

in touch

London Diocesan News



Summer 2017

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of London

Dear Friends,

I have just returned from the MU Retreat at Bishop Woodford House, Ely and as the welcome leaflet in our room said "For a Pause On Life's Journey".

It was 48 hours of spiritual uplifting, peace, love and friendship for fourteen of us led by Fr. John-Francis Friendship SMMS through a programme under the title "**Jesu, Thou art all Compassion**". (His surname was definitely Friendship)

Fr. John-Francis was a Franciscan brother for 25 years until 2002 when he became a parish priest until 2011. He has recently founded a new Spiritual Association "Compassions of the Compassionate Hearts of Jesus and Mary."



Our time was spent in sessions on the "Heart of the Father"; the "Heart of Silence"; the "Heart of Compassion"; the "Heart's Gaze"; the "Heart of Mercy" and the Heart's Softener" interspersed with Evensong on Friday and Saturday and Sung Eucharist on Sunday morning at the Cathedral. I would thoroughly recommend the MU Retreat to you all and I am very pleased to say that Bishop Woodford House in Ely has been booked for 2018, Friday 15th – Sunday 17th June ; mark the date in your diary.

We take part in the MU Wave of Prayer, which encircles the world, between the 9th – 11th July and you will find our service in this issue. I would urge you all to use this time of prayer and worship for our links in Sudan, Nigeria, Kenya and the USA.

In March I was very pleased to be part of Worldwide Council – a very global gathering of over 100 MU leaders from 26 countries held just outside Dublin. This was the first time for many years that so many leaders from across the world had come together and it was even more special for me to meet up with our link Annie Beckley, Provincial President in the USA. During our time together we acknowledged that they will be praying for our members in London and of course this will be reciprocated by us.



We are very privileged to be able to hold our Prayer Hour in St. Pauls Cathedral each month and our Festival Service in June and this year Chapter at St. Paul's Cathedral would like us to recognise Mary Sumner Day on the 9th August at Evensong (5pm). Final arrangements have to be made but they are happy to reserve seats in the choir stalls for our members. I will send out further information nearer the time but what an opportunity to once again worship in this magnificent building.

Our main ingredient has always been that all our activities are framed with prayer and listening to God's voice and His will for Mothers' Union. May we continue to listen to His voice when making our decisions and finding the right stepping stones on the journey.

Love and prayers

Margaret

I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for. Then you will call to me.

You will come and pray to me and I will answer you.

You will seek me and you will find me because you will see me with all your heart.

Jeremiah 29 : 11 - 14

Mother and Baby Packs for Syria

Day by day the news reports from Syria become ever more distressing and the human suffering is beyond measure or understanding for those of us who have a comfortable life here in the UK. One person who decided to try and alleviate some of the horrors of these poor, displaced people was Samara Levy and she has continuously sent containers and lorries containing clothes and medical supplies. The full story can be found at samarasaidappeal.org

One of the members from St Mary The Virgin, Sunbury first became involved when she heard about Samara's work from The Foundation for Relief and Reconciliation in the Middle East, a charity set up by Canon Andrew White, formerly the Vicar of St George's Baghdad. He e-mailed all those who donate to FRRME asking if people could collect second hand clothes and blankets etc. FRRME were supporting the effort by contributing money for the transport of all clothes overland by lorry or container to the refugee camps and other struggling refugees in the north of Iraq. This was about 3 years ago and since that time help has been needed for Syria as well.



Samara works tirelessly without pay and she is helped by a number of volunteers from churches in the Brighton area. Donations of all types come to the borrowed warehouse from all over the UK and there must be donations of money to fund transport overland as well as to support the hospitals and the doctors and nurses who work there. These Iraqi and Syrian medics whose normal hospitals have been bombed, and whose governments do not pay salaries, are given a certain amount of money to support their families.

Our Branch member, with the help of a young mother in the church congregation has been organizing collections of clothes from our church community for the past three years but when we heard of the plight of women giving birth and trying to look after babies in these horrendous conditions we thought it would be a good MU project to provide the new mother packs and baby packs. It reflects the mission statement of the MU as a caring organization and it is something positive we can do.

You can see the list of the contents of each type of pack by looking at the website above, and clicking on Care Packs. Each pack contains a printed message in English, Arabic and Kurdish, conveying our concern, our love and our wish to support these our sisters in their suffering.

We are not allowed to mention God, but we hope that our efforts will perhaps bring an awareness that our motivation comes from the loving God who cares about all human people. There are many Christian refugees who may well explain our gifts in these terms.



