



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

JANUARY NEWSLETTER



Those who looked at the heading of the last newsletter would have seen November/December instead of the intended December/January. As I have received a number of Christmas related items it seems a good opportunity to send them now while the Christmas Season is still fresh in our minds.



Yesterday I took the Christmas donations to the Fenland Refuge. There were multiple gifts for each of the 9 children and big bags of toiletries etc. for the 7 women. Also, selection boxes for all the older children. (please see the photos attached)

A total of vouchers worth £110 were handed over yesterday.

I would like to add my thanks to all who have donated this year.

In His peace, Sue



Card made by one of the women in the refuge.

Faith In Action – January 24

A Christmas card I received, that is for you all-

To Wish you all a very Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year

We cannot thank you enough for all you do to support women and children fleeing domestic abuse.

The vouchers are a real life-saver at a time when women are feeling at such a low, and that they have “lost everything”. To know that complete strangers are thinking of them, and have donated vouchers to help them, is so heart-warming, not only at Christmas but throughout the year too. You will never know how many people’s lives have been touched.

With endless gratitude, from all the women and children, and from the staff, at Fenland Refuge.

Warmest wishes, Jocelyn.

With it was enclosed a Thank you card-

Dear Mothers Union

I thank you so much for the Amazing Advent Calendar. As a Christian it means a lot in the year I have left everything behind. I thank you.

May God Bless you all!

I pray that if ever you are in need God gives you someone as kind as you.

All the best in life

Thank You

Merry Christmas



From Esther, the Family Worker we have supported this year in Stanground , Farcet and Fletton parishes.

Thank you Mothers’ Union for the generosity of supporting my role all year which has really made an incredible impact on the way we support those in crisis and developing the role within Mary’s Child. I am saddened too to hear that funding next year for my role will be ending, however I believe everything is all in Gods planning.

Thank you for all the items you have donated to us throughout the year. We have given these to the families, and they have been so appreciative of everything, so grateful of the kindness, love and support from the Mothers’ Union.

And, from Rev Carol Avery, founder of Mary’s Child –

We are always so grateful for your amazing donations. We have given much of your bedding, towels and household items to some very needy families. The Chocolate selection boxes and toiletries boxes have gone out with our Christmas food parcels. Thank you so much.

We are so grateful for the financial support that the MU has given for this past year. It has helped so many people. And, by the grace of God we have literally just heard that the National Lottery are going to fund some of our work in 2024. God is good.

This is just a selection of the messages of thanks received. Your generosity to those whose “lives have met with adversity” is so much appreciated.

A Happy New Year to all

Jean

ST. NEOTS DEANERY



The attached photos were taken at St Neots Deanery Advent buffet lunch, which followed a beautiful Advent service of readings and Advent hymns led by Canon Robert Sibson.

Hosted by St Neots branch 37 Mothers' Union members from four branches, spouses and friends, including a group of MU members from St Albans diocese and Maureen, our archdeaconry vice president, this event was held on Tuesday, 5th December in St Neots Parish Church and afterwards in the church room.

A collection was taken for the Mid Cambridgeshire Women's refuge and the money raised will be used for gift tokens for the residents.

**THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and
on Zoom 10.30am on January 18th**

Hazel Williams

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

ID. 838 4780 9128/Passcode 338053

BALSHAM BRANCH

The Balsham Branch have sent their Tesco Vouchers to Liz Elson who is delivering them to the mid Cambridgeshire Refuge in early November.

Balsham knitters are still busy knitting squares for blankets and little jumpers and cardigans. Any wool to spare would be gratefully received as our main supplier, a MU member in Linton Mary Spriggs, sadly died in autumn 2023.



STAPLEFORD BRANCH

St Andrew's Stapleford held a Christmas Tree Festival in early December - and this is the tree decorated by a member of Stapleford Mother's Union.

There were thirty trees on display in all. Members of the Branch helped to steward and made cakes for the event, in aid of the Stapleford Warden Scheme.

Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union

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An E-mail from her husband David told us that on 28th of November Esther Yabbacome sadly died.

He said,

'Her passing was peaceful and loving and she knew that I and all our five children were with her. She has been ill for a number of years with complex conditions, but had been taken from her nursing home into hospital a fortnight before with infections to be treated, one of which proved to be beyond her'.

Esther and David were both members of Downham Market Deanery with David taking over the role when Esther could no longer continue as leader.

BURWELL BRANCH

Burwell Branch met at the home of Branch leader Philip Baker where he led the Wave of Prayer Service using a map, prayers, stories and music of the countries who are linked with Ely Diocese. Thanks go to Irene Porter, our Worldwide Links Officer, for putting together the service.

A collection was taken for the MU Christmas Appeal at the November branch meeting and raised £43 (which was doubled by the Big Give) to help group members in Tanzania learn basic business and marketing skills. At the December meeting one of our own members, Christine, gave a demonstration of simple Christmas flower arranging for a table centrepeice.

