

# FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



## 2020

One of the letters of thanks received for all your generosity at Christmas. All refuges and hostels in our Deanery received gifts. It also talks of vouchers which some branches donated so that fresh food could be bought to supplement other foods. Many washing up bowls full of cleaning items were given to those who were moving on into their own accommodation and prisoners were given Christmas cards to send to others as well as their children receiving chocolate selection boxes. My thanks go to the Faith in Action team who co-ordinated it all.

Dear Sue and collective members of the Ely Diocese,

On behalf of all of the women and children in Fenland refuge I would like to thank you for your fabulous Christmas gifts. The children were so excited and the women could not believe that there were gifts for them as well.

One of our residents burst into tears, she just could not believe the generosity of strangers and did not think she deserved such kindness. She said that this has been the best Christmas that she has ever had!

The vouchers make such a difference to the ladies when they first enter the refuge and finances are very limited. Although we have some access to the food bank the vouchers afford them the ability to buy fresh produce such as fruit, vegetables, bread or milk etc. from the shops. It's all about making them feel that they have choices and some control back over their lives. Everyone that has donated has given the women this freedom and they, and we, are truly thankful for everything that you have done and continue to do.

Once again, Thank you all so much and we wish you all a very healthy and Happy New Year



A familiar picture of the altar in the old Coventry Cathedral which some of us saw when we attended 'Kingdom Come' last year. This year the MU service is once more at Coventry on 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020 and we will again have a coach if there is enough demand. The price per head will be no more than £25 for the return trip depending on numbers. If you are interested please get in touch with the office and partners or friends are welcome too.

### SPRING COUNCIL

- |              |   |
|--------------|---|
| <b>Date</b>  | <b>Monday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2020</b>                       |
| <b>Venue</b> | <b>Chatteris Parish Church and Bricstan Hall (adjacent)</b> |
| <b>Time</b>  | <b>10am coffee/tea</b>                                      |
|              | <b>10.30am AGM &amp; Spring Council</b>                     |
|              | <b>12.30pm Worship</b>                                      |
|              | <b>1.00 pm Bring and Share lunch</b>                        |

\*\*\*\*\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

## News about Susan Baker

Sadly because of on-going treatment Susan has decided that she is unable to take up her role as Canterbury Provincial President. She sends her greetings and thanks for all the lovely cards, prayers and wishes from individuals and branches.

\*\*\*\*\*

Planning is taking place in the Diocese to host clergy before the **Lambeth Conference**. There will be seven/eight visiting Bishops, some with spouses who are likely to be MU Diocesan Presidents and they will be with us from 16<sup>th</sup> until 21<sup>st</sup> July. I would like to hear from any branches or deaneries who might like to host a visit from any of our visitors. It is a wonderful opportunity to show just what is happening in our communities and hearing from them what is happening in theirs. Parts of some days are already booked up but there is flexibility on other days. I have also agreed to help organise tea in the Bishop's Garden for a Garden Party on the Sunday and (as you might expect) I am hoping a selection of home-made cakes will be offered by some members to showcase an English tea!

\*\*\*\*\*

## THURSDAY PRAYER

This photograph shows some of those who attended Thursday Prayer in December at Ely Cathedral. The half hour service each month has a different speaker often on a project or service concerned with the MU, either in this country or worldwide. This is replicated in Cambridge and St. Ives. Refreshments afterwards give everyone a chance to get together for a chat.

**20<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 10.30am Ely Cathedral

**27<sup>th</sup> Feb.** 10.30am Little St. Mary's  
Cambridge **and** 2.30pm All Saints Church  
St. Ives



### CONTACT DETAILS

MU@elydiocese.org

Ros home 01223 861846

Hazel home 01638 743897

Office 01353 652718

Charity no. 251394

roswright1@gmail.com

hwill66@icloud.com

If you have any items or special dates that you would like to be added to future Newsletters, please let me know by the last Wednesday of the month.



# MARCH 2020



**Twiddlemuffs** knitted by Mothers' Union members have found a good home via Future Care Solutions. They provide domiciliary care and personal support to enable each individual to live their lives as independently as possible. Their clients are able to enjoy using the Twiddlemuffs in their own homes. If anyone has spare or leftover wool we would be pleased to receive it. Collection can be arranged.

## LENT LUNCHES

**Ely Cathedral MU** – every Friday during Lent. At 12.10pm a simple Eucharist with a hymn and short reflection followed by Lent lunch at 1pm. Donations to AFIA.

**All Saints, Milton** – every Tuesday during Lent. At noon a stimulating talk followed by a simple lunch. 3/3 Right Revd Dr Dagmar Winter, 10/3 Dr Alistair Collen, 17/3 Terry Barringer, 24/3 Andrew Macpherson, 31/3 Revd Anne Aldridge, 7/4 Revd David Chamberlin.

## Fun: Family: Faith.

Activities for families in your church

This is produced every month by Ely MU and is suitable for those who have, or work with primary age children and includes stories, crafts and prayers. All Branches receive it and it can be found on the Ely Diocesan website.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

5<sup>th</sup> March Wisbech Strategy meeting.

13<sup>th</sup> March MU Trustees  
9.45am Board Room, Diocesan Office.

22<sup>nd</sup> March Mothering Sunday.

25<sup>th</sup> March Lady Day Services across the whole of the Diocese.

4<sup>th</sup> May Spring Festival 10am-1.30pm  
Chatteris Parish Church. Including AGM, talks on Gifts from the Heart and Safeguarding, Worship and Bring and Share lunch.

22<sup>nd</sup> May 'Thy Kingdom Come' at  
Coventry Cathedral

25<sup>th</sup>/26<sup>th</sup> Sept MU General Meeting in  
Belfast

**Discussions at All Saints Parish Church St. Ives Tuesday evenings at 7.30pm during Lent**

March 3<sup>rd</sup> Spirituality in War (Rev Steven Radley)

March 10<sup>th</sup> Spirituality in Politics (The Ven. Dr Alex Hughes)

March 17<sup>th</sup> Spirituality in Poetry (Rev Mark Oakley)

March 24<sup>th</sup> Spirituality in Sport (The Rt. Rev Dr Dagmar Winter)

March 31<sup>st</sup> Spirituality in Hymnody (Rev Ally Barrett)



Thank you to everyone for their good wishes on the birth of our first grandchild on February 6<sup>th</sup>. His name is Joshua and he arrived weighing 8lbs 1oz so it may be just as well he was two weeks early!

If you have anything to go into **Grapevine** please make sure it reaches Melanie by the 31<sup>st</sup> March at [mgsteen@icloud.com](mailto:mgsteen@icloud.com)  
A copy to myself and Debbie Tye would help us all check that nothing is missed out or duplicated.

\*\*\*\*\*

All Branches, in February, will have received an **MU Live questionnaire**. This needs to be returned to the diocesan office where we will collate the information and then send it on to Mary Sumner House. Please fill in (at least with any numbers you may have) and return by the 12<sup>th</sup> March.

Please get in touch with the office or Hazel if you would like to travel by coach to 'Thy Kingdom Come' at Coventry on 22<sup>nd</sup> May. The coach can pick up at different points along the A14 corridor. Tickets are not needed for the service but we do need to know if you are likely to need a coach seat. Cost will be no more than £25 for the return journey.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

MU@elydiocese.org

Ros home 01223 861846

Hazel home 01638 743897

Office 01353 652718

Charity no. 251394

roswright1@gmail.com

hwill66@icloud.com

**THURSDAY PRAYER**

**19<sup>th</sup> March.** 10.30am Ely Cathedral

**26<sup>th</sup> March.** 10.30am Little St. Mary's Cambridge and 2.30pm All Saints Church St. Ives



## NEWSLETTER

Charity no. 251394

I had no thought when I wrote the March Newsletter how much our lives would have changed in less than a month. Although I had great sympathy for those people in China who were suffering from a terrible virus, it did not impact greatly on my life although it was part of my prayers. It seemed like a long way away - but how wrong I was. With everyone in our country now in lock down; as well as much of the rest of the world; and so many people afraid and ill; now, more than ever, we need to draw on our faith to help us cope with this extraordinary situation. Mothers' Union members, as well as prayer, which underpins all we do, are good at helping others too. Many of us will also need to learn to accept help. If like me you are confined to your home because of age or medical conditions, using the telephone to ring others or using the internet can be a lifeline to those who may feel very alone. My great achievement this week has been to learn to talk to and see all my children on What's App using my phone. Although I will not be able to give baby Joshua a cuddle I will be able to see him develop and grow over the next three months.

**Hazel**

A poem from a member in All-Ireland

Remember my child, you are not alone  
for this is my home too.  
For since I chose you as my child  
I'll always be with you.

I'll watch the birds come feeding  
from your lovely window view  
and enjoy the time I spend  
Just sitting here with you.

I feel your pain and struggles  
for I have walked this way  
But I have promised you my child  
my strength for each new day.

And so my child, you're not alone  
For this is my home too.  
And when you need some comfort  
My arms will enfold you.



Sue Squires-Dutton was presented with her certificate for completing the course as a Parenting Group Facilitator. The photograph shows members of the Wisbech Strategy Group congratulating her on the achievement.

Sue is, alongside her present job, is soon to begin her 2 years of training in the LCOM (Local Contextual Ordination Ministry). Our prayers and thoughts will be with her during this time.



This tree tells a story. We planted it 5/6 years ago when it was barely half a metre tall and it stayed that way for a good 3 years. No amount of nurturing or watering seemed to make any difference. We thought it had not taken. Then it started to grow a little over the next year or so but disaster, when an easterly beast from the east caught it and set it back. But look at it now in all its glory. I call it 'mimosa' though it is not really – it is an acacia too but with spiny leaves rather than feathery mimosa ones which fold up.

Yesterday I felt uplifted by a wealth of hope. Bev on the radio before 8am, then Archbishop Justin with his messages of 'place' and 'hope', a streamed service from Ely Cathedral and the wonderfully uplifting members in Worthing on Songs of Praise.

All of these were united by this sense of 'place'; living our faith wherever we came from or are living now and 'hope'; from yesterday's Bible reading where Jesus passed on from the cross his ministry to his followers. We are reminded in these difficult times that by God's grace we are placed here for His purpose.



Whatever you have had to lay down because of the virus I pray that the slow growth and love of Christ will still be working in your place with your projects. Perhaps it is a time to let the roots slowly develop so that new shoots can grow. I am reminded of the text (Esther v 14) chosen by Trish Heywood (now Brown) ex WWP, "Who knows but that you have come to this place for such a time as this?"

As you can see, (wearing my gardening kit) I am doing much better on the kind of chemo I am now being given. But the road is still a long one as there is a cumulative effect of the side effects to face – I am about to have 3 of 11 this week. Thank you all for your prayers and good wishes which have supported and nurtured me on this difficult and unexpected journey.

May God bless you all.  
Susan Baker

\*\*\*\*\*

The refuges and hostels are unable to take any donations at the moment. If members or branches would like to help them during this difficult time, vouchers from Tesco or Argos would be very much appreciated.

Tesco vouchers enable the clients to purchase their own choice of fresh foods; the Argos vouchers are welcome when a family is being rehomed to provide essential (particularly electrical) items.

Other High Street vouchers welcome as well. Contact details can be found on the Autumn Wish List, or contact Jean [jmw35n@gmail.com](mailto:jmw35n@gmail.com) or Maureen [gmhaigh@talk21.com](mailto:gmhaigh@talk21.com)

Please remember in your prayers the 6 families who were due to have an AFIA holiday in April.

**For those who would like an activity while at home.**

**Easy hat pattern suitable for new-born babies**

Use Double Knitting wool and 4mm needles (old size 8) & a large eyed sewing needle. Figures in brackets are for the larger size.

Cast on 50 (60) stitches  
In K2 P2 rib work 28 (32) rows

Decrease row 1 – K2 together across row

Row 2 P2 tog  
(Row 3 K2 tog)

Cut yarn about 9" long, thread the yarn through the remaining stitches, and pull up, stitch securely, sew seam neatly.

We pass these hats to Hinchingsbrooke Hospital, they are always very grateful and appreciative of the quality of M U knitting.

**As you probably expect, all MU meetings at Diocesan and Branch level are cancelled until further notice. This also includes our AGM and Spring Festival on 4<sup>th</sup> May. We will circulate the annual report to branch leaders to pass on to members. We will also circulate with this newsletter FFF, MU Lady Day Service, Thursday Prayer and the first of a weekly opportunity to hear from Revd Mike Banyard, our Diocesan Chaplain and Canterbury Provincial Chaplain.**

**CONTACT DETAILS** Office 01353 652718  
MU@elydiocese.org  
Ros home 01223 861846      roswright1@gmail.com  
Hazel home 01638 743897      hwill66@icloud.com

## NEWSLETTER 2020



There will be no issue of Grapevine this Spring because of the coronavirus situation. Last week I sent out a copy of our MU Review for last year giving an overall picture of what has happened in the Ely Diocese. This is more detailed than the report which would have been in Grapevine. I will also include in the newsletter special anniversaries and birthdays that you tell me of as well as remembering members who are no longer with us.

I thought that this lovely photograph from Sarah Bradbury in Wisbech would help us to remember that in our natural surroundings most of life is continuing as normal. It is our own lives that have changed.

**With each unfolding seed, with every Spring,  
He breathes the rumour of his resurrection,  
as birdsong calls your hidden heart to sing.  
So may this season be his benediction,  
to lift your love, and bid your prayer take wing,  
to thaw your frozen hope, to warm your mind,  
for Spring has come! Can Heaven be far behind?**

**Malcolm Guite**

***Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

In this time of isolation, we are all missing our usual support and enduring a time of grief for all that we had and so I send you my love and prayers through this written word. I pray that new beginnings and an appreciation of God's purpose through the people we are able to be virtually in contact with, will spring forth from this time of enforced reflection.

