



July-August Newsletter 2023



£500 for AFIA raised at the Strawberry Tea held in the garden of Veronica Woodcock-Ellard



at Farcet in June. These funds will help send more families in need away on holiday.



WORLDWIDE

Irene Porter - Worldwide Link

On Sunday 25th June, 14 people from my own church, St Peter's Yaxley, flew to Rwanda. Three are Mothers' Union members, Angela Hilliard, Marilyn Debbage and Pauline Wallace. During a short time in Kigali, they will be meeting Bishop Nathan, some of you may have met him as he has visited Ely Diocese several times, and his wife Esther. Esther has joined us at Thursday Prayers, via zoom, from the Mothers' Union office in Kigali.

The group will leave Kigali and travel, 7 hours by coach, across Rwanda to Kamembe in Cyangugu Diocese. Their journey will take them through our link Diocese of Shyogwe. Rev Claudine and the Mothers' Union members there know they will be passing through and will be praying for their safe journey.



During their time around Kamembe, some of the group will be fitting Solar panels, teaching in a school and training local Pastors to run Christian Marriage courses. Angela, Marilyn and Pauline will be doing craft activities in nursery schools. Angela, Marilyn and Pauline plan to wear their Mothers' Union badges and are hoping to meet other Mothers' Union members during their time in Rwanda.

Before returning to Kigali, the group will take another long coach journey to visit "Imbabazi, A Centre for Hope" which was established after the 1994 Genocide as an orphanage for Children who had lost parents through the Genocide. It continues today to nurture and empower Rwanda's children and the local communities.

The group return home on July 7th, blessed and strengthened in faith by their experiences in Rwanda.

MU Diocesan Garden Party
14th July 3-5pm in
Bishop Stephen's Garden, Ely.

Bring your own packed tea.
Fizz and soft drinks provided.
Raffle prizes will be gratefully received and
there will also be an opportunity to buy MU
cards and see a display about our worldwide
links.

THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral
and on Zoom 10.30am
July 20th and August 17th

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83847809128?pwd=VVhXUGlNWkpaeGkyMUDwWHQvcC9tQT09>

ID. 838 4780 9128/Passcode 338053

COMMUNICATION NEWS – NEW YouTube VIDEO. Debbie Tye - Co-ordinator

We have a new YouTube video link to share with you for **JUNE THURSDAY PRAYER**:

“Serving God in Prayer and Humility”. Led by Gail Swanson, Ely Cathedral MU Branch Leader.

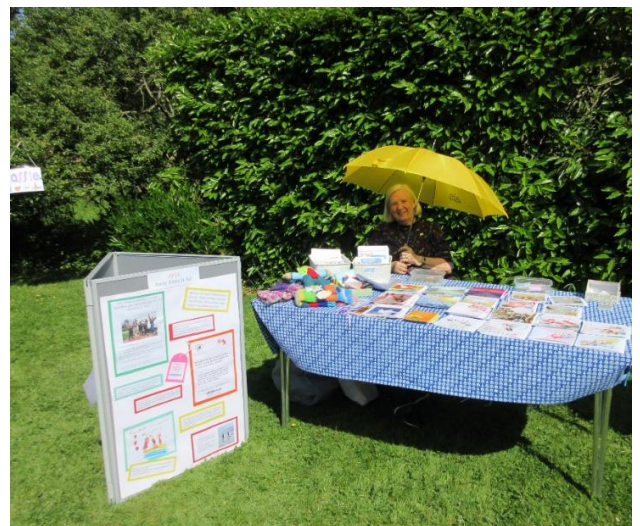
YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRQOVqHfoaU>

We are sorry about the poor sound quality during the hymn. Here is a recording of the hymn to enjoy from Chet Valley Churches, Norfolk: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ytBTMr0K_I

Ely Cathedral MU Garden Party.



Ely Cathedral MU held an enjoyable Summer Garden Party on a wonderful sunny afternoon on 7th June. As well as delicious cream teas, there was a variety of stalls, selling cakes, plants, bric-a-brac and books. The fantastic amount of over £670 was raised in funds, which will be divided between the “Summer of Hope” appeal and AFIA.



RIP - Canon Peter Hill

We are sorry to hear of the death on Friday 19 May 2023 of Canon Peter Hill who in retirement held PtO in this diocese until 2019. Peter was a Diocesan member in Ely Diocese. Our thoughts are with his family. May Peter rest in peace and rise in glory.

A REFLECTION

Philip Baker (26th June 2023)

As I write this piece, I have just returned from the funeral of a friend I had known for many years. Another funeral is due in a few weeks. The friend with whom I stayed in Devon last week was, on the day after I returned home, diagnosed with cancer, but we pray he will come through. However, it all serves to remind me how fragile life is. God has given us the most amazing gift of life and He can take it away at any time. We only have one chance at getting this right and so we need to be ready, to be prepared for that time, whenever it may come.

Matthew 24:42-44 is an example of how we might approach this: "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. But understand this: if the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into." The remainder of Matthew 24 continues in this vein, exhorting us to be prepared at all times. But how are we to be prepared?

At the appropriate time we know we will be judged by God. So, we can test ourselves by asking ourselves questions such as "are there things we regret (doing or not doing) for which we have not repented or corrected by our actions"? Can we honestly say that we have done our best to follow Jesus? For Jesus said, as reported in John 14:6 "I am the truth, the way and the life; no-one comes to the Father but through Me". Through these or other means, in our own hearts we can know if we are ready to meet our Maker; if we are prepared for that visit by the "thief in the night".

You will probably not be surprised to read that one of my own measures is provided by the Mothers' Union. Mary Sumner, founder of the Mothers' Union, wrote a prayer which always brings a tear to my eye, I have them now just thinking about quoting it:

"All this day O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee: and every life I touch, do thou by the Spirit quicken, whether through the words I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen".

In this context the meaning of "quicken" is to revive or make alive, restore to a flourishing condition, to awaken. I am not the person who can say how successful I have been. I leave that, as instructed, to God. But I have truly tried to live to that prayer and the principles it espouses. If we all did that, how much better the world would be!

A couple of days ago it was 2 years and 9 months from Susan's passing. She showed me that way and I pray I have done my part in continuing with it. God Bless her, me and you all.



Burwell Branch MU have donated a Large Print Bible to Whitemoor Prison for use in The Chapel or to borrow if needed.

Della Fletcher, who many of you know as a past President of Ely Diocese celebrates, this month, being a member for 50 years. Our congratulations go to her and all others who have given so much to the Mothers' Union.

Wisbech and North Nene Mothers' Union after their June meeting enjoyed some light entertainment by playing some games, some old and some not so old! Unfortunately, I could not open the pictures they sent. Be assured they will appear in our next newsletter.

Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union

Charity no. 251394

<https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/>

Ros 01223 861846 roswright1@gmail.com

Hazel 01638 743897 hwill66@icloud.com