

in

touch



London Diocesan News



Winter 2016



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families



THE PATRON'S LUNCH ON SUNDAY 12TH JUNE 2016

The Patron's Lunch was part of the celebrations recognising the Queen's patronage of over 600 Charities and Organisations including Mothers' Union, on the occasion of her 90th Birthday and 22 Members of Mothers' Union were selected by ballot to represent the Dioceses at the Lunch on Sunday, 12th June, 2016 and Gogo-Rose Ilo represented London Diocese.

Rachael Arding of Mary Sumner House coordinated all the representatives drawn from different Dioceses such as Canterbury, London, Manchester, Chichester, Guildford, Connor, Southwark, Gloucester and Bristol and e-mail conversations before the day meant that we all met on the day as friends. We were also joined by The Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey and the Chief Executive of Mothers' Union, Beverley Jullien.

It was a day of unbridled joy and celebration in spite of the rain showers when our special rain-Ponchos were very useful! There was an eclectic festival atmosphere and we all had much fun in getting to know each other as we mingled with other invited guests and shared information about our organisations.

We were seated at tables along the whole length of the Mall. It was picnic style banquet with each guest receiving a bespoke hamper with distinctive turquoise handle and buckle which opened to reveal a 4-course meal and Pimms !



We enjoyed watching the spectacular parade of all the Charities under the Queen's patronage and other captivating groups of exotic performers. Cameras and Smart phones were clicking away as if to capture the whole event at once.

Then came the Royal walkabout and chat with guests. Participating Royal members were positioned in relay race-style to chat with sections of the guests along the Mall.



Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex visited our section. He spoke to the Mothers' Union members, and had a good chat with our Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey. The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh in an open Jeep waved to the guests as they made a slow drive along the length of the Mall and we all joined in singing 'Happy Birthday' to the Queen.

It was a fabulous day; a day that will remain indelible in the hearts and minds of all 22 of us Mothers' Union representatives who were part of the 10,000 invited guests at the Patron' Lunch we all felt very special. It was a singular privilege for Mothers' Union to be an active participant in the very first 'epoch-making event to honour our noble Patron.

Gogo-Rose Ilo,
Co-ordinator Faith and Policy Unit

Patron's Parade Ponderings

It was an early start to meet the team from Mary Sumner House at Westminster tube and to meet the other excited MU members from different branches across south east England and it was so easy to chat to them as we sipped a cappuccino. Then it was a quick march to the start of the security entrance. I should have realised when I was told that I was in orange group 2, as orange is not my colour! However once on Horse Guards Parade and I was given a beautiful, bright orange t-shirt which was a perfect fit, it didn't seem so bad.

Then came the rain! It seemed to rain as soon as we sat down in the large marquee and we were marooned – even going to the loo, 100m away, was quite a feat. Lunch was provided in a smart cool bag.

Once our group was called and given our placards of the groups for which her Majesty is patron, and finding the MU and MU in Australia ones, we waited for the choir and dancers rehearse. We watched the sky and just before we moved off to begin the parade rehearsal, it began to rain heavily. I just remember how wet and cold I felt and what fun it was to see so many bedraggled diners in their posher ponchos! But we waved and cheered when we came to the MU contingent.

Magically the rain stopped and the feeble sun appeared as we lined up for the "Real Parade" ponchos were off and there was a definite spring in our step. It was marching to the music and waving again to the diners and trying to peer over the placards to see the Royal party.

Once we had given up our placards to be placed in an arrangement in front of the Royal dais and we were marching back to Horse Guards via Birdcage Walk, all formalities went and we sang with the choir and copied the dancers' movements. I think that was the best part really!!



Pat Beazley
Kensington Area

Daphne Roberts (St Hilda's Branch in the Kensington Area) celebrated her 90th Birthday in August, the same year as Her Majesty the Queen, and Daphne was chosen to be interviewed by Radio 5 Live near to the steps of St. Paul's Cathedral on the morning of the Celebration Service in The Cathedral. Daphne told us that she and her daughter, Ann, were collected by car early that morning and could not believe the tremendous crowds thronging the streets and there was so much traffic they could only travel along slowly and thought they would be late. Daphne added that the Queen was late arriving at The Cathedral because of the traffic!

It was certainly quite an experience!



WALKING THE LAST MILE WITH RITA PENGELLY:

140km Walk to Commemorate 140th Anniversary of Mothers' Union

On Monday 12th September 2016 from 10.30 am members began to assemble near the Tibetan Peace Garden at the Imperial War Museum to await the arrival of Rita from Canterbury Diocese. 18 members then accompanied her on the last mile of her 140km Walk to raise £1,400 for Mothers' Union.

