

in touch

London Diocesan News



Summer 2020

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of London

Dear Friends,

Building hope and confidence

Christmas is long gone and I hope you had a blessed time with family and friends. The highlight for me was attending the Carol Concert in Wormwood Scrubs. A wonderful start to my Christmas season. So different to life today.

Not an easy time to be trying to send you greetings. I am writing this during Holy Week – a strange one. We are experiencing an existence we could never had dreamt of. We are travelling Holy Week with the help of our phones, computers and television. It has been so encouraging to witness what can be achieved when our church buildings are closed.

I just pray that you are all staying in and staying safe. Hopefully when you read this we will be, once again, trying to get back to normal

So much of what I would be sharing with you has been cancelled or postponed – Lambeth 2020, Festival Service, Area Meetings, Lady Day Services, A & O Day, AFIA holidays and also branch meetings.

Our Annual Retreat did take place and Revd Linda Liversidge led us with such passion and, certainly, changed the way I conduct myself. Linda was getting accustomed to using a wheelchair and brought her husband with her. Sadly Linda died on Palm Sunday. Heaven has welcomed an astonishing, compassionate lady. RIP Linda

Included in this edition are Unit reports which you would normally have received at Area Meetings so you won't miss out on what has been happening.

Here's praying that when normal service is resumed, it will be with increased enthusiasm, more respect for our world, not to take things for granted and realise what is important. I've now been housebound for a couple of weeks and already, I know that I have changed.

Just before we went into lockdown I had a meeting arranged in Pentonville Prison. This will be my top priority getting it rescheduled.

This will prove to be a challenging year but nothing is impossible with God. As Mothers' Union does so well, continue to pray for our world, our mission and our members, especially those that are housebound.

Blessings Sue x

Sue DP



Dear Members,

I send warm greetings to you at this unparalleled time in our lives. This summer edition of our In Touch magazine finds us all in a locked down situation, including self isolation and social distancing. As we all know, prayer is at the heart of all that we do in the Mothers' Union. I know that we will all continue to pray for each other, our friends and families, that our Lord will keep us in his loving care and protect us and give us strength.

On a personal note, I have been inspired by the many innovative ways of survival that are being practiced during this challenging time. I have stopped complaining that I am shut in or stuck at home. Now I prefer to believe that I am safe at home. I have found the time to discover the magic of free communication and social media, which allows us to keep in touch with family and friends and on a regular basis, both at home and abroad.

Many of us have been blessed to participate in on-line Holy Week and Easter services conducted by our local priests. Quite an amazing experience. Can we all continue to pray for our beloved NHS colleagues who face this tragedy on a daily basis with such dignity and professionalism. Dear Lord, keep them safe and strong, and accept our prayers for all the families whose lives have been tragically affected by this virus.

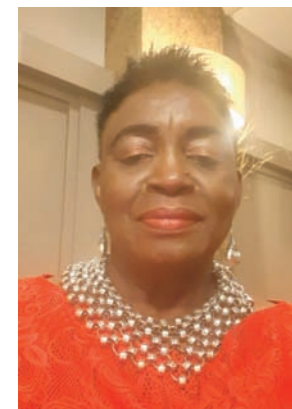
I have been thinking that I can't wait for the world to get back to normal, but I have realised that we must expect a new type of normal. We have been forced to sit up and pay attention to the world around us. I would love to see more kindness, sharing, loving each other, caring, not taking things for granted, more talking and listening to each other.

Many of us have not escaped the ravages of the global financial crisis, and are struggling with sustainability. Let us pray that the Mothers' Union will receive all possible financial support to ensure its survival.

Let us also continue to pray for my Links contacts around the world that they will remain safe and well throughout this crisis. With God's blessings, pray that we can resume our activities in the near future, with hope and confidence.

With fond regards,

Allyson Williams MBE Editor



ELY MU RETREAT 2020

This was held from Friday 28th February to Sunday 1st March. The Bishop Woodford Retreat Centre was as warm and comfortable as ever. However the walk to Ely Cathedral which is usually a pleasant stroll by the historic buildings, caused us to struggle a bit this year, thanks to the rain and a very cold wind blowing across the Fens from the North Sea. Fortunately Sue booked the 2021 retreat for September.



