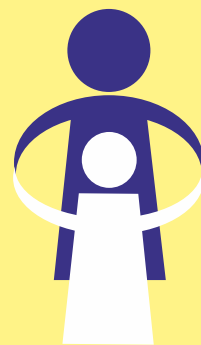


# in touch

London Diocesan News



Summer 2018

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

*Dear Friends,*

First and foremost congratulations to Sue Johnson who has been voted in as our new Diocesan President for the next triennial; she will take over from me in 2019. I am so pleased that she be leading us for the next three years.

By the time you receive this magazine we will also have had the voting for the Trustee Board to work with Sue in faith and I am confident that members will answer God's call and come forward to serve. If not, why not!!



BUT I have not stood down as yet and it is business as usual for me until the end of the year and as well as elections your Trustee Board is working on and bringing ourselves in line with the new legislation that comes into force at the end of May - General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR). I am sure by now this is not unfamiliar to you as all organisations that hold personal data is having to fall in line with the new regs. We will be in touch with Branch Leaders with more detail but the "rule of thumb" for everyone is if you hold personal data on behalf of MU you must ask yourselves the question do I need it, is it relevant to my position in MU, if the answer is yes then it needs to be either password protected on the computer or in a locked cabinet. If it is not needed then it needs to be shredded or in my case my husband Den has the occasional bonfire at the end of the garden.

As well as all the admin and legislation we are embracing this year's theme "In Mary Sumner's Footsteps". It is wonderful to relate to her story and realise what an impact she made all those years ago and isn't it great that through the years since that day in 1876 Mothers' Union has continued to be there for families building on her legacy in so many different ways throughout the world and having a presence in 84 countries with members in Peru being the latest.

This year's theme is part of a new Initiative that is being rolled out throughout the world called MULOA – **Mothers' Union Listens, Observes and Acts**. At Worldwide Council in February Sue Johnson and I joined others in Swanwick at the launch of MULOA in Britain and Ireland. It was a very full on 4 days and what at first seemed confusing and too much to take on board all was revealed by the time we came home and Sue and I drove down the M1 getting very enthusiastic about the whole process and how in the end it offers a clear approach to how we can put our faith into action. This new approach complements existing projects and challenges members to look further at what they might be able to do in the future in their church or community. We explored in "family" groups; made up with members from different parts of the UK, what it is to belong to Mothers' Union and how we can contribute to making a real difference to people's lives.

I have just returned from a Canterbury Provincial Conference in Hoddesdon (see photo above) and part of our time together was taken up with sharing our different experiences around our Diocese with MULOA. Sue and I have taken "bite size" exercises of MULOA to Trustees and Area Meetings in Kensington and Edmonton in the London Diocese and reached approx. 100 members and are pleased to say we have had a very good response.

We had a pleasant afternoon at St.Mary's Osterley Kensington and following updates of what is happening in the London Diocese we had a taster of the MULO A initiative. As you can see in the photo time was spent in groups discussing new ideas and projects like how to support young families in their homes and church and the challenges that would have to be faced.



In the Edmonton Area we met at St.Aldhelms and again following an update on MU we listened to the Mary Sumner Story and members wrote on their own "Mary Sumner's footprint" why they joined MU and what it means to them. It was good to read the positive outlook of members and as the words on one footprint said "Helping others and not thinking of your own wants". Group discussion followed on new initiatives and how to move forward in London identifying challenges and how to address them using stepping stones over a river as a visual tool



At both meetings all the challenges, ideas, initiatives were offered to our Lord and the MULO A Prayer was said by all. Sue and I are looking forward to visiting Willesden and Stepney Areas with MULO A .

As I said at the beginning of this letter we welcome Sue Johnson as our new Diocesan President for the next triennium and I do hope you will support her as she is commissioned at our AGM in Diocesan House on Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November by Bishop Sarah, our new Bishop of London. Good idea to put this in

your diary now!

Let us go forward following "in Mary Sumner's Footsteps" and always remember that prayer is at the heart of everything we do in the MU. May we continue to listen to our Lord Jesus and be ready to answer his Call.



With my love and prayers, *Margaret*





## MOTHERING SUNDAY AT HOLY TRINITY SLOANE SQUARE

It was an absolute delight on Mothering Sunday that we were able to admit four new members into the Holy Trinity Sloane Square branch of the Mothers' Union - the only branch in Chelsea! The new members are Fr Nicholas Wheeler (Rector), Fr Grant Bolton-Debbage (Assistant Priest), Magda Iwanik and Anna Reeves.

It was a great joy to welcome Margaret Blazey, the Mothers' Union London Diocesan President to enrol the new members and present them with their badges which are now worn proudly. Margaret has contributed so much support to our branch and we were honoured to have her with us.