All dressed in our MU T-shirts we walked along Lambeth Road passing Lambeth Palace and making our way to Mary Sumner House with Rita accompanied by her husband, Simon leading the way.

As we entered Tufton Street people waved and clapped as she approached Mary Sumner House. Beverley Jullien, Chief Executive of the Mothers' Union and other staff stood at the entrance holding a Blue Ribbon Sash for Rita and her husband to walk through and into the MSH building amidst thunderous applause from the crowd and everyone congratulating Rita for a successful 140km Walk.

Midday Prayers were then observed in the MU Chapel before a reception was held in the Princess Alexandra Room



photograph " Rita with Susan Chambers, Sue Laurie and Simi Gutteridge from St.Paul's Winchmore Hill Branch, Edmonton Area"

BOW GROUP, STEPNEY AREA - PRAYER WALK

On Saturday, 14 May 2016, a small but determined group from St. Paul's Old Ford MU Branch set off at 9:30am at St. Mary's Bow to pray and then met about 20 Christian Aid walkers at St. Paul's Old Ford for prayer; then we walked up the road and prayed at various places on the way to St. Barnabas. We then took a bus ride to St. John's Bethnal Green, and prayed and then walked and stopped to pray along the way. We met those on a PCC Away Day for mass at St. Matthew's Bethnal Green warmly greeted by their clergy and wardens, then on to Christ Church Spitalfields for prayer (they had an away day as well) and ate a late lunch at their cafe. All in conjunction with the Archbishop's call to prayer for 24 May, "Thy Kingdom Come".

It was amazing how much thanks we prayed as we passed two markets, fire stations, police stations, nursing home, war memorials and just the freedom to pray outside without fear of persecution or harm. As we prayed for the needs of the city housing we saw homeless people begging, those addicted to alcohol, drugs, and gambling and shopping! But it was a great day to join with the churches across the UK in prayer. We look forward to the next walk.

Rev. April Keech
Area Chaplain

HOLLOWAY PRISON

When Florrie Curtis came up with the idea of delivering "Home and Family" (the predecessor to "Families First") to Holloway Prison no one would have thought it possible that from 1992 until very recently MU in London Diocese would be running a "Babes in Prison" project in Holloway. This connected with the work of Beatrice Burgess, a former inspector of Schools and the Prison Chaplain's wife who had a charity Babes in Prison that is still active today in prisons up and down the country.



Our Social Concern Committee thought Mothers' Union had something to offer the mothers and babies who were aged between 0-9 months old. The word somehow reached Melbourne Diocese via a visiting Australian to London who took the idea back to Australia. And very soon we got a message back that they were praying for us; that was the strength we needed as this sort of task, to our knowledge, had not been done anywhere before!! We were often asked why we wanted to do this pastoral work in a Prison and the answer was easy "because the babies are innocent"

After many talks around the Diocese it wasn't long before we had MU members knitting multi-coloured baby jackets and floor mats as we had identified a need for these on the unit where the mothers and babies were as they lacked the stimulation they needed of colour. The knitting went beyond London and we were soon sewing in a label "With love from the Mother's Union".

Then two things happened quite beyond our hope –

Baby walkers were requested to take out the babies as these babies had no experience of the outside world; the buses, the people rushing by their buggies, rain or wind. It was a special type of person who was needed for this as they had to gently encourage the mum to give her most precious baby over to a stranger who would take her baby outside. On returning the baby walker would tell the mum all that had happened while they were out. This time without her child did allow the prisoner to do any vital business that she couldn't do with her child. These special MU members came forward willingly and once vetted by the prison an eager team wouldn't miss their place on the rota. Many of those original Baby Walkers are no longer with us but in God's nearer Presence but any gaps were always filled. One early baby walker was eventually asked to be 'Grandma' when she could no longer take the babies out due to her advancing years, but she was so good with the mothers and babies she stayed in with those who couldn't go out that day, her name. Lydia Bradshaw – Jane Davidson's Mum.

The 2nd amazing thing that happened was the prisoners who met in the Prison Chapel wanted to belong to the Mother's Union 'Wow'. The Bishop of Stepney (now the Bishop of London) led the first enrolment service and I will never forget when he called each new member "dearly beloved": the hairs still tingle on the back of my neck.

Lastly, I was asked by Mollie Nichols if I would make a Banner for the MU Branch using the design of the wall hanging behind the Altar in the Chapel; this banner has been paraded ever since at our Festival Service in St. Paul's Cathedral.

