

Newsletter June 2025



Canterbury Provincial Conference

Can you spot Debbie, Jean and Hazel in this gathering of Diocesan Presidents, in May, at High Gate House in Northants. It gave us an opportunity to meet other DPs from across the Canterbury Province and hear speakers from Mary Sumner House and Julia Jamieson our Zonal trustee.



Prayers were led by Josiah Fearon, husband of Comfort our new Provincial President, leading her first provincial conference. Meeting in our Eastern Region Cluster Group gave us time to share any future plans and projects. Plans for the 150th anniversary festivities in 2026 are foremost in people's minds, as planning needs to start this year.

Hazel

MOTHERS' UNION GARDEN PARTY

Bishop's Garden, Ely. Saturday 14th June. 3-5pm.

Music from the King's School will entertain us.

Bring your own packed tea. Fizz and soft drinks provided.

Raffle prizes will be gratefully received and there will also be an opportunity to buy MU cards and see a display about our worldwide links.

Everyone welcome

*There is no entry to the Bishop's Garden from the gallery. Entry to the Bishop's Garden will only be through the rose garden from the back gate of the palace. This gate is along the road which runs from the **South** Door of the cathedral to the portico which you drive under to exit into the end of the Gallery.*

The scaffolding will help guide you! Parking only in public car parks.

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

“A New Commandment”. Led by Gail Swanson.

As we weren't able to record from the Cathedral, Sue sent us a video from the zoom recording, which has been edited, and we've added in Gail's recording of her reflection. Hope you enjoy this final version.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xeAERmBIBrw>



Thanksgiving service for Littleport MU member Mavis Blackmore

Julianne Long

A service of thanksgiving and celebration of the life of Mavis Blackmore was held at St George's church, Littleport on 14th May.

Mavis was a long-time member of the Mother's Union and had at one time been branch leader for eight years.

She and her husband David had travelled to The Gambia and while there she visited a Mother's Union group. She bought out there a lovely kaftan made of fabric printed with the MU logo. On her return home she organised collections of books to send to a school in The Gambia.

The materials for our Mother's Union banner were paid for by Mavis and the banner used during the opening of the service as at her family's request, St George's MU formed a Guard of Honour outside of the church to welcome people in. The refreshments afterwards were provided by the Mother's Union which we all felt a fitting tribute to our good and loyal friend Mavis.

150th celebrations - reminder of key dates:

- **10th June 2026**, a celebratory service at St Paul's at 7pm is the official 150th service for Mothers' Union
- **11th June 2026**, 150th year Annual Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, next to Mary Sumner House.
- **Early October 2026** for the Mothers' Union **150th Anniversary Global Gathering in Durban, South Africa**. Please contact Hazel if you are interested.

AFIA

Good morning Jean,

Thank you for your email. Thank you for continuing supporting families who really benefit from holidays provided by Mother's Union. It makes a real difference to families to spend positive time together away from everyday stress and pressures.

Thank you for your good wishes. At least the spring is here now.

Kind regards,

Irena

20 colourful blankets ready to go to Hinchingbrooke Hospital for the dementia patients. I'm sure these bright colours will be most appreciated.



A reminder to branches that if you are inviting friends, family, congregation etc. to events this summer, a risk assessment should be completed beforehand and visitors made aware of any risk areas?

Risk Assessment template available from me.

Jean (jmw35n@gmail.com)

Anglian Peace and Justice Network Prayers

The Anglican Peace and Justice Network serves the whole of the Anglican Communion, and welcomes anyone to prayers for peace, justice and reconciliation.

In each prayer session there is a focus on some part of the world, and in this one will hear about issues in **Pakistan/India and Melanesia**. I am sending this to you all this time, as Fr. Reginald from the Solomon Islands has recorded his reflection on the issues of peace there. One of them is domestic violence and he talks about the work the Church is doing with the Mothers Union, especially with men. Domestic violence is a big issue there.

There are two sessions and both have been scheduled for times that bring in the widest geographic spread of time zones. For us here in the UK they are a bit 'odd' but doable if you can. Please share this with anyone you think might be interested. You do have to register. The registration links are:

Jun 10, 2025 08:00 AM London <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/EQ6ptfU8QliYJ-U0MwHU9Q>

Jun 11, 2025 06:00 PM London https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/-cbZi4G_RguKaY4-uw8Gbg

In His peace, Sue Claydon

A REFLECTION

Philip Baker (18th May 2025)

Change, so much change! A new leader of the Roman Catholic Church, a new President of the USA, a strong negative reaction to current political parties in the UK and a new Worldwide President of the Mothers' Union. It feels as though we are caught up in a maelstrom of change over which, as individuals, we have little say. I have picked on just four examples, which show how all aspects of our existence are affected by such events. However, we are naturally inclined to view these matters in very different ways.