The Retreat was led by Rev. Linda Liversedge. We all admired her tenacity and good humour as she had recently had medical problems and needed to be in a wheelchair. However that did not stop her message and optimism coming through. The theme was confidence, Linda described her own case and this led to interesting discussions with all taking part, whether it was over confidence or a lack of it and how many had found that their faith had helped so much. After each session she gave us a list of relevant biblical references so that we can go away and contemplate more. Linda had a very pleasant and easy manner so there could be a free flow of concerns and ideas.

As well as the thought provoking sessions with Linda, were the services in the cathedral. Ely Cathedral alone in an inspiration. As you walk the length of the building you pass from Norman; Romanesque; Early English Gothic; Decorated and Perpendicular styles of architecture. Most riveting of all is the Octagon Tower. All this added to the splendour of the organ music and the singing of the choir when we attended Evensong and Sung Eucharist and made it really uplifting.

Altogether this was an inspirational and worthwhile weekend. Thanks are due to Linda for leading us in such a friendly and warm manner; to Sue for organising it all and to the friendly and helpful staff at the Retreat Centre.



STEPNEY EPISCOPAL AREA MOTHERS' UNION EVENT. STEPNEY WELCOME TO THEIR NEW BISHOP

The highlight of my report is the Welcome Service we held for the Bishop of Stepney, The Rt. Revd. Joanne Grenfell.

It took place at St. Olave's Church, in Woodberry Down on Saturday 7th March 2020, just before the lockdown and social



distancing, as a result of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The welcome service was in two parts, the first was a service and the vicar Revd Tunde Roberts of St. Olave's church, who is also the Mothers' Union Stepney Area Chaplain led the worship with the support of the host, the Mothers' Union Area Vice President, Mrs Folake Roberts.



It was a joyful celebration with the branches in the Area represented.

The Diocesan Mothers' Union President attended and read the introduction, which is the story of Mary Summer's inspiration for the founding of Mothers' Union.

Bishop Joanne gave a talk during the service which centred on her experience of the Stepney Area so far, what she has learnt and how we need to adapt in order to meet the enormous challenges ahead of us.

She said that in terms of growth, we need to grow spiritually and in numbers, particularly among young people. She conveyed to us the Diocesan Capital Vision 2030, which must be replicated in the Stepney Area and throughout the Diocese as a whole. "For every Londoner to encounter the Love of God in Christ".

The priorities and ambitions are to

- A) Make Confident Disciples
- B) Be Compassionate Communities
- C) Creative Growth
- D) Young People

The Bishop advocated that she appreciates the good work the Mothers' Union is doing all over the world. She had an opportunity to go on behalf of the Mothers' Union to Akure, in Ondo State, Nigeria.

After the service, we moved to the back of the church for the second part of the celebration. Delicious meals and drinks were served and Bishop Joanne responded to questions that were asked by the members.

The celebration ended with the presentation of gift by the Area Vice-President, on behalf of the Mothers' Union to Bishop Joanne.



FINANCE AND OFFICE ADMINISTRATION REPORT

TRUSTEES MEETING 16TH MARCH 2020

The Finance and Office Committee

Margaret Blazey - Unit Co-ordinator, Sue Johnson - Diocesan President, Avis Marshall, Beryl Rickson, Folake Roberts, Fiona Yates and report from, David Loftus -Treasurer.

1. Grenfell Project - As it has not been possible to progress with this donation it was agreed to recommend to Trustees that this money be put into the General Fund.
2. MU Accounts - David Loftus has presented MU - London with the final accounts for 2019 showing comparison with 2019 and January/February accounts for 2020. We are very grateful to David for producing these up-to-date figures and in a way we can all understand.

It was noted that the General Fund is still in a minus situ and this will not be helped by the decreasing number of members with Branches closing and postage costs ever increasing and posting being sent to 24 Diocesan members each month who are not on e-mail. There will be an interim boost to this fund with the final settlement of the closing branches' accounts. As David put it we either increase income or reduce expenditure.

3. **Office Administration** Fiona Yates reported - **Database** - on going with inputting and updating.

Membership -there has been a steady decrease in membership over the last 3 years with a drop of 128 from 2018 to 2019. One branch has closed (St.Mary's Osterley, Kensington) and three are pending for closure in 2020 (Monken Hadley, Edmonton, St. Matthias and St Michael and All Angels Stepney). There are a further 6 Branches who are not up-to-date with their payment of subscriptions which gives a worrying scenario of a potential loss of a further 58 members.

Website - This is being kept up-to-date with events/calendar news. Some project pages need updating.