We are so thankful for our home and the beautiful weather which has brought the warmth of God's love with the sunshine into our hearts. For me on my chemo journey I would be at home anyway but I realise how difficult it must be for those who live on their own and for those amongst us who are vulnerable.

I am almost half way on my 6 months chemo journey and the lesson I am learning is to take each day as it comes. Some days for me are better than others but there is always something to be thankful for and to enjoy. I do try to get out into the greenhouse or garden every day to enjoy the beauty and minutiae of God's world. I am marvelling at every seed that grows.

I thank God for you all and for our beloved members of MU across the Dioceses, Province and the world. May God's seeds grow in your communities. I send you all my blessings

Susan Baker

Whether we are alone or with others our prayer life is particularly important in these challenging times .As MU members it helps us to know that we can share the daily prayer focus in Families Worldwide, mid-day prayers and our Diocesan monthly prayer leaflet

Let us also develop and strengthen our prayer lives by using the materials we have at hand, perhaps on our bookshelves, eg our Bible, bible notes, books of prayers and, if you have a computer, suitable websites. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Have courage and be of good cheer. God blessings on you all.

Helen Banyard

*O God help us to trust you,  
help us to know that you are with us,  
help us believe  
that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



## Communications

Keep in touch with news by visiting the MU Ely Diocese Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/> and also looking at the resources on our page on the Ely Diocesan website: [www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/](http://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/)

During these difficult and uncertain times, our MU membership can stay connected by joining in with **Midday Prayers** and following many of the helpful resources available from the MU Website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources-support-us-challenging-times>

Midday Prayers are said **LIVE** at 12noon via the MU Facebook page and are joined in by members all over the country and from places around the world: <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion/>

“Thy Kingdom Come” Global Prayer Movement runs from Ascension Day, Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup>, to Pentecost, Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>: (<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>). On the MU website there are special Midday Prayers during this period: <https://www.mothersunion.org/what-we-do/faith-and-prayer/midday-prayers-wave-prayer>

I hope you are all continuing to keep well and in good spirits during these ongoing difficult and uncertain times, which is proving to be challenging for so many.

Debbie Tye

*My heart is filled with thankfulness, to him who walks beside;  
Who floods my weaknesses with strength, and causes fear to fly;  
Whose every promise is enough, for every step I take;  
Sustaining me with arms of love, and crowning me with grace.  
(Townend/Getty)*



CONTACT DETAILS	Charity no. 251394
Ros home	01223 861846
<a href="mailto:roswright1@gmail.com">roswright1@gmail.com</a>	
Hazel home	01638 743897
<a href="mailto:hwill66@icloud.com">hwill66@icloud.com</a>	

FFF for children in your church or family, a reflection from Revd Michael Banyard and information about sewing scrubs and bags for NHS and carers is also included.



## Support for the Refuges and Hostels

Like all charities, the refuges and hostels are suffering at this time. This is because they are unable to accept donations at the moment.

I had this message recently from one of the refuges.

*" 2 women have had problems with their phones and it is great just being able to sort them out with some of the gift vouchers, to get a new basic phone, or credit, so they can continue to be able to communicate during these difficult times.*

*It's so kind of you (M U members) to continue to support the women we work with."*

If you are taking advantage of this time to have a sort out, please remember that items will be desperately needed when this is all over, as there will be many ready to be rehomed. I hope you can find space to keep these items for the time-being, but it would be very helpful if you could let me know what you have, so that we can match items where most needed.

Jean Webb

\*\*\*\*\*



**Joyce Rank**, indoor member of the Anglesey Group sadly passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> April aged 98. Joyce had been a member of MU for an amazing 72 years!

Her enrolment took place at the Bottisham branch in 1948. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Ruth Blincoe, she became enrolling member for many years. Joyce was a very active lady, especially with her knitting for many MU projects, and a well-known figure in her role as Red Cross volunteer at local functions. At the time Joyce was presented with her 70 year membership certificate, in January 2018, she was still knitting blanket squares for MU. Her certificate was framed immediately and always on display thereafter in her home and later in her care home room. Her friends and fellow members will miss her, but rejoice to have known such a remarkable lady. Rest in Peace Joyce.

Thank you for the messages of congratulation on the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. The intended destination of our honeymoon hotel on the Isle of Arran will have to be next year!  
Hazel & Alan Williams

## In Loving Memory

**Joan Glover** from Wimblington died on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019, aged 86 years. One of our Diocesan Members, she had been a MU member for over 60 years, both in Derby and for the last 35 years in Ely. As well as being a speaker for a number of years she was also a Vice President for 6 years. She is greatly missed.

**Irene Howarth** and **Pauline Rogers**, both from the Burwell branch, have recently passed away. Although ill-health had prevented their attendance at meetings in recent times they remained passionate supporters of the work of the Mothers' Union.



*Bob and Win on their wedding day and 70 years later in their garden*

Our best wishes go to **Bob and Win Jamieson** who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 1st April but of course were unable to have any visitors. Having moved to St. Neots 5 years ago to be nearer their family they immediately joined the parish church and both continued with their membership of the MU. Bob has written a few words for us:

Win and I were both born in London and met through mutual friends at a wedding in 1947; I met Bert whilst in the RAF and Mum lived next door to Bert's sister.

We married on 1st April at Stratford Church and a few years later we had our only daughter, Marian.

I worked for the same transport company in London for 50 years whilst Win brought up our daughter before doing some part work in a number of wages and accounts department in Rayleigh and then Bromley.

We spent many happy years in Shortlands, Bromley and moved to Eastbourne in 1993 and finally to St Neots in 2015 to be closer to our daughter.

Win and I shared a great passion for music and we also loved to dance, I remember her brother going home the night we met telling her Mum and Dad that Winnie had danced with the same man "all night"!

It was through the various dancing schools that we met so many of our friends and shared so many magical moments with them; we managed to keep dancing until we well into our 70's which I think has stood us both in good stead both mentally and physically.

So many people ask how we have lasted so long.....well its simple - a true love, friendship, trust and a willingness to support each other throughout everything that life throws at you



**Knitting and crochet.** Many wards that are isolating patients are asking for pairs of knitted or crochet hearts, about 6.5 cm across, one is given to the patient to keep while the other is sent to their loved one. Hearts are also requested by other wards and care homes where patients are isolated. If you are participating, let us know, we would love to know of your experiences.

**Jean Webb** 01353658581 Jmw35n@gmail.com



# JUNE NEWSLETTER 2020



## BEAUTIFUL ROSES

Many of you will have lovely roses in your garden, but I thought you might like to see two of mine as they have MU connections.

I bought the purple and yellow one at Wisbech Rose Fair last year because I found it so unusual. It is called Abracadabra and 2019 was, I believe, its first year on sale, having just been developed. It followed a visit to the lovely flower festival in the church and a superb afternoon tea served by Mothers' Union members.

The yellow rose, called Golden Celebration, was given to Alan and myself by the MU trustees at our last meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, when life was much more normal than in recent months. It was a gift for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and I am so delighted it is flowering as those who know me well know gardening is not my forte. Hazel



Congratulations to members at St Mary's Ely Branch.

For Anne-Marie & Philip Burfield who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> April; and to Bertha Rowell who is 80 years old on 9<sup>th</sup> June. We send them all good wishes for these special occasions.

\*\*\*\*\*

The Mothers' Union has been providing support for families since 1876. Since then we have grown to have a global membership providing both spiritual and practical outreach to all. At this time we remember and pray for those who are going through times of stress and hardship and that love and respect may be central to all relationships.

I wish to share with you this prayer which was used in a recent Episcopalian Church service in America.

## A Prayer For The Time In Which We Live

Gracious and merciful God: It is a challenging time for us, your people. Some of us are afraid: afraid of becoming ill, afraid of losing our jobs, afraid we will not be able to feed our families or pay our bills. Others of us are angry at what we view as inconvenience to, and disruption of, our schedules. We are uncomfortable with uncertainty and impatient with what is happening around us. We pray for your continued presence and peace. Embrace those who are ill with your healing power. Envelope those who are dying in your living arms and lead them to eternal life. For you are our guide and our grounding, this day and always. Amen

God bless- Helen Banyard  
(Praying Our Faith Unit Co-ordinator)



Can it really be five years since Jo did her sponsored cycle ride around the whole of the Cambridge Archdeaconry? If you would like to sponsor her this time for her 10 miles a day please send a cheque to Hazel (made out to Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union) or pay direct into our Lloyds bank account (sort code 30-94-47 Account No. 01036836)

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

*Dear Hazel and all Trustees and members in the Mothers' Union Diocese of Ely, Thank you for your most generous donation of £40,000 and for the continuing excellent work of your members, especially during such challenging times. Through all the uncertainties that come with the coronavirus pandemic, one thing that remains constant and gives us immense hope is members' continuing work both here and around the world. Your donation will make a substantial contribution towards enabling the central charity to continue to support members to continue both in work and prayerful fellowship. With your contribution, we are better able to protect the heart of our movement and ensure that we can continue to support members such as yours who, as volunteers, are helping those in need during the coronavirus pandemic and importantly also beyond, as they rebuild their lives, livelihoods and relationships with others. Thank you so much for choosing to release funds to support the central charity of Mothers' Union at this most challenging time.*

*Yours in Christ*

*Bev Jullien, CEO*

From Jo Wibberley, Cambridge Archdeaconry Vice-President

*I hope you are all well and perhaps enjoying a daily walk and even taking advantage of the slightly more relaxed lockdown rules.*

*I have been interested to read about various walks that people are doing and as I cannot do the same I have been looking forward to getting back on my bike. After much trial and error, I am now up and running, or cycling in this case, in our small garden. From our varied selection of pieces of wood, assorted nails and some wood glue I bought online I got some ideas from YouTube and constructed a frame to support the back wheel. It is not a thing of beauty but the main thing is that it works and is stable. I am now enjoying a daily bike ride or two in our little garden (or today the garden room as it was rather too windy), so far lasting only 15 minutes but I hope to build it up. It has opened up a different world, looking over the fence to the trees beyond to watch the bird activity or nearer to watch a bee fly around a group of yellow poppies. Another thing ticked off my "to do" list and a great sense of achievement."*

*Also on my "to do" list is compiling the cycle diary, from the Archdeaconry cycle ride I did a few years ago, into a book. It occurred to me that I could put the two together and replicate the ride I did then with my static bike, cycling the equivalent of up to 10 miles a day for sponsorship in aid of the MSH general fund. It would be accompanied by a daily Facebook/twitter/blog saying which ride I was replicating.*

*Now for my daily bike ride - in the garden room again today as the wind is so strong it lifted our sunshade into our neighbours' garden!*

*Jo will be starting on 1<sup>st</sup> June and hopes to complete her 700 miles by September. She and her husband will remain isolated for a great deal of that time so at the end she will certainly be fitter and hopefully many will have contributed towards her efforts for the MU.*

**Susan Baker** has not been well, with side effects over two past two weeks and as she says, *"I have had to dig deep in our Lord's love. The doctor has reduced the dosage of the chemo so I pray that this will work"*. This is her reflection and photograph –

*You know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. John 14 v 17*

It is such a comfort and a blessing to read these words in the Gospel of John and resonates with the Isaiah verse, *'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.'* which has been so important to me during my illness.

In this time of isolation, we have all been thrown on our own resources; for some of us only seeing close family members or indeed no-one at all, many hours without the normal routines, babies born that we cannot cuddle and new ways of living our lives. It has been a time of reflection and for re-discovering who we truly are.

I got out my sewing machine to make a keep-sake for my niece's birthday and my nurse asked me whether I made my own clothes. It reminded me of skills I had forgotten about, many hours in my young adulthood making my own clothes and my wedding dress, skills overtaken in later years by family and my great love, teaching. I unpacked the ottoman and found a piece of satin from my mother's wedding dress in 1937 which I appliqued onto this 'dolly bag' for my niece. A memory of her grandmother.

So, despite the Coronavirus new discoveries are there to be uncovered. My prayer for you all is that you will use this time of quiet to rediscover your inner self and hidden talents and that from these seeds a new world will grow in our local communities. God Bless Susan

My hope is built (Cornerstone)  
Christ alone,  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.  
Through the storm  
He is lord  
Lord of all.



#### NEWS FROM ST. NEOTS BRANCH

One of our former members, now an indoor member, JOAN TURNER, turned 90 on 7th May. I understand she received a birthday card from MU.

We are sad to say we lost one of our branch members in December. HELENA YOUNG died on 3rd December, aged 95.

#### NEWS FROM YAXLEY BRANCH

ANGELA EDWARDS. Passed away 15th December 2019. Angela was a member of St Peter's MU for many years, the last 10 as treasurer. Angela was always a willing helper at our meetings and events.

#### CONTACT DETAILS

Ros home

[roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)

Hazel home

[hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

66, Mill Lane, Burwell, Cambs. CB25 0HJ

To keep in touch with Jo's cycle ride and lots of other up to date information join our Facebook on

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

Charity no. 251394

01223 861846

01638 743897

**A reflection for Pentecost from our Diocesan Chaplain, Rev Mike Banyard.**

**Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth..'** *Acts of the Apostles 1: 8*

+

Waiting. Waiting. I am not sure about you, but I really don't like waiting. In shops, for the internet to power up, for buses, for trains, for that letter I know was sent a few days ago. The list could be, and often is, endless. Waiting for normality to be restored is what some have been waiting for in these strange times. And to be able to go where we want, for restrictions on our freedoms to be ended, for the virus to go, and for what we used to call normal, to return. To be able to join others in church, and to be able to worship together, rather than over the internet if you happen to have it. And for so many this is not possible, for the rapid changes in technology, leave some of us very bewildered and unable to cope with it, so cutting us off from so much that is good.