We have all formed our views on matters of politics. We see the goings on in the USA with some detachment, knowing we will be affected but peripherally. However, we see UK politics very differently, feeling deeply involved in the issues at stake. Yet this does not reflect the global impact of each, with the USA potentially influencing far more people around the world than anything we do in the UK. Matters of religion on the other hand are based on immutable truths, any change here is relatively superficial and unlikely to have any serious impact on us.

So, our reactions are related to how much we ourselves are personally affected. Where does that leave the new Pope and our MU President?

The Pope arguably has the power to have the greatest impact on the people of the whole world of all these examples but, until we consider it, how many of us immediately felt that? By working mainly with the vulnerable and most marginalised people around the world, the MU has enormous influence to do good. Both of these operate in God's name, is that a co-incidence? I think not, and that it shows when you go behind the sensationalist headlines you find God working, as He has done for millennia, to support those who need help, love, compassion. We have nothing to fear from these changes, so feel safe and less involved.

It gives me a great sense of hope that, throughout all the change we hear so much about, God has not changed at all and is continuing to work through us, his followers and servants, just as He always has done. Alleluia!

Advance notice: **Quiet Day** Wednesday 17th September at Etheldreda House (new diocesan office), Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely CB6 3NX. Led by Rosey Feuall from Cherry Hinton.

Advance notice: Saturday 27th September 2025. **Canterbury Provincial Gathering** is at The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES. **Tickets** £20 per person and are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/mothers-union

Join Us, Join In is the theme. The event is open to all members and your friends too.

Thursday Prayer in Ely Cathedral and on Zoom 10.30am on 19th June

Presented by Jean Webb

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrCiGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1>

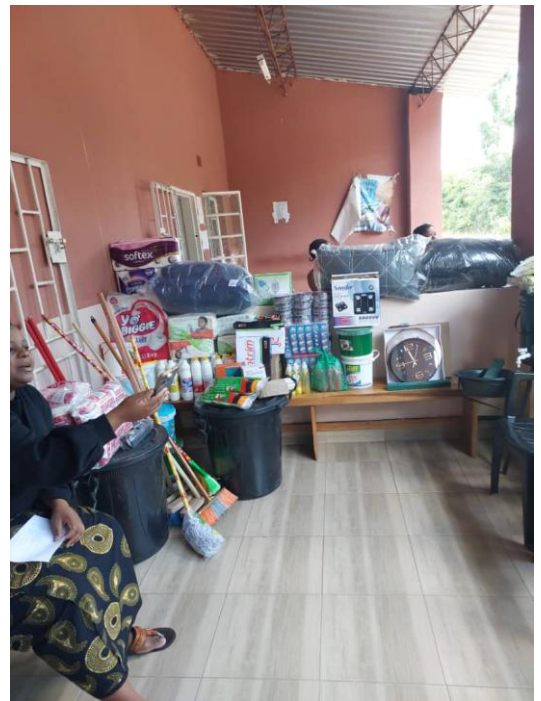
Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628 Passcode 080127

Ely Diocesan M U contacts

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

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Worldwide News

The **Diocese of Lusaka, in Zambia**, built a Rural Health Centre a few years ago. Each year Mothers' Union delivers donated items to the health centre, which is the only material clinic in an area of around 15 kilometers from the only hospital in the district. In the photos are the Mothers' Union members and the amazing number of items that they delivered.

Irene Porter

Respond
Inform
Support
Empower

Unite
Pray



RISE UP awards

Later this month, awards will be presented to branches and churches who are actively championing the [RISE UP against domestic abuse campaign](#).

These awards recognise groups that are raising awareness and supporting local domestic abuse organisations through meaningful action. There are three award levels and to achieve the bronze award your branch or church should:

1. Put a RISE UP poster raising awareness about domestic abuse in an appropriate public place such as in churches, toilets, community centres, village halls etc.
2. Commit to pray for those affected by domestic abuse, including the victims, survivors, perpetrators, and those who work in the field of domestic abuse.
3. Make a connection with your local domestic abuse support organisation to see how you can support them.

Almost every branch already fulfils section 3 because many contribute to helping the refugees, with whom we have close contacts, through diocesan or branch collections of goods or shop vouchers. Brompton MU Branch is the first in the Ely Diocese to be awarded a Bronze RISE UP certificate and we hope many more will follow. Information is on the Mothers' Union website and get in touch with Hazel for forms to fill in as web-site ones are not working.