**Avis Marshall Branch Leader
St Mary The Virgin, Sunbury**



St.Luke's Branch Enfield visit to St.Paul's Cathedral

If branches would like an interesting visit I would recommend the St.Paul's Cathedral guided tour as we did last year.

Mary our Parish administrator is a volunteer there and she arranged for Terry our excellent tour guide to pass on his knowledge of such a beautifully kept Cathedral.

Our tour began in the Crypt and we were surprised at its size being the same measurement as the upper church. There are many beautiful floor mosaics crafted by female prisoners in the nineteenth century. Very famous poets are buried there as well as Sir Christopher Wren, Admiral Lord Nelson and the Duke of Wellington.

St. Faith's Chapel now the O.B.E. Chapel is beautifully decorated an

ideal place to have a quiet moment of prayer.

We stopped for lunch in the excellent cafe and some joined visitors for Eucharist at 12.30pm. The energetic ones in our group decided to climb to the Dome, Whispering, Stone and Golden Galleries. I decided to climb the 141 steps to the Triforium where we saw the Cathedral library with its collection of valuable Bibles and historical texts.

In the Trophy room we walked around the famous scale model of St.Pauls made of oak, plaster and lime wood designed by Wren in 1673. The Deans staircase better known as the geometric staircase was next on our list with 88 stone treads set in the wall. Younger members will recognise it was featured in the Harry Potter film. If you look over the banister you'll need a good head for heights!

It was interesting to see lesser seen parts of the Cathedral where old masonry and carvings are stored. On this floor high above you can look down on the Nave from the west end.

Our day ended at 5pm sitting in the choir stalls for Choral evensong sung beautifully by Cantus Choir as the Cathedral choir were on holiday.

Our next Branch visit will be our Diocesan Festival Service in June but we will always be reminded of our tour behind the scenes.

Elaine Plumb

St. Luke's Branch, Parish of Clayhill, Enfield.

Marylebone Project

Millie and Lilieth from St Alphege Branch in the Edmonton Area purchased 50 Easter Eggs for the Marylebone Project, which were collected the Saturday before Holy Week. It was a formidable display and I am sure will be enjoyed by the women!

It is hoped to get someone from this Project to speak at our Edmonton Area Meeting, so fingers crossed. There are many items that are needed for the "Starter

Packs" which we can purchase. This makes such a difference to the guests when they leave to start up on their own. Please carry on with the fundraising that you all do so well



Sue Johnson, Edmonton AVP



Edmonton Lady Day Service

This was enjoyed by almost 100 members and we were made very welcome by Fr Stephen and members from St Peter and St Paul, Enfield Lock. Fr Michael Child's from St. Alphege delivered a very appropriate homily and Mothers' Union funds will be blessed with £123.00 raised in the collection.

Members from 7 branches witnessed the enrolment of 4 new members, 3 from St Aldhelms and 1 from St Peter's with St. Martin; it's encouraging to see growth but discouraging when many branches were not represented at all.

I will continue to hold everyone in my prayers.

Sue Johnson, Edmonton AVP

Knit, Knit, Knit and Natter !

Members of St. Lukes Branch, Clay Hill Enfield visit Woodberry Manor Residential Care Home each week for "Knit and Natter" and Valerie, one of the MU members has knitted this very impressive Dr Who Scarf.



MOTHERS' UNION - LONDON DIOCESE
WAVE OF PRAYER 9th – 11th JULY 2017

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

Leader: Our theme for this year is "Faith in Action."

The person of faith hears something to which others are deaf: the voice of God. The voice is heard in a wide range of sound: from the "still small voice" of calm to the thunderous boom that inspires awe and wonder: thunder, lightning, earthquake, storm and fire are manifestations of God's word. Let us trust the Lord and embrace His mighty word with robust faith. Loving Lord, Creator of the Universe, with lifted heads we will live in your light and salvation, through Jesus Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith.

Hymn: Thou whose Almighty Word...Let there be Light
(or hymn of your choice)

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: James 1: 19-25

Reader 2 :SUDAN: Diocese of El Obeid

Loving Lord, Creator of the Universe, Lord of Hosts, we bring before You the people and members of the Mothers' Union in this area plagued with war and unrest. We pray for all the various organisations nationally and internationally who are trying to bring peace and contentment. We pray for the Catholic Radio Network, trying to reach all people using culture sensitive programmes rooted in the locality. We thank God for the shared programmes in English with news, civic education and other educational programmes. For this we thank You, Lord. We thank you for the awareness of people living with HIV/AIDS and the provision of homebased carers. Amen.