Well, it is not going to happen just like that, is it? Though there are some significant changes to our current lockdown due at the start of June, for many of our members they will still be indoors or, if they have one, in their gardens.

Well, I think those first disciples experienced something of all this. Immediately after Good Friday, they would meet behind closed doors out of fear of the consequences. Then they returned to their homes, and some even went back to their work. Peter and some others went fishing. They all met with the risen Lord, and experienced that thrill of those who met Jesus then, and who meet Jesus today. Cleopas and his friend on the road to Emmaus, Thomas finally coming to belief and the others too. They seemed all to be in Jerusalem for the Ascension some weeks later, though after that they were told to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, which of course happened at Pentecost, and witnessed anew beginning of their new transformed lives. And that is the time we are now in. Waiting for the Spirit on Sunday on the Day of Pentecost. So waiting can be fruitful. It can help us to reflect on our relationship with the living Lord, his Son Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit among us all.

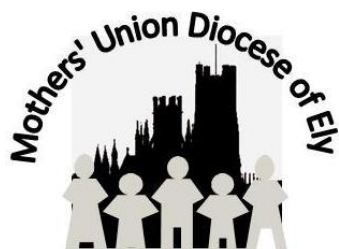
Please continue to be assured of our prayers here in Ely for all the MU in the Province and around the world, in whatever difficulties you are facing in your own places. Keep encouraging so many others with our fantastic work and ministries. I am delighted to keep hearing of the transformational work members of the MU are doing, often quietly and unobtrusively in your own communities. Above all your prayers are centrally important.

God bless. Mike

*The Rev'd Michael G Banyard: Provincial MU Chaplain*

**Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**God bless. Christ is Risen: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**



# JULY 2020

# NEWSLETTER



Congratulations to Jean Webb, MU Faith in Action Task Group Co-ordinator who was nominated during Volunteers Week for all the volunteering she does. She received this gift of flowers from Bust Bee Recruitment.

## News from Shyogwe

*Hello dear friends? My name is Rev Pastor MUKAWERA Claudine. I'm new Mothers Union Worker in EAR Shyogwe Diocese! I'm very pleasure to see your address! Here the M.U activities are brocken by Covid - 19. Some members are not get food, because of no movement, no comminucation. But we stay in peace of Jesus. We continue to Pray for you, and you continue to pray for us. God bless Rev Pastor Claudine*

**The Photographic Competition launched last month is still running until the end of July. Details with last month's newsletter. Send photos of anything happening during lockdown to Debbie Tye by post or to [muelydiocese@hotmail.com](mailto:muelydiocese@hotmail.com)**

## A Prayer for this time of the coronavirus pandemic

Most merciful God,  
We come to You in our weakness.  
We come to You in our fear.  
We come to You with trust.  
For You alone are our hope.

We place before You the disease present in our world.  
We turn to You in our time of need.  
Bring wisdom to doctors.  
Give understanding to scientists.  
Endow care givers with compassion and generosity.  
Bring healing to those who are ill.  
Protect those who are most at risk.  
Give comfort to those who have lost a loved one.  
Welcome those who have died into Your Eternal Home.

Strengthen our communities.  
Unite us in your compassion.  
Remove all fear from our hearts.  
Fill us with confidence in your loving care.

Lord Jesus we trust in you.  
Amen

### CONTACT DETAILS

Ros home 01223 861846 [roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)  
Hazel home 01638 743897 [hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

To keep in touch with Jo's cycle ride and lots of other up to date information join our Facebook on

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

[www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/](http://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/)

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)



## NEWS FROM BALSHAM MU BRANCH, GRANTA DEANERY

We are all missing the fellowship of our monthly meetings but we try and stay in touch with each other and send greetings to all Ely MU members and we thank Ros and Hazel for keeping us in touch with the Diocesan MU. Most of us are 80++ and many of us live alone.

However on a personal note, I have weeded round the base of Balsham Church which is VERY large and for colder days five of us (3 are MU members) are knitting squares to make into blankets.

We have already sent off around 8 direct

to Christian Hope International, where Maureen Haigh takes items knitted by Ely MU members and have another four to deliver to her. Balsham Branch have been able to send a donation of £75 to the MSH appeal for one million pounds. Ely Diocesan MU have made a very generous donation.

As Co-ordinator I am sending birthday cards to IMPC members and sent them an Easter Card and letter and Hazel will write to them in August. There are now only 22 members and many are in their 90s. Some of the members have sent me cards, telephoned or sent an ecard - it is lovely to be in touch with them.

Joanna Sanders



Reflection from Susan Baker

June 23<sup>rd</sup>

I have been reflecting on last Sunday's Matthew reading and was especially moved by, 'And even the very hairs on your head are numbered'. *Matthew 10 v 30*. It feels as though our lives have been changed beyond recognition in this global pandemic and all of our support systems and everyday relationships removed from us. Perhaps it is easier for me as I guess I would be here anyway with my on-going treatment. But there is so much comfort to be had from God's love for each one of us; each with our individual and numerous hairs; minutely known to God.

I am getting on OK, though with side effects so the consultant has again reduced the dosage of the chemo. So, I am getting excellent care and only 4 more chemos to go so getting there. I am spending time for a short spell am and pm in the garden and yesterday and today picked a pound of raspberries and enough mange tout for a meal. Fruits of my labours and the greenhouse – perhaps God needs some acknowledgement too! After all He sent the rain just when we needed it.

I am onto a new sewing project. My mother piped and made tapestry cushions; something I have never tried. So head in the sewing box again and found two tapestries from an earlier project waiting to be made into cushions and possibly just enough upholstery fabric too. So, I am learning piping and will attempt, in due course, going round the square corners which could be tricky!

I hope that you are all keeping busy and enjoying all the wonderful on-line MU resources. I really miss our meetings but am supported so well by all your good wishes and prayers. I send you my blessings and hope to see you all again soon.

Blessings

Susan



**From Helen Banyard, Praying our Faith Task Group Co-ordinator**

During the grip of lockdown most of us have had extra unplanned time on our hands. We have seen or heard of an amazing variety of ways with which this time has been used. As Christians prayer and faith are central to our response to this global crisis and our organisation would like to collect our prayers together. These would contribute to a Prayer Book to be published in 2021 that aims to reflect on the Covid -19 virus. MSH have asked us to send our prayers to them. There are two possible ways to do this but either way please send it with your name and the branch and diocese to which you belong. Either post your prayers for free to FREEPOST MOTHERS UNION. There is no need for a stamp or any other details on the envelope or email to [marketing@mothersunion.org](mailto:marketing@mothersunion.org)

Recently I enjoyed a lighter view of these challenging times with two 'lockdown psalms' written by Prof. Catherine Clarke. She has written of some of her trials and joys and they were printed in the Church Times. I would like to share some verses with you.

*I am weary of Zoom, my throat is dry:  
It melteth away like wax as my broadband vanisheth.  
Yet they gape upon me with their mouths and say:  
Thy toddler sitteth lurking in the corner of the screen  
And look he imagineth mischief.  
And thou, oh daughter of lockdown:  
Thou shalt do thy phonics in exile.  
Also thy literacy and numeracy work and thy comprehension:  
Yea verily, seventy fronted adverbials.  
They have sprayed markers for my feet:  
They have set a place for me on the pavement outside Tesco's Metro.  
The unrighteous forget their social distancing:  
I swerve from their transgressions.*

And remembering that there are cheerful psalms too –  
*Clap your hands, all ye neighbours; clap in the front gardens and on the doorsteps.  
Make a thankful noise, for it is Thursday: clap our hands and bang the pots;  
Bang the mighty pan from the stove, the frying pan from the draining board, and the little pan from under the sink.  
Rejoice, for thou hast booked a delivery: a weekly slot even into the end of June.  
Surely plenteousness shall be in thy house: goodness shall follow thee, at a two metre distance, all the days of thy life.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**News from Liz Elson, St. Neots Branch leader**

Very sadly, Win Jamieson died on Monday, 18th May after a short illness, aged 95. She and Bob had only celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary about six weeks earlier, as reported in the May issue of the newsletter. She had become very frail, and was admitted to hospital with pneumonia about ten days before she died. Her funeral was held at Bedford crematorium on 10th June. Two of our MU members were able to attend.

\*\*\*\*\*

**From Debbie Tye, Communications Task Group Co-ordinator**

For those people not on Facebook, MU Live Midday Prayers will now be available to watch on the MU YouTube Channel shortly afterwards on the same day:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/MothersUnion/videos>

There are also lots of other good MU videos to watch on there as well.

.....  
**From Jo Wibberley, Cambridge Archdeaconry Vice-President**

**Virtual sponsored cycle ride**



The ride is going well and as the weather is more reliably dry this week I am back out in the garden. The before breakfast ride is lovely with the morning freshness and a variety of bird song, though my knowledge of which birds they are is limited to the obvious. It is also an opportunity to look at smaller objects, the fluttering of a feather caught on the edge of a cobweb, an ant scurrying around, hover flies darting from flower to

flower and a bee investigating a foxglove, as well as the changing floral scene. In the first week it was foxgloves and poppies catching my eye directly in front of me, now in my fourth week it is phlox, honeysuckle and cranesbill.

I am keeping up my target of 75 miles a week. At the time of writing I have covered 250 out of the proposed 700 miles, the virtual journey I am doing to replicate the one I did a few years ago, which has so far taken me around the whole of Fordham & Quy deanery and most of North Stowe deanery. This week I am on my first Shingay deanery ride from Bassingbourn to Litlington, Steeple Morden, Guilden Morden, Abington Piggots, Melbourn, Fowlmere, Thriplow, Foxton, and on to Newton, Harston and Hauxton in Granta deanery before reaching home. As I ride, I recall the events I attended, the churches I visited and the lovely people I met including the hospitable MU member in Melbourn who kindly gave me lunch. On that occasion my ride was to raise awareness of the work of the Mothers' Union. This time I am doing it as a sponsored ride in aid of the central Mothers' Union who have been badly impacted financially by the corona virus, so any support you can give me will be much appreciated and beneficial to those it will go to help.

Online: <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001eg40iAAA> or Hazel Williams, 66 Mill Lane, Burwell, Cambridge CB25 0HJ, cheques made payable to Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union.

## Jean Webb, Faith In Action Task Group Co-ordinator

The Refuges and Hostels are just rehoming people now that full lockdown has ended, much of the stock we were storing has been gratefully received. Maureen and I will continue to be pleased to accept any contributions we can pass on, as will Liz (for Mid Cambs) and Pat (for Fenland) refuges.

I know many people have been involved with scrubs making and associated PPE items. If you have – thank you from all of us. I know items are still needed, but without the desperate need previously.

We have a new SEWING PROJECT which has come to light because of the Covid Crisis. Some families have received their relatives belongings in carrier or black bin bags. It has been bad enough for them not being able to visit, so this must have added greatly to their distress.

We have been asked if we could make TOTE BAGS with accompanying pouches (for jewellery, watches etc). It seems that even in "normal times" it is not unusual for a patient to die without family nearby, and no bag in their locker. So this could be an on-going project. Details are overleaf with this newsletter for branches to share around.

Do feel free to contact me if you have any queries; I have made 3 so far, and getting quicker with each one.

Jean Webb

Faith in Action Coordinator



A picture from Audrey Kirk showing some of the knitted bands made by members to help make the masks that have to be worn more comfortable, so that they do not pull on wearer's ears.

A TOTE BAG made by a member and including the small pouches required. Details overleaf.

**Thank you so much for offering to make one of the Bereavement Bags for Addenbrookes.**

PALS – the Patient Advice and Liaison Service have asked us if we could make these bags as it has been realized that some patient's belongings are being returned to their families in carrier or bin bags. This situation has been recognized because of the stringent regulations in the hospital at present, however, apparently there are always some patients belongings put in bags when families aren't present, so this could be an ongoing project.

The details I received are -

***Bags and pouches, to return items home to bereaved families.***

***Requested Bags are tote sized (50-60 cm square), with handles and ideally with a gusset.***

***The handles can be about 35 - 40 cm, for a hand held bag, could be longer if you want to make one that can go over a shoulder. and could be tape or material.***

***No lining required.***

***The pouches are small, designed to enclose items such as jewellery, so require a means of closing. A drawstring would be fine. 1 or 2 with each tote bag. 18cm-20cm x 15 cm approx.***

***The tote bags and pouches should be made from the same or toning fabric.***

***Both items should be made from bereavement appropriate fabrics, plain or small/simple pattern.***

***No labels or messages please.***

We will not be attaching M U name tapes as we do in many of our handmade items, but will include a card in each batch which is sent to the hospital.

I have been offered some material, so if you need some please let me know.

I wonder if there is another name rather than "bereavement" – any suggestions?

Joan from Little Downham has trialled making 2 and will let me have the pattern, but feel free to follow your own if you are able.

Please see this as a trial make, we will then feedback any alterations that PALS require. Happy sewing, and thank you, I look forward to seeing the finished bags!





# *August Newsletter*

## *MARY SUMNER DAY – August 9<sup>th</sup>*

**All this day O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives as  
possible for thee;  
and every life I touch, do thou by  
thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live. Amen.**



Mary Sumner wrote this prayer in 1876, which was, and is, much loved and popular with members. The language is that of the Victorian era which links us with our founder and all MU members, who, over the intervening years, have prayed using her words.

Our Mothers' Union branches are all very individual, as unique as those who comprise its membership. Our monthly diocesan newsletter shows we are all adapting to the arrival of the Covid 19 virus in a wide variety of ways, as we adjust our lives to the 'new normal.'

August is traditionally a 'holiday' month so some branches leave it blank in their programmes, while others continue to meet for those who remain at home. This is also the month during which our organisation celebrates and remembers our founder, Mary Sumner, often with a service and/or a social gathering.

