

# WAVE OF PRAYER

## 10th, 11th, & 12th DECEMBER

### 2023

#### Suggestions to help with your Wave of Prayer

5 Candles

Map of world

Maps of each country

Items to represent each country:-

African /Indian cloth (Oxfam shops are useful for this)

Fruit, fresh or dried

Coffee/Tea (check supermarket aisles)

Bombay mix / Poppadom crisps / Naan

Item with Ely Cathedral on it

Music from any for the countries

#### **HYMNS**

Let all the world in every corner sing.

Bind us together Lord.

All over the world, the Spirit is moving.

All people that on earth do dwell.

In Christ there is no east or west.

#### **YOUTUBE CLIPS**

Depending on your venue, and access to laptop or smart TV, it might be helpful to find youtube clips of the hymns. Worship songs, try "Oceans" from Hillsong or "Across the Lands" Keith & Kristyn Getty.

## **WAVE OF PRAYER**

As we meet together, or at home, let us pray.

Loving Father, we join with our family throughout the world, with one voice, to glorify your name. Together we bring our worship, together we bring our prayers. Though we may never meet, we are united in prayer. We share our sorrows and joys and together praise our God. As the family of God, we are united in love. We glorify our Father with thankful hearts. Amen

### **HYMN**

**BIBLE READING** Psalm 100

### **PRAYER**

Loving Lord, we give thanks for the privilege of service within the family of Mothers' Union worldwide.

We pray for our members throughout the world as they share the love of Christ through their witness and their work.

We give thanks for the signs of transformation in families and communities worldwide as we reach out in love and service.

We pray for the flourishing of Mothers' Union as we adapt for the needs of this present age and entrust ourselves to God to lead us forward.

Unite us as family and resolve to continue to reach out as your hands across the world. Amen

## **ZAMBIA**

Light a candle for Zambia.

Place any visual aids.

Our Diocesan link is Lusaka

D P is Mildred

V D P is Ellen

### **NEWS FROM LUSAKA**

### **PRAYER**

**Father, we pray for Mildred, Ellen and all the members in Lusaka. May your light shine on them in their lives and the work they do.**

We thank you for the many that attend the Diocesan meetings and services and for all new members of Mothers' Union who joined this year. We give thanks for all the live broadcasts that members do on the Anglican Diocese of Lusaka Mothers' Union Face book page, spreading Gods word to many.

## **RWANDA**

Light a candle for Rwanda.

Place any visual aids.

Our Diocesan link is Shyogwe

Mothers' Union Coordinator Clementine

**NEWS FROM SHYOGWE** ( Three people to read the reports in the September newsletter by the members who went to Rwanda in July. Members in Shyogwe prayed for them while they were in Rwanda)

### **PRAYER**

**Father, we pray for Clementine and all the members in Shyogwe. May your light shine on them in their lives and the work they do.**

Bless all in the communities that receive help, support and comfort through the assistance and guidance given by Mothers' Union members. May they grow stronger in the knowledge that you are with them at all times. Loving Father, we pray that Clementine will be guided by her faith in you in her new role as Mothers' Union coordinator for Shyogwe.

## **INDIA**

Light a candle for India.

Place any visual aids.

Our Diocesan link is Karimnagar.

Leader of the Women's Fellowship is Rev Priscilla

### **NEWS FROM KARIMNAGAR**

### **PRAYER**

**Father, we pray for Priscilla and all involved with the Women's Fellowship. May your light shine on them in their lives and the work they do.**

We give thanks for the work and dedication of the women's fellowship. India is ranked 11th in the OPEN DOORS watch list of persecuted Christians, and being only 5% of the population they are in need of your love to watch over them. Amen

## **NIGERIA**

Light a candle for Nigeria.

Place any visual aids.

