

in touch

London Diocesan News



Winter 2018



Dear Friends

I cannot believe this is my last letter to you as your Diocesan President; where has that 6 years gone. It has been an amazing 6 years; times of anguish, times when I really have not felt in my comfort zone but in the main a time of friendship, love and prayer with members throughout the Diocese and beyond working together to make a difference for vulnerable people worldwide. I am so glad that I said yes 6 years ago and stepped up to be the Diocesan President of MU here in the London Diocese and thank Mary Sumner for starting Mothers' Union 142 years ago. Mothers' Union is as relevant today as it was then as the call to support families here and globally is now even greater.

This is a time of change within MU worldwide. A year of change with the governance of the MU; a new Constitution with regulations that can easily be changed when necessary that are both in tune with the 20th Century and reflecting the global membership.

The membership is even more highlighted in the recent elections for the next triennial when it was announced that MU has made history in electing its first ever Worldwide President from outside the British Isles. Our new Worldwide President, Mrs Sheran Harper is from Guyana, part of the Anglican Church in the Province of the West Indies and has made history as the first non-British Worldwide President of MU. Sheran will represent and lead the 4 million members in 84 countries

From the beginning of 2019, Sheran will lead the newly elected Central Trustee Board made up of 11 trustees – five from the provinces within Britain & Ireland including Nikki Sweatman for our Canterbury Province and six from the rest of the world which will truly represent our worldwide organisation; an organisation that in 2017 made a difference in the lives of over three quarters of a million people worldwide with 100,000 of them in Britain and Ireland.



Like MU worldwide we must also change with the times. With the elections we have new members on the Trustee Board, Initiatives running their course like CAMEO for retired clergy widows which is no longer viable, meetings in the 4 Areas thereby reaching more members. Our members change and we must adapt and not get despondent when regular monthly branch meetings are not well supported; stand back and look at the branch membership and ask what would be best for MU here in this parish..

I am very pleased and happy that at the end of the year I will pass the baton into the capable hands of Sue Johnson who I know will be a wonderful inspiring leader and I know members will give Sue the love and support I have had and we will all together continue to **Follow in Mary Sumner's Footsteps.**

**Wishing you all and your families a very happy Christmas
and a healthy, peaceful and blessed New Year.**

Margaret

Dear Friends,

Thanks and looking forward

Many thanks, Margaret, for the past 6 years. For your commitment, dedication, leadership to Mothers' Union in London. It's been a challenging time and you have met those challenges, enabling us to continue Gods work in this Diocese. Enjoy all the free time you will now have but expect more than the odd phone call from "yours truly"

I have mixed emotions about taking over. I'm very privileged to have been elected but I know it won't be an easy ride but I also know that I'm not travelling this journey alone.

For those of you who don't know me, I'm a widow with 2 daughters and 5 grandchildren. My eldest daughter is a great support to me. I still work, together with her, as a registered childminder, so it's because of her I will be able to attend meetings etc. as required.

I am looking forward to my new responsibility and my commissioning by Bishop Sarah in Diocesan House on Monday 26th November.

Love and prayers, Sue

All Saints Day

For some reason, people who don't practise the Christian faith but are happy to examine it intellectually very rarely have much of an idea of what it's like to be a Christian. So for many people Christianity is about life after death, with its central message being of some distant future that can comfort us in our adversities. Well, of course at the heart of what we believe is resurrection faith, and the hope of overcoming death, but primarily Christianity is about Christ, and about all life, earthly and heavenly. About now, as well as then.

When we celebrate All Saints Day we can be tempted to think of a distant, celestial paradise, the vision glorious of a far off place where the very holy people dwell. Wherever it is, it seems beyond our reach. But what would be the point of simply showing us a pretty picture and then closing the book? Surely as we celebrate the feast of All Saints the Church shows us a picture, and then she tells us something more.

The word 'saint' in the New testament could just as correctly be translated 'holy one', and its used especially by Paul to mean all believers. A saint, a holy one, was a Christian, like you and me. You're probably sick of being told the word holy means 'set apart'. Different if you like. Set apart for God.

So those whose lives we are celebrating are not remote, angelic, sinless figures that we can sometimes imagine them to be. The saints were ordinary people who lived extraordinary lives. And when we think of them as being sinless, doing no wrong, then in fact we're being blasphemous –for Christ alone is the sinless one.

