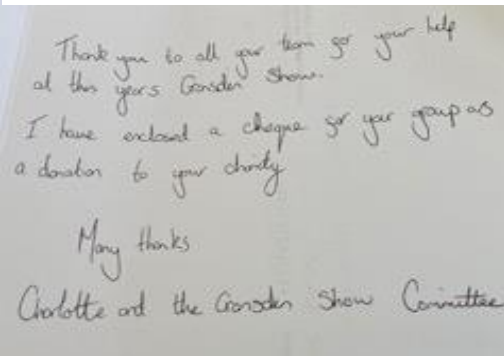


Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

BABY TENT AT GRANDSEN SHOW

We were delighted to receive a donation of £325 to help fund our AFIA holidays. Very generous thanks from the Show for organising an area to help those with young children.



90th BIRTHDAY

Congratulations go to Dora Gale, a member of the Anglesey Branch who celebrated her 90th birthday on Christmas Day 2023. She was presented with a card and basket of flowers from fellow members during the December branch meeting. Dora has been a Mothers' Union member for over 60 years.

Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union
Charity no. 251394

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

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BANNER EXHIBITION FORM.

A form to fill in will be received by each branch with this newsletter. When returned this will give us an indication of who would like to bring their banner to the display in Ely Cathedral during the first two full weeks of August. Please return to me at e-mail address above or by post to 66 Mill Lane, Burwell, Cambridge. CB25 0HJ

A REFLECTION

Philip Baker (16th January 2024)

Did you make a new year resolution this year? This is usually a promise to yourself about something you want to do better (or not do at all) but, unfortunately, often fails. Anyone who has read the Old Testament books, such as Exodus, chronicling the Israelites departure from Egypt and wandering in the desert in search of their promised land, cannot fail but be amazed at how often they ask God for something, receive it, promise to follow the law, and fail. Time and time again they wander from God's way, break His rules, suffer the consequences, renew their promises and then repeat their mistakes.

Any rational person would ask: why? Why not go along with God, do it His way and enjoy the clear benefits? But they don't and we are left to be amazed at their apparent obduracy, saying: of course we would be more sensible; we would not stray; we would follow the path on which are guided. But would we? Is there a clue in the way we dismiss our new year resolutions? Obviously there is – in reality we would be no better. Consider for a moment, we know what we are supposed to do and how we are supposed to behave, especially towards others (our neighbours). Do we really live up to those rules, those expectations of God of us and which we promise to adhere to? I know I fall short and I cannot believe I am the only one! I know what I am supposed to do but I come up with excuses and "reasons" for going my own way.

I write these words during the season of Epiphany, the biblical time when Jesus was revealed to the world as the Son of God. One of the consequences for us is that we are charged with passing on the Good News of salvation through Jesus to all our fellow humans. I suggest we challenge ourselves to make a belated resolution to do just that, be a light like the star of Bethlehem, welcoming all who are willing into the fellowship of Christ. Some of us are doing this directly through Alpha courses, but there is a way for all of us to do our bit. Let's see if we can keep this resolution going and make it a habit for the rest of our lives. Amen.

Mothers' Union Membership Subscriptions are £23 for this year. If every branch could recruit one new member more than this year, over £500 would go to help the work of the Mothers' Union.

If you are a taxpayer and therefore able to claim Gift Aid, Ely Diocesan MU would receive £5.75 for each individual. Derek Tye, our treasurer, has sent a form by e-mail to each branch that they can copy for you to fill in if you do not already use Gift Aid. Copies can be sent to branches by post if necessary. This money will go to the taxman otherwise and I would much rather it came to Mothers' Union Projects.

**THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and on
Zoom 10.30am on February 15th**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83847809128?pwd=VVhXUGlNWkpaGkyMUdwWHQvcC9tQT09>

ID. 838 4780 9128/Passcode 338053

QUIET DAY

Advance notice of the Mothers' Union Quiet Day which will be at Yaxley Church on 21st May, 10am-2.30pm.

Paula Spalding, our Mothers' Union Chaplain will be leading it.

LENT LUNCHESES AT THE CATHEDRAL will be held every Friday in Lent following the 12.10 communion which this year is in St. Catherine's Chapel, (on right as you enter main door). Soup lunch will be in the Cathedral Centre (soup, cheese, bread and fruit). Suggested donation £5. Proceeds to AFIA.

WORLDWIDE NEWS.

Irene Porter - Worldwide link

The annual Bishops and wives retreat took place in Lagos Nigeria in January. With contact still not being made with our links in Nigeria, all we can hope is that of the many photos of the retreat, on the Church of Nigeria Facebook page, some may be of members from Ika and Sokoto. This photo shows a group of Mothers' Union members looking very happy and joyful, and all wearing their Mary Sumner skirts.



COMMUNICATION NEWS – NEW YouTube VIDEOS. Debbie Tye - Co-ordinator

We have a new YouTube video link to share with you for **DECEMBER THURSDAY PRAYER:** "Advent – Waiting for Christ". Led by Deirdre Milner.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f7W5VF_bZjw

We also have the YouTube video link for **JANUARY THURSDAY PRAYER:** "Transformation – Now!". Led by Hazel Williams.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FSgiQEX6Nrc>

ELY CATHEDRAL LUNCHTIME CONCERTS.

