

## Newsletter April 2025



### COMMISSIONING SERVICE FOR ELY DIOCESE

On March 22<sup>nd</sup> Mothers' Union members and friends gathered at St. Mary's Church in Ely for a Service of Thanksgiving and Commissioning for trustees, chaplain and officers, by Bishop Dagmar, Bishop of Huntingdon. They will be in post for the next three years.

Jean Webb, Hazel Williams MBE, Bishop Dagmar, Debbie Tye and Revd. Paula Spalding are shown on the first photograph. Jean, Hazel and Debbie will be working together as vice-presidents filling the role of president.

Below are photographs of banners that were paraded and the commissioning itself with trustees, life vice presidents and chaplain standing for their special part of the ceremony.

After the service there was an opportunity to catch up with members from other branches over tea and cake.



### Spring Diocesan meeting and AGM

**St. Peter's Church, March**

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April at 9.30am for 10am.**

Nick Keen will also be talking about the work of MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship).

If you have any picture postcards (either new or used) please bring them to the meeting or give to someone who is coming) to give to MAF.

**SEE AGENDA AT THE END OF THE NEWSLETTER.**

Please bring your own lunch.



The MU Worldwide President Kathleen Snow, visited the Eastern Region at the beginning of April. She and her team visited HMP Five Wells in Wellingborough, with Peterborough MU Diocesan President, as their MU are involved closely with the prison. Members from Ely, Peterborough, Norwich and St. Edmundsbury and Ipswich and Dioceses then met with Kathleen and her team at the Ely Diocesan Office. After lunch, time was spent talking about MU issues before Kathleen gave an excellent talk and PowerPoint presentation.

Bishop Dagmar happened to be at a meeting in the Office, and was able to meet our MU visitors.

Above shows Jean Webb (Ely Vice-President), Bishop Dagmar, Julia Jamieson (Zonal Trustee for Canterbury Province), Kathleen Snow (Worldwide President), Comfort Idowu-Fearon (Canterbury Provincial President), Debbie Tye (Ely Vice-President).



Eastern Region MU members meeting together in Ely to share news and hear the latest initiatives taking place in the Mothers' Union.

#### Ely Diocesan M U contacts

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

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

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

#### Thursday Prayer in Ely Cathedral and on Zoom

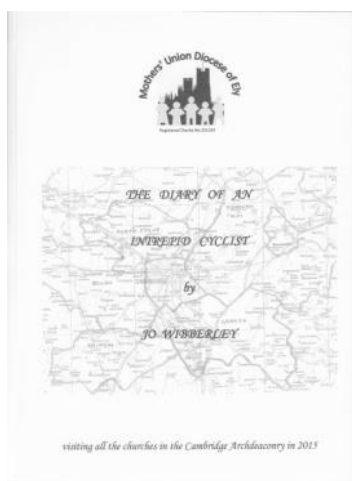
10.30am on 24<sup>th</sup>

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGQ12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1>

Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628 Passcode 080127



## THE DIARY OF AN INTREPID CYCLIST



I finally got around to finishing this diary last summer with the incentive of having a copy available for the Banner Exhibition in the Cathedral. It is now nearly 10 years since I started this venture. The idea was to promote the Mothers' Union in the Cambridge archdeaconry, so over 7 months I cycled nearly 700 miles and visited 147 churches. I experienced most types of weather except snow and hurricane and doing without my husband's map reading skills was sometimes a bit of a challenge.

Having recently been asked for a copy from a MU member and now promoting it at my church, if anyone would like one, I can print to order. The cost is a donation to providing welcome bags of toiletries and underwear for new residents at Whitworth House. Although MU members are generous in providing some of the items needed, the usual spend is about £20 a bag and I deliver 6 bags two or three times a year. They are very gratefully received as some of the young women arrive with only the clothes they are wearing.



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### A REFLECTION

As you read this, we are coming to Easter and the shops are full of Easter Eggs and Hot Cross Buns. Our celebration is joyful. Do we think much about what the first Easter must have been like for those who witnessed it?

Easter ends the period of time we call Lent during which, by some small acts of sacrifice, we have been calling to mind Jesus' withdrawal into the desert for 40 days and nights to prepare for His ministry and to overcome temptation by the devil. Do we think what that means for us?

On Palm Sunday, we recall the day that Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey to live out the climax of His ministry. The people were jubilant – here was their Messiah – but Jesus must have known what was to happen. Do we wonder what must have been going through His mind?