End of Year Returns - These forms are not being received from Branches and they are mandatory as far as the Charities Commission is concerned and all Branches need to be made aware of this fact.. Plus MSH request statistics which we gather from these forms. FY to advise AWs of

the offending Branches in their Areas as maybe it is an admin problem.
Constitution - Now the MSH Constitution is completed the MU London Diocese needs to bring our own Constitution up to date (the current one is 2009).

Worldwide - Copies for all members of the next edition will be delivered to the office and hopefully can be collected or hand delivered to as many branches as possible.

Postage - All branches must be conscious of the high cost of postage and refund to the office any posting to them.

4. **Facebook - Pauline McCalla** -At the beginning of December a link to our Facebook page was added to the Mothers Union London Diocese website page. I have posted photos and comments after each Prayer Hour at St. Paul's Cathedral and have also posted the recent President's Letter from Sue. There has been an increase in the number of visits and 'likes' to the Facebook page. I will continue to liaise with Fiona to publicise the Facebook page on the website and will mention it at upcoming meetings.
11. **GOSH Legacy** - Aumbry light has been purchased at £78.1 and is now in situ. This leaves a further £5,000 in the Legacy. The Chaplains are looking at a plinth for the Book of Remembrance (although £15,000 was mentioned) and also asking the hospital what else could be purchased for the benefit of families. MU napkins have been purchased for use at 3Cs.
12. **Contact Centre/Stepney Area Project** - Following the closure of the Contact Centre the balance of the monies held £1032.51 to be transferred into a Stepney Area Project Account. A voucher for £60.0 was given to Rosemia for letting us have the use of St. James Church hall.

Trustees approval on the following-

- Grenfell fund to General Fund
- Diane Willcocks legacy to be included in the AFIA Amount.
- Freda Hayes legacy to be transferred to the General Fund
- Contact Centre be renamed Stepney Area Project and balance transferred to this account.

Margaret Blazey

6th March 2020

ACTION & OUTREACH REPORT

TRUSTEES MEETING 16th MARCH 2020

AFIA

Since November, I have received a further 3 online submissions for holidays. To date, one has responded by completing the AFIA Application Form sent to them and, after consultation, approval was agreed for this family at the A&O Committee Meeting on 16 January. This applicant requested a short break at Legoland, Windsor. However, she then asked for it to be cancelled due to the Coronavirus. I am expecting her to contact me again when things have settled down.

There is one outstanding holiday which has been approved and I have paid the deposit for a 7 night caravan holiday at Combe Haven in August; the final balance is due by 29 May.

A&O Day

The Action and Outreach Day will be held on 27 April 2020 with the topic 'Knife Crime on our Streets'. It will be opened by Bishop Rob, Bishop of Edmonton. The afternoon speakers will be Luke Watson, CEO of XLP and Rev Eustace Constance, Street Pastors. You are all most welcome to attend.

PRISONS

Bronzefield - 'Through the Gate' project for girls released from prison is continuing to work well with Avis Marshall accompanying them to Ashford Station on a Tuesday and Beryl Rickson on a Friday. This project is very welcome and makes a big difference.

Wormwood Scrubs - Sue J, Annette Cole and some others from her branch took up the invitation to attend the Carol Sewice. It was an excellent event and included a Salvation Army band along with the Wormwood Scrubs choir. About 150 inmates attended. Sue J was thanked by the chaplain for the Christmas cards that we had provided. The chaplain had expressed a need for service books for the chapel and will contact us through Annette or Sue J. to arrange how to get them funded by MU. Annette is completing further training to be able to help inside the prison. Pauline has almost completed the training to help in the Visitors Centre.

Feltham Youna Offenders Centre - Nothing further reported - Sue J has had no volunteers so far to help in the Visitors Centre.

Pentonville - Sue J has contacted the Family Room Leader but is awaiting a response.

FURNISH

Following confirmation that Furnish continues to be a bona fide charity, following its change in circumstances the Willesden Area branches proceeded with collecting goods and donations.

On Wednesday 19th February, 50 empty boxes provided by Furnish were filled with bedding and kitchen essentials by members from several branches, hosted very generously at Holy Cross Church, Greenford.

We have requested information from Furnish about the distribution of these boxes. Sadly, the Furnish organisation will be closed down after May 2020 and so will not be able to take any further donations. We will ascertain from them whether there will be a similar organisation that we could work with in the future.

MARYLEBONE

Sue J reported that she was awaiting for a reply from them so that a time would be arranged to give them the donations of stationery etc collected.