It's not just what someone was like which makes them a saint, and neither is it merely the record of their deeds on earth. Saints are saints not because of who they are, but because of what God made them, what God did with those ordinary lives to make them extraordinary. Sainthood is not an achievement, it's a gift from God, the gift by which he takes each one of us and sets us apart, calls us to holiness, to be used for his purposes.

We might say that what makes someone a saint is not the fact that they never sin, but rather the opposite. It's the fact that they know all too well that they sin, but they also know that the love of Christ swallows up their sins and weakness. They are set apart because they have found in Christ the remedy for sin, and they have been faithful to him in struggling against it.

Contin'd overleaf



Now you will say to me, but that's just the point. We're not like saints because we're not heroic, we don't give up our lives, we won't be persecuted. Maybe. But perhaps there are occasions for all of us to stand up to be counted which won't necessarily mean being a martyr, except in the literal sense of the word, which is a witness. Being a saint means telling the world about Christ, and we can all do that in the choices we make, in our service of God and neighbour and in lives hollowed out by praise and thanksgiving.

Saints aren't remembered because they did bad things. As it happens they did, but we honour them because they stood up to be counted for Christ, because they knew above everything else that the weakness and cruelty to which human beings so often succumb have met their match in Christ, and have disappeared like rain drops in the ocean of God's love. Ordinary like us, they allowed themselves to become extraordinary through God's possession of them.

Just the same thing happens to us every time we approach the altar. God calls us to meet him in the sacrament, sets us apart by swallowing our sins and increasing our faith. He draws us, compels us even to share his table to eat his food and so share in the worship of heaven. The saints whom we honour sit down with us at God's table, they are among us every time we gather together to celebrate the Eucharist. And they are among us as the normal and everyday people that they were, praying constantly that we will do as they did, and follow the God who calls the ordinary to become extraordinary.

Homily by Fr. Stephen Gallagher

delivered at the November MU Prayer Hour at St Paul's Cathedral, 2017.

3C's Afternoon and Blessing of the Aumbry at GOSH

On Tuesday 16th October the team of Mothers' Union 3C's (Coffee, Cake and Chat) volunteers met together at Great Ormond Street Hospital for an afternoon of training, getting to know each other and worship.

We were led by the chaplains Jim, Dorothy and Anne Marie. Our first session focussed on Listening Skills and was facilitated by Jamie who works at GOSH. We worked in groups to explore how to become better listeners. After this Jim and Anne Marie enabled us to reflect on the importance of confidentiality and safeguarding using scenarios which were very relevant to the work we do at GOSH. Our discussions were lively and interesting. As a group we were reminded of the importance of these aspects of our work there and will help us to be consistent.

After refreshments we had a short Mass during which the Aumbry for the chapel was blessed and dedicated. Rachel Nugee, a past Central President and London Diocese President of the MU had left a legacy in her Will to the MU in the London Diocese and it was decided to use some of the money to purchase an Aumbry, a recess in a church in which sacred vessels are kept, for St. Christopher's Chapel in the hospital when we discovered that the hospital did not have the facility to hold the blessed sacrament in the hospital and up to now have obtained the consecrated elements from the Royal London when they needed to give communion to one of their patients or parents. The Aumbry can be used by both the Anglican and Roman Catholic Church.

We had a lovely afternoon of learning and getting to know each other socially. Enormous thanks to the Chaplains for making the afternoon so successful and enjoyable.



Mary Findlow, 3C's Co-ordinator
Contact Centre – Stepney

Back in 2015 Dahlia Reid (the then Area Vice President of Stepney) had a dream of the MU opening a Contact Centre in Stepney and after a lot of work in conjunction with the National Association of Child Contact Centres (NACCC) on Saturday 10th March we were delighted to welcome the Rt Revd Adrian Newman, the then Bishop of Stepney, to officially

open the Mothers' Union Children First Stepney Contact Centre based at St. James Church, Clapton. The Centre is open two Saturdays a month for children to spend time with their non-residential parent.



Quiet Day

Our Quiet Day this year was held at Lambeth Palace – how special! 20 of us attended and was led by Comfort Amina Fearon from the Southwark Diocese. Comfort lives at Lambeth Palace with her husband Josiah Atkins Idowu-Fearon a Nigerian Anglican Bishop who is the Secretary General of the Anglican Consultative Council.