Our Diocesan links are Ikka and Sokoto

Ikka DP is Evelynne

Sokoto DP is Felicia

**NEWS FROM IKKA & SOKOTO** (Taken from the Church of Nigeria website)

### **PRAYER**

**Father, we pray for Evelynne and Felicia and all the members in Ikka and Sokoto. May your light shine on them in their lives and the work they do.**

Father, we ask that links can be established with Nigeria and that we will get news of the situation in Nigeria soon. Nigeria is ranked 6th in the OPEN DOORS watch list of persecuted Christians, we pray that they will feel your love for them and keep them strong. Amen

## **ELY**

Light a candle for Ely.

Place any visual aids.

D P Hazel

**WHAT WE DO IN ELY** Review Ely newsletters

### **PRAYER**

**Father, we pray for Hazel and all the members in Ely. May your light shine on us, in our lives and the work we do in the Diocese. We give thanks for all the Trustees and officers, may your words be spoken to those coming to the end of their time in office at the next of year and heard by those needed to fill the vacancies. Amen**

## **DIOCESAN LINKS**

Our Diocesan links are with Kigali in Rwanda and Vellore in India.

Esther, wife of Bishop Nathan in Kigali and Mrs Sophi, wife of Bishop Sharma in Lellore.

**Father, we pray for Esther and Sophi and all they do with Mothers' Union in Rwanda and the Women's Board in India. May your light shine on them in their lives and the work they do. Amen**

### **MOTHERS' UNION 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**

### **"HYMN" (Good luck!)**

He's got the whole world in his hands, etc

He's got you and me brother, in his hands ,etc

He's got you and me sister, in his hands, etc

He's got Rwanda and India, in his hands, etc

He's got Nigeria and Zambia, in his hands, etc

He's got Ely, in his hands, etc

He's got everybody here, in his hands, etc

**We pray for all members, May God be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging them and leading them, sheltering them and leading them so they may work to your praise and glory. We reach out as your hands across the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

**Link hands and say the Grace together.**

( Please feel free to add your own prayers, reflections, hymns, songs or music during the Wave of prayer and to arrange to meet together or pray individually at a convenient time for your branch and members)

## Wave of Prayer Rota 2023

<b>Time</b>	<b>Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Monday 11<sup>th</sup> December</b>	<b>Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> December</b>
<b>0900- 1200</b>	<b>IMPC</b>	<b>Cathedral Ely St Mary Littleport</b>	<b>Balsham Linton Sawston Stapleford</b>
<b>1200- 1500</b>	<b>Grantchester Trumpington</b>	<b>March Doddington Wisbech</b>	<b>Yaxley Farcet</b>
<b>1500- 1800</b>	<b>Anglesey Burwell Milton</b>	<b>Somersham Haddenham Chatteris</b>	<b>St Ives Brampton St Neots</b>
<b>1800- 2100</b>	<b>Soham Three Rivers Shingay</b>	<b>Diocesan Members</b>	<b>Diocesan Members</b>

# WAVE OF PRAYER DECEMBER 2023 – NEWS FROM OUR LINK DIOCESES

## ZAMBIA

In July this year, our Worldwide President Sheran Harper, visited Zambia. There were many pictures on the Lusaka Mothers' Union facebook page. Ellen said it was a huge undertaking and they thank God that all went smoothly.

A Mothers' Union conference was held in Lusaka in August, with many members parading through along the road to the Cathedral. 26 new members were enrolled, these occasions always involve much singing and dancing.

On October 24th, Zambia celebrated Independence Day. Mothers' Union in Lusaka visited the National Mental Health Institution. The following is from the Lusaka Mothers Union facebook page.

Passion to Missions Anglican Diocese of Lusaka Eastern Deanery 🙏🙏Mothers Union 🙏❤️Well Done ✅✅Happy Independence 🙏🙏🇿🇲🇿🇲🇿🇿🇲🇿🇲🇿🇿🇲🇿🇲🇿🇿🇲🇿🇲🇿 Visiting Our National Mental Health Institution.