GOSH 3Cs

Mary Findlow had sent a written report. Sue J was concerned that MU members were exploring being trained to take on other volunteer duties when the MU focus is, and should remain, the 3C's. Sue J will speak to Mary about this.

LINKS

Nothing new since the last meeting.

Diocesan Update:

Sue J was in the process of arranging the next MU Cluster Group meeting of Diocesan Presidents from London and surrounding dioceses.

The Annual Retreat had been organised and Fiona was sending out details. A request had come from 'Songs of Praise' for Mothers Union in London to be incorporated in their Mothering Sunday. Sue J was in discussion with them about this.

Sheran Harper contacted Sue J after attending a christening at a Paddington church and encouraging the incumbent to restart their MU branch. Sue J was making contact and involving Pauline, as the AVP.

Sue Laurie

Action & Outreach Coordinator

FAITH and POLICY REPORT FOR TRUSTEES MEETING ON MONDAY 16TH MARCH 2020

Faith and Policy Committee are happy to report as follows:

1. **MONTHLY PRAYER HOUR** sessions continue to hold in the Middlesex Chapel at Ilam-12 noon, with encouraging attendance by members. Father David Reindorp led the January session; Mrs Pat Beazley led the February Session. We expect the Rev'd Jessica Swift to lead the March Prayer Hour. All notices have been sent out to members to attend the March Session. Faith and Policy appreciate our devoted Prayer Leaders and their bold and inspiring messages.
2. **CATHEDRAL PRAYER HOUR SCHEDULE FOR THE REST OF THE YEAR 2020** In the Middlesex Chapel at Ilam-12 Noon
APRIL: Thursday, 2nd to be led by The Rev'd Adele Holmes-Tewfik.
MAY: Tuesday, 12th to be led by The Rev'd Philip Corbett.
JUNE: Thursday, 4th to be led by The Rev'd Prebendary Rosemaria Brown.
JULY: Thursday, 9th to be led by The Rev'd Stephen Taylor.
* SEPTEMBER: Thursday, 3rd to be led by The Rev'd Stephen Brown.
OCTOBER: Thursday, 15th to be led by The Rev'd Peter Godden.
* NOVEMBER: Tuesday, 3rd to be led by the Rev'd Stephen Gallagher.
DECEMBER: Tuesday, 8th to be led by The Rev'd Prebendary Gary Piper.
*=To be Confirmed.

Members are urged to please save the dates in your Diaries. We shall keep you updated as soon as the September and November Prayer Leaders are confirmed.

3. **PRAYER AND PRAISE DAY 2020** will be organised by Pat Beazley. Arrangements are underway and we will keep you updated as soon as the date is confirmed by Pat. It will be held in September 2020.
4. **FESTIVAL SERVICE 2020:** will be on at 7pm. Preparations are underway. DP Sue and Gogo-Rose of Faith and Policy will be meeting with the St. Paul's Cathedral Team on 23rd March 2020 to brainstorm on the execution of the Festival Service Programme. In the meantime DP Sue will brief the Trustees Meeting on the progress so far.

5. **RETREAT 2020:** We are happy to report that the Retreat 2020 has already taken place from 28th February- 1st March 2020 at Bishop Woodford Retreat House. The theme for the Retreat was "Building Hope and Confidence". DP Sue will update the Meeting.
6. **QUIET DAY 2020:** DP Sue has been looking into the best venue and will be contacting the Edgware Abbey for an August date for the Day. Sue will update the Meeting on progress so far.
7. **OTHER NEWS:** Faith and Policy is proud to announce that one of our Committee members, Francisca Okoroafor has been a member of Mothers' Union for 50 Years. Congratulations to Francisca!

FAITH AND POLICY COMMITTEE: Gogo- Rose Ilo, Pat Beazley, Irma Gardner, Carole Chandler, Dorothy Nnene, Victoria Nwosu, Francisca Okoroafor, and DP Sue Johnson.

Gogo-Rose Ilo, 8th March 2020.

Co-ordinator and Chair, Faith and Policy, London Diocese

Mask extensions

The ear savers are used across the back of the head, the buttons are used to hook the elastic loops which normally fits around the ears to hold PPE masks in position. The elastic loops on the on the PPE masks are making ears very sore and this band takes the pressure off whilst holding the mask in position.

Double knit: use 2 strands together

If using chunky knit, use 1 strand. Suggest size 8 needles (4mm)

Colour doesn't matter nor do buttons need to match,

Cast on 20 stitches, knit 6 rows; cast off. You should have a strip of knitting approx 4" x 1"

A button approx 2cms in diameter is then stitched to either end of this strip.