This work grew to cover MU members helping at visitor centres and other places of work in over 70 prisons and I believe my memory is correct in saying worldwide. Our work is done at Holloway, which has now closed, we were greatly Blessed and it is unknown the lives we touched.

Irene Money
Edmonton Area



The Day Apart at Edgware Abbey was enjoyed by 25 people from across the Diocese. Father Stephen Taylor spoke to us about "The Bread of Life". It was a welcome surprise when Bishop Peter, retired Bishop of Edmonton arrived and celebrated the Mass, where we were joined by residents from Henry Nihill house - this is a nursing home attached to The Abbey.

Margaret Blazey



The Willesden Area packed 68 boxes of home essentials (bedding and kitchen equipment) for the Furnish project, a charity which supports the homeless and those in need Holy Cross Greenford hosted the very successful event and members from lots of branches helped pack the boxes.

Liz Holmes
AVP Willesden Area

HAMPTON DEANERY

Hampton Deanery held a successful afternoon on Saturday, 30 October 2016, hosted by St. Mary the Virgin, Twickenham branch. During the Eucharist presided over by the Vicar, the Revd. Jeff Hopkin Williams, the sermon slot was expertly filled by Victoria Nwosu, who spoke about Child Abuse, and answered questions. Afterwards most of the congregation of about 30 enjoyed refreshments in the small hall opposite the church.

Pat Ingham,
Deanery Chairman

MU LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Margaret Blazey DP, Mary Findlow from St Alphege Edmonton and Sally Goulden, Kensington AVP, attended the MU Leadership conference in May - entitled "Equipped to Serve". Our 2.5 days were busy with lectures, interactive sessions and discussion groups. We also heard MU members across the globe speaking about their local projects. The event gave us a greater understanding of the vision and future strategy of MU, and how we can, using the support available, motivate and inspire members to be part of this future. The time between lectures was filled with prayer, meditation, friendship, laughter, discussion and good food. We came home inspired and full of hope for the future of MU. It is OUR Union and WE ALL have the ability to make it work to help others, with God's help.



Heavenly Father fill us with your Grace that we may continue to reach out in love to those you call us to serve. Amen

Sally Goulden AVP Kensington

GENERAL MEETING 2016

Winchester

Beryl Rickson and Sally Goulden from St Hilda's, with Amy Eze from Staines Parish were amongst the congregation in Winchester Cathedral on September 22nd for the service to mark the 140th anniversary of MU. What an uplifting occasion! The service itself was emotionally and spiritually powerful, with the cathedral full of MU members, the Zambian Mary Sumner's choir's singing and the sermon given by The Archbishop of Canterbury. The time around the service was spent chatting to MU members from all over the UK - so easy to talk to whether we knew them or not. We encountered a young boy admiring the MU balloons adorning the fencing by Mary Sumner's grave, so we tweaked one off for him. A happy day indeed.



Sally Goulden AVP Kensington

Amy's introduction to the meeting.

22nd / 23rd September 2016, memorable and eventful days indeed! Mothers' Union gathered to commemorate the 140th Anniversary of the MU, appropriately tagged, "A Celebration of Faith".



I recall vividly my excitement, that morning when I set out to meet Beryl Rickson and Sally Goulden and we all travelled together to Winchester for the service, at which Archbishop Justin Welby, officiated marking the opening ceremony of the conference. Seeing the congregation, I was amazed at the number of people from different walks of life to witness the 140th anniversary of the Mothers' Union.

The Sermon was very enriching, highlighting the aims and purpose of the Mothers' Union as well as the need to strive to keep Mary Sumner's Vision alive; a challenge every Christian must try to uphold. I was so highly motivated that I looked forward in earnest to the second day - the General Meeting at Basingstoke, which started off with an illustration on how the journey began. It was quite revealing as I drew some inference on our responsibilities as a Christian and an insight into the role the Mothers' Union has played globally in the growth and development of families and societies.

Over all, the two days afforded me the opportunity to meet and interact with people from different parts of the world. It was also inspirational and challenging. Challenging in the sense that one begins to wonder if Mary Sumner's ideals which started 140 years ago could be sustained considering the contemporary issues that strike us in the face. However we should not relent in being supportive in the promotion of Mary Sumner's visions no matter the size of the group.

The conference has left me with a strong desire to continuously strive daily to render services to humanity. I therefore thank the organizers and those that made the conference a success.

GOD BLESS

AMY EZE



Retreat at Bishop Woodford House, Ely

I am delighted to have been asked by our Diocesan President Margaret to write about our Retreat which took place in September. Members from the London Diocese were warmly welcomed with refreshments and home baked cakes and we were introduced to Fr. Edward Dowler who led us in our Retreat which started in the beautiful Ely Cathedral where we joined the choir in melodious Evensong.



