families and people in need. As the family of God, the churches can support families and those in need. The Stepney area in each of its three boroughs provided shelter for homeless people seven nights a week in a different church each night. Working ecumenically, the churches provided a hot meal, a bed for the night and a hot



breakfast in the morning. The Bow Group Mothers Union at St. Paul's Old Ford realized that the shelter guests need personal toiletries to maintain dignity and cleanliness. Members and others gathered more than a 120 items of soap, shampoo, hand and body creams, feminine sanitary needs, washcloths, hand sanitizers and other toiletries to make "Blessing Bags" for the 20 guests at the Thursday East London Baptist Tabernacle shelter and these were taken to the shelter by MU Branch Leader Shola Ogunlade and member Tracey Yewman to help the guests realize they are part of the larger family of God.

**Rev. April Keech, Stepney Area Chaplain**

## History of Wave of Prayer

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. Amen. Mary Sumner

As we celebrate 140 years of Mothers' Union, we look back and we remember Mary Sumner, the lady who made it all happen. Above was her favourite prayer which was relative then and more so now. The fore sight of Mary Sumner has continued for one hundred and forty years and still continues especially in The Wave of Prayer considered to be the life line of The Mothers' Union in 84 countries with over 4 million members World Wide.

Mary Sumner used her position as the wife of a clergy and a grandmother to put her ideas into practice. The inauguration of Mothers' Union in London in 1890 (we celebrated our 125 year anniversary last year) by the Bishop of London's wife, saw the beginning of The Wave of Prayer as we know it today. At this meeting, Mary Sumner spoke to the 90 women present about the rules and objects of Mothers' Union and one of them most strikingly, was prayer. She formed a committee of women whose role was to pray for their homes and their families.

In July 1909, a Quiet Day for Mothers' Union Workers was held at St. Martins West Drayton. The President was Mrs. Emily Wilberforce; her husband was a grand son of William Wilberforce.

In 1912, an Overseas Committee was formed to support the growth in membership in the countries concerned and in 1921 the Wave of Prayer was launched. The President Dame Beatrix Lyall was a link between the older original members and the younger generation. In 1930 1<sup>st</sup> World Wide Conference and London has been linked ever since with Diocese of Angola (Southern Africa), BO (West Africa), Freetown (West Africa), Diocese in Europe, Mandalay and Myitkyina (Myanmar), Kontagora (Nigeria) until as you all know In 2014 London Diocese, like all Diocese throughout the world were given new Links: Butere in Kenya, El Obeid in Sudan, Nnewi in Nigeria and the Province of the USA.

**Elnora Mann**  
**LINKS Correspondent**



**MOTHERS' UNION – LONDON DIOCESE**  
**WAVE OF PRAYER 9<sup>TH</sup>- 11<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2016**

*As the prayers are said a candle can be lit for the link diocese*

**Leader :** Our theme this year is "A Celebration of Faith". 2016 is a very special one for Mothers' Union as we celebrate 140 years of faithful service to families and communities. Faith has been at the heart of Mothers' Union since it was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876. Through faith we understand that the world is framed by the word of God; without faith it is impossible to please God. Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering.

The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein. Serve the Lord with gladness; come before His presence with singing. Psalm 24:1 and 47:5:

**Hymn :** Thy Hand of God has guided (*optional*)

**All : MU Prayer:**

**Loving Lord, we thank you for Your love so freely given to us all. We pray for families around the world. Bless the work 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.**

**Reader 1 : Bible reading: Hebrew 11:23-28**

**Reader 2: SUDAN : Diocese of El Obeid**

Loving Lord of all faithfulness, God of grace and favour, we thank you for blessing the works in our link diocese of El Obeid in Sudan and their outreach programme of education for the promotion of healthy and progressive community. Guide and perfect their efforts as they work towards changing the cultural attitude towards women and girls. As we commemorate the 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mothers' Union perfect the campaign of El Obeid to eradicate the practice of girl child compensation and all other customary abuses of young women.