If you have smaller buttons then use 2 side by side

MOTHERS' UNION-LONDON DIOCESE

WAVE OF PRAYER 2020

JULY 2020

As the prayers are said a candle may be lit for the Link Dioceses, those in Isolation and the Health Workers.

Leader: Our theme for 2020 is “Building Hope and Confidence”

Merciful Lord, Thank you for the wave of Prayer 2020. Help us to be open to every Grace from above and sensitive to every need around us. Today the world is facing the aftermath of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19). Thousands of lives were lost. Businesses were affected and many have closed down. Many people were rendered unemployed, and many families are suffering, everybody is locked down in self-isolation on Government orders. Many are losing hope. Loving Lord, guide us this day as we strive to build hope and restore confidence in all our members and communities. (Before we start the Wave of Prayer programme), let us say the Coronavirus Prayer:

ALL : COVID-19 PRAYER: Keep us, good Lord under the shadow of your mercy in this time of uncertainty and distress. Sustain and support the anxious and the fearful and lift up all who are brought low; that we may rejoice in your comfort knowing that nothing can separate us from your love in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

Hymn: O Praise ye the Lord...

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. PRAYER FOR THOSE IN ISOLATION: God of compassion, be close to those who are ill, afraid or in isolation. In their loneliness, be their consolation; in their anxiety, be their hope; in their darkness, be their light; through him who suffered alone on the Cross, but reigns with you in glory, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Reader 2: Psalm 91: 1-11

Leader: In righteousness shall thou be established: thou shall be far from oppression; for thou shall not fear: and from terror; for it shall not come near thee. (Isaiah 54:14)

Reader 3. SUDAN: Diocese of El Obeid in Zone E

Loving Lord, we commit MU members and workers in The Sudan to you, especially our Link Diocese of El Obeid. We pray for deliverance from the Covid-19 pandemic; and as they restart their work renew them afresh with strength and perseverance to continue their good works and courage to face any challenges that may arise from the global scourge. Heavenly Father, we commit the Leader of Zone E, Mrs Thembsie Mchunu to your loving hands. Guide her as she oversees the affairs of the Mothers Union in her Zone.

Lord, in your mercy..... Hear our prayer

Leader: The Lord upholdeth all that fall, and raiseth up all those that be bowed down (Psalm 145: 14)

Reader 4: KENYA: Diocese of Butere in Zone D

Almighty God, we thank you for all the MU workers in Butere, Kenya. Bless and repair all the families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Bless them with strength and renewed hope as they continue with their numerous projects to better the lives of the underprivileged in their communities, and as they help resettle the survivors of the pandemic Empower the Leader of Zone D, Mrs Mary Kamwati as she navigates the MU programme in the various communities.

Lord, in your mercy.....Hear our prayer

Leader: The Lord is good to all: and his tender mercies are over all his works (Psalm 145: 9)

Reader 5: NIGERIA: Diocese of Nnewi in Zone E

Loving Lord, we praise you for your presence in the lives of the MU members in Nnewi diocese. Thank you for their generosity and dedication to the cause of Mothers' Union. Empower them as they rebuild their creative outreach initiatives which were stalled by the Covid-19 pandemic lockdown. We give thanks for the success of their noble projects that make great difference in the rural communities.

Lord, in your mercy.....Hear our prayer

Leader: The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him: to all that call upon Him in truth (Psalm 145: 18)

Reader 6: USA : Province of USA in Zone B

Loving Lord and Creator of the Universe thank you for the renewed energy in the MU in the USA especially after the dreadful scourge of the global pandemic in the USA. Father, bless the leader of Zone B, Mrs Kathleen Snow and her team as they begin to organise members to tackle the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic. Embolden them as they mobilise their resources to provide help and support to vulnerable individuals and groups within the church and wider community.

Lord, in your mercy.....Hear our prayer

Leader: He will fulfil the desire of them that fear Him: he also will hear their cry and will save them (Psalm 145: 19)

Reader 7: LONDON in Zone G

God of love and hope, we thank you for the works of the Mothers' Union in the United Kingdom, especially in London. Bless the various outreaches in London diocese as they carry on the MU projects in the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic. Bless our noble Patron, the Queen. Grant her strength, courage and wisdom. Thank you, Lord, for the new Provincial Leader for Zone G

Lord, in your mercy.....Hear our prayer

Leader: The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all His works(Psalm 145:17)

Reader 8: UGANDA: Diocese of Mbale in Zone D

We thank you Gracious Lord for the dedication and relentless work of the Mothers' Union in Mbale diocese. Loving Lord bless their work against gender-based violence due to the lockdown in the country as a result of the global pandemic. Give them strength and resilience in their work in improving marriage and family life within their communities. Thank you for the resourceful Leader of Zone D, Mrs Mary Kamwati.