Mental Health continues to be neglected and stigmatized by society. Many of us think it's out there, but let us remember the scripture in Matthew 25 referencing us to visit those challenges. Today we shared a meal with our brothers going through metal health challenges. It was an independence well spent 💎💎💎💎💎 Fulfilling objective number 5 of the Mothers Union 🙏🙏❤️❤️🌹🌹 To God be the glory forever and Ever ✅🇿🇲❤️❤️❤️🌹🌹❤️❤️🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏



## RWANDA

### **MY RWANDA REFLECTIONS: MARILYN DEBBAGE**

I went to Rwanda with the team from St Peter's church Yaxley, it was my first visit to Africa. I found Rwanda to be a stunningly beautiful country that certainly lives up to its name as the Land of a Thousand Hills. I had been forewarned by fellow MU members who had been on previous visits that the terrain would be a challenge and it certainly was just that, even walking around the ups and downs of the guest house grounds made me breathless!! On our journey from Kigali to our base at the Peace Guest House in Kamembe we stopped at a cafe to meet up with Bishop Frank and his wife Eva. Eva is the MU president for Cyangugu diocese, and when we introduced ourselves to her as MU members there was an immediate bond of warmth and friendship which I really appreciated having so recently arrived in the country. On Sunday we went to St Peter's church in Kabahire. We were welcomed by people singing and dancing as they came down the track to meet us, two women were carrying a large blue and white Mothers' Union banner, it was so joyful and uplifting. At the church we exchanged hugs and smiles and took photos of us all together around the banner. One of my standout moments was our day on Ishwa Island. We took craft activities for the children in the nursery school. There were a large number of children on the island, many of whom were poorly dressed and looked extremely frail and vulnerable. During and after our first craft session in the school I felt quite hopeless about what we could do for these children to make a real lasting difference to their lives. However later in the morning two bins of porridge were brought into the classroom and our interpreter Maurice handed me a jug and said 'you can feed them'. The children all came up with their mugs and I was able to fill each one up to the brim, each child drank their porridge and then wiped the mug clean with their fingers - nothing was wasted. I was told that this highly nutritious porridge may well have been the only meal the children got each day and that in the years since this feeding programme had been introduced by Mission Possible UK the incidence of malnutrition and vitamin deficiency has greatly decreased. As a supporter of the Champion a Child scheme which funds this programme and various other projects on the island I was encouraged to see that there is hope for improved living conditions for these children and families. Pastor Bertha came with us to Ishwa, I was so impressed by her faith, energy, compassion and empathy. She linked arms with me as we walked down the steep hill from the village to the lake. She told me about the project the MU is working on with unmarried mothers. She explained that these girls and women are usually rejected by their families and made to feel worthless. The project provides them with training in sewing and tailoring skills, this empowers them to grow in self respect and confidence and also enables them to earn an income. Later in the week we saw this in action when we visited another church, a group of unmarried mothers were sewing outdoors using Singer treadle sewing machines. I talked to some of the ladies about their work and one of them proudly showed me a child's skirt that she had made. One of our team leaders was asked to pray over the group and bless them and we all joined in with her prayer. It was a joy to be able to pray for these beautiful women.

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### **RWANDA 2023: ANGELA HILLIARD**

This would be my first trip to Rwanda, for some coming with us it would be their third trip. I wanted to have first-hand experience of all I had heard from friends about Rwanda: see and be part of their daily life, hospitality, friendship, joyful singing & dancing and general happiness even owning so little. I help with the 'Sparks' toddlers pre-school groups at St. Peters Church therefore my experience was going to be used as part of a small team teaching and delivering activities over five days in Nursery schools with a slightly larger age range than in the UK. Prior to the trip three of us spent eight weeks of selecting and preparing craft materials and tools for our chosen Bible stories and songs we would share with the children. We spent many hours cutting out sheep masks, fish shaped finger puppets and crowns. The number we would see in each school seemed to just keep increasing which made me apprehensive about the class sizes, 50-75 we were now being told. So after months of excitement and planning the 25th June arrived and our journey to Rwanda began; I felt our craft team was ready, and as