This year it is obviously going to be different. Leaders and committees have options offered by Mary Sumner House (**see overleaf**) or may use 'home grown' material to bring members together on or near August 9. However we celebrate, the Mary Sumner Prayer is sure to be an integral part of the occasion. If you are

unable to Zoom or take part in a service may I suggest that you use the prayer as a focus for your own silent meditation. If you are unable to meet with others physically, set a time with friends, so you can share this special time together in thought and prayer.

Together we ask God that in 2020 we may continue to live our lives as Christian disciples in whatever situation we may find ourselves today.

God bless - Helen Banyard (Praying our Faith Co-Ordinator)

\*\*\*\*\*

This year, Mary Sumner Day falls on a Sunday and in the midst of a global pandemic, so we understand that the day may look very different for our members. A pack of resources has been produced for those of you who want to celebrate and acknowledge the day this year. There are several ideas allowing flexibility for whichever suggestion you wish to choose or follow <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources>

As Mary Sumner Day is on a Sunday there will be two online services – one in early morning and one in the evening – so you are still able to attend your local Parish Service should you want to.

We are delighted that the following services will be taking place online and will be available on both the MU Facebook Page (<https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion>) and the You Tube Channel (<https://www.youtube.com/user/MothersUnion/videos>)

Mary Sumner Day Morning Prayer – 8.30am (BST). Mary Sumner Evening Compline – 9pm (BST).

Service sheets for both events will be available on the MU website.

**If you would like hard copies of the service sheet or resources pack please contact Debbie Tye on 01353 666883 or [dmtypost@hotmail.com](mailto:dmtypost@hotmail.com)**

#### **MEMBER RESOURCES & NEWSLETTER.**

Have you signed up to the Central Mothers' Union Newsletter and Website?

If you haven't already signed up and registered on the Mothers' Union website, please could you look at the info by following this link: <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources/member-resources>

Please do read what it says, as this page brings together information and resources which should be particularly useful to you as a Member of MU, and will help to ensure that the records for contacting you are correct.

To keep right up to date with all that is happening in MU, make sure you have signed up to the **FREE MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER** under "preferences" on the bottom of the "Edit My Account" page in the "My account" section. Use this page to ensure that the information about you on the central Mothers' Union directory is accurate and up-to-date. You can check and update your name, address and contact preferences. You can also see your membership details.

Click on the "My Account" tab at the top of the website.

Or follow this link: <https://www.mothersunion.org/user> and log in.

(There is also a useful video to help you get started or if you are having problems accessing your account.)

**If you haven't yet created an account please follow this link:**

<https://www.mothersunion.org/my-account/membership-authentication>

If you need help with signing up, please contact Debbie Tye, Communications Task Group Co-ordinator (01353 666883).

\*\*\*\*\*

The national Mothers' Union is holding some webinars based around a number of themes including digital media, fundraising and capturing and reporting on the difference we make. They will offer members the opportunity to find out more information and upskill themselves in the subject field. Please go to <https://www.mothersunion.org/mothers-union-member-webinars> 100 places available per webinar.

Thank you to all who responded so quickly to my appeal for bags. We have now sent in 93 beautifully made **Belongings Bags**, with small pouches for watches, jewellery etc. The immediate rush is now over and Addenbrookes have sufficient for the time being. We are gathering a stockpile ready for the next request, so if you have been busy making I will be happy to receive them. I will let you know when more are required.



Do you crochet? Several people have been knitting squares, and putting together into cot blankets. The finished product would be enhanced with a crochet edging. Any volunteers please?

We have a new project to support. **Ely Baby Bank** will be holding items for babies. They are accepting pushchairs, cots, highchairs etc. as well as all clothing for under-ones.

Mid-Cambs Refuge have been very busy, and are running short of some basic items, especially washing powder/capsules (in small sizes), washing up bowls and contents, and children's toothbrushes. Liz Elson is our local rep (01480 211726) or Maureen and I can pass on.

Our AFIA rep, Di Sabel, has been busy rebooking holiday breaks for the families who were booked to go at Easter. We hope that all will be well for an October half-term break for them. Please remember them in your prayers.

Jean Webb Coordinator

Maureen Haigh Local Projects

[Jmw35n@gmail.com](mailto:Jmw35n@gmail.com) 01353 658581

[gmhaigh@talk21.com](mailto:gmhaigh@talk21.com) 01353 749760

### Granchester Branch

Helen King, aged 92, a former branch leader of Grantchester branch who succeeded Diana Goodhart, died in July. Sadly she had to give up six years ago when a stroke badly affected her memory. Her memorial service will be held on 1<sup>st</sup> August

### WISBECH BRANCH

Our congratulations go to **Margaret Bailey** who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 9<sup>th</sup>. She has also been a Mothers' Union member for 60 years and has received a long service certificate.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Charity no. 251394

Ros home 01223 861846 [roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)

Hazel home 01638 743897 [hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

[www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/](http://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/)

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

To keep in touch with Jo's cycle ride and lots of other up to date information join our Facebook on <https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/>

## Jo's Garden Cycle Ride

Now at the end of July I am nearing the end of my ride. I moved into the garden room when the weather was changeable, looking out through the tomato plants and have been outside when the weather permitted, enjoying the colours of the bedding plants we have grown from tiny seedlings bought just before the lockdown started.

In the last newsletter I was recalling the first Shingay deanery ride. The second one was more adventurous, mostly done in the rain. The first set back was when I was advised to take the longer route from Wimpole to Arrington which made me late but nevertheless the churchwarden was there to greet me as also at the next church of Croydon. When I finally arrived very late and drenched at the indoors Teddy Bears Picnic at



Wendy I received a very warm welcome from Pauline and the Shingay deanery branch members. The route from Wendy to Whaddon was rather worrying, or foolhardy! On reaching Ermine Street I wanted to get off it as quickly as possible because of the speeding traffic in the rain and no cycleway. I turned off to what I thought was Harcamlow Way as it was signed 'bridle path to Whaddon'. I could have missed the turning in a farmyard as the route ahead was a bumpy track which I cycled along until it ended in a barn. I could see a path in the grass alongside a wheat field but first had to cross a narrow wooden plank over a ditch. Inching my way across, I wheeled my bike along the path although I had to walk in the longer grass and soon my trainers were squelching with water. Fortunately at the

end of the field I found a farm track and was able to get back on my bike to Whaddon but oh dear! - a padlocked gate greeted me before I could reach the road. However, to my relief I found a footpath behind bushes which led me on to the road and thus to the church. On to Meldreth and then Harllton but my track route between Barrington and Harllton proved challenging being grassy uphill and small slippery stones downhill. By this time I was an hour late at Harllton but received a warm welcome and a hot drink from Molly, a diocesan member who then not only followed me to Haslingfield, my last church of that day, to make sure I was OK but then offered me a lift home suggesting I left my bike at her house. I was so wet that I decided to just keep going. That was a 44 mile ride.



As I dislike busy roads where there is no proper cycle track, this has led me to try other alternatives as seen above. On another occasion when going to Linton, I thought I would try the Roman Road. I know the section at Wandlebury which is reasonable but the track soon deteriorated so that it became rutted and following the tyre tracks of previous cyclists, it was so worn that my pedals touched the ground. So that was another occasion when I had to get off and walk when necessary, putting me behind schedule at the start of the day.

I have also been recalling the two rides in the Bourn deanery. The first stop on the first ride was Lolworth but the route on to Boxworth included some rural paths unsuitable for my Granny bike, so I enjoyed an easier ride to Swavesey where I attended a coffee morning and met the Vicar. He gave me the keys to Fen Drayton church and arranged to meet me at Connington. My route to Fen Drayton took me alongside the guided busway but unfortunately both my OS map and Google maps didn't show the guided bus route so I turned off too soon and the road surface soon became slippery with small stones - caution. This meant a longer detour than planned which put me behind time (sadly a familiar story) so I had a quick visit to Fen Drayton church before meeting the Vicar at Connington. I was relieved to hear the organ playing so he was putting



his time to good use. On to Knapwell and Eltisley, at both places having to ask where the church was, then Papworth Everard when I was thankful that once again my bike had enough gears to get me up the hills. Here I attended the Rendezvous group at the primary school, a week of activities for older people held in August and organised by the group of churches. Although late, I was given a welcome lunch on arrival. When I left I skirted the village to visit the parish church and then on to Papworth St. Agnes which is now seldom used, Graveley, Toseland and Yelling where a flower festival was advertised for the following weekend. What a pity. Now it was decision time. Should I go five miles to St. Neots via the A428 and get the X5 bus back to Cambridge, hoping to get the bike in the luggage compartment, or try the 12 mile cycle route parallel to the A428 back to Cambridge. I chose the latter, feeling that I had enough energy. However, I soon became concerned that I had had nowhere to replenish my water bottle since lunch and I had finished the last drop at Yelling. Going on the ring road around Papworth Everard and disliking the busy road from Papworth to the A428, I stopped at the Chinese hotel and restaurant to ask at the bar if he would fill my water bottle. Not only did he do this but he gave me another bottle of water as well for which I was very grateful. As I approached the A428 I was relieved to find the start of the cycle track. It was a very good one until it filtered into the road from Elsworth where it soon became the old Cambridge to Bedford road. After the Cambourne roundabout it got rather busy as it was now rush hour, so I was pleased when the route took me over the A428 to Hardwick and I was able to continue on a quieter, more pleasant route to the Madingley road with a cycle track though it was a bit awkward negotiating the pedestrian bollards around the dreaded road works. This was my longest ride at 55 miles.



The other half of the Bourn deanery I chose to co-incide with the annual historic churches Ride and Stride, as it was likely that I would meet more people in the different churches, which proved to be the case. It was fairly straightforward except that I left my Ride & Stride church signing form at Kingston being diverted by



the enthusiasm of the welcomer in showing me their MU banner and 18<sup>th</sup> century graffiti, so that it was at Toft before I realised and had to go back for it. Later at Bourn church a wedding was in progress and although I was told beforehand that they would try to find the moth-eaten MU banner and leave it in the porch for me, there was no sign of it. I had planned to have lunch at the pub but it was closed for the wedding reception, so I went straight on to Longstowe and the Gransdens. The next puzzle was how to find the road to St. James' church at Croxton situated in Croxton Park. I passed some iron gates which were padlocked but went on further in the hope of finding a more obvious path. I detoured down a short track and along the edge of a field but decided there was no future in that so I returned to the iron gates. What I thought was an intercom proved to be an electronic key pad.

I abandoned the idea of visiting this church as the only other way seemed to be via the very busy A428, which I was subsequently told was correct, but it seemed extremely foolhardy to attempt this route so I continued on to St. Pandionia and St. John the Baptist church in Eltisley. I had been told that no-one would be there but some delicious raisin bread and flapjacks and coffee making facilities had been left, so I made this a late lunch break, it now being 3pm. On to Caxton, Cambourne, Hardwick and Coton, I reached the latter at 5.55pm, just in time for the 6pm Ride & Stride finishing time. This was a journey of 51 miles.

Now on the last lap of my "virtual" cycle ride, I am recalling the visits to the Cambridge churches. I have just topped 600 miles and have so far raised just over £600 towards my target of £1,000. I know some branches and members have contributed directly to MSH for their appeal but thanks so much to all who have helped me towards this target. Donations Online: <https://donate.thebiggive.org.uk/campaign/a051r00001eg40iAAA> or Hazel Williams, 66 Mill Lane, Burwell, Cambridge CB25 0HJ, cheques made payable to Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union.

## The Pilgrim Journey July 2020

On 23 June my Bible reading notes were on the theme of 'A Pilgrim Heart' compiled by Sally Welch and this Psalm set me thinking about our journey through coronavirus alongside my own journey of chemo and where God is in these unexpected journeys.

*'Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths. Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.....Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness sake, O Lord! All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.'* Taken from Psalm 25 within verses 4-10.

God speaks to us constantly (though we do not always hear him!). And amazingly he brought to me two other aids to my reflections during the last month. I watched a service from York Minster on 12 July with our newly confirmed Archbishop, ++ Stephen and remembered his wise and practical words through the Pilgrim Courses on discipleship. So, I looked up his other books and found I was drawn to 'Striking out – Poems and stories from the Camino' another pilgrim journey. Here is a quote from his first sonnet.

*'The value of a person's life is not measured in Facebook likes, nor column inches, nor Twitter followers, still less by what school they attended.*

*The new shoe pinches.*

*Of course it does! To fit will only ever be an investment of time, the instruction of the road, and it can never rise as an entirely self-contained construction. I place my feet where other pilgrims trod, ..... I find out what a life is really worth.'* Stephen Cottrell

Have the enforced constraints of Coronavirus brought you time to reflect on your life and faith in new ways as we are constricted from what used to be 'normal'? I have had time to draw on God's love for me and there have been so many expressions of love and prayer from you all that I feel truly blessed. How special too has become the chance to share my thoughts and spiritual journey with you all through these reflections and with my sister (through Video calls) and my niece (through WhatsApp). New joy!



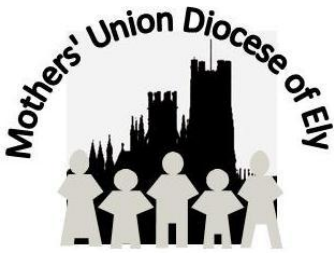
Finally. at our last Ely Diocese Mothers' Union Cathedral Prayers, a member, Deidre Milner referred from memory to, 'Heaven is within' by Teresa de Avila. 'Remember what St. Augustine tells us – I think it comes in his Meditations; how he sought God in many places and at last found the Almighty within himself.'

I know that many will be returning to everyday work and activities in a less virtual way as we approach the lessening of enforced lock down. I ask you all to reflect on these last four months – the good and the bad and to take the opportunities of this pilgrim journey to lay down our burdens on our loving Lord and to step out in renewed faith. Through my illness I have had to learn to take each day as it comes and this too is my prayer for you.

