



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Newsletter January



Jo Wibberley is standing down as a trustee of Ely Mothers' Union after 26 years.

Jo and her husband moved to Cambridge in 1997. As a vicar's wife she was actively involved in MU in the diocese they had come from so, as we had no Action & Outreach Co-ordinator, in 1998 I asked Jo to take this on. She continued to be an active member taking on many roles over the years.

1998 - 2003	Action & Outreach Unit Co-ordinator
2004 - 2009	Finance and Central Services Unit Co-ordinator
2010 - 2012	Cambridge Archdeaconry Vice-President
2013 - 2015	Cambridge Archdeaconry VP and F&CS Unit Coordinator
2016 - 2018	F&CS Unit Co-ordinator
2019 - 2024	Cambridge Archdeaconry VP

(Information from Della Fletcher)

Jo has worked with a number of branches, particularly in the Cambridge area, as well as serving on the Board of Whitworth House supporting young women in need. Many of you met her on her cycling trip across the whole of the Cambridge Archdeaconry in 2015, as well as reading about her static 'journey' in her garden during Covid. Both raised awareness of the Mothers' Union as well as substantial funds. She had a Ukrainian family living with her in her home and they recently moved into their own house in Cambridge. Although Jo will no longer be a trustee she will continue to work with Whitworth House.

Gill Utin is also finishing her term as a Trustee. She has in recent years been Vice-President for the Cambridge Archdeaconry and before that served as our Worldwide Officer, keeping members informed about the work taking place across the world as well as giving many talks to branches.

Catherina Griffiths will finish her administration and finance trustee role too but will continue as minutes secretary to the trustees.

Our thanks go to them for all they have done for the Mothers' Union over many years.

Our new trustee joining us is **Christine Mitchell** and other trustees will be changing roles, as it is the start of a new triennium. Names and roles will be reported in the next newsletter in February.



St George's MU Wave of Prayer

A small group of us met for this year's Wave of Prayer at St George's Littleport.

We lit candles which were placed on the maps for Zambia, Rwanda, India and for Nigeria, then prayed for each area. A candle was also lit for Ely. Between the prayers for each place, we had a time of quiet contemplation, thinking of these different areas, and listening to quiet music from Taizé.

Over our table we had an Indian marriage canopy, the vibrant pinks and golds catching the candlelight and brightening up a gloomy December morning.

At the end of our prayer time, we had tea, coffee and mince pies. Our Wave of Prayer materials are displayed in our MU corner of the church.

Julianne Long. Dec 2024



Burwell Church held its first Christmas Tree Exhibition over Christmas 2024, with displays from church groups and local community groups. This picture is of the decorated Mothers Union tree, in pride of place in the porch, where the decorations included many small knitted stockings.

These will be used in 2025, during the Christmas period, filled with sweets such as tubes of smarties. They will go to the children of visiting families of men at Littlehay Prison.

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

Hazel Williams

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628
?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDI
K.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1)**

Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628

Passcode: 080127



The photo shows only a fraction of the toiletries provided by members and their friends this Christmas. Thank you to all of you. *Maureen Haigh*

A bequest of £1,000 was given to the Mothers’ Union in Ely Diocese earlier this year. The trustees agreed that it should be sent on to the Christmas Appeal and will be used to expand a successful pilot in Burundi. It will provide support by empowering women through literacy circles and savings groups, improving agricultural practices, reducing violence and building stronger communities.

COMMUNICATION NEWS – NEW YouTube VIDEOS. Debbie Tye

We have two new YouTube video links to share with you for Thursday Prayer.

NOVEMBER THURSDAY PRAYER: “Campaigning for Christ” – Led by Debbie Tye.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BPngMPk-DI>

DECEMBER THURSDAY PRAYER: “The Good News” – Led by Deirdre Milner.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gT6IZ1rcdgl>

Please would those on Zoom remember to mute their computer during the service. The quality of the recording can be reduced if this does not happen.

Congratulations to Kay Coe of **Stapleford Mothers' Union** on her 95th birthday on 23 January! Kay is a very longstanding member of the Branch and has in her time been Branch Leader. She is a friend to us all and deeply valued and loved by all our members.

Hilary Street

I will be continuing to compile the monthly **Newsletter** this triennium and would like to hear news or other items from any members or branches. Photographs are nice but not essential. I think there is a lot happening in Ely Diocese that we do not hear about. Please think about what you could contribute.

Hazel Williams

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Whitworth House

I took a photo of the Christmas gifts for Whitworth House. Instead of Primark vouchers, one branch had given me One4All vouchers which seemed more versatile so I bought the same with donations to treat everyone equally.

Two tins of biscuits for the staff, though they were short staffed at the time. They hope to interview early in the new year.

Jo Wibberley

This photo shows the MU tree for **Balsham's Christmas Tree Festival**. The writing with it explains that Balsham Mothers' Union was founded in 1897 and that the MU now has 4 million members in 86 countries. It also tells people about our special links with diocese across the world. Photographs of countries across the world who have an MU were also displayed.

Joanna Sanders



Prayer for January 2025

Prayer is not powerful because of who is praying but because of who is listening. – M. Pilavachi.

We thank you Lord for the year that is past, for the privilege and opportunity to serve you in practical ways through our Mothers' Union membership.

Lord, guide us as we go forward joyfully into this New Year. We pray for all who serve you in MSH, Worldwide, and especially those taking up leadership roles in the Mothers' Union. Be their inspiration and guide, providing them with wisdom for their various tasks. Bless them and all members with strength and energy as we continue to share your love in our service to your Church and the families in our communities.

We pray for Governments and all in leadership in the nations of our world. Grant healing and comfort to the victims of war and violence, abuse, the homeless, refugees, all in distress and need. Those whom we have forgotten, we ask you Lord, to remember.

May the God of hope and love fill us with Joy and Peace in the power of the Holy Spirit as we trust Him in this New Year and for evermore. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**