Lord hear us; **Lord graciously hear us.**

**Leader :** In Christ Jesus you who were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever. Taste and see that the Lord is good. Ephesians 2:13 & Psalm 107:1 and 34:8:

**Reader 3 : KENYA : Diocese of Butere**

Merciful Lord, God of power and might, thank you for the diocese of Butere in Kenya. We pray for sustainable peace in the region. We bring before you the works of the Mothers' Union as they mobilise their churches to meet the challenges of their communities in the field of education, health and women and children welfare. Bless the MU workers and continue to guide them in their zeal to promote and entrench the values of marriage and family life. We pray for the success of their inspiring educational programmes for economic empowerment as they prepare to join in the worldwide celebration of the 140 Anniversary.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

**Leader :** His divine power has given us all things that pertain to life and godliness. Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths. 2 Peter 1:3 with Proverbs 3:5-6:



**Reader 4 : NIGERIA : Diocese of Nnewi**

Loving Lord , God of goodness and mercy, we thank you for your wonderful works in the diocese of Nnewi in Nigeria. We pray for the Mothers' Union projects in the diocese especially the building of homes for widows and orphans. Bless their outreach programmes as they seek to encourage and promote income-generating projects to enable the widows to fend for themselves and their children. May they celebrate in this 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year your abundant goodness and joyfully sing of your righteousness.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

**Leader** : I will mention the loving kindness of the Lord and the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has bestowed on us. In everything give thanks. Isaiah 63:7: with 1 Thessalonians 5:18

**Reader 5 : Province of the USA**

Living Lord, Gracious God of justice and truth, we thank you for the wonderful works of the Mothers' Union in the diocese of the Province of the USA. We thank you for their empowerment programmes for the less privileged in their community. Bless their numerous outreach programmes in the field of education and evangelising projects and continue to guide and sustain them as they spread the Gospel to all people. Provide and enable them with the necessary resources as they join in the worldwide celebration of the 140th Anniversary.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

**Leader** : Heaven and the highest heavens belong to the Lord your God, also the earth with all that is in it. Deuteronomy 10:14

**Reader 6 : LONDON**

Merciful Lord , God of all hopefulness we thank you for the United Kingdom and for giving the world Mary Sumner who founded the Mothers' Union 140 years ago. Thank you, Lord, for her generous heart in sharing your blessings with the women of the world. Thank you especially for the Diocese of London for continuing her legacy of the value of maintaining a solid family life. Bless all the various outreaches in the diocese. As we commemorate the 140th Anniversary guide and instruct us in all our preparations to promote the aim and objectives of the Mothers' Union with regards to marriage and family life. May the favour of the Lord our God rest upon us; establish the work of our hands for us, yes, establish the work of our hands. Heavenly Father, let all our collective prayers be as incense before you.

Lord hear us, **Lord graciously hear us.**

**Leader** : Praise Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all you stars of light! Praise Him, you heaven of heavens, and you waters above the heavens! Let them praise the name of the Lord, for He commanded and they were created. Psalm 148:3-5:

Hymn : All Things Bright and Beautiful (*optional*)

**All : Lord's Prayer**

**The Grace**



## **A Meeting with The MU President of NNEWI Diocese of Nigerian Anglican Communion**

As I promised Margaret, I managed to solve the problem we are experiencing with our latest link, Nnewi Diocese, which happens to be my home town, when I went to Nigeria in October. With the help of my relation, Dame Virgy Etiaba, the former Governor of Anambra State, I was able to accomplish the mission. It was not easy to get the president over the phone, but when we eventually did, an appointment was made

Dame Virgy Etiaba and I arrived at the scheduled time at the Bishop's Court where we met the president Mrs Eugenia Okpala and her Secretary Mrs Lois Iwuagwu and we opened the meeting with introduction and prayer. When I brought up the issue of no response to our numerous letters and emails, she said that they never received any and moreover, they were not aware that they are now linked with London Diocese as they still liaise with Sheffield. She was very happy about my visit and promised to get in touch when next she visits London. She gave me her personal phone number and email address which I passed over to Elnora. She also gave me copies of their yearly magazine called 'Rise and Shine which is equivalent to our Family First and other materials about the activities of MU within the diocese which is vast with numerous parishes. We went over to the Bishop's office, Rt Rev'd G.I.N Okpala to pay a courtesy visit. (See photo)

I take this opportunity to highlight some of the numerous activities that the diocese is involved in under the broader name of 'Women Ministry' whose activities are carried out through three channels, namely Mothers' Union, Women's Guild, and Girl's Guild. The MU is for those women who are married in the church. Their mission statement is the same as ours. The Women's Guild has more open membership for women although full church members, but for one reason or another are not eligible to join MU. Finally, the Girl's Guild which deals with the girls in the diocese. Its aim is to teach girls a good way of living and to draw them closer to Christ through good conduct, selfless services in the church and at home and in the community.