On our return to Bishop Woodford House, we were served delicious supper and then enjoyed our first address from Fr Edward. The Retreat was based on extracts from a book entitled "Faith and Struggle on Smokey Mountain" by Fr. Benigno P Beltran (Orbis Book, 2012) which was based on his observation and interaction with a poor community in the Philippines who sourced their livelihood and lived around the garbage dump and he called it Smokey Mountain because of the smoke that came out of the burning garbage. He described how he celebrated Eucharist with the people in that environment surrounded by flies and cockroaches and others scavenging in the garbage dump. It shows that God is everywhere. God is present with His people even in the rotten garbage of Smokey Mountain just as He is with the people celebrating Mass in Magnificent Cathedrals.

After breakfast on the Saturday Fr. Edward gave an address centred on the environment and ministry on Smokey Mountain where Fr. Benigno saw a great deal of wastage and he was shocked to see how these people who live there make use and earn a living from what other people have thrown away; plastics, empty bottles, discarded household goods; they do the recycling. The wealthy provide the most waste but the poor suffer the consequences. If waste recycling is properly done our planet will be a safer place instead of scavengers exposing themselves to health risks mainly due to the toxins as they try to survive on rubbish dumps. One may wonder if God exists, and allows this to happen. The more Fr. Benigno looked at them, the more he was convinced that he needed to be there with them and he eventually decided to live among them. Seeing the scavengers die so easily reminded him of the fragility of his own life; the scavengers were human beings like him. He wanted his theology to make a difference in their lives.

After a coffee break Fr. Edward continued by talking about the women and children on Smokey Mountain who were completely powerless to do anything about their environment but he was intrigued by their ingenuity and hard working. The couples on Smokey Mountain tended to have large families because they believed that due to the malnutrition and suffering and pre-mature death, if they had more children, at least some would survive to look after them when they were old. Children were encouraged to scavenge to augment the family income! Domestic violence was common as the men resorted to drunkenness.

The morning ended with a Eucharist and after lunch we had free time to explore Ely, its impressive Cathedral and historic town. In the evening we joined the Choral Evensong and Installation of Rev Dr. Jessica Martin as Canon Residentiary of Ely and on Sunday morning we returned to the Cathedral to celebrate the Sung Eucharist where she preached the sermon.

The Retreat was a great time of reflection, highly inspirational and thoroughly enjoyed by all those who participated. Our sincere thanks go to Sue Johnson who organised it, Fr. Edward who officiated at the Retreat and the staff of Bishop Woodford House Ely.

Dorothy Nnene
Branch Leader, St. Aldhelms

FESTIVAL SERVICE, 14TH JUNE 2016.

Our yearly Festival Service was held at the magnificent St Paul's Cathedral on Tuesday, 14th June 2016. It was a well attended event with members from all Areas within the Diocese of London and invited guests from other Dioceses and Churches. The theme for the year was 'Celebration of Faith' and the Service was designed to mark the 140 years anniversary of Mothers' Union founded by Mary Sumner in 1876, and the Commissioning of the Trustees Board.



The Bishop of London's wife, Caroline Chartres, gave the Address which centred on this year's theme; she spoke on the many aspects of the Mothers Union since its inception as a meeting of local mothers of all social classes offering mutual support to each other to championing good causes to promote, strengthen and support marriage and family life worldwide.

The Festival Service 2016 will be remembered as the year MU London Diocese initiated for the first time the Commissioning of the Trustee Board. The Ceremony was conducted by the Archdeacon, Venerable Rosemary Lain-Priestley on behalf of the Bishop of London. It was a solemn moment as, one by one, the Diocesan President, Margaret Blazey presented the Trustees for the Oath of Office. Each candidate received a Certificate to mark the occasion to the thunderous applause from the congregation.

The Director of Music, Neil Hawes from St. Mary's, Osterley led the Festival Service Choir made up of MU members and choir members from other churches in the London Diocese while the musical interlude was provided by the Gospel Choir from Bishop Stopford School in Enfield.

At the end of the Service was the well choreographed pageant of the Flag-bearers from about 40 churches, as they processed down the aisle, with their distinctive banners raised high led by Jonathan White carrying the MU London Diocese banner.



We thank the Cathedral Team for their usual and ever cordial cooperation, and impeccable arrangements that once again made our Festival Service an occasion for worship and celebration.