prepared as we could be, to serve the Nursery children of Rwanda. After a wonderful journey from the capital Kigali, which took us through a rain forest and close to wildlife, we reached Kamembe and the Cyangugu Diocese area the schools were in. We had over two suitcases full of materials with us! Was this going to be enough? How would the chosen crafts work for these children. After introductory songs and Bible stories it was time for the crafts. Very soon it became very clear what we have come to accept as basic materials and items had not been seen either by the children and in some cases by the teachers e.g. glue sticks, sellotape or colour pencils. Once demonstrated though in a short while we had lovely smiling faces holding up their masterpieces; fishes decorated with coloured tissue, sparkly crowns and woolly sheep masks. Everywhere we went happy children I feel so privileged to have been able to meet up with Mothers' Union members in Cyangugu diocese and to see and hear about the various projects and community work the Mothers' Union supports. I thank God for the faith and love of the amazing women I met and am so inspired by their desire to bless and pray for us. could be seen going up the road baaing behind their masks or proudly marching in their crowns. The team fitting solar panels fed-back about what little they had at home; therefore, these items would be something they would treasure. All the time spent serving these children has given me an experience that will stay with me forever

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### **MY EXPERIENCE OF RWANDA: PAULINE WALLACE**

I eventually decided to join the trip to Rwanda after much consideration and some trepidation. I had many reservations, some around what I could actually offer to the people of Rwanda and others around health, safety, travel, food, toilets, accommodation etc etc. A friend challenged me with the question – “How much do you really trust God?” And so, on 25th June 2023 I embarked, along with 13 others on the very memorable trip to Rwanda. Over the next 12 days my life was enriched and changed – why had I been so anxious? God keeps His promises and His faithfulness is never lacking. I, along with the other two ‘older ladies’ found we had much to offer. Known as ‘The Grandmothers’ we entered into the world of Rwandan nursery schools with joy and excitement. I discovered that the experience I had acquired over 30 years of helping and leading in Sunday School, youth work, toddler groups etc was all that was needed to equip me with the skills required. I consider myself, and have been told by others, that I’m essentially a practical and not an emotional person. However, I challenge anyone to visit Rwanda and not be moved by the welcome and enthusiasm of the people there. People who have so very little and yet willing to share what they have. Seeing children with absolutely no toys, barely enough to eat, no comfortable shoes or clothes, very poor housing, but happy, joyful and loving is humbling. Knowing we could do so very little was difficult, but changing just one day for over 500 children in total feels worthwhile – we made a difference to each one of those children in a very small way.

#### **What We Actually Did**

We served in four large nursery schools and one Saturday school at Kamembe Cathedral. The four rural nursery schools were all in the Diocese of Cyangugu and the children attending were extremely poor, particularly on the Island of Ishywa . We spent several hours with each group and with the help of our very able interpreter Maurice, were able to lead singing, tell and act out stories, play outdoor games with the huge parachutes we took with us, and provide many different craft activities. It was immediately obvious that the nursery schools were equipped with little more than basic wooden tables and chairs, some chalk and a blackboard. There were no books, toys or resources for learning. The nursery on Ishywa had 74 children registered and one teacher. We took crayons, paper, paints, glue and the many resources needed for making sheep masks, fish pictures, hand painted under water scenes, crowns and general colouring along with a parachute and balls for each group. We were able to leave a supply of the craft materials at each venue for their continuing use. Sadly we know that once those items have been used up they will not be replaced. We were asked on more than one occasion if we would be able to provide resources for them in the future. On several occasions we met with Mother’s Union members. MU is very active in Rwanda and we were shown a sewing project set up for single mothers to enable them to earn a small

income by sewing. We also had some discussion with Eva, the wife of the Bishop of Cyangugu Diocese about the ways in which MU is trying to help with the education of young people. There is particular concern that teenage pregnancy is increasing, leading to girls being ostracised from their families and the father of the baby abandoning the mother. Education around relationships, sex, contraception, the treatment of women and healthy marriage is a high priority for MU in Rwanda.

## INDIA

With more than 1.3 billion people, the south Asian country of India is the second-most populous country in the world, only outnumbered by China.

