



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER 2023



HOW WELL DO YOU READ YOUR MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER DIARY?

Edward Bear Group at Ely Cathedral were influenced by the picture of the 2,000 year old tree in the Prayer Diary section for September. The story of the dove returning to Noah with the olive sprig, inspired us to make an oil collection for the Foodbank as our Harvest contribution this year.

MU Diocesan Autumn Meeting on Saturday October 14th

Waterbeach Church Hall 9.30am for 10am start

Speaker: Revd. Matthew Bradbury on Modern Slavery

Reports from Task Group Leaders/Bring packed lunch/ Parking next to hall

Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union
Charity no. 251394

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

Ros 01223 861846 roswright1@gmail.com

Hazel 01638 743897 hwill66@icloud.com

THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and on
October 19th Zoom 10.30am

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89847170351?pwd=TTtSwqNI3P84OFrcurFdtbmOJ3PCz7X.1>

Meeting ID: 898 4717 0351

Passcode: 201420



16 Days of Activism 2023

RISE UP *against domestic abuse*

RESPOND INFORM SUPPORT EMPOWER UNITE PRAYER

Rise up; this matter is in your hands. We will support you, so take courage and do it.

Ezra 10:4

Most of you will have received your copy of Connected magazine within the last two weeks. If you read pages 18 -19 you will see all the details about the Rise Up Domestic Abuse Campaign. There are suggestions for how your branch could show support for this campaign which begins on November 25th. This will also be the day that mothers' Union members and supporters meet together at Ely Cathedral at 12.15pm for a silent vigil. This will be followed by a minute's silence outside the main door at 1.03pm to help raise awareness of the fact that 1 in 3 women worldwide will experience domestic abuse in their lifetime. Do come to join us if you can.

RISE UP posters will be available at the Diocesan meeting for display in your church or village hall.

Also in **CONNECTED** from page 26 onwards are the details and photographs of the **Christmas cards, diaries and calendars with an order form**. Branches and individuals can either get in touch with me, order online for themselves or get together as a branch and put in a branch order. If your order is over £60 postage is free. Please remember to put Ely in as your diocese so that we can receive a branch related grant. *Hazel*

If you **have not** received your copy of CONNECTED, please get in touch with Ros (contact details on the front page) of this newsletter.

Many churches will celebrate **Prison's Week** in their service on October 8th. Burwell Radio will have a special edition of CrossTalk featuring inmates from Littlehay prison who have contributed items and chosen music for the programme. Revd Paula Spalding, our Diocesan Chaplain has put the programme together. If you would like to hear it put Burwell Radio into your search engine and it is the first thing you will see. The 30-minute programme airs on Sunday at 8.30am and 4.30pm then on Monday at 7pm.

St Neots Branch

Eileen Newman celebrated her 90th birthday on 2nd October and Pauline Keatley, for many years a member of Somersham branch and our oldest member celebrated her 96th birthday on 29th September.

AFIA

We received this from an 8 year old boy who went on one of our holidays at the end of August –

“The Searles Leisure resort was ‘supercalifragilisticexpialadocious’ and was the best holiday place I’ve ever been at and if I had enough money I would buy the entire place and the train was so cool when it went everywhere even out of the resort. And I am really grateful that they gave us free pocket money which I used to go to the arcade, fish n chips and the plaza.”

His Mum added -

All the best and may you give many more families like we this kind of holiday. Thank you very much again and God bless you all.

We have 4 families booked for half term week in October. Do please pray for them

Baby Tent

Maureen and her team were at the Gransden Show. Thank you Maureen, and your team of helpers, for keeping Mother’s Union prominent at this event.

‘I was amazed at how many families came to change nappies and feed babies. Often two or three nappies being changed at the same time. A break for some toddlers too so that they could just sit and play with toys. We saw a lovely model of Big Ben from a young boy who loves clocks.

Next year we are going to try to count how many families used the facility. Hazel



Annual Gathering

A comment from one of the attendees.

‘I couldn't get to sleep last night, my mind was just buzzing, the meeting was so positive and vibrant. Both Sheran and Bishop Emma putting Christ at the forefront of all we do, then for the same message to be repeated so enthusiastically by Archbishop Stephen. What a perfect replacement for Sentanu- he has fire! It's

food for thought but the underlying message was more members needed, and getting our clergy and churches working alongside us. Some great ideas with Rise Up for 16 Day's.

OUR Christmas Giving Wish list

While we support all year with toiletries, household and cleaning items, we do make a special appeal at Christmas.

The 3 Women's Refuges and the 2 young people's Hostels we support particularly like to have Shop Gift Vouchers at this time of year, as this enables them to give their clients the Gift of Choice. Mid Cambs. Refuge would also be grateful for new single bedding sets.



Mary' Child, The Charity project we support in Farcet & Stanground, would appreciate boxes of chocolates, biscuits, boxed toiletries and children's selection boxes.

Our contacts and the preferred stores vouchers for each are-

Mid-Cambs Refuge Liz Elson 01480 211726 jimelson@talktalk.net Iceland, Tesco, Lidl	Fenland Refuge Sue Claydon 01354 654214 sueclaydon112@gmail.com Asda, Aldi
Cambridge Women's Aid (CWA) 01223 35000764 housekeeper@cambridgewa.org.uk Any store vouchers	Mary's Child Maureen Haigh 01353 749760 gmhaigh@talk21.com Gift boxes as above
Whitworth House (young women) Jo Wibberley 01223248728 jowibs.mu@gmail.com Primark	Wheatsheaf Close , young people) Jean Webb 01353 658581 Jmw35n@gmail.com Aldi, Tesco

Thank you for all you do to support families in difficult circumstances.