Some of the Women's Ministry activities include organising symposiums, seminars, conferences, talks and varieties of educational programmes beneficial to local needs as they see fit. They have an endowment fund from which a building of nine flats has just been completed as a hostel for young women.

I hope that on her next visit to London Mrs Okpala may be able to meet with us and enlighten us more on their activities. May our link be beneficial to both sides as we endeavour to learn from each other in Jesus Name.

**Gladys Meka    Stepney Area**





## Conference on 16 Days Activism on Gender Violence

25<sup>th</sup> November 2015 was the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and Girls. The Day was commemorated globally by an inaugural Conference held simultaneously in different time zones. As part of the Mothers' Union programme of 16 Days Activism Against Gender Violence we hosted a one day conference at Mary Sumner House under the theme: "Beyond the 16<sup>th</sup> Day".

It was well attended with representatives of various agencies and civil societies involved with eradicating all forms of gender violence. Able speakers were drawn from the Police, Church, Law, Health, Academia and Civil Societies. Each speaker brought something new to the conversation and proffered new strategies for dealing with new creative crimes.

Attendees were divided into working groups to brainstorm on the way forward and in the process additional crimes came to light, such as cyber bullying, cyber stalking, revenge pornography and online harassment on Facebook. Financial and psychological abuses are now considered forms of domestic abuse and all are offences subject to prosecution in the court of law. There are Cyber detectives in the Police force who handle such cases and some have been successfully prosecuted.

The Conference was launched by Beverley Jullien, Chief Executive of Mothers' Union. The Keynote Speaker was Nkosazana Maqoma, President of MU, South Africa, who spoke on the many challenges facing the youth of South Africa, and how the collaboration of the Church and the Mothers' Union help in tackling the menace of gender violence. Other notable speakers included Dr Christine Baxter of the University of Bristol and Steve Watkins from the Northamptonshire Police.

At the end of the day the consensus was that we should all work together to find lasting solutions to eradicate gender violence. It was agreed that gender violence is a global problem that transcends class, race or creed. Victims of such crimes, especially cyber bullying, should be encouraged to speak up.



Jodie MU Southwark, Bev Jullien and Gogo Rose

**Gogo-Rose Illo**  
**Unit Co-ordinator for Faith and Policy**

## Prayer and Praise Day

The title "Blooming Prayers" gave it all away! We were looking at flowers, hearing about flowers and then using flowers to enhance our commitment to the Lord.

Barbara Nott Macaire gave an fascinating talk on the development of gardens and the use of flowers as medicine and as giving us a vision of God's creation.

After a Eucharist and lunch, there were activities on offer – Carolyn Bryant helped us to produce beautiful cards and pictures and copying the ideas of the medieval manuscripts with pressed flowers. Rev'd Angela Hopkins gave us the opportunity to record some flowers using watercolours and if that didn't appeal, we could sit quietly and mindfully colouring flower pictures. A great day!



**Pat Beazley**





# NEWS



## CONGRATULATIONS

### Long Service Awards presented to :-

#### Diocesan Members

Patricia Blackwell – 50 years

### Birthdays congratulations to :-

#### Edmonton Area

*St. Paul's, Winchmore Hill, Enfield*

Mary Haines, 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2016

*St. Michael & All Angels, Mill Hill*

June Calder, 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016

#### Kensington Area

*St. Philip with St. James, Whitton*

Rita Pollard – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Olive Rush – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016

