



Newsletter

October

2025



WORLDWIDE

Our link diocese of Lusaka in Zambia had Mothers' Union members from Uganda come to visit in September. It must have been wonderful to see them all travelling in their Mothers' Union uniforms. If you are able to go to the Anglican Diocese of Lusaka Mothers' Union Facebook page, you can watch many video clips of the visitors' arrival and the wonderful greeting they received. *Irene Porter*



A REFLECTION

Philip Baker (26th September 2025)

We will soon arrive at All Hallows' Eve, or Halloween. This is, as we know, the evening before All Hallows' Day, or as we usually term it, All Saints Day and is widely celebrated by children dressing up as ghostly characters and being given sweets. The connection between celebrating the lives of saints and remembering our ancestors, and dressing up as ghosts is clear. But the modern celebration has distorted our understanding.

Based on pagan celebrations, All Saints Day arose from an edict issued by Pope Gregory in the eighth century that November the first be a day to honour saints, a term originating from the Latin "sanctus" meaning holy or sacred. I like the definition in Wikipedia that tells us that "The Feast of All Hallows, the Solemnity of All Saints, and Hallowmas, is a Christian solemnity celebrated in honour of all the saints of the church, whether they are known or unknown". To me that final phrase is vitally important, "whether known or unknown".

When we think of "Saints" our minds turn to the named saints who have achieved their sainthood through recognition of deeds in support of the Faith. And this is fine, but we might overlook all those who might fall into the definition of a saint ("a person recognised for their exceptional holiness, virtue, or service to God") but have not been formally elected or "canonised", and I would suggest that there are many people who might fall into that category but conduct their "saintliness" largely unseen.

Continuing the theme, All Saints Day (on first day November) is followed on the second of November by All Souls Day, when we commemorate all those who have passed within the Faith. This is an opportunity to remember all those who followed in the path shown us by Jesus and lived their lives as best they were able according to His rules. We will all know someone we have walked the way with who fits into that measure, and probably within the Mothers' Union somewhere in the world.

So, this Halloween, let us gather our thoughts around the Christian aspects of this festival, starting with the internationally recognised saints and then moving through the ranks to include all those we have known and loved who have done their best on this world for the love of God.

Two grant applications were received by the trustees, for the **Susan Baker Memorial Fund**. These were awarded to Littleport towards expenses to help expand their Foodbank work into a Community Hub and to Bury for resources, seating and storage for a dedicated children's space. Information and Application forms can be found on the Ely Diocesan website in the Mothers' Union section which is under 'Your Church In Action'.

16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence and Rise Up

Saturday 29th November at Ely Cathedral

12.15pm - Prayer Vigil lasting 30 minutes

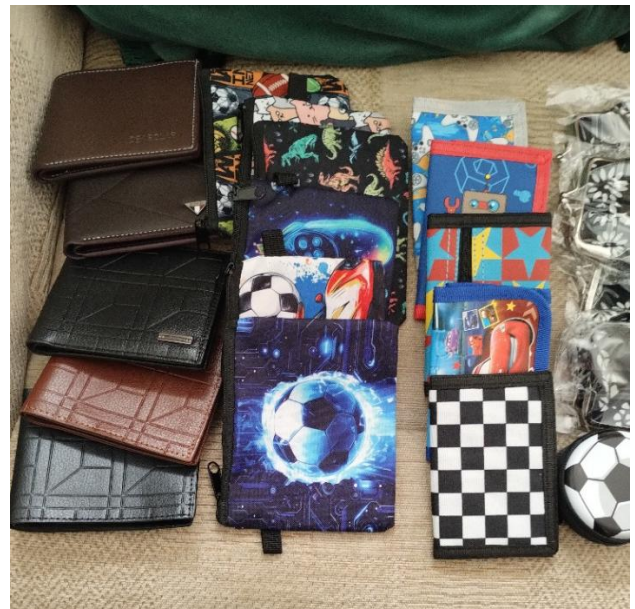
Gathering outside for 1.03pm for 1 minute banner witness.

PURSES FOR AFIA



Thanks to members who have bought and made purses and wallets for the children who go on AFIA holidays.

I now have enough in reserve to keep us going for at least all of next year. They love receiving this special gift that they can keep, even if the money is spent!



Autumn Diocesan Meeting

Saturday 25th October

St. Johns Church, Waterbeach. 9.30am – 2pm.

The Autumn Diocesan meeting will be held at St. Johns Church, Waterbeach Saturday 25th October 2025

10am – 2pm (coffee/tea from 9.30am)

Speaker is Julia Jameson. MU Zonal Trustee on new central initiatives and news about 150th anniversary

Cards for sale inc. Christmas cards.

Displays of MU projects and worldwide news

Tea/coffee supplied

Please bring a packed lunch

All are welcome

YVONNE CUBITT RIP



It is with sadness that I report the death of Yvonne Cubitt who had just had her 93rd birthday. She will be much missed. She was a very longstanding member of Balsham MU – over 60 years and her mother was also a loyal member for many, many years.

Yvonne was a very regular member of Balsham Church congregation and for many years was organist and also in charge of the flower arranging. She designed (without a computer) kneelers for the high altar communion rail and the nave altar rail. Latterly she became the Sacristan which she did until Covid when I took over from her. It was only in the last few months that Yvonne was unable to get to church.

She leaves behind Gordon also in his 90s and her daughter Charlotte and her son-in-law Trevor who live next door and their two children.

May Yvonne Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory.

Joanna Sanders, Balsham Branch Leader

With apologies to Catherina Griffiths who sent this to me earlier in the year but I missed putting it in the Newsletter

Reading about Win Norton in the newsletter reminded me that she always encouraged us to wear our MU badges.

About 20 years ago I was at a Palm Sunday service in Gibraltar when I noticed that the lady next to me had an MU badge on. We got chatting and in the course of conversation I discovered that she was the president of the Central European Diocese.

More recently, I was line dancing and the lady in front of me turned round and noticed my badge. She was Branch Leader and Church warden at Potton Church (Bedfordshire). We got chatting and this resulted in a few of our St Neots members attending their World Day of Prayer service. They are a very small branch (and in St Alban's Diocese) but we have shared our programme and some of their members hope to join us at our Quiet Day.

Wear your badge whenever you can – you never know where it will lead you!

Database Information

There are still a few branches who have not returned their list of members for this year to either me (hwill66@icloud.com) or Stuart muportalely@gmail.com, who is doing the database. He has made good progress so please do it as soon as possible if you are one of them.

Diocesan Members' Lunch.

We are not planning a Diocesan Members' Lunch this year, due to fewer attending and rising costs. However, we hope that as we celebrate our Mothers' Union 150th Anniversary next year, there will be something else for you to come along to, as we are looking at planning events that cover locations across the Diocese, as well as in Ely and at our Diocesan Days.



Friday 7th August 2026 150th Diocesan Anniversary Service at Ely Cathedral
10th June 2026, a celebratory service at St Paul's Cathedral at 5pm is the official 150th service for Mothers' Union
11th June 2026, 150th year Annual Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, next to Mary Sumner House.

**Thursday Prayer in Ely
Cathedral and on Zoom
10.30am on 16th October**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1>

**Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628
Passcode 080127**

2026 Mothers' Union Membership Subscription is £25.
This will all go to Mary Sumner House and there will be no MU Diocesan subscription.

Ely Diocesan M U contacts

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