Just a few days more, Good Friday, also known as Black Friday, Great Friday and Holy Friday, would bring Him to His death on the Cross. He did this for us. He did it to provide us a path to salvation and a life with God. Do we marvel at His generosity – giving His own life that we might live?

Finally, the glory of His resurrection on Easter Sunday. It is said that if there is one thing we as Christians can say to show our faith it is: "Christ is Risen – Indeed!" It is the defining moment for us when He shows himself to Mary Magdalene and entrusts her to tell His followers. Do we consider how that directly impacts our own path through death?

Last month I reflected upon possible acts of sacrifice to show our solidarity with our God and suggested giving up a little time for some light Bible reading. I don't know how many were able to follow my suggestions, but I closed last month saying "Whatever we do, let us make sure we remember God's amazing love for us as shown by the sacrifice He made on the Cross, followed by His example of rising to life again." That was true last month, just as true this month and will be true every month until we follow in Jesus' footsteps right to the end.

*Philip Baker (19<sup>th</sup> March 2025)*

Christian Hope International have moved to Brentwood. They have nowhere to store the sweaters, hats, gloves, blankets that many Mothers' Union members have donated for many years. So sadly, Stitches of Hope has ceased. Thank you to everyone who has donated but please do not stop knitting and crocheting. We still need the blankets as well as fiddle muffs, baby hats, canula sleeves etc.

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## 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations - reminder of key dates:

- 10<sup>th</sup> June 2026, a celebratory service at St Paul's at 7pm is the official 150<sup>th</sup> service for Mothers' Union
- 11<sup>th</sup> June 2026, 150<sup>th</sup> year Annual Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, next to Mary Sumner House.

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## WORLDWIDE NEWS

**Clementine Dushimimana** is the new Mothers' Union worker for **Shyogwe Diocese in Rwanda** and this is her recent letter to Ely Diocese.

*Dear Irene Porter,*

*I greet you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*I sincerely apologize for not being in touch earlier. Last year, I started my role as a Mothers' Union worker, and over the past months, I have been busy learning about Shyogwe Mothers' Union; how it operates, ways to improve it, and how to encourage greater participation from women.*

*Several important initiatives have taken place. We have mobilized and trained the Mothers' Union committee at the parish, archdeaconry, and diocesan levels, encouraging and empowering members in their responsibilities. We have also been preparing for a couples' gathering and conference, aimed at fostering unity and strengthening families within the church community. Additionally, we are encouraging creativity among women and youth through an art and design project, as well as a sewing project, both of which will expand further this year.*

*I have attached a summary of last year's activities, which I hope will give you a clearer picture of the work being done in the Shyogwe Diocese Mother's Union. (This will be in our May newsletter)*

*I was so delighted to receive the Christmas card you sent me; thank you so much for thinking of me. I hope you also had a blessed Christmas, and I am praying for a healthy, happy, and blessed year for you and all. I was also truly blessed to read the January 2025 newsletter and was inspired by all that God has done through you and His servants. I am especially grateful for your prayers for Rwanda and other countries, and for mentioning MU leaders in your prayers. May God bless you abundantly!*

*I have learned so much from the wonderful way you share Mothers' Union news, and I pray that God enables us to continue sharing and communicating the amazing work He is doing in MU this year as well. We will continue to pray for all prayer requests you send us, and please pass our warm greetings to our brothers and sisters in Christ.*

*With love and prayers,*

*Clementine*

**SPRING DIOCESAN MEETING and AGM**  
**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> April at St. Peter's Church Hall. March. 9.30am -2pm**  
**9.30am Coffee for a 10am Start**

*Please do not go into the church. The meeting is in the hall at the side of the church (follow the signs)  
where there will also be MU displays and cards.*

**Agenda**

**10am Welcome and Opening Prayer**

<b>AGM</b>	Apologies
	Approval of Minutes
	Annual Report.
	Annual Accounts
	Appointment of Auditor

**10.40am**

**SPRING MEETING**

Minutes of Autumn meeting 2023

Matters Arising

Comfort Break and opportunity to see displays and cards

**11.00am SPEAKER** - Nick Keen will be talking about the work of **MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship)**.  
Questions.

**11.45am UNIT UPDATES**

Visit of Worldwide President

**12noon**

Midday Prayers

Praying our Faith

Faith in Action

Communications

Finance and Admin

**12.45pm** Lunch *Please bring your own lunch. Drinks will be supplied.*

**1.45pm** Finish

**Everyone welcome.**

**A copy of the annual report has been sent with this agenda and the annual accounts will be circulated separately but before the meeting. Please bring a copy with you as we are not intending to print copies for all attendees at the meeting.**