Comfort asked us to consider the question what would Mary Sumner think of the MU now and we looked at the new incentive of MULO – Mothers' Union Looks, Observes and Acts which is giving us that fresh start to look at what we do and what is needed now in our world. Mary all those years ago was afraid but it did not stop her doing what God wanted her to do. Mary did not walk on water but it must have felt like it. Like her we have to trust in God.

We reflected on Jesus Walking on Water (Matthew 14: v 22 – 33) and Psalm 23, two very well known passages in the Bible and it was good to read and study them in the quiet of the Crypt in Lambeth Palace.



Our time together culminated in a Eucharist with the staff of Lambeth Palace and we then wandered into the grounds and had lunch together before going back into the hectic world of

London to make our way home.

Members from South Africa visit Mary Sumner House



On the Thursday before the General; Meeting Sue and I were at Mary Sumner House to greet over 70 members from South Africa. They represented six dioceses – Johannesburg, Pretoria, Highveld, Christ The King – Kimberely Kuruunan, Matlosane and Free Town. This was the highlight of their visit to the UK. Meisie Lerutla, who led the trip said, “We have had a yearning for many years to see where Mary Sumner came from and the origins of Mothers’ Union. We see Mothers’ Union as a ministry through which we work for God and help

people who have faced adversity so that they feel God’s love through what we do for them.” The ladies ended their visit to Mary Sumner House with Midday Prayers and worship in the chapel, Mothers’ Union’s Chief Executive, Bev Jullien welcomed them on behalf of the staff at MSH.

I was very happy to present them with gifts from Derby their link diocese here in the UK and ourselves here in London. They were very keen to purchase MU merchandise and spent in excess of £1,000.



Prayer and Praise Day, 18th October 2018

Our Prayer and Praise Day started with “The Streets of London” as sang by Roger Whitaker in the 1970s. The wordings detailed the plight of the needy on London streets. The same issue was embodied in the theme for the day: “A Foggy Day in London”.

The programme began with Pat Beazley unveiling the interactive activities beginning with a brief video of all the ills and vices happening in London today. Everyone was asked to write out the issues of concern on London streets, as identified by their own Churches, on triangular pieces of coloured paper which were hung on a line across the room; followed by animated conversation and brainstorming on the numerous



methods initiated and adopted to tackle the problems as identified by each Church.

We wrote prayers identifying the problems for use during Intercessory Prayers followed by our mid-day Wave of Prayer and a sing-song accompanied by Carolyn Bryant a lady with an infectious smile playing the Guitar.

After lunch we started with activities for physical wellbeing in the form of “aerobics cum pilates cum zumba”. It was an exhilarating session of both spiritual and physical rejuvenation We were joined by Fr. Graham Buckle from Rochester Row to lead our Eucharist. His magnetic personality charged up the whole room as he gave the Homily and led the Intercessory Prayers. Fr. Graham took our written ‘Prayers for London’ back to his own church in Rochester Row. There was an outpouring of love and goodwill amongst the 27+ who attended. Thank you Pat for an amazing “Prayer and Praise Day”. We were truly blessed a real day of worship, rejoicing and praise to the Glory of God. Amen.

Watch this space! I wonder what Pat will give us in 2019.

**Gogo-Rose Ilo,
Faith & Policy Co-ordinator**

Mary Sumner Day :Evensong at St Paul's Cathedral

It was an amazing Evensong Service at St Paul's Cathedral on Thursday, 9th August 2018. Mothers' Union, London Diocese was ably represented by 20 members sitting in the Choir stalls

At the end of Service members from St Michael, Tokington, Wembley were shown the Middlesex Chapel where we hold the Monthly Cathedral Prayer Hour. With their permission I took a Photograph of them with their leader, Mrs Annette Cole (in White Jacket by the MU Banner), in the Chapel.

Mary Sumner's name and her work and MU London Diocese were well mentioned by the Priest both before and during the Service.

Gogo-Rose Ilo
Faith & Policy Co-ordinator



St. Mary's Twickenham

Saturday, 13 October 2018 was the 125th anniversary of the branch's foundation so it was celebrated at the Hampton Deanery afternoon with a Eucharist in Church, followed by refreshments in the Windsor Room opposite. The service was led by the Vicar, the Revd. Jeffrey Hopkin Williams and the speaker was our retiring London President, Margaret Blazey, who spoke about "In Mary Sumner's Footsteps". Our incoming president, Sue Johnson, was also there, plus Sally Goulden and Gogo Rose Ilo. The support from other branches was disappointing and there was far too much food, and CAKE!

