

# in touch



London Diocesan News



Winter 2015

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

*Dear friends,*

**YOU**, our members, are one of the most important ingredient of our organisation and it is great to be able to say that we have 4 million members worldwide but for lots of different reasons here in the UK numbers have been declining. At Worldwide Council (WWC) the main topic for discussion was membership; how we can move forward with fresh views yet remain faithful to Mary Sumner's original vision for this life giving, life changing organisation all the while remaining relevant in an ever changing world.



We were also introduced to the Membership Consultation which has been circulated to ALL MU members in the UK and I do urge you to complete this survey and share your views and opinions with the Central Trustees so they can get a broad overview which can form part of a review of "What is membership, how can we encourage more people to become part of this amazing organisation, why can't we excite young members and where are the members of the future"

There is always a very busy agenda for WWC but we are allowed "time off" and over meals and a glass of wine in the evening it is good to get together with other Diocesan Presidents from around the UK and share the positive and negative things that have happened in your own Diocese and realise that you are not on your own; it is quite comforting!

In 2016 the Mothers' Union will be celebrating 140 years and it is very apt that this should take place near Old Alresford where it all began. Please note that this will not be in June but later in the year. The Celebration Service will be on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September in Winchester Cathedral with the General Meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September nearby in Basingstoke. I will circulate more information as soon as it is available and it will be featured on our website which I am hoping will soon be ready to go live. I am really looking forward to being able to keep you up to date on what is going on in the MU in the Diocese of London on our own website.

Thank you for all you do for the Mothers' Union and I look forward to working with you all in the next triennial.

***Wishing you and all your families a very healthy, peaceful and blessed New Year filled with love and happiness***

*Margaret*

### **Emergency Relief**

Mothers' Union has over 72,000 members in Europe, predominantly in Britain and Ireland, but including small branches within Europe of members who were themselves asylum seekers who fled conflict. Every year Mothers' Union across the world, most recently in developing countries, brings "emergency relief" to around 25,000 people through the provision of food, basic household provisions of blankets and sleeping bags, cooking utensils, water sanitation kits and soap.

*Lord, we want to hear your voice, guide us as we, as Mothers' Union, reach out in your name to refugees both in Europe and the Middle East and those affected by conflict in South Sudan and Burundi, in Thailand and many other areas across the world. Bless the work of Mothers' Union and lead us, Lord, to fully play our part. Amen*

**London Diocese Mothers' Union Retreat  
25-27 September 2015 at  
The Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham**

If you think the Anglican Shrine of Our Lady of Walsingham is only for those with an affinity with High Anglican tradition, it is time to think again!

I set out for this year's London Diocese Mothers' Union Retreat with reservations believing that it was for the catholic tradition. However, my experience over the weekend dispelled all my disquiets.

Walsingham presented a safe place to reflect and pray.

We started each day with communal breakfast at 8am. This was followed by meditations given by The Rev'd. Richard Knowling who led us on the retreat. His talks framed my mindset for all the activities and services over the weekend.

Through the rhythm of each day's prayers, address, and space for reflection, I gained deeper insight into the centrality of Mary to a life of faith and prayerfulness. Facing her icons, I found, leads one into prayers, into grappling with the significance of Mary's exemplary self-giving.

Besides, her unreserved outpouring of herself for God was demonstrated most powerfully at the service of Sprinkling of Water. In it, we were reminded of the impossible task of holding onto water in our palms. The preacher had explained that in that same manner, Christ calls us to go and serve him in others.

This was a timely reminder in this season of thanksgiving (for the bounty of harvest, the gift of life, the joy of those with whom we share our life and the memory of those we see no more). Whatever we are blessed with is not ours to hold onto but to use to bless others and that is when we are truly disciples of Jesus Christ.

We departed Walsingham, inspired by the profound words of Fr. Richard and final charge that as we travel with Christ, we must learn, especially in the depths of despair, to Let Go and Let GOD.

The whole experience was comforting and inspiring. It was a blessed weekend.