If you are coming to Ely Cathedral for Thursday Prayers in February and March, there will be two great Lunchtime Concerts in the Cathedral at 1.10pm.

On February 15th there will be a concert from Stephen Armstrong and Friends, involving 43 singers and a chamber orchestra. Mozart *Piano Concertos 6 & 14*; Tallis *Spem in alium*; Barber *Agnus Dei*.

<https://www.elycathedral.org/events/stephen-armstrong>

On March 21st the Ely Music Collective will present a varied programme of music.

<https://www.elycathedral.org/events/ely-music-collective>

These concerts are part of a series being held weekly on Thursdays during February and March.

Pupils from the King's School Ely will be performing on February 29th and on March 14th.

More info on the Cathedral website: <https://www.elycathedral.org/events>

In the Lady Chapel there is also “**A Celebration of Bridal Gowns Exhibition**” from 14th February to 17th March. A fascinating exhibition highlighting the history, artistry and allure of wedding dresses over the years.

Entry to the exhibition is included with your Cathedral visitor ticket. Cathedral Pass Holders and Residents of CB6 / CB7: Entry £5 (available in person from the Cathedral ticket office).

Further info: <https://www.elycathedral.org/events/celebration-of-bridal-gowns>

See more about how to apply for a RESIDENTS PASS elsewhere in this newsletter.

ELY CATHEDRAL RESIDENT AND PARISH PASSES

With the upcoming MU Banner Exhibition in the Lady Chapel in August, it will be useful if members were able to gain free entry to the Cathedral to visit the Exhibition, and at other times. If you are not already a Cathedral Friend or have a pass, here is the info about how this works for the different passes.

Here is the link on the Diocesan website: <https://www.elydiocese.org/ely-cathedral-parish-and-resident-passes-6066.php>

Resident Passes.

If you live in the CB6 or CB7 postal area you are entitled to free entry to Ely Cathedral.

Please bring proof of address (e.g. a driving licence or household bill).

The Residents Pass gives you free access to the ground floor of the Cathedral.

Parish Pass Holders.

Ely Cathedral offers free entry for those on the electoral roll of churches in the Diocese of Ely.

To apply for a Pass you will need to complete a form, which has to be signed by your Churchwarden.

Please note: Expired Parish Passes are still valid for entry. There is no need to re-apply.

Here is the link on the Cathedral website: <https://www.elycathedral.org/plan-your-visit/visitor-tickets-and-tours/free-cathedral-entry>

You will be able to download a form on this page where it says “Ely Cathedral Parish Pass application form”.

If you are not able to download and print a form, please ask someone in your Branch or church if they can help. If not, please contact Debbie Tye and she will send you a form.

Completed forms can be taken to the Ticket and Information Desk at Ely Cathedral between 10am and 4pm, Monday to Saturday, in order to collect your pass. If you are not able to come to Ely, please send your completed forms to Debbie Tye, and she will obtain a pass for you. Alternatively, if there is a group of you in your Branch wishing to apply, you could do this via a central contact (e.g. Branch Leader).

Debbie Tye (01353 666883 / dmtypost@hotmail.com)

Faith In Action – January 24

Jean Webb 01353 658581 Jmw35n@gmail.com

This lovely letter is for all our wonderful knitters, and for Audrey who sorts, packs and delivers to the Maternity Unit at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital -

Dear Mothers' Union members,

On behalf of all of the staff at Hinchingsbrooke Hospital Maternity Unit, I would like to pass on our heartfelt thanks for your kind donation of knitted baby hats that your representative delivered earlier today.

The families we care for really appreciate their babies' being given a handmade hat at birth, and always comment on your beautiful choice of colours and designs. As midwives, we also take great enjoyment from choosing a hat to suit each baby and family.

Thank you again for taking the time to both produce and deliver the hats.

H.J. (Midwife)

Hinchingsbrooke Hospital

North West Anglia Foundation Trust

This photo shows just a selection of the hats and other garments sorted by Audrey.



Also from Hinchingsbrooke -

A plea from the Frailty and Dementia unit for more lap blankets

These are very popular, and patients take them with them when they move. Could you help?

Lap blankets can be between 32 and 40 inches, square or rectangular.

Faith In Action can accept squares as well as completed blankets, 6 or 8 inches preferably. I find the easy way to knit a square is by casting on 2 stitches, increasing at the start of each row until desired length, then decreasing at the start of each row, and finishing by knitting the last 2 stitches together.

The Angel Foundation (previously known as Property Angels) are no longer needing beds, but do want Settees and Chests of Drawers. These are for furnishing homes for abused families. Please message me for more information if you have either item to donate.

Mothers' Union Trustees for Ely Diocese

Please get in touch with me if you would like to know more about being a trustee of the Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union. Many members already do wonderful work but if you would like to be part of the decision-making body of the charity, I would love to hear from you. A number of trustees have to step down at the end of this year as 6 years is the longest you can hold any one of the trustee posts. I will give more information next month but please pray that enough members come forward to have a viable committee of trustees.