Gracious Lord, **Hear our prayer**

Leader : By faith we understand that the world was created by the word of God, so that what is seen was made out of things which do not appear; without faith it is impossible to please God. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who seek Him. (Hebrew 11:3 & 6)

Reader 3 : KENYA : Diocese of Butere

Loving Lord, God of Justice and Truth, we commit the Diocese of Butere, Kenya to You. Guide them in all their endeavours, make light their problems, strengthen them and defend them against all hostilities. Empower them as they strive to keep the traditions of the Mothers' Union in caring for families who face hardship. We pray for their indoor prayer group and especially the elderly confined at home. We pray for the ruling government; we pray that they make sustainable literacy programmes and not discriminate between boys and girls, men and women. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Gracious Lord, **Hear our prayer**

Leader : So faith comes from what is heard; what is heard comes by the preaching of Christ. But be doers of the word and not hearers only. (Romans 10: 17 & James 1: 22)

Reader 4: NIGERIA: Diocese of Nnewi

Loving Lord, God of Goodness and Mercy, we give thanks to the Lord for members of The Mothers' Union in Nnewi, blessed with rich agriculture as MU activities reflect their prosperity. We thank you, Lord for MU Members who grow produce and use the income to provide training for the various activities. We thank You, Lord for the ministry of evangelism for the young, outreach to the needy including widows and the aged. Amen.

Gracious Lord, **Hear our prayer**

Leader : So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. (Genesis 1:27)

Reader 5 : USA : Province of USA

Wonderful Lord, God of Grace and Favour, we pray for the flourishing of the Mothers' Union worldwide. We pray for our Link. We pray for our members present and yet to come. Give us comprehensive insight into the aims and values of the Mothers' Union. Help us, Lord, as we try to establish ourselves in the name of the MU. Continue to guide us as we undertake projects to help members and people in the community. This we ask in Jesus' Name. Amen.

Gracious Lord, **Hear our prayer**

Leader: The voice of the Lord is upon the waters; the God of Glory thunders, the Lord, upon many waters. The voice of the Lord is powerful, the voice of the Lord is full of majesty. (Psalm 29:3)

Reader 6 :LONDON

Gracious Lord, God of love and hope, we thank You for the works of the Mothers' Union in the United Kingdom. Bless all the various outreaches in our London Diocese as we play our part in actualising the Gospel teachings on marriage and family life. Bless our noble Patron, the Queen as she celebrates her Sapphire Jubilee on the Throne; grant her strength, courage and wisdom. Lord, we lift up the works of Mothers' Union, London Diocese and pray that You perfect us to Your Glory. In Jesus' Name. Amen.

Gracious Lord, **Hear our prayer**

Leader : In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void, and the darkness was upon the face of the deep. And God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light. (Genesis 1:1-3)

Hymn : Praise to the Lord, The Almighty, the King of Creation...
(or hymn of your choice)

All : The Lord's Prayer :

**Our Father, Who 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 Spirit be with us all forever and ever. Amen.

An Easter Experience

The Prayer Day on the 19th April was led by Revd Angela Hopkins and Pat Beazley and was truly an Easter Experience. It started with an abridged version of Morning Prayer, and then described different ways of praying through the ages.

First we looked at Lectio Divina, a method of reading Scripture and letting it speak to us. We read the story of the two disciples meeting Jesus on the road to Emmaus. It was amazing the insights that were given to people by reading in this way, especially after a second and third reading. For me it brought the message right into the present day.

We then studied the famous 15th century Russian icon by Rublyov, "The Hospitality of Abraham at the Oak of Mamre", or, "The Trinity". We were shown that icons are not meant to be works of art in themselves, but were a means of prayer and worship for those in Russia and other countries who may not have been able to read the Bible for themselves at that time. We next had a look at the Angelus, and were impressed by the fact that in Catholic countries people stop work or school to say this prayer, up to three times a day. Several people had brought along their favourite prayer, and these were then read out.

After mid-day Prayers were observed and a short break for lunch we were led visually into the Labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral, a prayer which leads us to lay before God anything that is on our hearts deep down, by gradually leaving behind day-to-day concerns, then returning to our daily lives strengthened and renewed, having left this problem with God.

We were then reminded of the power of praying together and were given some newspapers to find an item of news about which to pray. We then had a session of corporate prayer about these items and laid them all before God.

The last method of praying about which we were instructed was how to be still before God. It is good to have something to focus on for this, a candle perhaps, be comfortable and having a set length of time. It may be enhanced by music.