Leader: My mouth shall speak the praise of the Lord: Let all flesh bless his holy name forever and ever (Psalm 145: 21)

Reader 9: AUSTRALIA: Diocese of Brisbane in Zone C

Heavenly Father, thank you for MU members and workers in Brisbane. Thank you for deliverance from the prolonged wild fires in the country and the ravages of the Covid-19 pandemic. Father God, bless them with strength and fortitude as they rally round to support emergency relief effort for victims of disasters, vulnerable children and abused women. Bless the leader of Zone C, Libbie Crossman and her Team.

Lord, in your mercy..... Hear our prayer.

Hymn: Jesus shall reign where'er the sun ...

MULOA PRAYER: We pray that our God will make us fit for what He's called us to be, that He'll fill our good ideas and acts of faith with his own energy so that it all amounts to something. As our lives honour the name of Jesus, may he honour us by his Grace: our God giving Himself freely, the Master, Jesus Christ, giving Himself freely. Amen.

Reader 10. PRAYER FOR THE NHS AND ALL HEALTH WORKERS:

Gracious Lord, give skill, sympathy and resilience to all who are caring for the sick, and your wisdom to those searching for a cure. Strengthen them with your Spirit, that through their work many will be restored to health; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All: The Lord's Prayer: Our Father which art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who 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.

The Grace: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.

UPDATE FOLLOWING “LOCKDOWN”

Who would have envisaged that we would be experiencing and living through very challenging times.

I do hope you are all staying safe.

Many churches are managing to share some services which is great but we need to remember and pray for those members who have no access to mobiles, computers etc. Share with them the Daily Hope freephone number 0800 804 8044 – MU midday prayers can be listened there now Katheryn Anderson was elected as Provincial President and we have had a few Zoom meetings with our SE Cluster. I can cope with that but not my comfort zone. Hopefully you have received your “Families Worldwide” together with the appeal letter. Response from Dioceses and individuals has been encouraging so please continue to pray for MU, if you are unable to make a donation.

The distribution of FW has been a nightmare. I am still trying to work out who has received and who hasn't. Help needed from branch leaders if you haven't yet sent me in a list of your members – I NEED THEM URGENTLY in order to complete the task. Also importantly names of members who have died. Sorry I have to ask for this but our office (Diocesan House) is closed so no access to our computer data.

Mail is being sent to me so am able to get sub cheques banked – thank you for those received so far.

Continue to stay safe. My prayers are with you all and waiting for the time when we can meet again.

Love and prayers

Sue DP

REFLECTION - MAY 2020

Greetings my dear friends,
I hope you are keeping safe and well as we continue to live our lives in a different way.



Like you I am confined to my home, but I am taking comfort from what nature has to offer as I look out at what is blossoming in my garden. Hopefully by the time you receive this you too will be able to enjoy the diversity of God's creation. I am always amazed to see new buds and flowers spring from such dead looking branches.

Speaking of branches reminds me of the live branch the dove brought back to the ark after Noah sent it out to search for dry land. The story of Noah (Genesis 6 and following) was brought to my attention by one of the members of our Central Trustee Board, who reminded us that Noah was on board the ark without windows, for 40 days. I would therefore like us to give thanks to our heavenly Father for the fact that we can at least see out into his world. As well as through prayer, the way I like to give thanks is using hymns or worship songs. Perhaps you might feel like joining me, in which ever way you find best.

Many are suffering in these dark days whether through illness or not being able to work. This includes members in the branches as well as those at Mary Sumner House, now closed, as those who normally work there carry on with their work from home.