With every blessing

Susan

*The photo is a sign of hope. I grew these sweet peas from seed sent to me with flowers from York Province*



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

# SEPTEMBER 2020

# NEWSLETTER

## CELEBRATING MARY SUMNER DAY



I was delighted that I was able to attend St. Neots Parish Church on Mary Sumner Day to give the address on the life of our founder and how her legacy continues both in this country and across the world. It was lovely warm weather and I received warm greetings from Mothers' Union members, Paul their new priest and members of the congregation. The photograph is of myself with three branch members (minus the masks we wore in church). Hazel

*Dear all. I don't know how other branches celebrated Mary Sumner day last Sunday but thought you might be interested to see what our 'Three Rivers' branch did. We are very blessed that in Isleham we have the beautiful St Andrew's Church Social Centre garden. This enabled us to have a "Socially distanced" Picnic.*

*Everyone brought their own food & drink. We even allowed some husbands to attend. The weather was beautiful & we all had a good time & raised a glass to Mary Sumner. Gill Savage*



**From Helen Banyard. Praying our Faith co-ordinator.**

Learning never ends - it is a continuous journey. With education so much in the news recently it was a reminder to us that Mothers' Union encourages all of us to be involved in some way in the process of learning. This will be in a variety of ways depending on the age/situation of family members, pre-school, primary and secondary age groups, and further education, plus church and other learning opportunities in your own locality. As members we have been inspired and delighted to see the work of the MU Literacy and Financial Education programmes which have positively changed the lives of so many around the world. After a time of much anxiety and confusion for both students and their families in our country, we remember in our prayers the many students returning to school, some after a very long absence from the classroom. We pray for those who will see a change as they move schools, colleges and universities. We thank God for the many teaching staff and those involved with education who have continued to work long hours in a constantly changing situation. Let us pray for God's hand to guide all involved in this new term, which may well be unlike any other, that they may continue to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Let us, whatever our age, be eager to learn new skills and share our experiences. May we listen to God, and hear anew your message of faith, hope and love, given to us by our Son Jesus Christ to share with everyone.

God bless, guide and encourage us as we continue to learn how to live a Christ filled life in 2020.

“Teach me, my God and King,

In all things thee to see.

And what I do in anything,

To do it as for thee.”

*George Herbert.*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Jo Wibberley's Sponsored Virtual Cycle Ride**

I am sure you will be glad to know that Jo has completed her 700 mile cycle ride in her back garden and conservatory. Many of you have been following her story in previous newsletters. Our thanks and admiration go to her for a wonderful achievement. Read more about it at the end of the newsletter.



Sadly, Anthony, Jo's husband had to go into hospital on the day she cycled the last few miles and passed away on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> August. In her words, *“Just to let you know that Anthony died on Saturday evening very peacefully. He fell asleep while I was helping him with his evening meal and slipped away about an hour later. I was so glad I was with him. Our daughter Rosie is with me now and our son Chris is coming from France this evening - despite the quarantine restrictions, funerals are excepted which is a relief.”*

As this unusual year continues, we continue to support the vulnerable where we can. The response to last month's item about Ely Baby Bank received a lot of support and we have had several thank you mentions on Facebook (see below). I am wondering if there are similar Baby Banks elsewhere in the diocese, does anyone know?

It has been suggested we might trial **Soft Twiddle/Fiddle Muffs** for dementia sufferers. I am pleased to go forward with this idea as I am aware of concern from several quarters about the safety of buttons, beads, bells etc. The guidelines for these Soft Twiddle Muffs are attached. Basically they will be knitted (in with the knitting or attached), or crocheted (provided no holes a finger could get caught in) and ribbons. If you have oddments of bright wool, and would like to have a go, please do give it a try.

With winter approaching, warm hats, mitts scarves etc. will be needed for the many homeless expected when the accommodation eviction measure ends. Hostels are accepting household items, tinned food and toiletries when they can. Why not look for bargains and start collecting – we will arrange collection.

**Thank you** for all you are doing, please get in touch if you need more details

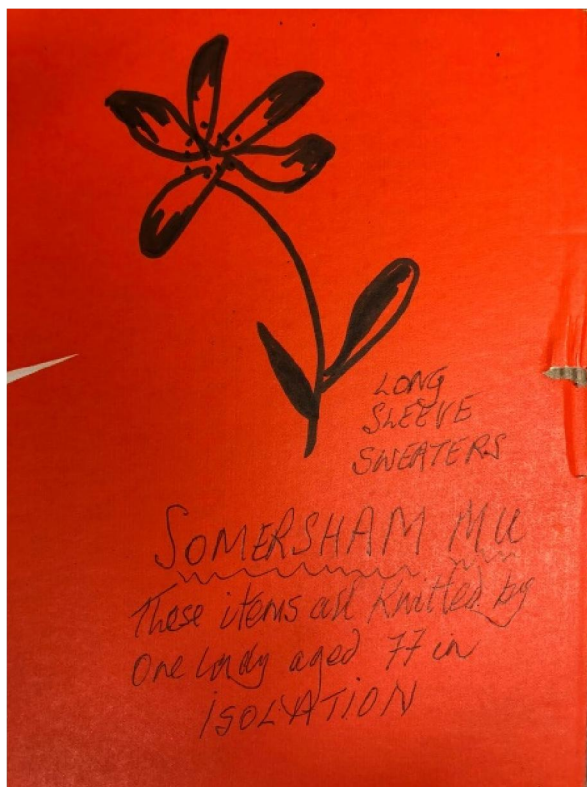
Jean Webb, Unit Coordinator                      01353 658581                      [jmw35n@gmail.com](mailto:jmw35n@gmail.com)

Maureen Haigh, Local Projects Officer      01353 749760                      [gmaigh@talk21.com](mailto:gmaigh@talk21.com)

*Big thank you to Ely Diocese Mother's Union who have donated a load of knitted blankets and clothes. Very welcome donation!*



*Thanks to Somersham MU for their lovely knitted goods dropped off yesterday- knitted by people during isolation.*



**It will probably be no surprise to most of you that our Autumn Festival which normally takes place in October has been cancelled. The Trustees felt that so many people gathered together from across the Diocese would not fit with the spirit of everyone, particularly the older generation, staying safe. We will make up for it next year! Hazel**

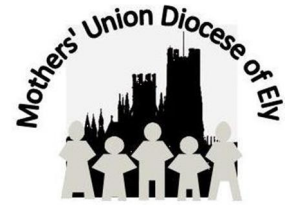
**CONTACT DETAILS**                      Charity no. 251394  
Ros home    01223 861846  
[roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)  
Hazel home    01638 743897  
[hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)  
<https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/>



## Guidelines for Making

### Soft Twiddle (Fiddle) Muffs

Using **6.5mm or 6.0 mm** (old sizes 3 or 4) cast on 40 stitches using **CHUNKY** or **2strands of DOUBLE KNIT** yarn. Use bright contrasting colours (a small band of darker, duller is ok if between the bright colours). Bright colours and contrast are more easily seen by dementia patients.



Alternate stocking stitch with a **variety of stitches and textured yarns**, to give a tactile experience. Examples of stitches - garter stitch, moss stitch, any pattern with a raised surface, but not holey patterns. **Please do not rib as this pulls the muff in too much.** However, a broken rib pattern can be used effectively for texture. (1 row rib, 1 row purl or plain). A purl row on the "right" side, followed by

a knit row produces a good raised section.

#### ***An example of textured stitches and soft twiddles from a Balsham member.***

Please check that fluffy yarn does not shed fibre. Some yarns are fine when a section is pulled but individual fibres can be pulled free, (potential choking hazard).

Knit 10 – 11 inches, ending with a knit row on the purl (wrong) side, to mark the fold. Knit the inner section in stocking stitch, **NOT RIB**. Any dull colours can be used here. Knit until the inner matches the length of the outer. Cast off loosely.

#### **Decorating the Muff**

Please decorate before sewing up, so that the twiddles are **very firmly fixed from inside** – some dementia patients can be very strong when frustrated. For extra safety use a piece of backing fabric (tape or non-fraying material) if the item is likely to be pulled free. Decorate across all the outer section, and some on the inside – satin or ribbed ribbon is ideal, it can overhang the end, or be doubled up as a small loop.

Some decorating ideas – Use as many different textures as you can.

Ribbons can be used effectively - they are colourful and offer different textures. They can be threaded through across the width, and securely stitched either end inside. Strips can be sewn down flat, or fixed securely at one end leaving a 2-3 inch fiddle piece.

Bows – again securely fixed, which can be undone and re-tied, or ones that are just ornamental but nice to touch.

Knitted or crocheted flowers, leaves and butterflies (no other creepy-crawlies as patients may think they are real.) Please ensure there are no holes that a finger could get stuck in.

An attached pocket can have an item on a string to hide in the pocket (flower, ball etc).

**Please do not attach buttons, bells, buckles or anything that is not soft.**

#### **Sewing Up**

Sew the seam carefully, making sure there are no holes a finger can get trapped in. Turn inside-out, and complete sewing up loosely. Check carefully please that there are no pins left!

I would be very pleased to assess your first completed muff so you are sure you meet the required safety standards. I can then give you a MU tape to put inside.

*Thank you for making, and enjoy the Soft Twiddle challenge!*

**Jean Webb Faith in Action Coordinator [Jmw35n@gmail.com](mailto:Jmw35n@gmail.com)**



**Decorating the muff with ribbons and knitted twiddles**

## From Debbie Tye, Unit Co-ordinator Communications

### **LYNNE TEMBEY appointed Lay Canon.**

Delighted to hear the news that our former Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, has been appointed a Lay Canon and Prebendary of York Minster. We send her our good wishes and prayers on this new appointment. Lynne has been involved with MU for more than 40 years, holding several leadership roles, culminating in the role of Worldwide President from 2013-2018. In 2018, she received the Cross of St Augustine from the Archbishop of Canterbury for services to the Anglican Communion. In 2019, she received an OBE in recognition of her services to MU, to women and to families. In 2020, she was awarded a Senior Fellowship from Liverpool Hope University for her work.

Three other lay canons were also appointed and all are for an initial period of three years. They will be collated by the Archbishop of York in a ceremony at York Minster on 10th September, and finally installed in their canonical seats in the Minster during the 5.30pm service of Evensong.

Read the full article here: <https://www.archbishopofyork.org/news/new-lay-canons-appointed-york-minster>

### **MU WEBINARS.**

The first lot of Webinars have taken place over the last few weeks about Social Media. These were very informative, whether you were new to the subject or experienced. There are more due in the coming weeks and months, starting in September, on a variety of subjects which may have wider appeal to members than Social Media. It is very easy to sign up and you don't need a camera or a mic connected on your computer, phone or laptop. You watch an on-line presentation by people from Mary Sumner House. If you want to, you can communicate by typing in questions (or ask in person if you have a mic). Other subjects include: Identifying our strengths to serve others; How to plan a project; Showing what differences we make and sharing stories; Different types/options of Fundraising and Events.

Do take a look and think about signing up: <https://www.mothersunion.org/mothers-union-member-webinars> (If you sign up you can watch the presentations again as they are recorded.)



## From Jo Wibberley, Diocesan Vice President

How wonderful it is to belong to the MU family. Thank you all for your prayers and support during Anthony's last days in hospital. They upheld me at a difficult time but it was a great blessing to be able to be with him for many hours every day, thanks to the wonderful, caring hospital staff, and to be with him at the end. Thank you all too, for the many cards and messages of condolence and prayer that I have received since then. It is a strange time, particularly as we were housebound for almost 5 months before Anthony went into hospital, and now I am out in the world again but facing different restrictions. At Midday prayers today led by Patsy from Ireland she remarked how good it was to be joined by so many people from around the world in the live streaming and I felt that too as they prayed for Anthony when he was in hospital and afterwards. I remember a MU member – it may have been Freda Kolini from Kigali – who said "Unity is strength: unity in prayer is infinite strength". Thank you.

## The virtual cycle ride finishes.....

Jo Wibberley

The 700 mile virtual cycle ride was completed on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> August, taking 9 ½ weeks. The last 6 miles were completed after Anthony had been taken to Addenbrooke's. Crazy? Well, it gave me something positive to do when I couldn't go with him, and it was a lovely warm evening, with homing pigeons the main bird activity now that most of the swifts have gone.

In the last weeks I replicated the rides in the Cambridge deaneries. Being local, the 24 churches spread over a longer time span, usually attending just one or two a day as I endeavoured to attend a function at each of them. These were an interesting variety of occasions from a weekday BCP communion to Sunday morning worship at St. Barnabas, a messy church and toddler groups, coffee mornings, lunches and Saturday breakfasts, bible discussion groups, a knit & natter group, a "pumpkin picnic" during the October half term, a bread group – bread making being therapeutic and a chance to share concerns when the bread is proving - and a "Thirst" breakfast support group for young mothers held in St. Philips school.



The Bread Group at St. Martin's

Sadly I was declined attendance at two toddler groups for "security" reasons, despite holding DBS checks for both LSM and the MU. Undaunted, instead I was able to attend open coffee mornings and the warm

### Pumpkin picnic



welcome I received cancelled out the bureaucratic caution. I was made most welcome at every event and I was often invited to speak to the whole group about the Mothers Union, so this is how the Thursday prayer at LSM started. Other outcomes from the original ride were, that I think it achieved its aim of raising awareness that not only does the MU still exist but of its breadth of outreach and relevance in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and attracting some new and some lapsed members. I was blessed by the support of so many people, not only fellow MU members but some clergy and others who had gone to their churches to welcome me when there was no function to attend on that day.

For my virtual cycle ride, I was invited to speak about it on BBC radio Cambridgeshire and there was also a feature in the Ely Standard – fame at last! I greatly appreciate the support I have received to enable me to exceed my target of £1,000, though I don't know the exact figure, but of course if you didn't get around to contributing and would like to, it's not too late!



# OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

## 2020



Susan and Philip in their 1920's style outfits at the church fete.

### Susan Baker

#### Died 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020

Susan was a strong and visionary Ely Diocesan President from 2012-2018 and it is with great sadness I announce her death.

Within the Mothers' Union she had fulfilled various roles over her many years of membership. She came into Burwell MU branch from Young Wives and eventually took on the leadership of the branch. In the Diocese she started as prayer officer before her involvement in Parenting and Prison work. She will be best remembered in recent times for her innovative work in Wisbech with the appointment of a MU family worker and the piloting of Stories on the Street. Susan visited Rwanda twice and brought back many stories, ideas and activities from her time there to pass on to members.

Elected to be the Mothers' Union President for Canterbury Province she was unable to take up her post because of illness. Susan is a great loss nationally to the MU in Britain and Ireland as well as in Ely Diocese.

Our thoughts and prayers go to Philip and all her family, and friends and members who have known her many years and will miss her energy, thoughtfulness and understanding.



Susan's monologue, given dressed as Mary Sumner, is something many of us who attended the garden party in the Bishop's garden will never forget. She caught the essence of the life of Mary Sumner and her achievements in such an enjoyable and informative way.

Susan used the money given to her by the MU when she ended her six years as Diocesan President, to buy a green house. She has had such enjoyment from it, particularly in the last few months although this photograph dates back to when it was first used and very neat.



Susan with members from Rwanda

Speakers at our Autumn Festival in 2019

Susan's funeral has been arranged for Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October and regretfully, due to current restrictions, numbers are limited to family. However, if you would like to join the service via Zoom please email, for full access instructions, [tech@stmarysburwell.org.uk](mailto:tech@stmarysburwell.org.uk). In place of flowers (which will come from the immediate family) donations if desired can be made to "Ely Diocesan Mothers Union" and sent care of Southgate of Newmarket Funeral Directors, 25 Duchess Drive, Newmarket, CB8 8AG. The Mothers' Union was Susan's lifelong passion and I know she would be pleased with your support.



Our congratulations go to **Jackie Metcalfe**, who was MU Archdeaconry Vice-President, and was ordained in September at Ely Cathedral. She will be Asst. Curate at All Saint's Milton. She wrote this poem about patience that I would like to share.

*Dear God,*

*It's going on a bit isn't it?*

*I know many of us are out and about and doing stuff that we used to do but life still isn't normal. It probably isn't the new normal either, whatever that might mean.*

*So today please give me bundles of patience.*

*It is said that patience is a virtue. Please make me truly virtuous with a patience that enables me to cope with the daily frustrations of life not being quite what it should be and definitely not like it was.*

*Give me patience to accept that for the moment I still cannot do some of the things that I really enjoy doing. Help me to use my ingenuity and find new things to do instead.*

*Give me patience to not only put up with the needs of others but also to support them, whenever I can. Help me to offer them oodles of love and a pile of smiles, even though they might not be able to see my smiles if I'm wearing my mask. So, if they can't see my smiles let them see my eyes twinkling instead.*

*Give me patience to cope with the twists and turns of life. Help me realise that sometimes things will happen far too quickly for me to really assimilate and at other times they will crawl along at an interminably slow pace.*

*And whilst I'm getting all this patience and being transformed let me never forget that the world and everything in it is yours which means that the timing of everything is yours as well.*

*Help me to pray constantly and purposefully for the mission of your church, the well-being of my family, neighbours and friends and for the future of our world as I seek to live each day patiently for you. Amen*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THURSDAY PRAYER – 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020**

The topic for Thursday Prayer this October is focused on Peace and we are fortunate that it is in the middle of Week Of Prayer for World Peace. Sue Claydon has written the prayers which are attached with the Newsletter and she has also arranged a Zoom call so that we can join together to celebrate. Although the prayers start at 10.30am the call will be open from 10am to chat (and see) members that we may not have been in touch with for a while. Click on this link and it will take you to it - <https://zoom.us/j/96998493896> or use the ID 969 9849 3896 to join.

From November 19<sup>th</sup> Thursday Prayer will resume at the Cathedral at 10.30 am and all are welcome. We will check whether we have to book in beforehand and let you know in the next Newsletter. All safety guidelines will be followed. We will continue sending the written version with the newsletter as we have since April as so many people have said how much they have enjoyed it.

\*\*\*\*\*

**“Lockdown” Photo Competition.** Thank you to everyone who contributed. We had planned to have a display at the Autumn Diocesan Festival Meeting, but as it is not taking place, this will have to be postponed until we can next meet again. Debbie is working on whether it may be possible to put some on line or in the newsletter or Grapevine.

It is our intention to produce a **Grapevine** this autumn, but we need to hear from you. What have you done, in the absence of meetings, to support others, whether they are MU members or in the community? Sharing of your ideas (including poems, photographs, reflections) will help other groups as I think it will be a while before things get back to 'normal'. Please send to Hazel at [hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com) by 6<sup>th</sup> November and I will pass on to Melanie. Grapevine may come out closer to Christmas than usual but that may give you other thoughts for contributions.

\*\*\*\*\*

**More news from Balsham** – along with all branches we are unable to meet and miss the fellowship. We are not back in Balsham Church yet but should be by mid-October but not with communion services. However Linton Church have a communion service every Thursday morning at 10 am to which I have been going for many weeks.

As so many people are doing jigsaws now that they are spending more time at home I have set up a Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange at the back of my garage and to date have around 50 jigsaws in stock. Perhaps other parishes might consider doing this. We have an old red telephone kiosk where books can be exchanged. The good news is that the Mobile Library is back although we cannot go in but can order books or the librarian chooses them from the van for us.

In the week I write this the Mothers' Union Prayer Diary has been especially praying for the elderly which does include the majority of members!

Sadly numbers for the Indoor Members' Prayer Circle continue to drop and there are now only 18 whereas when I took on being Co-ordinator around 5 years ago there were 50. Old age and illness has taken its toll on members. However I still much enjoy this contact with members and several get in touch with me with one sending me ecards!

Joanna Sanders  
Branch Leader and Secretary of Balsham Branch

\*\*\*\*\*

### **From Helen Banyard – Praying our Faith Co-ordinator**

We thank the then O Father  
For all things bright and good,  
The seed-time and the harvest,  
Our life, our health, our food.

Living in East Anglia, we are surrounded by the reminders of harvest. From the fields of flowers, grain and salad crops, fruit and root vegetables, the signs of gathering by humans working with God's creation are abundant over many months. I remember, as a child, marvelling at the tiny seeds planted in the garden that when tended and watered produced the vegetables we shared at the family table and gave to neighbours and friends. As a primary school teacher, harvest saw classrooms full of colours, scents and enjoyment as the fruits of the field, hedgerow and garden were displayed as we joined together to give thanks to God for all that he had given us.

Harvest Festivals may be different this year, in that not so many of us will be attending our Church services in person but we will still have plenty to thank our creator God in the many ways we have been blessed by his love. In amongst the doom and gloom of the past six months many small seeds have been planted and like the wide variety of natural seeds, they are growing at different rates. God shows us that through our prayers and actions we can help the hungry, the homeless and the abused in our communities, even through lockdown and times of isolation during this pandemic. It is encouraging to learn of all the practical ways MU members are contributing both in the collecting of items and in faithful prayer for those in need. We may not always see the harvest of the small seeds of compassion and love in which we are involved in planting, but we can openly and in our hearts praise and thank our creator God and his son, Jesus Christ, for the blessings and fruit of the Holy Spirit.

No gifts have we to offer  
For all thy love imparts,  
But that which thou desires  
Our humble, thankful hearts.

God bless Helen

\*\*\*\*\*

WWW.MOTHERSUNION.ORG  
WWW.MUESHOP.ORG

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

SHOP & SUPPORT MOTHERS' UNION  
Shop with Mothers' Union and help change lives,  
communities and families worldwide.

COMING SOON

BOOKS CARDS GIFTS

NEW MU ONLINE SHOP LAUNCHING OCTOBER 2020

The NEW Mothers' Union online shop is preparing to launch early October. You will find bolder product images, easy navigation, free downloads, more products and newsletter sign up. Remember to include your diocese when placing your order.

We can't wait to see you there!

TO PLACE AN ORDER  
To place an order please contact your diocese directly for your local MU Rep or shop online at [www.mueshop.org](http://www.mueshop.org) and enter your diocese.

FOILED



**ANGEL**  
137mm x 137mm. 10 gold foiled cards.  
Greeting: Christmas blessings and best wishes for a joyous New Year.  
Text: And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. Luke 2:10  
CS0212 £4.25



**BETHLEHEM**  
137mm x 137mm. 10 blank cards.  
Greeting: With love at Christmas.  
Text: Light has come into the world.  
John 3:19  
CS0211 £4.25



**JOY**  
137mm x 137mm. 10 cards.  
Greeting: With love at Christmas and for the New Year.  
CS0213 £4.25



**CHRISTMAS POINSETTIA**  
159mm x 159mm. 10 cards.  
Greeting: With love at Christmas.  
CS0214 £4.45



**ROBIN ON A BRANCH**  
137mm x 137mm. 10 cards.  
Greeting: Christmas Greetings.  
CS0215 £4.25

SELECTION  
PACK



**2020 SELECTION PACK**  
Mixed Sizes. 10 cards.  
One of each design.  
Not including CS0210.  
CS0216 £4.45

MOTHERS' UNION 2020  
CHRISTMAS CARD PRE-ORDER FORM

FOILED

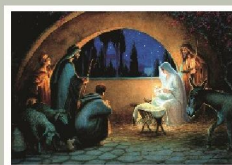


**PEACE**  
171mm x 121mm. 10 gold foiled cards.  
Greeting: Christmas Greetings.  
Text: Glory to God in the highest, and on the earth peace, goodwill to all men. Luke 2:14  
CS0205 £4.45

FOILED



**THE CHRISTMAS STORY**  
137mm x 137mm.  
10 gold foiled cards.  
Greeting: With love at Christmas.  
Text: For we saw His star in the East and have come to worship Him. Matthew 2:2  
CS0206 £4.25



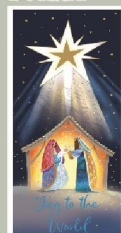
**NATIVITY**  
171mm x 121mm. 10 cards.  
Greeting: May the blessing of Christmas be with you.  
Text: For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given. Isaiah 9:6-7  
CS0207 £4.45



**MADONNA**  
159mm x 159mm. 10 cards.  
Greeting: Christmas Greetings.  
Text: Light has come into the world. John 3:1  
CS0209 £4.45

**MADONNA (WELSH)**  
159mm x 159mm. 10 cards.  
Greeting: Cyfarchion Nadolig.  
Text: I'r goleuni ddog I'r byd. Loan 3:19  
CS0210 £4.45

FOILED



**MANGER UNDER THE STARS**  
228mm x 86mm. 10 gold foiled cards.  
Greeting: May God's blessing be yours this Christmas.  
Text: When they saw the STAR they rejoiced exceedingly with Great JOY. Matthew 2:10  
CS0208 £4.45

## CHRISTMAS CARDS, DIARIES CALENDARS & YEAR PLANNERS

\*\*\*\*\*

As you might expect sales of MUE products have plummeted this year. Think about MU when you order your Christmas items. If you can link with other members so that your order is £60 then there is no postage to pay and you can order on line. Otherwise get in touch with Margaret Martin (01354 654434) or Hazel (01638 734897) as we have some stock that we can send to you.

Diaries - £4.25

Calendars - £1.85

Year Planners - £3.55

### Our Continuing support-

Of course while thinking about Christmas we must not forget that our support is needed all year round. At present all refuges and hostels are doing extra cleaning, and would welcome donations of basic cleaning items and bowls. Tinned and packet foods as well, as limited Harvest donations will affect their store cupboards.

50 Backpacks (see box on next page for address) are appealing for sleeping bags and tents

We have received the best contents of several house clearances recently, and are pleased to pass these on to help set people up in their new homes.

Knitters! Hats, mitts/gloves and scarves for winter warmth for adults and children, and baby cardigans/jackets for 6 months up please.

Christian Hope International welcome large knitted blankets 6ft x 4ft.

# Putting our Faith in Action

## Autumn & Christmas 2020

At this time of year we start to plan our **Christmas Wish List** and how we can best support people in refuges and hostels. We aim to give each one something. This year, because of the difficulties with collecting, storing, sharing them out, then delivering items, we are asking branches and members to consider giving **Supermarket/High Street Vouchers**. Small denominations are preferred. Vouchers are valuable because they are used in many ways -

*They are given to new clients who have nothing until their benefits arrive, often after several weeks.*

*A client had several hospital appointments during lockdown. A voucher paid for her shopping, the taxi fare from her benefit money.*

*Many clients have low self-esteem, having a voucher and being able to choose something can help towards rebuilding self-confidence.*

*A Christmas Voucher can be spent on something of their own choosing.*

### The charities and agencies we wish to support this Christmas

Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) **Any**

contact direct 01223 350764

[refuge@cambridgewa.org.uk](mailto:refuge@cambridgewa.org.uk)

Fenland Refuge **\*Aldi preferred.**

Contact : Pat Case 01354 660742

[patcase.uk@gmail.com](mailto:patcase.uk@gmail.com)

Mid-Cambs Refuge **\*Lidl, Iceland, Tesco**

Contact: Liz Elson 01480 211726

[jimelson@talktalk.net](mailto:jimelson@talktalk.net)

Whitworth House **Primark**

Contact: Jo Wibberley 01223248728

[jowibs.mu@gmail.com](mailto:jowibs.mu@gmail.com)

Timestop (Peterborough) **Any**

Contact: Margaret Martin 01345 654434

[oldtoad.martin@talktalk.net](mailto:oldtoad.martin@talktalk.net)

50 Backpacks

**Morrisons/any**

Deliver/post to 5, Bridge Street, Wisbech PE13 1AF

\*Aldi and Lidl Vouchers can only be obtained online.