We enjoy reading about some of the meetings and events that have taken place and often receive photos and information after the event. It would be great if we knew about the **special events in advance** too, as it gives other members, who would like to attend, the opportunity to do so. Not all areas have a Mary Sumner Day Service or a Christmas Mothers' Union celebration and with an increasing number of Diocesan members it would be something that many might enjoy attending.

Hazel

BANNERS. The trustees have the opportunity to stage a Festival of Banners (MU of course) in the Cathedral next August. It would need the support of our branches bringing banners to display and maybe other items. Start thinking about whether you would like to be involved. More next month.

A REFLECTION

Philip Baker (23rd September)

My thoughts this month are going to open with an admission – although I received, and read, the “Connected” magazine for Spring 2023, I have only just noticed the words on the front cover: “I love you, I call you, I choose you”. They reference an article inside titled “Loved, Called and Chosen” contributed by Caroline Welby. I do not intend to precis it here, but I do suggest you read it if you haven’t already done so. It was the words on the cover that struck me so forcibly.

“I love you, I call you, I choose you”. When I saw them, my immediate reaction was of a feeling of being overwhelmed. I could visualise God calling these words to me and the impact of them. I know we read the Bible and study in many ways what we are supposed to do and how we are supposed to do it, but everything is in those words – “I love you, I call you, I choose you.” Each phrase on its own is powerful but together, well, “awesome” is an overused word but applies in this case.

We know God loves us; it is everywhere in the Bible. But put in the first person gives it an added depth of meaning. I can hear Him saying it to me, personally, and am struck dumb. God loves me; in spite of all my faults and failings, He loves me. Alleluia!

We also know God calls us. We are told in the Bible that we have roles, strengths and skills; that we all have our contribution to the whole and that together we make the whole body; that we all depend on each other. But here God says to each of us that He calls us personally, He knows our names and talents (He gave them to us!) just as He knows our actions and even our thoughts. Again, in spite of our imperfections, He is calling each one of us to Him, to serve Him and ultimately to be with Him. We are called because He needs us. That makes me feel very small, that the almighty God should call me because He needs me, personally.

And then He also chooses us. Out of all the people in the world, me, you, are His chosen ones, all of us who believe in Him and, recognising our failings, ask for forgiveness through His grace. God is speaking to each one of us as His chosen ones. We have our roles and tasks to perform, as individuals and collectively, we are loved, called and chosen to do His work. In Deuteronomy 7:7-16 you can read that the Lord chose each of us because He loves each of us. It is also worth recalling that according to John 15:16 we do not choose God, but God chooses us.

All this raced through my mind on reading those few words. One speaks of the power of the written word; never can there be a few words as powerful as these: “I love you, I call you, I choose you” when put as said by God to each one of us.

I was especially grateful to find these words today (or did they find me?) as it is the third anniversary of Susan passing, and I was experiencing that sense of aloneness that washes over one from time to time. But these words reminded me that I am not alone but very much wanted, which was exactly what I needed! The power of words indeed!



WHITWORTH TRUST

AGM

Tuesday 17th October 2023

6.30pm

Little St. Mary's Church Parish

Centre. Cambridge

RSVP

whitworthtrust@gmail.com

CELEBRATE, SUPPORT, SHARE



Debbie Tye - Communications

Anti-Slavery Day/Black History Month.

Professor Dame Sara Thornton will speak on “Modern Slavery: Hidden in Plain Sight”, at a Ben Jupp Memorial Lecture in association with Ely Amnesty Group, in the north transept of Ely Cathedral on Sunday 8 October at 5.30pm.

No tickets are required for this event. Entry is free. There will be a retiring collection for the work of Amnesty. More info here: <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/sara-thornton-lecture>

Further details about Anti-Slavery Day (18 October) on Ely Diocesan website: <https://www.elydiocese.org/about/news-jobs-and-events/news-and-announcements/news/anti-slavery-day-resources>

Sadly, due to a bereavement, the planned events at Soham Parish Church for Black History Month focussing on the abolition of the British slave trade have had to be postponed until Spring 2024. More info will be available then.

Resources for Black History month (October): <https://www.elydiocese.org/about/news-jobs-and-events/news-and-announcements/news/events-and-resources-for-black-history-month>

CLEWER INITIATIVE

Mothers' Union are working with the Clewer Initiative to end modern slavery by 2030. Both Mothers' Union and the Clewer Initiative believe that the tools to end modern day slavery already exist within our local communities. We envision that the Church, which is present and at the heart of communities, has a primary responsibility in leading this effort.

The Clewer Initiative is a project that enables the Church of England and its wider networks to develop strategies to detect modern day slavery in their communities. They can then help provide victim support and care. This involves working with the Church locally to identify resources already available to be utilised. Also, there is a focus on developing partnerships with others and thus creating a wider network of advocates seeking to end modern slavery.

On a more national level the initiative is developing a network of practitioners who are committed to sharing models of best practice and providing evidence-based data to resource the Church's national engagement with Government, statutory and non-statutory bodies.

Read more on the MU website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/projects/mothers-union-and-clewer>

And on the Clewer website: <https://theclewerinitiative.org/> where you can sign up to a monthly Newsletter as well to receive latest info about their work.

On Sunday 15 October there is a Special National Service for Anti-Slavery Day, which will focus on the link between modern slavery and refugees. It will be led by the Rt Revd Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, and will come from the Huguenot Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral. Bishop Rose will also provide the sermon. It will be streamed on the C of E website, and available to watch from 9am.

Follow this link for more info: <https://theclewerinitiative.org/blog/hosting-the-national-online-service> or go to the C of E website page for online services: <https://www.churchofengland.org/prayer-and-worship/church-online>