**Toyin Fagbemi**

Holy Trinity Tottenham MU Branch



## General Meeting 2015

I look forward to the General Meeting each year as it's an opportunity to meet together with fellow members and celebrate our achievements. Two welcome services were arranged for the Friday evening; one at Southwell Minster (I want to return so I can see their fantastic stations of the cross) and the other at St Mary's in the Lace Market. I attended the latter. It was a packed church and the address given by Rt Rev. Tony Porter, Bishop of Sherwood. He spoke about "give us this day our daily bread" and what it means to us in 2015. The Lord's Prayer is Jesus teaching us how to pray. In this bit of the prayer He teaches:

God cares for our bodies: Needs not Greeds; Sharing our finances and our time.

The walk from our hotel to the Royal Concert Hall was proof of how hilly Nottingham is but a vibrant city. I would have loved to have followed the Floral Trail. These were different sculpted items. I did manage a shoe, a jacket, handbag, cup cake. Over 1600 members gathered together to join in opening worship led by our Central Chaplain, Bishop Andrew Proud. Our Worldwide President then took the stage and told us of her travels over the past year, recounting stories of transformational work that members are achieving around the world. The first speakers were Bill Crooks and Jackie Mouradian (Mosaic Creative) who demonstrated the Church and Community Mobilisation Process; how it works, the opportunities it gives and some examples of outcomes. Jackie used the story of when the woman touched Jesus' cloak. Lunchtime gave us the opportunity to catch up with friends and purchase items which the local members had provided.

The afternoon started off with Jane Groves and Nicola Lawrence from Action and Outreach updating on some inspiring and exciting developments throughout the Mothers' Union membership. Our keynote speaker, Jane Fearnley-Whittingshall's talk was entitled from Generation to Generation; I had hoped it would show us how life in the past has had influence on the future but it was more a trip down memory lane.

Reg Bailey then stood up to deliver his final address as Chief Executive. He spoke of his time with Mothers' Union and how he has been inspired over the years by amazing members. True to form he performed some magic tricks. After a standing ovation for him we sang and prayed together in closing worship led by Bishop Tony Porter.

The General Meeting is a wonderful opportunity to find out more about the work of the Mothers' Union; it's vision for the future and a chance to get together with members from all over the world. The Annual Review, which each delegate was given, provides a first rate account of the work of the organisation worldwide.

Next year we celebrate the 140th anniversary of Mothers' Union and we return to where it all began, in Winchester. The theme is "Celebration of Faith" Hope many of you will be able to attend.

Sue Johnson



# Diocesan Roundup

## Kensington Area

### Children and Lambs Play Together

Following on from last year's successful visit from a mobile farm on a sunny day at the end of June, Janette Breese, Stanwell Sure Start Children's Centre Manager, together with her Deputy, Josie Carr arranged for all the play groups and church groups to be contacted where there were small children. As a result, 195 children and 124 adults over the course of two sessions were able to enjoy the animals brought by the mobile farm Ewes2Ewe. Although most of the animals were housed in small pens, five or six of the lambs scampered around the area much to the delight of children and adults alike. Janette expressed the Centre's gratitude to Spelthorne Deanery Mothers' Union branches and the MU London Diocese for their financial support.

### Richmond Run in the Park for Mothers' Union

Well done and a big thank you to two members of the Kensington Area; Fiona Yates, St. Mary the Virgin Sunbury and Sally Goulden, Spelthorne Deanery Chair who took part in the Richmond Run and help raise money for the MU.

**Beryl Rickson**  
Area Vice President  
Kensington Area

## Willesden Area

We have 13 branches in the Willesden Area, with approx 185 members. We pray for all the new branch leaders and officers taking over in January 2016 and offer them support in their new roles. We sadly have lost some very loyal and faithful members this year but we have also seen new members enrolled. Branches usually meet monthly, some branches vary the times and days of the meeting to accommodate all the members. Members have had outings, tea parties and celebrations; are involved with food banks and hospital visiting. Branches are trying to attract new younger members by joining in with the younger Fellowship groups, and by giving baptism gifts.