Please be in touch with your nearest Contact, or deliver if appropriate. Maureen and I will be happy to pass on.

Some branches already involve their churches in any collections they do, why not try an appeal at your church? Many people are only too keen to support these causes. We can buy the vouchers if it is easier to collect within your branch and give us a cheque or cash.

If your branch would prefer a specific item to collect, Maureen has several small collections to offer. Give her a ring!

If your branch usually supports a venture near you, please continue to do so. We would very much like to know about it.

*Please keep yourselves safe while collecting.*

Jean Webb -01353 658581 [jmw35n@gmail.com](mailto:jmw35n@gmail.com)

Maureen Haigh 01353 749760

[gmhaigh@talk21.com](mailto:gmhaigh@talk21.com)



### CONTACT DETAILS

Charity no. 251394

Ros home 01223 861846

[roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)

Hazel home 01638 743897

[hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

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

I am delighted to pass on the news that the **Revd. Michael Banyard**, our Diocesan Chaplain has been given the all clear. They caught the cancer early enough to be able to remove it all, during the major bowel operation he underwent last month. No chemo or radiotherapy needed.

He is recuperating at home and still very tired. Our best wishes go to Helen and Mike and the family after what has been a very worrying time.



### **Modern Slavery Day - Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October.**

The Mothers' Union across Britain and Ireland is supporting the Clewer Initiative dealing with Modern Slavery. On Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October at 10.30am Ely Cathedral will live stream their Eucharist service. **Bishop Alistair Redfern, chair of the Church of England's anti-slavery group The Clewer Initiative, will be preaching.** The Eucharist will be followed, between noon and 12.30pm by a livestream presentation by Shayne Tyler, an excellent speaker, with 20 years of experience of directly managing employee exploitation identification and resolution. More information is on the Cathedral website.



### **Subscriptions for 2020**

Given the continuing economic uncertainties caused by the pandemic, the Provincial Presidents and worldwide trustees for Britain and Ireland reflected long and prayerfully about the appropriate level of subscription to ensure that the movement can be sustained. For 2021, they are asking each member to contribute 38p per week, or £20 for the year to support the central charity. We do recognize that this is a significant increase over 2020, and it is only requested because of the uniquely challenging times in which we find ourselves. The central charity have taken significant steps to reduce the financial burden, which included launching an urgent appeal, reducing costs, a salary sacrifice taken by senior staff team from April onwards and finally taking the very difficult decision to reduce overall staff head count through a redundancy scheme.

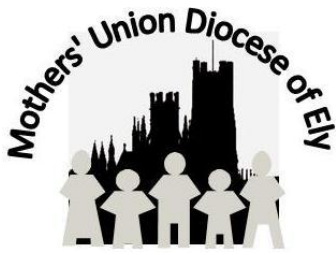
In the Ely Diocese the MU trustees have decided to leave the total subscription at **£20** and take no diocesan subscription for 2021. We have always tried to keep the same amount for the three years of the triennium and feel that it would be right to do so now.

#### **The gains you will receive**

To help ensure that you are kept even better informed about the work of fellow members at home and around the world, our current publication Families First has been reimagined. Accordingly, as part of your subscription you will receive, direct to your doormat, a new publication twice a year containing stories of members' work, together with faith resources and ideas and topics for local meetings.

This publication will be designed so that all can use it to reach out to new friends and members, encouraging them to become part of this amazing movement.





# NOVEMBER 2020

## NEWSLETTER

### God counts on us.

Only God can create, but we are called upon to value that creation.

Only God can give life, but we are called to transmit it and respect it.

Only God can make growth happen, but we are called to guide it and give it direction.

Only God can give faith, but we are called to be signs of God to one another.

Only God can give love, but we are called to grow in caring for each other.

Only God can give hope, but we are called to enable people to believe in themselves.

Only God can give power and energy, but we are called upon to get things going.

Only God can give peace, but we are called to build bonds that bring people together.

Only God can give happiness, but we are invited to laugh.

Only God is the way, but we are called to show it to others.

Only God is the light, but we are called to let it shine forth in the world.

Only God can make miracles happen, we are invited to offer our five loaves and two fishes.

Only God can do the impossible, but it is up to us to do what is possible.

*Author unknown*

I have taken part in a number of Zoom meetings organised by Mary Sumner House to keep up to date with all that is happening in this time of change for all of us. This prayer was used by Catherine Kyte at the start of our meeting about Metamorphosis.

At the start of this second period of tighter restrictions maybe we will be able to cope better knowing that it is time limited. It is good that now many are able to listen by phone or use Zoom to join their church services. *'Only God can do the impossible, but it is up to us to do what is possible'*

My thoughts and prayers are with you all  
Hazel

\*\*\*\*\*

Please remember that one way of supporting the MU is to buy our cards. As well as birthday, sympathy and other cards we have a full selection of Christmas cards (as shown in the October newsletter) and a few diaries and calendars. Margaret Martin or I can always find a way of getting them to you. I also have the most recent brochure I can send if you do not have one.

I also have for sale copies of 'PRAYING IN EVERY SEASON', containing 72 prayers that reflect the times and seasons throughout the year. The cost is £3.50. Copies of 'DEAR LORD' a collection of prayers and poems from Mothers' Union members across the world are also available at £3.00 per copy.

I am reminding people as they are lovely presents for friends at this time of limited shopping.

# NO MORE 1 in 3

#NoMore1in3 #1in3NotMe

@MothersUnion

Did you know that 1 in 3 women worldwide have experienced **domestic or gender violence**? Mothers' Union as a leading Women's Organisation believes this fact is unacceptable and from November 25th - December 10th every year we join the global 16 days of activism campaign against domestic and gender violence. This form of abuse has been very much in the public eye this year with a significant increase in domestic violence as a result of the control measures against Covid 19.

Usually Ely Diocesan MU are active in holding a banner witness outside Ely Cathedral while leading a silent vigil for the victims inside the west door. We also have a display of campaign literature, further information and a prayer tree in the cathedral during the time of the campaign which is the work of the Cathedral MU Branch members. The Diocesan MU Trustees are also involved and last year there was a further display showing the different ways MU members are involved all through the year with supporting victims in local Women's Refuges. The Cathedral are unable to let us hold our silent vigil and because of the new restrictions introduced on November 5<sup>th</sup> there will be no display either.

We know many branches have similar ways to show their support for this campaign in their own parish churches. We do hope that despite the restrictions every MU member will be able to support. This year as part of our Campaign, MU are holding their first Global Day of Action, in supporting the 16 Days of Activism around the world, on Saturday 5th December. Mothers Union have produced a set of resources which include prayers, a service, bible verses, a template letter to send to your MP, a smart tea cosy knitting pattern and ideas for fund raising (in our limited time of social distancing) I am preparing material from this website for all our members which will include a service which we hope will encourage you to support this excellent cause. This will be sent to you soon meanwhile do look on the MU website [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org). We do hope there is something for everyone.

## **MU Thursday Prayers 19<sup>th</sup> November**

We are, due to national restrictions, unable to meet in the cathedral. We will however be meeting on Zoom. **The ID is 827 7838 0218** (no password) and it would be good to see as many of you as possible. **Zoom will be open from 10am** which will give time to sort out technical difficulties anyone may have and even maybe time for a short chat.

If you are able please join us on **Thursday 19th November the prayers are from 10.30am-11am** when Jean Webb (co-ordinator of our Faith in Action team) will lead our prayers and on Thursday 17th December when we will be led by Angela Jones, who runs the Edward Bear Mother and Toddler Worship Group.

It is always a good time to keep up to date with what is happening in different areas of the MU in the Diocese. Last month it was good to hear the prayers and talk from Sue Claydon on Peace. Thursday prayers are also sent out with the Newsletter for those unable to take part on Zoom.

God bless - Helen Banyard (co-ordinator Praying our Faith)



Many people attended Susan's funeral. A few in person and a lot on Zoom from both this country and across the world. Below is a Reflection from Philip which continues Susan's series of Reflections throughout her treatment this year.

Philip will write a personal note later about donations made in Susan's memory and his appreciation for all the support offered to him. He adds that there are indications that the total collected for the MU Diocese will be a "substantial" amount.

Hazel

### REFLECTION FOR NOVEMBER

*You are like a light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No-one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven. Matthew 5: 14-16 (Good News Bible)*

My dear Susan was one such light and, if the number of messages I have received from her friends and colleagues all round the world are any guide, she was to a great many people (including me), bringing them to faith or helping them to a greater faith. No-one was in doubt what Susan stood for and represented, it shone through everything she did.

When one considers that everyone left behind when a loved one dies goes through the pain of the loss, it is amazing how unprepared one is for the depth of emotion when it happens. Perhaps nothing can prepare one for the sheer finality of the separation; the realisation that so many possibly mundane but pleasurable shared moments will never again happen. And the uncertainty of what will happen in the future – I believe that I will one day be reunited with Susan, but how and in what way? At first, in spite of huge support from family and friends, life seemed to be pointless at times, just a passing of time until my time also was up. But through prayer I came to realise that as my time is not yet come my Lord in heaven must have a further purpose for me on earth. But what? Lacking inspiration I resolved as a first step to read the Bible and hope for guidance to light my path ahead. I had only just started when the Sunday Collect was:

*Blessed Lord, who caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: help us so to hear them, to read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them that, through patience, and the comfort of your holy word, we may embrace and for ever hold fast the hope of everlasting life, which you have given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.*

A coincidence? I think not. My selected reading plan then gave me the verses from Matthew at the top of this piece. A further coincidence?

If Susan was a light in this world, the highest tribute I can pay her is to attempt to continue that light and to try to live up to her example, with the Lord's help, until I have concluded the tasks set for me. Perhaps we should all take a step back from time to time and re-examine what we are doing and how it aligns with God's great design?

Philip Baker (2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020)

## November Update from Faith In Action

Thank you to those who responded to this year's appeal for vouchers for the Refuges and Hostels. Details are reprinted below, for anyone/branch still considering this form of Christmas Giving, together with suggestions of preferred /local shops

**Knitting News!** Our Wish List this month –

Clothing for 6-9, and 9-12 months babies

Mitts for babies of all ages

Adult hats, scarves and mitts/gloves

Soft Twiddle Muffs



We currently don't have outlets for new-born baby hats and blankets. I am sure they will be wanted again, just not at the moment. If you have some ready, could you please hold on to them for a little while? Thank you.

Jean Webb (Faith in Action Coordinator)

### The charities and agencies we wish to support this Christmas

Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) **Any shop**

contact direct 01223 350764

[refuge@cambridgewa.org.uk](mailto:refuge@cambridgewa.org.uk)

Fenland Refuge **\*Aldi preferred.**

Contact : Pat Case 01354 660742

[patcase.uk@gmail.com](mailto:patcase.uk@gmail.com)

Mid-Cambs Refuge **\*Lidl, Iceland ,Tesco**

Contact: Liz Elson 01480 211726

[jimelson@talktalk.net](mailto:jimelson@talktalk.net)

Whitworth House **Primark/Any**

Contact: Jo Wibberley 01223248728

[jowibs.mu@gmail.com](mailto:jowibs.mu@gmail.com)

Timestop (Peterborough) **Any**

Contact: Margaret Martin,01345 654434

[oldtoad.martin@talktalk.net](mailto:oldtoad.martin@talktalk.net)

50 Backpacks **Morrisons/any**

Deliver/post to 5, Bridge Street, Wisbech PE13 1AF

*\*Aldi and Lidl Vouchers can only be purchased online.*

Many of you will know Esther Yabbacome who was leader at Downham Market. She and her husband David have been MU members for many years, and Esther has held a number of posts in other diocese.

Esther is 66 and is now in a care home. She is now unable to stand or sit and has poor communication.

Please keep Esther and David in your prayers at this difficult and sad time for them both.

### CONTACT DETAILS

Charity no. 251394

Ros home 01223 861846

[roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)

Hazel home 01638 743897

[hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

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

We had hoped to be meeting in Ely Cathedral today, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lockdown cancelled that plan. Please join in with these prayers when you can. You will need to print them off if joining the Zoom meeting as they will not be on the screen.

Let us start by saying-

**The Thursday Prayer.**

*Heavenly father, you have called us apart to share in the world wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers, we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, though Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Our reading this morning is from Matthew 22:34-40

**The Great Commandment**

But when the Pharisees heard that he had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together. And one of them, a lawyer, asked him a question to test him. Teacher, "which is the great commandment in the Law?"

And he said to him, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbour as yourself.

On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**Our theme this month is AFIA , the "Away from it All Holiday" scheme**, and the following section has been prepared by Di Sabel who is the Bookings Officer for Afia. Di has not had the easiest year to start in this post, with all the uncertainty, having to rearrange bookings several times, and ensure all the families were made aware of new regulations. We thank her for all she has done for families and for the M U.

**Psalm 100 A Psalm for giving thanks.**

1. Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands.
2. *Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.*
3. Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
4. *Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name.*
5. ***For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations***

We are thinking of the Away From It All holidays scheme. All dioceses in Britain and Ireland play their part, albeit in different ways. Some dioceses own their own holiday caravan, and a rota of members service it between each use, how much more they have had to do this year! A few diocese run holidays weeks i.e. in a large house, for several families at the same time, what a commitment that must be! Here in Ely we hire mobile homes at Searles Leisure Centre at Hunstanton and Searles generously give us a discount. We are

able to book accommodation suitable for the size and needs of the family. There are plenty of free activities to keep the children occupied, and the beach is just a 5 minute walk away. We also provide each child with some pocket money.