Pat Ingham
Deanery Chair

Enrolment St Michael and St George White City

I was privileged to enrol two members into the St Michael and St George White City Branch in August. Amy Eze from Staines Parish branch and I were warmly welcomed by the Branch members and congregation, where Helen Purcell and Victoria Mariqueo



joined this wonderful movement of MU. May we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and



service reach out as Your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Sally Goulden
Kensington AVP **Stepney Area Meeting**

The MULOJA journey in the London Diocese continued on a very wet Saturday at St Michaels, Stoke Newington. About 25 members braved the weather – well done. The day began with a Eucharist led by Revd. Tunde Roberts, the new MU Area Chaplain for Stepney. He delivered a passionate address about Mothers Union and hopefully the way forward for Stepney. We continued with a group “lectio divina” exercise “The Body of Christ” using 1 Corinthians 12: v 12-27. Plenty to ponder on but most important how we need to work together to achieve our aims. We cannot work alone. In the afternoon we followed in Mary Sumner’s footsteps. Members were given the opportunity to share their concerns and hopes for the Stepney Area.

Sue & Margaret

Furnish project in Willesden Area

Members from the Willesden Area met at Holy Cross Church Greenford to pack Essential bedding and kitchen boxes for the Furnish Project. This is a charity for the homeless and those in need.

Approximately 65 boxes were packed. Well done everyone for all the hard work and commitment.

Liz Holmes
AVP Willesden Area



Trustee Board for 2019 - 2021

Diocesan President Sue Johnson Treasurer – David Loftus MBE
Office Administrator – Fiona Yates

Area Vice President's

Edmonton – vacancy Kensington – Sally Goulden
Stepney – Folake Roberts Willesden – Pauline McCalla

Unit Co-ordinators

Action and Outreach – Sue Laurie Faith & Policy – Gogo-Rose Ilo
Links – Allyson Williams MBE Speakers/Training – Beryl Rickson

Antonio Joseph Sharon Fergus Diane Willcocks
Finance & Office – Margaret Blazey - not on Trustee Board

Area Chaplains

Edmonton Fr. Bruce Batstone
Stepney Revd. Tunde Roberts
Kensington The Rev. Canon David Reindorp
Willesden Revd Helen Askwith

St. Giles MU Ickenham:- A Centenary Plus Celebration

A special celebration took place on the 12th July 2018 to mark the 100 Plus years of MU at St. Giles Ickenham. About 54 members attended a Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration followed by a buffet lunch in the Church Hall, an oasis of cool on a very hot day. We welcomed our guests Mrs. Liz Holmes Willesden AVP and the Rector of St. Giles

Rev. Felicity Davies and her husband Tom. Rev. Helen Asquith, Willesden Area Chaplain conducted the service and Mrs Ann Ralph gave an excellent account of the history of St. Giles; Branch.

Sitting at small tables attractively laid with a pretty cloth and vase of flowers, we had lunch, a delicious cold collation including flans, pies and cakes made by members and a large birthday cake decorated with the MU logo in blue icing was ceremoniously cut and handed out with Bucks Fizz drinks with which we toasted the Mothers' Union.

Liz Holmes gave a short talk on the Summer of Hope Appeal and a raffle and donations raised £141.00 for this appeal. There was an interesting and diverse display of Branch memorabilia and to round off the celebration Mrs. Freda Kneale entertained us with some amusing "typists errors" from church publications.

We left with happy memories of a delightful 100+ celebration and determined to continue the good fellowship, useful work for the Mothers' Union.



Many thanks to The Rev. Ken Tombs, former Curate at St. Giles and friend of St. Giles MU took photos. Many thanks go to Mrs. Jenny Reid, Miss Brenda Baxter and Mrs. Janet Schlacter for organising the event and Mrs. Mary Barralet for playing the piano.

Ann Dixon

All Saints Church, Notting Hill

On Sunday 7th October, Mothers' Union members of All Saints Church, Notting Hill celebrated their 17th anniversary. This was attended by Sally Goulden, the Kensington AVP; the branch leader of St Andrew's Willesden; and a couple of MU members from St Peters, Edmonton.

The Celebrant, Canon Peter Clarke, gave a remarkable sermon about the sterling work of Mothers' Union, nationally and worldwide.

The celebration ended with refreshments.