Most branches have had their summer events raising monies for the Emergency Relief Fund. St Giles, Ickenham; the churches chosen charity for the next 3 years is the MU and the congregation have had short talks on the work of the Mothers' Union at the Sunday services. Holy Cross, Greenford, members took part in the Richmond Run. It's great to see the profile of the MU raised in this way. Well done Katherine and team. (See photo)

We had a Quiet Day on the 10<sup>th</sup> Oct and packing for the Furnish Project on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct. starting with a special simple mass in the church. Thank you everyone for all your support over this last year. Congratulations to Mary Patrick on her Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

**Liz Holmes**  
Area Vice President  
Willesden Area



PS

**Richmond Run** - I am pleased to report that our runners from the London Diocese helped to raise more than £4,000 (gift aid to be added) for the Mothers' Union.

# Diocesan Roundup

## **Edmonton Area.**

I've been Area Vice President for 3 years and still learning. It is a large area (approx 28 branches) and the worship diverse, but we are all united in our beliefs and our commitment to Mothers' Union. Many branches are struggling but, in true Mothers' Union style, they hang in and I pray that they will remain open. We have opened 2 new branches with the possibility of a third.

Some branches have altered the way they meet, meeting every few months rather than monthly. Also difficulty in trying to find volunteers for branch leader etc. Don't give up there are always alternatives – committee led would be an option.

The pastoral assistant at our area chaplain's church is the son of the new Chief Executive of Mothers' Union, Bev Jullien. She has accepted an invitation to be at our Lady Day service 2016 so put date in your diary 4th April 2016, Hornsey Parish Church 7.30pm.

**Sue Johnson**  
**Area Vice President**  
**Edmonton Area**

## **Stepney Area**

Over the past six years we have had some ups and downs, more ups than downs! We have started many projects and initiatives, run by the Executive Committee which is chaired by the AVP. These are still running successfully under our supervision. The prayer walk, quiet day, all members meeting, dinner and dance are just a few of the projects and initiative that are now part of the fabric of MU life in the Stepney Area. We are now also in the process of opening up a contact centre.

The Mothers Union is developing rapidly in Stepney. Two new branches have been opened and another two churches are currently showing interest. We have been very successful and fruitful in our relationships with the churches and our input has generally been very welcome in the parishes. Even though much of our work is in the churches, we have always recognised the importance of taking the Mother's Union out into the communities. The prayer walk is one way we have done that and it has been well received.

Our new area Chaplain Revd April Keech has discussed our work with us and the discussions have gone extremely well. She is delighted with what she has heard from us and about us and she shares our passion for the work of the Mothers Union.

The Stepney area was very well represented at the AGM. This year 26 of us attend the General Meeting in Nottingham.

As I come to the end of my time as AVP, I can say that it has been a pleasure to serve the Stepney area in this capacity. It has been very challenging and exciting role to play over the past six years and I have certainly experienced the faithfulness of God in many ways and have developed a closer walk with the Lord and a deeper relationship with his word.

I am reminded of His promise to me six years ago from the Psalms: 32 verse 8 "I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go. I will counsel you and watch over you." He who has promised is faithful!

Dahlia Reid  
**Area Vice President, Stepney Area**

## Heart for Refugees

A small but determined group of young people, children and adults from Stepney carved hearts into pumpkins and carried about 20 pumpkins to Christ Church, Spitalfields for the World Vision service of light on refugees. We stood in the night with much night life going on around us and the photographer took several pictures for World Vision of the gathering from many churches in London. Quite a few people stopped to look and ask about the event. Children had their faces painted and could climb into the giant pumpkin akin to Cinderella's pumpkin coach. Then we placed the pumpkins with candles lit inside revealing the carved hearts on the steps of the Christ Church and went inside for a service of worship, prayer, videos by refugees helped by World Vision, and some talks by people urging our churches to support these people in need. After more prayer and worship, we could partake of pumpkin soup and bread and then bid good night to those around us from other churches. It was a good evening to raise awareness, pray, and worship the God who loves every human born on this earth and seeks our practical and spiritual salvation. May we continue to pray and provide practical support and hospitality to the sojourners we meet.