Here in Ely we are pleased that we have managed to provide holidays for 20 people this last Half Term, having had all the holidays booked at Easter cancelled. It is good that we have been able to make use of this school break. We received this feedback –“It was the best! We had some really great times. I can’t thank you enough for sorting it for us, it really was the best!”

The varied problems that are out there, despite COVID rearing its ugly head, are still there and we need to make sure we are able to keep up this important link through the AFIA holidays which support many of the different aspects of social life and, especially support vulnerable children. We give thanks for all those who have given generously of their time and money for these holidays to take place.

**So we pray:**

Heavenly Father, we give thanks that we were able to provide several families with holidays.

We give thanks for the support we receive from Searles Leisure Resort.

We give grateful thanks for all those who work there and provide for our families. They support in various ways but importantly those who we come in contact with at the end of the telephone are very special.

Lord in your mercy

***Hear Our Prayer***

Lord of all hope, we pray for all the Away From It All holidays and thank you for the blessing they are to so many families here and in other Dioceses. Families who are struggling, and carrying heavy loads. We pray for all those who volunteer, and all those involved in these holidays.

We pray for the families who enjoy these holidays that they will return refreshed and more able to continue their daily lives.

Lord in your mercy

***Hear Our Prayer***

God of compassion, we embrace our mission to share your love through helping those in adversity. May our efforts to help those whose lives have met with adversity be a source of hope and relief as they battle through times of hardship.

You are a loving God who gives us rest. Lift their burdens that they too might receive respite.

**Amen.**

*Mothers Union Faith In Action Pocket Prayers)*

Lord in your mercy

***Hear Our Prayer***

**We say together from Psalm 145 v 14**

***The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up all who are bowed down.***

**Now we come to our intercessions, and today, we pray for:**

The world-wide work of the Mothers’ Union - particularly at this time, with so many challenging situations and circumstances, For Sheran Harper, our World Wide President, and Chief Executive Bev Jullien.

We pray for all who work in Mary Sumner House, and remembering those who have been made redundant with the necessity of streamlining due to Covid.

We pray for all Provincial presidents and particularly Kathryn Anderson in our province of Canterbury.

We pray for all our MU members in this diocese - for Hazel Williams our Diocesan President and for our

diocesan Trustees. We pray for our branches, all members and supporters, leaders and committees, for the work they do to support those in need.

We remember before you Lord, our worldwide links in Lusaka (Zambia), Shyogwe (Rwanda), Sokoto and Ikka (Nigeria), Karimnaga (India) and the Diocesan Links with Kigali and Vellore. May they know your presence is with them.

We think of those members of our branches who particularly at this time need our prayers .....

May God bless all those for whom we pray. **Amen.**

**We join together in the 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.*

**We will say again the Thursday Prayer**

*Heavenly father, you have called us apart to share in the world wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers, we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**So let us think of members everywhere, as we give each other the blessing of The Grace**

***May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all, evermore. Amen.***

Jean Webb  
Faith In Action coordinator

# 2020 December and January Newsletter



## Ely Cathedral Tree

A sight we are familiar with, taken just after Thursday prayers in December 2019. Things will be different this year both in the cathedral and in our home lives, but much will remain the same.

*As we begin our Advent journey we pray for holy guidance to lead us to the place of peace.*

*As we carry the burdens of the year gone by we pray for a lifting of our spirits.*

*On every step of our star-led way we pray for new grace for the year ahead.*

*In seeking the place of the Christ-child may we be ever aware that the risen Lord accompanies us every step of the way. Amen.*

- taken from Praying in every Season

### WAVE OF PRAYER for Ely Diocese

10<sup>th</sup>–12<sup>th</sup> Dec. Please remember to set aside time to pray for our link diocese. Prayer sheets have been distributed. If you wish to join other MU members on Zoom at 3pm on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December the ID is 818 0300 1106. By telephone ring 0203 901 7895, when prompted enter 818 0300 1106# Others across the world will be praying for us too.



### MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS 20201

Please pay subscriptions of £20 to your Branch or to Diocese (for Diocesan members) by Jan. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Zoom ID for the Global Service at 10am on 5<sup>th</sup> December is 835 8609 0248 (last digit is not 3)



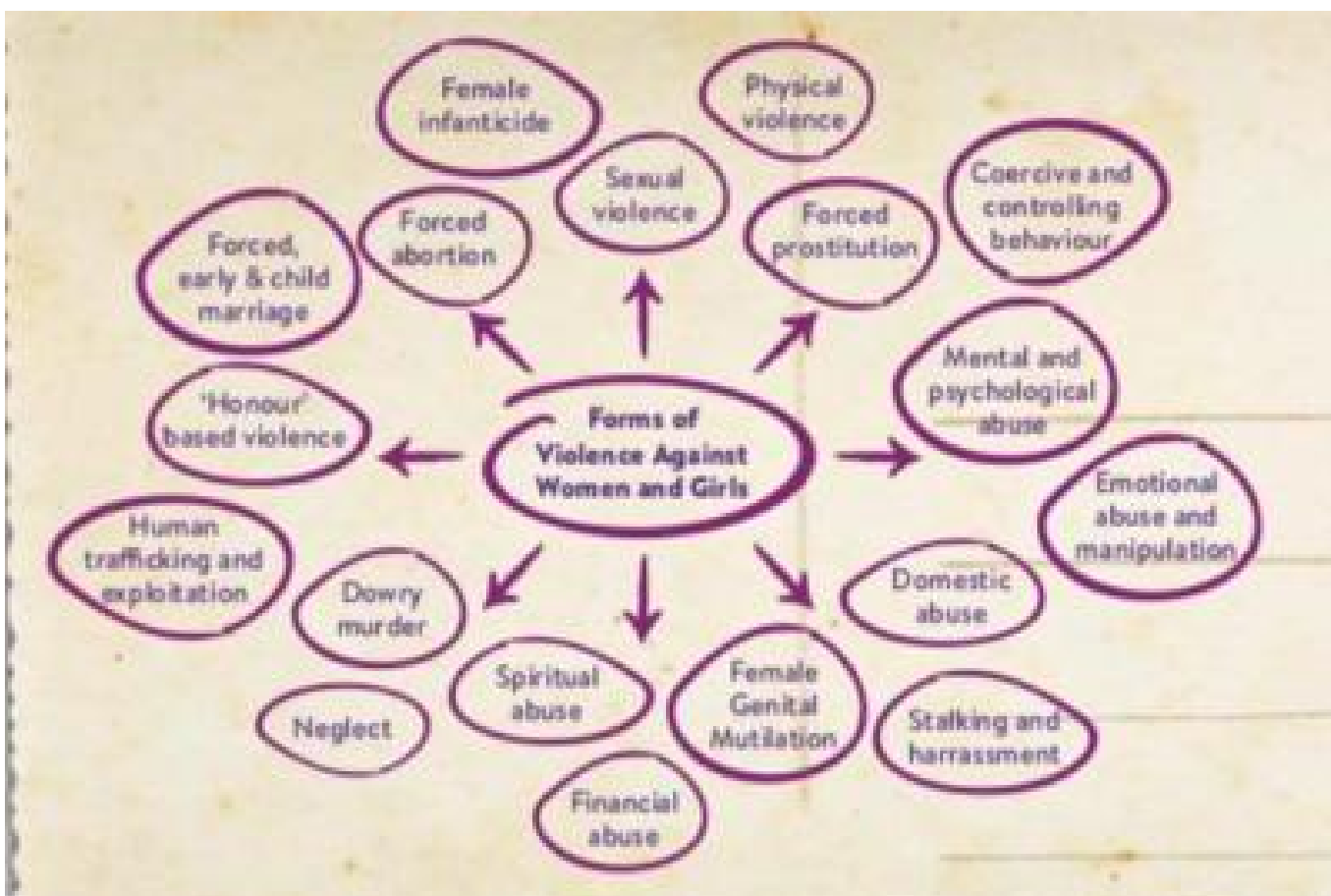


Like many other branches **Farcet** have been unable to meet for most of this year. They have kept themselves busy with knitting for a number of charities. The photograph shows Veronica with 6 knitted blankets, 2 knee blankets, a baby cot blanket and baby bonnets, only a small selection of the items given to Hope House for the homeless and the Tudors residential home.

They are looking forward to meeting after Easter and getting back to some sort of normality.

Thanks go too, to all the other members throughout the diocese who have been busy sewing and knitting this year to help those in need.

**During the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence** many members across the world will have been thinking and praying for girls and women who are suffering. It is not the same everywhere and below is a chart to remind us of all aspects.



**Global Day 2020 Service.**

This year the MU is celebrating the 16 days of Activism with a variety of events. As a diocese we plan to join together for a service on Zoom (ID 835 8609 0248) on Sat 5th December at 10am. We hope as many members as possible will be able to join together to worship as we pray for peace, especially in homes around the world.

## REFLECTION FOR DECEMBER

Philip Baker (26<sup>th</sup> November 2020)

Inspiration for provoking thought is not limited to the bible. In these far from normal times I have not limited my reading plan to that great book (although that would normally be enough on its own) but I am reading or re-reading a number of classics, including Robinson Crusoe (which I am not sure I have ever read beyond children's versions and which I thoroughly recommend).

The following extract is on his recovering from a serious illness some years after his shipwreck and arrival on his island (my apologies for it being so long, but Mr Defoe cannot be accused of brevity in his literary style):

*I missed the fit for good and all, though I did not recover my full strength for some weeks after. While I was thus gathering strength, my thoughts ran exceedingly upon this scripture, "I will deliver thee;" and the impossibility of my deliverance lay much upon my mind, in bar of my ever expecting it: but as I was discouraging myself with such thoughts, it occurred to my mind, that I pored so much upon my deliverance from the main affliction (ie to be rescued from the island), that I disregarded the deliverance I had received; and I was, as it were, made to ask myself such questions as these; viz. Have I not been delivered, and wonderfully too, from sickness? from the most distressed condition that could be, I had not owned and been thankful for that as a deliverance, and how could I expect greater deliverance? This touched my heart very much and immediately I kneeled down, and gave God thanks aloud, for my recovery from my sickness.*

How often do we make the mistake of failing to be grateful for what we do have rather than being angry or disappointed at not receiving what we wish for? God always answers our prayers, but not always as we expect, so we need to be on the lookout.

In my own situation I have found an extension of this principle to be very helpful: to be grateful and happy for the good times we had rather than to be angry and sad for the good times we might have had in the future. In fact, so much so that people are sometimes surprised at how positively I can express my thanks for the nearly 60 years of happiness Susan and I shared rather than regret at the sadness of it not still being the same.



**Susan's funeral was, as you would expect, very difficult for her family and we were all buoyed up by the huge amount of support given by you all, thank you. In addition to the limited number of those of us in church over 70 groups and individuals joined with us via Zoom which was amazing. All areas of Susan's life were represented, her relatives, church family, friends and neighbours, Mothers' Union contacts from everywhere and those we shared time with on the river. Over 200 people and groups have sent a card or letter, most mentioning some memorable occasion shared with Susan! All this shows how she connected with others and made an impact on lives. I am also now able to report that over £2000 has been donated in her memory to the Mothers' Union and it is my sincere hope that this will enable the impact she made to continue to be effective in some way. It is a truly magnificent sum and the family's appreciation goes to all who contributed to make it so.**

**Philip Baker**



## Thoughts on ADVENT

**Helen Banyard**

I love lights. Whether it's the warm rays of the sun, the bright flames of a bonfire or the twinkling lights on a Christmas tree. Light lifts my spirits and I feel happier. We are in Advent, the season before Christmas as we wait for the coming of the Christmas child. Do you have an Advent calendar and/or an Advent candle? As a small child I loved the anticipation of opening a numbered window or door throughout December till Christmas Eve. It was exciting to see what was behind the number for that day and let the light shine through the picture which was revealed, perhaps a cracker, a toy drum or a star. Then there was the flare of the flame as the match lit the wick of the Advent candle and watching the wax slowly melt away the small section for each day. (I still treat myself to this annual ritual - an important part of preparing for Christmas and the calendars and candles are sent to wherever my children/ grandchildren are - Shanghai and New York State this year).

This year we are surrounded by darkness- the pandemic looms large, alongside the ever-present wars, hunger, poverty, loss of employment, the effects of climate change, and the results of domestic and sexual abuse. It is important that we look forward to the Light before it comes. The calendar or candle can provide us with our own small light in this world which can feel hostile and forbidding. The light invites us to look beyond the darkness and to trust in our gift for God, in the new-born child, who lights up our heart, no matter how desperate we may feel. Be guided by the unexpected lights and those that refuse to be extinguished because God is always with us. The seasons of Advent and Christmas which fall in our midwinter give us the opportunity to become the bearers of a light, kindled by the Spirit, to give hope in a world of darkness.

December is a month of expectation, anticipation and hope. Christmas is God's gift to us of His son, who is visible and tangible to everyone who is looking and seeking. Let us share the mystery - to look beyond our lighted windowpane candles as part of our own Advent journey. We are invited to knock on the door and enter into the divine mystery as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it" John 1 v5

## Zoom meetings information

**5<sup>th</sup> Dec. Global Day Service. 10am  
ID 835 8609 0248**

**11<sup>th</sup> Dec. Wave of Prayer 3pm  
ID 818 0300 1106**

**17<sup>th</sup> Dec. Thursday Prayer led by  
Angela Jones 10.30am on Worship  
and working with Mothers and  
Toddlers**

**ID 857 9631 9028**

**21<sup>st</sup> Jan. Thursday Prayer led by  
Hazel Williams 10.30am on New  
Start**

**ID 852 1960 4460**

**CONTACT DETAILS** Charity no. 251394

Ros home 01223 861846

[roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)

Hazel home 01638 743897

[hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

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