I know our Worldwide President is very concerned about the affect this pandemic is having on the work of MU. Please can I ask you to join me in prayer for the furtherance of our work, for all our members who are affected because they are sick, unable to work or worried about a loved one or family member. We all now have the time to rest in God's love to 'Be still and know that I am God' to: - Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 5: 16-18*

Love,
Jenny
Zone K (Wales) Trustee

PRISON VOLUNTEERING

I am a member of Mothers Union and I am also Branch Leader for St Michael Tokyngton Branch. About two years ago I was approached by our then Diocesan President to check whether there would be a need for Mothers Union to do some voluntary work in Wormwood Scrubs prison since it was in our vicinity. Well, at the time, I enquired with the Managing Chaplain of the prison and was told that there was, indeed, a great need for volunteers; he was also very happy for Mothers Union to be involved there as he had worked with Mothers Union at other prisons and Mothers Union have always supported prison work and were involved in Holloway Prison before it closed.

Things then changed when GDPR (General Data Protection Regulation) came into force last year and a charity called PACT (Prison Advice and Care Trust) took over and one had to go through them to volunteer in the prison. So, I approached them and was sent the necessary forms to fill in and return (which I did). So to cut a long story short, I have finally been accepted to work as a volunteer in Wormwood Scrubs (after all the necessary checks and documents verified) and began my journey; firstly to attend the Safeguarding course on 4th September 2019.

I went for induction and, presently, I volunteer on a Thursday in the Visitors' Centre which is next door to the prison. All the visitors have to pass through there first before going over to the prison. So, for now, that is where I am based. I find it very interesting so far. However, at the beginning, I was quite concerned at the number of young women coming with babies and young children to visit their partners in prison. It was very heartbreaking to me to witness this; but, according to the statistics, the number of children with a parent in prison far exceeds the actual number of prisoners in prison in England and Wales so it is not surprising to see this number of young families coming to the Visitors Centre.

Anyway, my role is to help them in any way I can, which is to greet them and help them with the lockers where they have to leave all their belongings prior to going over to the prison to do their visit; answer any questions they may have relating to the prison system etc; also to assist the legal representatives if they need it. There is also a tuck shop serving refreshments for the visitors which we have to man as well. So, suffice to say, I am really enjoying my volunteering work thus far and we aim to make the visiting experience as calm and comfortable as possible for them.

I have also been vetted for work within the main prison in the Visiting Centre in there, and will assist with the children while the parents have some privacy together. So a person would have to go through Pact to volunteer within the Visitors Centre and to volunteer as a Play Worker within the prison. For voluntary work within the prison itself, then one has to go through other various departments.

If anyone would like to take up this worthwhile ministry then here are the details:

Address: Prison Advice Care Trust
29 Peckham Road
Camberwell, London SE5 8UA
Tel No: 0207 735 9535
Email: prisonadvice.org.uk

I highly recommend this prison ministry to anyone who is able. In Matthew chapter 25, verse 36 Jesus says "For I was in prison and you visited me." We are doing the Lord's work.

Please note that you will need to have an email address in order to proceed. Good luck!

Annette Cole, St Michael's Tokyngton Branch

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Carole and Stuart Sharp	5th Feb	Golden wedding Anniversary
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CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to those MU members who have reached 90 years old

Audrey Kelly	23rd Feb
Dorothea Neil-Smith	25th Feb
Mary Patrick	7th May
Josee Parker	25th May
Ray Taylor	30th Sept

IN MEMORY

Lily Melhuish aged 99	4th January
Margaret McLachlan aged 93	2nd February
Revd. Linda Liversidge	5th April
Mary Patrick	17th April

May they rest in the arms of the Good Shepherd

(Please do let either me or the office know of any milestone birthdays, anniversaries etc. As there will be no Festival Service this year, could you also let me know of any long memberships so I can send cards to them but recognise them publicly next year)

LILIAN MELHUISH 1920-2020

It is with great sadness I report the death of Lily on the 4th of January.

Some of you may remember her as Branch Leader of St. Peter and Paul Enfield Lock. She served two terms totaling 9 years, She had been looking forward to her 100th birthday in April but it was not to be. She passed peacefully in the nursing home where she had been living happily for 2 years.



Eileen Galsworthy

MARGARET MCLACHLAN

21st September 1927 – 2nd February 2020

Margaret died on the Feast of Candlemas. How fitting that Simeon's prayer: "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace" should be the gospel for the final day of her life.

Margaret was a devoted servant of both the church and the Mothers' Union. She joined MU before any of our current members can recall, and served as Branch Leader and later Enfield Deanery chair. As well as supporting her own branch, she visited many others, offering either reflective services or



talks; her talk on thimbles was very popular.