Gogo-Rose Ilo
Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator

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

Margaret

your Diocesan President

CONGRATULATIONS

Long Service Awards presented to :-

Kensington Area

St. Matthew's Ashford Eileen Edwards – 50 years



Birthdays congratulations to :-

Edmonton Area

St. Thomas' Oakwood, Enfield

Eileen Francis, 90th Birthday 8th October 2016

Jean Clapham, 90th Birthday 14th November 2016

Willesden Area

St. Johns, Greenhill, Harrow

Gladys Tompkins 90th Birthday 19th November 2016

Anniversary congratulations to :-

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Edmonton Area

St. Mary/ St. George, East Haringey

Pearl and Jim Larney, 23rd September 2016

Willesden Area

St. Giles, Ickenham

Jenny and Brian Reid, 10th September 2016

Ruby Wedding Anniversary

Edmonton Area

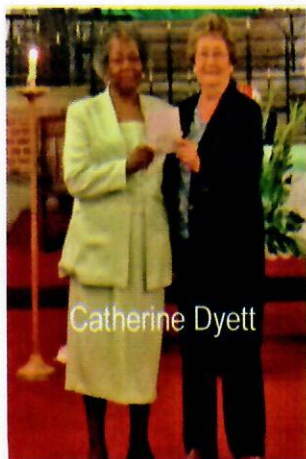
St. Paul, Winchmore Hill, Enfield

Lynn & Tony Beecroft, 18th September 2016



COMMISSING OF TWO AREA VICE PRESIDENTS

I was very pleased to be able to attend the commissioning of our two new Area Vice Presidents - Catherine Dyett and Sally Goulden.



The Bishop of Kensington Dr Graham Tomlin commissioned Sally at St. Hilda's Ashford as AVP for Kensington Area and The Bishop of Stepney Rt. Revd. Adrian Newman commissioned Catherine as AVP for Stepney Area at St. Michael and All Angels, Stoke Newington.



Both occasions were well attended by members and in MU style refreshments were enjoyed after the services.

Margaret Blazey

Diary Dates for 2017



| | DATE | DAY/TIME | EVENT | VENUE |
|-----------------|------------------|----------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| JANUARY | 5th | Thursday 11 am | ** Prayer Hour | St. Paul's |
| | 19th | Thursday 11.30 – 2.30 | Trustees "Get-Together" | LDH – Room A |
| | 25th | Wednesday 11 – 2 pm. | Faith & Policy Comm | LDH – Hall |
| FEBRUARY | 7th | Tuesday 11 am | ** Prayer Hour | St. Paul's |
| | 9th | Thursday 11 – 2 pm. | Action & Outreach Comm | SPCK |
| | 22nd | Wednesday 10.30 – 4pm. | Fundraising & Communication / Financial and Admin | SPCK |
| MARCH | 1st | Wednesday | ASH WEDNESDAY | |
| | 2nd | Thursday 11 am | ** Prayer Hour | St. Paul's |
| | 9th | Thursday 10.30 – 3 pm. | Trustees | LDH – The Hall |
| | 21st | Tuesday 10.30 – 3pm. | Diocesan Council | LDH Hall |
| | 25th | Saturday | LADY DAY | |
| | 26th | Sunday | MOTHERING SUNDAY | |
| APRIL | 5th | Wednesday 11 am | ** Prayer Hour | St. Paul's |
| | 9th 13th–16th | Sunday | PALM SUNDAY EASTER | |
| | 19th | Wednesday 10-30 – 3 pm. | PRAYER DAY | LDH Hall |
| | 21st-23rd | Friday - Sunday | RETREAT | Bishop Woodford House, Ely |
| | 27th | Thursday 10.30 – 4 pm. | Fundraising & Communication / Finance and Admin | SPCK |
| MAY | 11th | Thursday 11 am | ** Prayer Hour | St. Paul's |
| | 17th | Wednesday 11 – 2pm. | Faith & Policy Comm. | SPCK |
| | 23rd | Tuesday 11 – 2pm. | Action & Outreach Comm | LDH – Hall |
| | 25th | Thursday 12.30 | Ascension Day – CAMEO Service and Lunch | Holy Trinity, Sloane Square |
| JUNE | 6th | Tuesday 11 am | ** Prayer Hour | St. Paul's |
| | 7th | Wednesday 10.30 – 3pm. | Trustees | LDH – The Hall |
| | 13th | Tuesday 7pm. | FESTIVAL SERVICE | St. Paul's |
| | 28th | Wednesday 10.30 – 3 pm. | Diocesan Council | LDH Hall |
| | | 11am to Noon | ** Prayer Hour in Middlesex Chapel | St. Paul's Cathedral |

Article deadline for next issue of In Touch
is Friday the 7th April 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

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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:
Rev. Helen Askwith

Stepney:
Rev. April Keech

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