The day concluded with the Eucharist.

I enjoyed this day very much and found it very helpful.

Valerie Stemp
Area Member – Willesden



Food for Thought !

Oh dear, what is happening with MU in the London Diocese!! We are holding our number of members which is great but the attendance at our meetings in Diocesan House is quite dismal; I am aware that travelling to London for some is not possible now and also weekday meetings can cause problems for those that are working and for these reasons I have cancelled the Diocesan Council but to hopefully engage with more members we have decided to hold Area Meetings again this year. These will be organised by your Area Vice Presidents – see Calendar. We have also decided to change the name of these meetings and call them **"Diocesan Open Meetings"** to encourage everyone that these meetings are open to **ALL**.

I look forward to seeing **YOU** at one of these meetings.

Margaret Blazey
Diocesan President

Union of Catholic Mothers' Service at The Westminster Catholic Cathedral

It was a day of celebration of motherhood in the Catholic tradition on the day of the Feast of Annunciation, Saturday, 25th March 2017. It was an inspiring and uplifting Mass led by the Auxiliary Bishop of Westminster Archdiocese, Bishop John Wilson who, among other points, raised in his Homily the importance of mothers in society. It was also a day of presentation of Certificates to long term members of the Union of Catholic Mothers.



The Anglican Communion was represented by MU Canterbury Province. President Nikki Sweatman, Rita Pengelly, Margate and Gogo-Rose Ilo representing the MU London Diocesan President, Margaret Blazey who was otherwise engaged with Lady Day Activities. We were warmly received by the Archdiocesan President of the Union of Catholic Mothers, Mrs Diana Deegan, Sister Brigid and the Bishop John Wilson.

In the Photo are the MU representatives with Bishop John Wilson

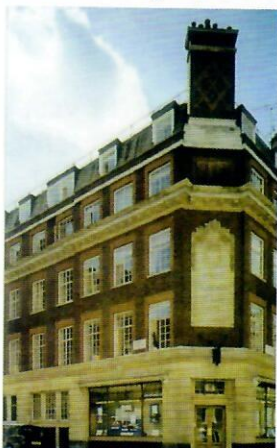
How your Will can help change lives

After all you've done to support communities at home and around the world leaving a gift in your Will to Mothers' Union can help ensure that legacy continues providing Christian care to those most in need and supporting the next generation long into the future. MU are so grateful for any gift, whatever size, you choose to leave in your Will. It is a lovely way to make a lasting contribution to an organisation you care about.



If you would like to find out more please contact the office on 020 7932 1259 or e.mail mothers.union@london.anglican.org and we would be happy to send you a copy of our new leaflet - ***"Leaving a gift in your Will to Mothers' Union"***.

Visit Mary Sumner House the home of The Mothers' Union



Mothers' Union
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24 Tufton Street,
London SW1P 3RS
Tel 020-7222-5533
WWW.mothersunion.org

OPEN DAYS 2nd & 3rd August 2017

Visit Mary Sumner House and find out more about the history and the work of the Mothers' Union around the world.

This year our focus is
Faith in Action.

Presentation and fellowship led by our Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey.

Lunch included.
Ticket price **£10**

More information from
marketing@mothersunion.org

CONGRATULATIONS

Long Service Awards presented to :-

Edmonton Area

St. Peter with St. Martin, Edmonton

Christine Munt, January 2017 – 50 years

St. Peter and St. Paul, Enfield Lock

Brenda Dowsett 20th October 2017 – 50 years



Birthdays congratulations to :-

Edmonton Area

St. Peter and St. Paul, Enfield Lock

Dorothy Barton 90th Birthday on 26th April 2017

Kensington Area

All Saints with St. Columba

Maud Gardner 90th Birthday on 27th May 2017

A very active and involved member at her branch in Zimbabwe holding difference posts before joining All Saints. She is still very involved and supports a children's home in Zimbabwe; a quiet and interesting lady.

Willesden Area

St. Giles, Ickenham

Ann Dixon 90th Birthday on 1st January 2017

Daphne Fowling 90th Birthday on 19th July 2017

Anniversary congratulations to :-

Diamond Wedding Anniversary

Edmonton Area

St. Peter and St. Paul, Enfield Lock

Dorothy and Cyril Barton on 25th May 2017

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Edmonton Area

St. George's Freezywater, Enfield

Frances and Jim Wallace on 1st April 2017



In Memory

Margaret Reed, a member of St. Johns Greenhill, Harrow who died aged 84 yrs; a faithful and supportive member of the branch for many years who brought a keen intelligent and helpful suggestions for meetings. Margaret will be very much missed.