The Mothers' Union group here at Holy Trinity continues to go from strength to strength and we have now committed to raise funds to have a MU banner made in honour of our branch founder Lynette Paul. We look forward to continuing the tremendous transformative work of the Mothers' Union here and supporting our brothers and sisters throughout the world in prayer and action!



## ST. ALDHELM'S BRANCH, EDMONTON

The photo shows a representative of members of The Mothers' Union of St. Aldhelm's Church, Edmonton, London Diocese, who delivered various food items purchased from donations from the members, to the North Enfield Food Bank, on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> March, 2018. This was as a follow-up celebration of Mothering Sunday which was on 11<sup>th</sup> March, 2018.

The members decided to make the donation as an Outreach of "Faith in Action" and sharing the love of God with people in need in our local community. The Food Bank is meeting a great and special need to families and individuals who are in need of such help.

We hope to continue to contribute to the well-being of people in our local community through donations and support for the Food Bank and we will do more by God's grace. Amen.



**Dorothy Nnene**

Branch Leader

## ST.GEORGE'S FREEZYWATER, EDMONTION AREA

Valerie Collins and Kathy Silcock, two members from St.George's Freezywater Branch in Enfield visited Albany Nursing Home in Enfield Wash and presented resident Doreen Higgins and staff blankets that had been knitted by members of the MU Branch.



## DONT GIVE UP

We are fast approaching the end of the triennium and elections are taking place, not only in Diocesan House, but in branches too. I'm pleading with you that if nobody comes forward to lead the branch, carry on anyway. There are many ways for branches to function so explore the options. The important thing is to keep praying, believe and support the aims of Mothers' Union.

I have just returned from an Action and Outreach meeting and it's inspiring to see what a difference we make to thousands of lives, especially Overseas.

Don't hesitate to get in touch if you want support or advice.

**Sue  
Edmonton AVP**

## 16 DAYS ACTIVISM

On the 30th November 2017 St.Paul's Cathedral welcomed members of Mothers' Union in the London Diocese to show their solidarity against Gender Based Violence. As it was so cold that afternoon we met inside the Cathedral in the Middlesex Chapel where we drew near to the light of Christ and joined together in prayer and lighting of candles whilst loudly proclaiming:

Let us **BREAK** the silence surrounding gender based violence

Let us **LIFT** their shame which is often placed unfairly on survivors

Let us **SHIFT** the blame from victim to perpetrator

On our way out of the Cathedral we stood on the steps, held up our placards and denounced Gender Based Violence.



**Margaret  
Diocesan President**

Mothers' Union, London Diocese  
**WAVE OF PRAYER 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> July 2018**

**As the prayers are said a candle can be lit for the Link Diocese.**

Leader: Our theme for this year is "In Mary Sumner's Footsteps."

All the great words of praise come, not from those who have never known suffering, but from those who have known God's help in it. Praising God is not the naïve optimism of the sheltered, but the hearty realism of the delivered. The life of faith does not deteriorate or wear out. The longer we praise God, the more vigorous we become. There is flourishing of faith that properly comes to its most lively expression in the later years. Praise Ye the Lord. Amen. (*Praying with the Psalms by Eugene H Peterson*)

Hymn: Thy Hand O Lord has guided...

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: Romans 15:1-7:

We who are strong ought to bear with the failings of the weak, and not to please ourselves; let each of us please his neighbour for his good, to edify him. For Christ did not please himself; but, as it is written, "The reproaches of those who reproached thee fell on me." For whatever was written in former days was written for our instruction, that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the scriptures we might have hope. May the God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may work with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome one another, therefore, as Christ welcomed you, for the glory of God.

Reader 2 :SUDAN: Diocese of El Obeid

Sovereign God, we cannot always make sense of your purposes, but that does not mean you are not at work. The way may be hidden, the path may appear dark, but sometimes when you seem distant, you are in fact very near. We pray for El-Obeid and members of the Mothers' Union. Amen

Merciful Lord, You are our strength and shield, hear our prayer.

Leader: Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, teach me for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long. (Psalm 25:4-5)

Reader 3: KENYA: Diocese of Butere

Holy Spirit of Jesus, help us to know you, to love you, to enjoy you and to serve you. We pray for all mothers. We pray for all families around the world especially for those families whose lives have been shattered by premature death caused by violence and epidemic disease. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as it seeks to promote the welfare of families. Amen

Merciful Lord, You are our strength and shield, hear our prayer.

