

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

AUGUST NEWSLETTER 2024

Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union Banner Exhibition

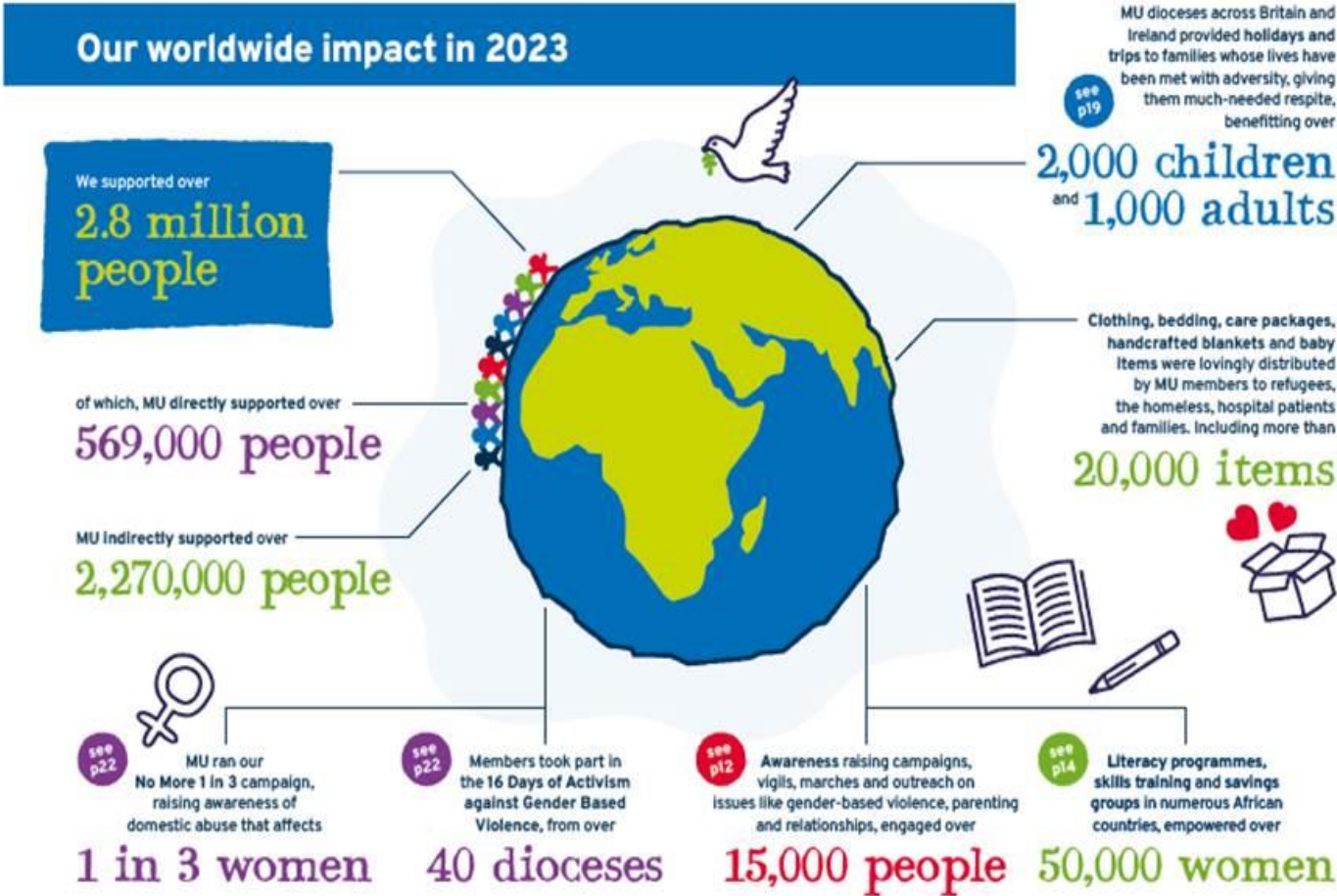
In preparation for the Banner Exhibition the Diocesan Banner needed to be removed from its glass case which is placed in a corner at the back of the north transept. I looked at it more carefully than I have in the past and was able to take some photographs of the detail of the banner. It was designed by Margo Bulman and embroidered in 1959 at St. Margaret's Convent, East Grinstead who were well known for their ecclesiastical embroidery. There are detailed notes on the design including the arms showing the Diocesan Three Crowns and the arms of the Mothers' Union, the escutcheon of the City of Westminster and uniquely for a lay organisation, a medallion of the Mother and Child.