Audrey Stibbs We were sorry to hear that Audrey Stibbs had died, aged 87 years. Many MU members will feel that they really got to know her by coming to the New Year Concerts at Christ Church Cockfosters, Edmonton Area. She related in a wonderful way with her audiences as she introduced her programmes and she often said how much she valued the support of so many Mothers' Union members.

In January 1992 the first concert took place entitled "Farewell to Christmas" and a concert was held every year until 2013 which was to be her last. It was entitled "Confidence in Uncertainty". These words can be so true for those who are putting their faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and saviour. Let us thank God for Audrey.

Diary Dates for 2017



JUNE	6 th	Tuesday 11 am	Prayer Hour	St.Paul's Cathedral
	8 th	Thursday 10.45 – 3pm.	Trustees	LDH – Room A
	13 th	Tuesday 7pm.	FESTIVAL SERVICE	St. Paul's Cathedral
	17 th	Saturday	Diocesan Open Meeting Kensington Area	St.Mary's Branch Osterley
JULY	1 st	Saturday	Diocesan Open Meeting Willesden Area	Christ the Saviour Ealing
	9 th – 11 th	Sunday/Monday/ Tuesday	WAVE OF PRAYER	London Diocese
	12 th	Wednesday 11 am	Prayer Hour	St. Pauls Cathedral
AUGUST	2 nd /3 rd	Wednesday / Thursday	Members Day	MSH
	9 th	Wednesday 5 pm.	Mary Sumner Day	St.Paul's Cathedral
SEPTEMBER	7 th	Thursday 11 am	Prayer Hour	St.Paul's Cathedral
	7 th	Thursday 10.30 – 4pm	Fundraising & Comm./ Finance & Office Committees	SPCK
	16 th	Saturday	Diocesan Open Meeting Edmonton Area	St.George's Church Freezywater
	21 st	Thursday 10.30 – 1pm.	Action & Outreach Comm.	SPCK
OCTOBER	23 rd	Saturday	Diocesan Open Meeting Stepney Area	St.Paul's Old Ford, Tower Hamlets
	29 th – 30 th	Friday / Saturday	Service and General Meeting	Edinburgh, Scotland
	3 rd	Tuesday 11 am	Prayer Hour	St.Paul's Cathedral
	4 th	Wednesday 10.30 – 1 pm.	Faith & Policy Committee.	SPCK
	17 th	Wednesday 10.30 – 3pm	ACTION & OUTREACH DAY	Diocesan House The Hall
NOVEMBER	1 st	Wednesday 11 am	Prayer Hour	St.Paul's Cathedral
	2 nd	Thursday	Trustees	The Hall, Diocesan House
	22 nd	Wednesday..	MU London Diocese Annual General Meeting	The Hall, Diocesan House
	25 th – 10 th December		16 Days of Activism against gender based violence	
DECEMBER	7 th	Thursday 11 am	Prayer Hour	St.Paul's Cathedral

**Articles & pictures for next issue should be received
by 9th October 2017**

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

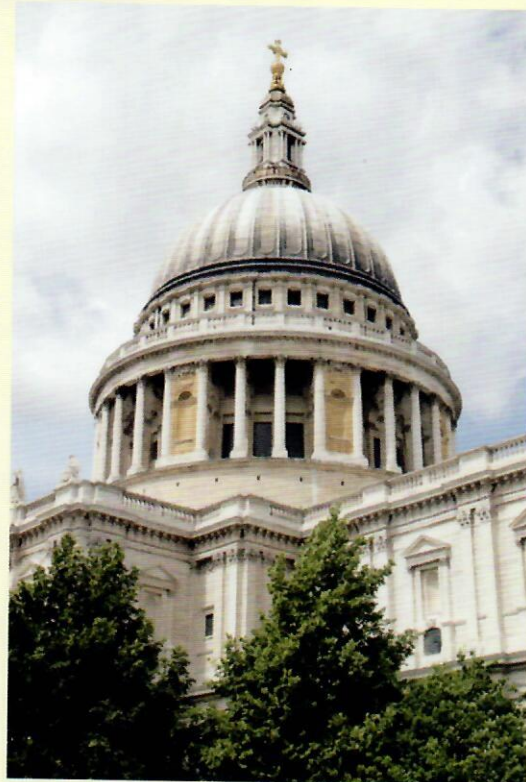
Diocese of London

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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