Sharon Fergus

General Meeting (GM) Swansea 17/18 Sept 2018

I attended the first of the two GM celebration services in St. Mary's church. It was a very spiritually uplifting occasion. We heard beautiful music, including some tongue-in-cheek levity penned by Dylan Thomas, and joined in with some rousing hymns which naturally included Guide Me O Thou Great Redeemer. The Most Reverend John Davies, Archbishop of Wales, delivered his address in a light hearted manner which only served to make his message the more memorable.

The next day saw Brangwyn Hall packed with MU members, all held rapt as we heard talks from

The Right Worshipful David Phillips, the Lord Mayor of Swansea. Very proud to be resident in Swansea, he recognises the problems the city has with poverty, poor education, drug/alcohol abuse, and those on low wages being worse off than the unemployed. The Swansea family is a global family with residents of many nationalities;

Kay Worthington, Provincial President for Wales. She urged us all to be inspired, informed and proud to be a member;

The DP for Swansea and Brecon, Ruth Roberts;

The Right Revd. Bishop Andrew Proud, Central MU Chaplain, giving a homily centred on the "road to Emmaus" bible passage.

The Keynote Speaker, Rachel Carnegie who is the Co-executive director for the Anglican Alliance. She spoke on how Faith, Hope and Love can describe the work of MU;

MU Chief Executive Bev Jullien, describing how MU has touched over 107,000 lives in the last year

Lynne Tembey's presentation on her time as WWP

Daniel McAllister from MSH surprised Lynne by springing a "This is Your Life" style thank you. Hilarious!

I urge everyone to have a look on the MU website to see a copy of the presentations by Lynn, Rachel and Bev. Spread the news of MU !

Sally Goulden
AVP Kensington

CONGRATULATIONS

Birthday congratulations to :-

Edmonton Area

Jesus Church, Forty Hill, Enfield

Phyllis White 90th birthday on 2nd August. Phyllis became a member of MU when she joined Jesus Church, Forty Hill and was branch leader for 6 years.

Stepney Area

St Matthias Branch

Ms Frances Matthews 100th birthday on 15th September

Long Service Awards Presented to :-

Edmonton Area

St. Paul's Winchmore Hill, Enfield Dorothy Kelly - over 50 years.

Kensington Area

All Saints with St. Columba

Maud Gardiner - over 60 years. She was previously a member in Zimbabwe.





MOTHERS' UNION CALENDAR – LONDON DIOCESE 2019

“Listen, observe, act – in step with God”

JANUARY	15 th	Tuesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St. Paul's Cathedral
	16 th	Wednesday	Trustees "Get-Together" 10-3pm	Room A – LDH
	23 rd	Wednesday	Faith and Policy Committee. 10-4pm	Room C – LDH
	31 st	Thursday	Action & Outreach Committee 10-2pm	Room A – LDH
FEBRUARY	13 th	Wednesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St. Paul's Cathedral
	21 st	Thursday	Finance & Admin Committee 10-2pm	Room A – LDH
MARCH	6 th	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Ash Wednesday</i>	
	13 th	Wednesday	Trustees Board Meeting 10-3pm	Room A – LDH
	14 th	Thursday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St. Paul's Cathedral
	31 st	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Mothering Sunday</i>	
APRIL	9 th	Tuesday	Prayer Hour (11am)	St Paul's Cathedral
	19 th	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Good Friday</i>	
	21 st	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Easter Sunday</i>	
MAY	8 th	Wednesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St. Paul's Cathedral
	15 th	Wednesday	Faith and Policy Committee 10-2pm	Room A – LDH
	23 rd	Wednesday	Finance & Admin Committees 10-2pm	SPCK – LDH
	29 th	Wednesday	Action & Outreach Committee 10-2pm	Room A – LDH
	30 th	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Ascension Day</i>	
	31 st	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Thy Kingdom Come</i>	
JUNE	6 th	Thursday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St. Paul's Cathedral
	13 th	Thursday	Festival Service (7pm)	St Paul's Cathedral
	19 th	Wednesday	Trustees Board Meeting	Hall - LDH

**Articles & pictures for next issue should be received
by 1st May 2019**

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 01784-245015
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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Linked in prayer with Province USA,
Nnewi Nigeria, Butere Kenya, Obeid Sudan
and London UK .

Area Chaplains
Edmonton:
The Rev'd Bruce Barstone.

Kensington:
The Revd. David Reindorp

Willesden:
Revd. Helen Askwith

Stepney:
Revd Preb Tunde Roberts

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