Banner Exhibition
Ely Cathedral Lady Chapel
1st -14th August
10am-2pm weekdays
12noon -3pm Sundays

Mary Sumner Day Service
Fri. 9th August 11.30am





The chart above is from our 2023 MU annual report published in July 2024. It is on the Mothers' Union website and contains a wealth of information.



RE: Mothers' Union Summer of Hope

A flower festival with the theme 'Inspired by ' was held in July at St. John the Baptist Church, Somersham. Our miniMU group (MU) entered a display entitled 'Inspired by Grace' featuring Grace's photograph and information about the MU Summer of Hope. £100 was collected for MU Summer of Hope.

BRAMPTON VISIT TO ST. NEOTS MU



Nowadays it is becoming increasingly challenging for branch members to get together for the traditional deanery events, but planning a joint event for two neighbouring branches could be more practical, especially for a social occasion held in the summer months.

Brampton and St Neots have recently held such an event and it turned out to be very successful. It consisted of an evening walk in Riverside Park followed by an informal tour of St Neots Parish Church and refreshments provided by the host branch. Those unable to walk were able to come later and join the church tour.

Despite the dampness of the weather the short evening walk was enjoyed by a valiant few, four from each branch plus one primary school leaver and one labrador. They were all ready for a drink, snack and homemade cake by the time they reached the church!

The tour that followed was led by a member of the Parish Church congregation who was willing to come and share his extensive knowledge of the beautiful old church and its many interesting and significant features, while the group walked slowly round with him. The evening was greatly enjoyed by all and provided an excellent opportunity for us to get to know each other better.

So we would thoroughly recommend that other branches hold a similar event as it is easy to organise, and most of us are blessed in being able to worship regularly in lovely old parish churches. In this diocese we also have many areas of open countryside as well as a park on our doorstep where there are suitable, attractive walks. Come to think of it, we shouldn't be at all surprised to learn that some other branches have already benefitted from this kind of outing!

Julie Barker and Liz Elson

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

We have a new YouTube video link to share with you for **JULY THURSDAY PRAYER**:

“Going Forward in God’s Plan”. Led by Linda Swain.

(Apologies for the quality of the recording this month, due to a new camera being used in the Cathedral. Also we have no Powerpoint as Sue, who usually runs our Zoom meetings, was away on holiday, and due to technical issues could not include it.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RrH5qkx93gl>



Celebrations in Lusaka, Zambia, as new members were enrolled at a service in the Cathedral. They do look happy.

The following was one of the notices in the Cathedral service sheet recently. Matthew and Mike and Jessica are all MU members

The Rev'd Canon Dr Jessica Martin, the Rev'd Canon Matthew Bradbury and the Rev'd Mike Banyard, Priest Vicar, are celebrating 20 years of priestly ministry. Ordained priests by the Rt Rev'd Dr Anthony Russell at the Petertide ordinations in 2004, all three have ministered in Ely Diocese since then. The last two are now retired, and Jessica is moving to Chelmsford Cathedral as Dean soon. Jessica is presiding this morning and Mike is the deacon.

Triennial theme 2025-2027

We are pleased to share that the triennial theme for 2025-2027, following on from "Transformation Now!", approved by the Worldwide Board in July, is:

JOIN US and JOIN IN!
MU is changing lives.

This triennial theme builds on Transformation Now! which looks at how MU can continue to be relevant and reflect the needs of churches and communities in the 21st century. The clear message is that MU is evolving, and MU needs to grow if we are going to continue as a movement of members delivering change in communities across the globe. This theme asks us to proactively share about MU and encourage anyone who supports what we do, to join us and join in. It also asks existing members to take a look at what they feel able to do in their churches and communities, and to join in.

You will receive further information on how to use this theme. Hopefully, by telling you now, you can integrate this theme into your programme planning for 2025.