**Rev. April Keech**

Chaplain, Stepney Area Mothers' Union

## Stepney Area Chaplain

There was great reason to celebrate on Thursday 11th June

After waiting for what seemed like an eternity the Stepney area finally received a new Chaplain the Rev April Keech. (See photo)

The service took place at St James Clapton, the church of The Revd Prebendary Rosemia Brown who is a former MU Chaplain to Stepney. In attendance was Bishop Adrian of Stepney, and Rob Wickham the area dean of Hackney now Bishop of Edmonton.

The evening was filled with great joy, laughter and singing as we welcomed April as our new Chaplain and Dyna Samuel as a new member. Already we are seeing that April was the right choice as we opened a branch in her church at St Pauls, Old Ford in October and many more branches planned across Stepney.

The service finished with a rousing rendition of 'We are Marching in the Light of God' and everyone dancing in the aisles of the church.



**Antonio Joseph**

Stepney Area



Folake Roberts (St Olaves) welcomes Rev April Keech

## Age on the Agenda

The branch and parish of Clay Hill, Enfield, hosted a session entitled “Age on the Agenda” in June. This was presented by Ann Morisy, a community theologian and an associate of PSALM, an organisation which works with churches across London on issues of faith and ageing. Ann shared her insights into ageing, such as perceptions, relationships, lifestyle, and the importance of structure, in a very entertaining way. She made us laugh as well as ponder. There was time for discussion in small groups.



Two points in particular struck me: that loving and working are the twin pillars of mental health; and that the desire to have someone to please is very strong (clergy, please note!)

As well as the content of the presentation, I was impressed by the range of people who chose to come: from a local retirement housing scheme as well as two other MU branches, other (non-Anglican) churches, our Singing Group, and some I didn't previously know.

I should like to thank our Vicar, Fr Edward Dowler, and Margaret Blazey, for opening and closing the meeting and for their help in the planning.

PSALM runs a range of workshops. A catalogue is available from [www.psalms.org.uk](http://www.psalms.org.uk) or 020 7388 1461.

**Valerie Budd**

Branch Leader St Lukes Clay Hill

## Beverley Jullien – Chief Executive



Mrs Beverley Jullien has been appointed as the new Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union. Bev joins us with great experience within the corporate and education sectors with roles including Vice- President for pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca & Pro-Vice Chancellor of London Southbank University.

She said “This offers a wonderful opportunity to apply skills and experience I've gained in my career to a new role in the not for profit sector. I'm excited to be joining a worldwide organisation of over 4 million members, men and women working together to support families through fighting poverty and in justice and tackling family issues”. Mrs Jullien and her family are active members of their local Anglican church and she is proud to be continuing a long tradition of membership of Mothers' Union.

## Jackie Franklin

A big “Thank You” to Jackie Franklin for being our Diocesan Members' Representative for the past 15 years.

Jackie has diligently looked after and kept in touch with our Diocesan members with her lovely friendly and informative letters sent out with copies of In Touch” and other paperwork plus Christmas and Easter cards and many 'phone calls.

This role began when Jan Wilson handed over the Badge of Leadership as Diocesan President to Lynette Paul on the 1st January 2001 and Jackie has held this post ever since. We have now reached a stage when the membership of the Mothers' Union is changing, and we in the London Diocese are having to look at the way we communicate with our members whether they are Branch, Deanery, Area or Diocesan members.

Once again thank you Jackie for all you have done for the London Diocese in the role of Diocesan Members Representative; I am sure you will still be in touch with some of the members you have been writing to over the last 15 years.



**Margaret Blazey**

# In Memory

## **Rachel Nugee 1928-2015**

Wherever you were in the world at a Mothers' Union meeting if Rachel's name came up everyone knew who she was and had a story to tell. She was so much of the Worldwide Mothers' Union having been Diocesan President of London and Central President as it was then called— now Worldwide President.

My sister an MU Diocesan President in Australia introduced me to Rachel and she often spoke of her visit to Australia and the Islands of the Pacific. Most of her overseas trips were memorable not only because of her brilliant speaking but because she would not accept that racial divisions in any country were acceptable to the Mothers' Union. When she entered a church in South Africa where she was to speak and found only the white members were allowed into the Church she tried to reason with the police but to no avail so she lead the white members out onto the forecourt where the service was held. Her actions did even more for those members than her excellent preaching.