*St. Mary the Virgin, Sunbury*

Doreen Smith – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2016

*St. Hilda's, Ashford*

Daphne Roberts – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2016

#### Willesden Area

*St Michaels Tokynton*

Avis Murdock - 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016

### Golden Wedding Anniversary congratulations to :-

#### Edmonton Area

*St., Peter with St. Martin*

Olive and Fernandez Paige – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Angela and Jasper Roach – 18<sup>th</sup> June 2016

*St. George's Freezywater, Enfield*

Janet and Harry Adams - 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2016



Doreen Smith



## In Memory

### Rose Hood St Luke's, Clay Hill, Enfield

Our branch was shocked to hear of the death of Rose Hood on 10 November 2015, at the age of 85. Somehow, we thought she would always be there, making things happen in her unobtrusive manner.

Rose was a very active member of the branch for 48 years. Being leader and then treasurer for many years. She attended national and diocesan events as well as branch activities. She also belonged to, and worked for, other local organisations. Her lemon cakes were legendary.

Rose encouraged me very much when I was branch leader, with a timely word of support or advice given in her quiet manner. Her spirit still seems to be present in St Luke's, especially when catering is involved.



Valerie Budd

**Deadline date for In Touch articles for the Winter edition is  
Monday 10th October 2016**



# Diary Dates for 2016



## June

Tuesday 7th \*\*

*Prayer Hour – led by Willesden Area*

Tuesday 14th

**7 pm. FESTIVAL SERVICE** St.Paul's Cathedral

Tuesday 28th

**11 am DIOCESAN COUNCIL –**

**SPEAKER : Rev'd Dr.John Seymour – “RE with Soul”**

## July

Tuesday 5th \*\*

*Prayer Hour – led by Kensington Area*

9th – 11th

**WAVE OF PRAYER** for the London Diocese of the Mothers' Union

## August

3rd and 4th

**OPEN DAYS at MARY SUMNER HOUSE** – ticket only

Tuesday 9th

**MARY SUMNER DAY –**

join in with Evensong at Westminster Abbey

## September

Thursday 1st \*\*

*Prayer Hour – led by Fr. Neil, Stepney Area*

Thursday 8th

Faith & Policy Comm. and Finance & Office Comm.

9th – 11th

**RETREAT – Bishop Woodford House, Ely**

**22nd – 23rd**

Thurs-Friday

**CELEBRATION SERVICE and GENERAL MEETING  
Winchester / Basingstoke**

## October

Wednesday 5th \*\*

*Prayer Hour – led by Willesden Area*

Thursday 6th

Action & Outreach Comm.

Tuesday 18th

**ACTION & OUTREACH DAY**

**SPEAKERS : Jane Davidson “Homes of Promise”**

## November

Wednesday 2nd

Trustees Meeting

Thursday 10th \*\*

*Prayer Hour – led by Edmonton Area*

Wednesday 23rd

**DIOCESAN COUNCIL / AGM**

**SPEAKER :**

## December

Tuesday 6th \*\*

*Prayer Hour – led by Rev'd Preb. Gary Piper (Kensington Area)*

\*\*

*Prayer Hour – 11 am. to Noon  
Middlesex Chapel, St.Paul's Cathedral*



# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of London

**Vision:** Our vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

**Aim and Purpose:** To demonstrate the Christian faith in action by transformation of communities worldwide through the nurture of the family in its many forms.

**Mission:**

- To promote and support married life
- To encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children
- To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service
- To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children
- To help those whose family life has met with adversity



## Emergency Prayer Network

London/Stepney & Edmonton  
0208 449 2268

Kensington & Willesden  
0208 908 5938

Patron: The Lord Bishop of London  
Diocesan President: Mrs Margaret Blazey

Hon. Treasurer: David Loftus MBE  
Contact via MU office

Articles To: David Bulger  
16 Manor Road, Enfield EN2 0AR  
Tel: 020 8363 8729  
e-mail: davidbulger@btinternet.com

Linked in prayer with El Obeid in Sudan,  
Butere in Kenya, Nnewi in Nigeria and the  
Province of the USA.

Area Chaplains  
Edmonton:  
The Rev'd Bruce Batstone.

Kensington:  
The Revd. David Reindorp

Willesden:  
Revd. Helen Askwith

Stepney:  
Rev. April Keech

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