A REFLECTION – August

Philip Baker (23rd July 2024)

A recent Sunday sermon concerned God's amazing Grace – how, through the death of His Son, Jesus, on the Cross, we are all eligible for eternal life with Him. I thank God every day that I believe in this incredible gift, given freely to us, and that God knows me by name and is expecting me at some time in the future.

But I could not help but contrast this generous gift, this joy, with the state of the world today; how some people can reject all that is on offer to satisfy some personal need to do things which are so totally at odds with the nature of our loving God. There is hatred for those who do not share our thoughts, intolerance for anyone not conforming to our view. There is oppression by totalitarian regimes, a "leader takes all" mentality. Everywhere there is violence by the strong over the weak. Thoughts which culminated in the moment that someone attempted to assassinate Donald Trump – not a nice man (in my view) but not deserving of murder. Even within our mother church there is an inability to find a will to meet and compromise in other views, such that no Bishop could be appointed to Ely. Where in all this is evidence that the words of Jesus in John's account chapter 13:34 - "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another."?

This disparity between the ideals of love and tolerance versus the actions we see seem too great for us to overcome. But if we all, individually, reject these views then collectively we can make a difference. The big issues will take time, but we can straightaway make adjustments to our own lives as a start. We can forgive that driver who is discourteous instead of feeling annoyed by him (or her). In our daily lives we can ignore those who seek to provoke disharmony – like all such people they will soon give up if their efforts meet with no response. We can work to recognise that people are truly diverse in every conceivable way – God made us that way – and that everyone has a God-given right to be what they are and not be a copy of what we are.

Best of all, we can hold an image in our minds of how Jesus would have responded in any given situation and follow the command He gave us – "As I have loved you, so you must love one another".

PS – your homework this month is to read the prayer ascribed to St Francis. Speak to me if you cannot find a copy.

Joan White, a long-time member of Burwell Mother's Union passed away on 10th July at the age of 98. She was always busy and provided a sponge cake for every MU meeting as well as bringing bags containing knitted baby clothes and blankets. She passed her driving test at 52, late in life learnt how to swim and line dance and avidly supported the Cambridge organisations in helping the fellow hard of hearing. In recent years she mastered Zoom so that she could attend our on-line church services. Sometimes it was just the top of her head, but she was there! Joan was a real gentlewoman – and brought a smile to everyone she met, always calm, willing and friendly.

Janet Duffy, branch leader of Woodston for many years, passed away on July 8th aged 80. Her funeral will take place on Thursday 15th August.

**THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and on
Zoom 10.30am**

15th August – Irene Porter

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83847809128?pwd=VWhXUGINWkpaeGkyMUdwWHQvcC9tQT09>

ID. 838 4780 9128/Passcode 338053

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St Mary's Ely Branch – Afternoon Tea Party.

St Mary's Ely Branch held a very enjoyable Afternoon Tea Party in July which raised £265 for the Summer of Hope Appeal. We were pleased to welcome members and guests from other branches in the Deanery and surrounding villages. Many thanks to all those came along and supported the event, and to St Mary's MU members for providing refreshments.



The **Ely Cathedral MU Branch** held a Coffee Morning with a selection of stalls on Saturday July 6th. Despite the fact that it was a very wet morning which affected the number of people who came, an amount of just over £400 was raised for the Summer of Hope Appeal. Thank you for everyone's hard work and generosity.



Balsham Branch Lunch

Balsham Branch, which now has only ten paid up members' held their annual garden meeting at the home of Judy and Peter Neale. 7 of us turned up and we were able to be in the garden. Peter had organised a quiz about Balsham which was quite difficult! None of us got all the answers.

This was followed by a good tea with lots of chat.

National Vice President of Mothers' Union, Mrs. Wilhelmina Graves, Visits UK to Promote Membership Among Ghanaian Community



In a recent visit to the United Kingdom, Mrs. Wilhelmina Graves, Diocesan President for the Diocese of Accra in the Province of Ghana, engaged with key stakeholders from the Ghanaian community in Britain to promote the organisation's mission and membership among the community. She shared that Ghanaians in the UK should be proud of the significant contributions MU is making in Ghana, and by supporting the movement, they could help further these efforts.