Margaret was a stalwart of the parish, even before she became a Reader in 1990. She and her husband Ian, who was Sacristan and Verger, were seldom out of the church. She kept our prayer life going during a Vicar's sabbatical and a couple of inter-regna. She led many services, especially Morning Prayer or Reserved Communion, and took many funerals. One lady who attended a funeral kept in touch and let Margaret know when she moved. Margaret found out which was her local church and introduced her to it. The lady was confirmed at the age of about 80.

Margaret reckoned that much of her ministry was conducted in the local shopping parade, just talking to people she met.

She was an enthusiastic member of the ecumenical NW Enfield Group of Churches, and often preached at the local United Reformed Church. When they were without a minister, she took some of their Sunday services.

Margaret cared for Ian as his health failed, and it was not long after he died that her own mobility problems confined her to her home. That didn't stop her telling me how to run the branch!

Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

Valerie Budd

Former Branch Leader, St Luke's, Clay Hill, Enfield

MARY PATRICK

Mary Patrick, who died on 17 April at the age of 89, joined the Mothers' Union in 1988 and became leader of the St John's Greenhill Branch (Harrow Deanery, Willesden Area) in 1998. Despite her best efforts to hand over the reins, she had remained Branch Leader ever since, but following various spells in hospital from October 2019 she joined her husband, John, in a local nursing home in January this year.



John and Mary's total service to St John's adds up to well over 150 years, probably something of a record. As well as her work for the MU, my mother looked after the Children's Society collecting boxes in the parish for at least 35 years and helped with the fortnightly lunch-time concerts.

Sanitary Towels for Kenya

A few weeks ago I was approached by a woman who has been working in Kenya making reusable pads with girls who don't go to school when they have their period. Due to sanitary conditions in areas of Kenya disposal towels are not an option – something we take for granted.

On returning to the UK she wants to keep the project operating. Her e mail to me was requesting members who had a sewing machine who would be able to make pads for her.

I soon had about 8 people willing to help her. All will be helping her, but due to lockdown progress has been slow. Once Anne is able to drive she is willing to deliver and collect and the project can go from strength to strength.

Thank you to those who have already volunteered their time.

Sue DP

Trustee Board for 2019 - 2021

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

Area Vice Presidents

Edmonton – Dorothy Nnene 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
Finance & Office – Margaret Blazey - not on Trustee Board

Trustees

Antonio Joseph, Sharon Fergus

Area Chaplains

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

MOTHERS' UNION CALENDAR – LONDON DIOCESE 2020

“Building Hope and Confidence”

JULY	9 th	Thursday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St.Paul's Cathedral
	9 th – 11 th	Tues/Wed/Thurs	WAVE OF PRAYER	London Diocese
AUGUST	9 th	Sunday	Mary Sumner Day	
SEPTEMBER	3 rd	Thursday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St.Paul's Cathedral
	10 th	Thursday	Finance & Office Committee 11-3pm	Room C - LDH
			GENERAL MEETING	Belfast Northern Ireland
	24 th	Thursday	Action & Outreach Committee 11-3pm	Room C - LDH
OCTOBER	6 th	Tuesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St.Paul's Cathedral
	8 th	Thursday	Faith & Policy Committee 11-3pm	Room A - LDH
NOVEMBER	3 rd	Tuesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St.Paul's Cathedral
	4 th	Wednesday	Trustees Board Meeting 10.30-3pm	Room A – LDH
	23 rd	Monday	AGM/Diocesan Open Meeting 11-3pm	Hall - LDH
			16 Day of Activism	
DECEMBER	8 th	Tuesday	Prayer Hour (11 am)	St.Paul's Cathedral

Articles & pictures for the next issue should be received by Sunday 11th October 2020 to appear in the next issue.

Mothers' Union office - please note that from January 2020 our office will be open on **Mondays and Thursdays**. Opening hours remain the same.

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 804 7156

Kensington 01784-245015
Willesden 0208-908-5938

Patron: The Rt. Rev. Bishop of London
Diocesan President: Mrs Sue Johnson

Hon. Treasurer: David Loftus MBE
Contact via MU office

Articles To: Sue Johnson

113 Charlton Road, London N9 8HN

Telephone 020 8804 7156

e-mail: sjohnson1108@outlook.com

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Nnewi Nigeria, Butere Kenya, Obeid Sudan,
Brisbane Australia, Mbale, Uganda.

Area Chaplains
Edmonton:
The Rev'd Bruce Batstone.

Kensington:
The Revd. David Reindorp

Willesden:
Revd. Helen Askwith

Stepney:
Revd Preb Tunde Roberts

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