Rachel had a brilliant brain and was responsible for preparing much of the London Constitution. She was a very active member in the Diocese of London, working on several committees including A&O. I was at a DP Conference when my husband was ill so I kept my phone on in case I was needed. The phone rang and I went outside to answer it when I came back there was silence so I said "It was Rachel Nugee wanting to know what I wanted on the Agenda for the A&O meeting" everyone burst into laughter. We had been discussing a very complicated issue so when Rachel apologised for disturbing the meeting I said "you were a little light relief" to which she replied "I have never been thought of as a light relief". Rachel never missed a Diocesan Festival Service in St.Paul's Cathedral. She was always there with her devoted husband Edward. Sadly she was unable to be with us in 2015 as her darling Ted had died at the end of 2014.

Rachel's faith was so strong, I think, because like the first disciples she had been brought up in the Jewish faith and accepted Christ as the Messiah. At her funeral she asked to have "Adon Olan" sung in Hebrew. It ends "into his hands I commit my spirit when I sleep and I awake; and with my spirit my body. The Lord is with me, I will not fear." May she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

**Lynette Paul**

**St. John the Evangelist, Wembley, Willesden Area** We are sorry to report the death of Doris Jones on 15th August 2015; a long standing member of the M U. Doris was married to Gwilym in 1943 and they gave a new MU banner to St.John's the Evangelist to celebrate their Diamond Wedding Anniversary in 2003. She is fondly remembered as a Sunday school teacher and Guide Captain. May she rest in peace.

## **St.Giles, Ickenham, Willesden Area**

It is with sorrow to report the death of their member Gladys Allan, who died aged 95 at the end of February; her funeral on 12<sup>th</sup> March was held in a packed St. Giles Church.

Gladys had been a committee member for many years and a very much loved member of the MU Branch. She was also very involved with Guiding for Girls and later a member of the Trefoil Guild; she also loved scottish dancing and members of the Caledonian Society attended her funeral . Gladys always had a smile on her face and to look at her cheered anyone up. The final piece of music at her funeral was Called 'Marie's Wedding and as she left the church to this music the Rector performed a few dance steps down the aisle which put a smile on the saddest of faces. May God Bless Gladys, and may she rest in eternal peace.



**Ann Ralph**

# CONGRATULATIONS

## Long Service Awards presented to :-

### Kensington Area

*St. Philip with St. James, Whitton* Joyce Burton – 59 years  
Joyce Robson – 50 years



### Willesden Area

*St. Mellitus, Hanwell* Judith Inder – 59 years

## Birthday congratulations to :-

### Edmonton Area

*St. Mary the Virgin, Monken Hadley*

Betty Bradbrook - 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2015

### Willesden Area

*St. John the Evangelist, Wembley*

Margaret Stewart – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 19<sup>th</sup> September 2015

*St. Giles, Ickenham, Hillingdon*

Pat Harrison – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday 11<sup>th</sup> October 2015

## Anniversary congratulations to :-

### Golden Wedding Anniversary

#### Kensington Area

*St. Mary the Virgin, Sunbury*

Stella and John Lodge - 20<sup>th</sup> October 2015

### Diamond Wedding Anniversary

#### Willesden Area

*St. John the Baptist, Greenhill*

Mary and John Patrick – 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2015

*St. Giles Ickenham*

Marion and Henry Smith – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015

#### Kensington Area

*St. Hildas Ashford*

Elsie and Roy Stone – 20<sup>th</sup> August 2015

#### Edmonton Area

*Christchurch, Cockfosters*

Grace and Peter Huntingford – 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2015

### Platinum Anniversary

#### Kensington Area

*St. Mary the Virgin, Sunbury*

Doreen and Geoffrey Smith – 25<sup>th</sup> August 2015



We are very sorry for the delay with this winter edition of In Touch but hope that it reminds you of events that have taken place during the last 6 months. I look forward to seeing you at the various events in the diary.



# 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 Revd. David Reindorp

Willesden:  
Revd. Helen Askwith

Stepney:  
Rev. April Keech

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