Leader: Cast your burden on the Lord, and he will sustain you; he will never permit the righteous to be moved. (Psalm 55: 22)

Reader 4: NIGERIA: Diocese of Nnewi

Teach us O Lord never to despair in any moment however bleak it may seem, for you have shown us that there is nothing in Heaven or earth beyond your renewing power. Your word is a lamp for our feet in darkness and in light, in trouble and in joy. Help us to trust your love, to serve your purpose and to praise your name. Amen.

Merciful Lord, You are our strength and shield, hear our prayer.

Leader: There are glad songs of victory in the tents of the righteous; "The right hand of the Lord does valiantly..."(Psalm 118:15)

Reader 5 : USA : Province of USA

Dear Lord, you take what seems to be bad and use it for your good. You transform what looks hopeless into new beginnings full of promise, we are offering to you the secret prayers of our hearts and lives. Amen.

Merciful Lord, You are our strength and shield, hear our prayer

Leader: The unfolding of your words gives light; it imparts understanding to the simple. Let the oppressed see it and be glad; you who seek God, let your hearts revive. (Psalm 119:130 & Psalm 69:32)

Reader 6 : LONDON

Gracious Lord, God of love and hope, we thank You for the work of the Mothers' Union in the United Kingdom. Lord, we pray that you guide us by your Holy Spirit to discern your will as we follow in Mary Sumner's footsteps working to empower families, strengthen marriage and transform communities. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Merciful Lord, You are our strength and shield, hear our prayer.

Leader: It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil; for he gives sleep to his beloved. (Psalm 127:2)

Hymn: All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small...

All : The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father, Which art in Heaven, Hallowed be Thy name, Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom, the Power and the Glory for ever and ever, Amen.

All : The Grace:

The Grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost be with us all evermore. Amen



## **EDMONTON AREA LADY DAY SERVICE**

Thank you to Father Daniel and the members of St Paul's Winchmore Hill for their warm welcome. Fr. Daniel is newly appointed so it was great that we were able to show him the commitment of Mothers' Union in the Edmonton Area. 7 banners were processed and the attendance was over 50 from 9 branches.

The service was a wonderful expression of our love for Mary and what a superb role model she is for us all. It was great to catch up over refreshments in the Hall.

**Sue Johnson**  
**AVP Edmonton**



## **FURNISH PROJECT IN THE WILLESDEN AREA**

The Willesden Area has been helping with the Furnish Project for at least 12 years. Furnish is a charity that helps the homeless and those in need and provide clients with a home, furniture and the MU provide boxes containing bedding and kitchen essentials. Branches raise funds throughout the year to purchase the needed items.

They meet once a year (October half-term) to pack the boxes and in 2017 they met at Holy Cross, Greenford and as previously decided they packed 57 boxes of bedding as this seems to be more in demand and only a few kitchen boxes had been given out in the previous year. This year they will be packing some of each.

**Liz Holmes**  
**AVP Willesden**



## **MOBILE FARMS VISIT CHILDREN IN KENSINGTON AREA**

Two dull days In April were lit up by happy and excited children when the Clarendon Children's Centre in Ashford were visited by Basil and Crew Mobile Farm and Farms2ewe visited the Stanwell Children's Centre.

In both places, the local schools and play groups were invited ensuring as many children as possible had the opportunity to play and feed the ducks and chicks and rabbits, stroke the ponies, goats and sheep and get up close to these farmyard animals. It was good to see their happy faces and natural curiosity. Letters of thanks have been received by Spelthorne Deanery MU and St. Hilda's Mothers' Union.

**Beryl Rickson**  
**St. Hilda's**





## **ST. MARY THE VIRGIN, TWICKENHAM**

There has been a branch at the Parish Church of Twickenham since 1893 without a break, so we are celebrating our 125th anniversary on Saturday, 13 October at 2pm with a service in church taken by our Vicar, the Revd. Jeff Hopkin Williams, and our London Diocesan President, Margaret Blazey (who is retiring at the end of 2018), will be speaking on this year's theme "In Mary Sumner's Footsteps" which is very apt as Mothers' Union was started in 1876. We shall adjourn afterwards to the Windsor Room across the road for refreshments including a cake, and a chat.

Hampton Deanery consists now of only two branches so we do hope members from the Diocese will come and join us on this special occasion.

Further details can be obtained from me, Pat Ingham, Branch Secretary and Deanery Chairman on 020-8892-3798 or preferably, as I am rather deaf, on e-mail: [patingham7@gmail.com](mailto:patingham7@gmail.com)

**Pat Ingham**  
**Deanery Chairman**

## *In Memory*

### **Mrs Gladys Tompkins. St.John Baptist, Greenhill, Harrow**

Gladys (known as Glad) joined the branch in 1999 and was a faithful and enthusiastic member right up to her death in November 2017, just short of her 91st Birthday. Always beautifully dressed she was instantly recognisable by her bright red hair and very high heels. She had a zest for life that was infectious and a visit to her was filled with laughter. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her.