Despite rapid economic development in the last few decades, India still has high levels of poverty, particularly in rural areas. One of the major problems facing India today is human trafficking, with the United Nations estimating that up to 65 million people in India are affected by human trafficking.

Mothers' Union is affiliated with the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service (WFCS) in both North and South India. Members are very active within their local communities reaching out to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, often women and girls. Their work includes programmes such as:

- Vocational skills training
- Campaigning against gender based violence
- Marriage preparation
- Health awareness programmes

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The Aims and Objectives of the Women's Fellowship are very similar to those of the Mothers' Union.

### AIM

Our aim is to unite the women of the church and equip them for Christian witness and make them to be part of all the programmes of the church, strive to bring the women at all levels in close contact with each other, share their experiences and learn from each other to be effective witnesses in the community and society at large.

### OBJECTIVES

To unite members in prayer, service and witness and help them to grow in deeper spiritual life.

To help to uphold the sanctity of Christian marriage and family life and help mothers in the Christian nurture of children.

To train women, young and old for participation and leadership in the church and community.



## NIGERIA

The President of Mothers' Union / Women's Guild, Priceless Jewel and Girls Guild, Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion, Mrs. Angela Eberechukwu Ndukuba, presented her presidential address during the occasion of the 24th Annual Diocesan Women Conference of the Diocese of Abuja; Themed "Walk Before Me and Be Blameless-Gen. 17: 1b" which held at the Cathedral Church of the Advent, Gwarinpa, Abuja, the program started from Thursday 12th To Saturday 15th, October, 2023.

She reiterated the importance of the role women hold in the family. A family's success depends on the women, referring to the role of the mother of St. Augustus who prayed when he drifted away from the Christian faith, and God changed his life, using him in the history of humanity.

On the theme for this year, Mrs Ndukuba defined some keywords in the Theme – Walk Before Me and Be Blameless (Gen17:1b) which is in the context of the passage to gain an understanding of God's message to the women. She stated that "every word in the theme is very important, and the two key words are **Walk and Blameless**.

She affirmed that walking before the Lord is to live daily in the consciousness of the Lord's presence. It is to be aware that the Almighty God is interested in our life decisions or experiences.

"The desire of God is for His people to walk with Him. As a child walking in the company of her parents would avoid certain actions, even from his or her peers, in the same way, our relationship of walking with God or before God places on us certain discipline of avoiding shame and wrongdoing in the sight of God and man. The phrase **BEFORE ME** and the conjunction **AND** set the context and relationship between the two keywords."

“The idea of walking before me is not strange to us as mothers because often times we say the same words to our children whenever we are talking with them. It shows the relationship between Abraham and God because you do not tell a stranger “walk before me”. It also points to the responsibility that goes with the relationship.”

Finally, Mrs. Ndukuba assured women that it does not matter what they are going through in their personal lives, families, and nations, especially in Nigeria today; she emphasizes God’s ability to provide for His people, and His faithfulness in fulfilling His promises.

Other speakers at the conference were:

Mrs Kehinde Ajoni who gave a legal lecture on the issues of next of kin, wills and other legal tenders

Dr Kwanso Uche, a gynaecologist, enlightened the women on fibroids and gave a lecture about the normality and abnormality in the female body system.

Mrs Adaobi Oso gave an exposition on the theme "Walk before me and be blameless" and focused on Mary Magdalene, and why it is important for women to work with the Lord.

Mrs Amaka Oguejiofor gave a lecture on smart parenting, she informed the parents on the modern ways of child upbringing most especially the mothers who spend much time with their children.

Dr Francis Alade gave lessons on the human Kidney: he enlightened on the right lifestyle, diet and exercise which will keep one healthy.

In attendance was the Primate of the Church of Nigeria, Anglican Communion and the Bishop of Abuja Diocese, The most Rev'd Dr Henry C. Ndukaba who appreciated the women for their role in family and societal building and charged them to use their large numbers to continue to propagate the gospel of Christ in a time of decadence like this.