**Mary Patrick,**  
**Branch Leader**

### **Alfreda Hayes, Diocesan Member**

Alfreda, a loyal member of Mothers' Union for many years, sadly died on 31st March 2018. She had been the enrolling member of St.James' West Hampstead until the branch closed and then Alfreda worshipped at St.Emmanuel. Alfreda became the Prayer and Spiritual representative in the London Diocese and organised residential retreats for MU members and in 1984 she was responsible for setting up the Emergency Prayer Network at a suggestion of Mrs. Rosemary Johnson who was the Mothers' Union Diocesan President at that time. In latter years she was one of our Diocesan Members.

<p><b>Articles &amp; pictures for next issue should be received by Monday 8th October 2018 for articles.</b></p>
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**PLEASE NOTE IN YOUR DIARIES**



## **PRAYER & PRAISE DAY**

**“A FOGGY DAY IN LONDON TOWN”**  
**using prayer and music to find our way in the fog!**

**Led by Revd Angela Hopkins and Pat Beazley**  
on

**THURSDAY 18<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2018**

in

**DIOCESAN HOUSE, 36 CAUSTON STREET SW1P 4AU**

**11 AM TO 3 PM**

Coffee available from 10.30am; bring a packed lunch.

**Registered Charity number 249679**

### **GREAT NEWS – THE NEW CONSTITUTION HAS BEEN APPROVED!**

The new Mothers' Union Worldwide Constitution has been approved. The Privy Council Office confirmed that at a meeting of the Privy Council held on the afternoon of 24th April 2018 at Windsor Castle, Her Majesty The Queen was pleased to approve the Order amending the Charter of Mothers' Union. The amendments to the Bye-laws were also approved by the Privy Council. The Regulations were approved at Worldwide Council. The new Constitution is now being posted on the website.



# **MOTHERS' UNION CALENDAR – LONDON DIOCESE 2018**

## **“IN MARY SUMNER’S FOOTSTEPS”**



<b>MAY</b>	8 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St.Paul's Cathedral
	10 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Ascension Day	
	16 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Faith and Policy Committee	LDH –SPCK
	21 <sup>st</sup>	Monday	Action & Outreach Committee	LDH - Hall
<b>JUNE *</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	<b>FESTIVAL SERVICE (7 pm)</b>	St. Paul's Cathedral
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St.Paul's Cathedral
	15 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup>	Friday – Sunday	<b>RETREAT</b>	Bishop Woodford House Ely
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	Trustees Board Meeting	LDH - - Hall
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	<b>DIOCESAN OPEN MEETING</b>	The Hall, LDC
<b>JULY</b>	5 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Prayer Hour (11am)	St.Paul's Cathedral
	9 <sup>th</sup> – 11 <sup>th</sup>		<b>WAVE OF PRAYER</b>	London Diocese
<b>AUGUST</b>	8 <sup>th</sup> / 9 <sup>th</sup>	Wed. /Thursday	<b>MEMBERS DAYS</b>	MSH
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St. Paul's Cathedral
	12 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	Fundraising/Communication & Finance /Admin Committees	SPCK
	17 <sup>th</sup> /18 <sup>th</sup>	Mon. /Tuesday	<b>SERVICE / GENERAL MEETING</b>	Swansea, Wales
	27 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	Action & Outreach Comm	SPCK
<b>OCTOBER</b>	8 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	<b>Faith &amp; Policy Comm.</b>	SPCK
	9 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	<b>Prayer Hour (11 am)</b>	St.Paul's Cathedral
	18 <sup>th</sup>	Thursday	<b>PRAYER DAY</b>	The Hall, LDH
<b>NOVEMBER</b>	6 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	Trustee Board Meeting	LDH The Hall
	14 <sup>th</sup>	Wednesday	<b>Prayer Hour (11 am)</b>	St.Paul's Cathedral
<b>PLEASE NOTE CHANGE OF DATE</b>	26 <sup>th</sup>	Monday	<b>AGM/Diocesan Open Mtg Commissioning new Diocesan President</b>	LDH The Hall
<b>DECEMBER</b>	4 <sup>th</sup>	Tuesday	<b>Prayer Hour (11 am)</b>	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 Province USA,  
Nnewi Nigeria, Butere Kenya, Obeid Sudan  
and London UK .

Area Chaplains  
Edmonton:  
The Rev'd Bruce Batstone.

Kensington:  
The Rev'd. David Reindorp

Willesden:  
Rev'd. Helen Askwith  
Stepney:

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