

July Newsletter 2024

GARDEN PARTY

The Bishop's Garden was a delightful place to be on the afternoon of 21st July with glorious weather and the opportunity to meet old friends and new. Entertainment was provided by the King's School whose group 'Spikes Cello Ensemble' played some wonderful music. Members enjoyed a varied selection of compositions and Della and Ken Fletcher were particularly proud as their grandson was one of the cellists. Although not intended as a fundraiser, generous donations and buying of raffle tickets raised £200 for work within the diocese.



There will be an August edition of the newsletter so please send any pictures or news you have about your area before the end of July.



Ely Cathedral Branch

This photo was taken at Moira Soutter's Memorial Tea on Monday 17th June in the Lady Chapel. Moira was a committee member and keen supporter of Ely Cathedral Branch for many years and especially the Edward Bear Group. She was much loved by the Edward Bear families and always delighted by the new born babies, for whom she knitted hats and booties. She will be sorely missed.

**THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and on Zoom 10.30am on
18th July – Linda Swain**

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

ID. 838 4780 9128/Passcode 338053



St. Neots Branch

On Wednesday, 5th June we held our annual Garden Party in the garden of one of our members, Jean, who has nobly hosted this event for several years. It was very well attended, we were blessed with fine weather, members and friends enjoyed a lavish spread and we raised the amazing total of just over £300 for AFIA and £136 from the raffle for other MU funds. A thoroughly enjoyable and successful occasion.

Liz Elson

Congratulations to Mary Buxton of **Grantchester** who will be 100 on 15th July. Mary came to branch meetings with her carer regularly until 2020. She is now housebound but still enjoys reading the monthly 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.

Resident Passes. If you live in the CB6 or CB7 postal area you are entitled to free entry to Ely Cathedral. **Parish Pass Holders.** Ely Cathedral offers free entry for those on the electoral roll of churches in the Diocese of Ely.

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

MOTHERS' UNION Banner Exhibition

Thursday 1st – Wednesday 14th August 2024

Lady Chapel
Ely Cathedral

Weekdays: 10am – 4pm

Sundays: 12noon – 3pm

A unique exhibition of banners and memorabilia from MU branches across the Diocese of Ely celebrating the work of the Mothers' Union

Mary Sumner Day Service
on Friday 9th August at 11.30am
in the Cathedral Presbytery

CONTACT:
www.elydiocese.org/mothers-union
www.elycathedral.org
Further information from:
MUelyDiocese@hotmail.com



Banner News

With this newsletter you will also receive an information sheet for those who are responsible for delivering your banner to the cathedral and collecting afterwards.

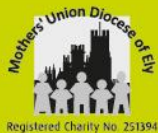
If this is not the person who receives the newsletter to distribute, please make sure that the person who is responsible is sent or given the information.

If you have information about your banner please send it to Hazel as soon as possible.

We are still happy to have names of those who would like to do a two-hour stewarding slot (or more).

Jean - jmw35n@gmail.com or 01353 658581 or

Hazel - hwill66@icloud.com or 01638 743897



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Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Ely



This presentation was to Freda Smith for 72 years of membership of the Mothers Union. Freda has been a member of **the Brampton Branch** of the Mothers Union for most of these 72 years. The presentation was made at their annual garden party (which was held inside due to the cold and wet weather). There were 46 people there including 3 children and everyone enjoyed sausage rolls, cheese scones, fairy cakes and scones with jam and cream together with cups of tea. Donations were given towards the Away From It All holiday fund and £241 was raised.

A Reflection

Philip Baker

If you were asked to nominate the most significant, or important, verse in the Bible, my guess is that John 15:16 would be in contention: “You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit – fruit that will last – and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.” The next verse states “This is my command: Love each other.” Taken together, these two verses set out everything we need, even alone, each gives a vital guide and reminder to us of our ultimate purpose.

Some of us take this absolutely to heart, give ourselves to God’s purpose and become priests. Others, the majority, take the words to heart and try to live them out in our daily lives, using the skills and talents God has given us for that purpose. Such is the boundless Grace of God. One of the tasks that those of us forming the majority have, is to ensure that our priests receive our love and support in the measure with which they give it to us. We are all chosen by God – an amazing thought in itself – and He has a purpose set out for each of us. In the same way that Paul (and all the preachers of the early church) needed support from each other, the love of his fellow Christians, so today do those who take steps to “go and bear fruit” need the love and support of their fellow Christians.

In this increasingly secular and self-centred world we live in, speaking of rules which are hard to follow and of a God who knows us and what we do, is not always popular and requires great courage and effort. Let us always remember the words of Jesus reported by John and think of what they mean. Surely they tell us that we are God’s chosen subjects; that He has a purpose for each of us – to spread His Word throughout all peoples; to always act with love, compassion and never count the cost. Those who have become priests are special and singled out to give freely of God’s Word and love as His representatives on Earth. The rest of us have a duty to reflect those blessings as they fall to us, always remembering that we are all special in the eyes of our Lord.

Worldwide President's Tour of Oceania Comes To An End

The Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, has now successfully completed the five-week tour of Oceania countries, marking the final leg of her leadership journey before her term concludes in December 2024. This tour was a significant event, celebrating the global unity and shared mission of empowering women and supporting families. The journey was not just a symbolic farewell but a heartfelt exploration of the vibrant communities within Mothers' Union across the region, from Australia to New Zealand through to the Solomons Islands, each country offered unique insights and moments of shared joy and solidarity.

Now safely back in her home country of Guyana, the Worldwide President cherishes the memories and friendships formed during this journey. Reflecting on the trip, she expressed gratitude for the hospitality shown and the opportunity to witness the dedication of Mothers' Union members in Oceania, Zone C.



Picture capturing the essence of Sheran’s memorable journey, showcasing moments of joy, fellowship, and the shared mission of Mothers' Union worldwide.

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

MAY THURSDAY PRAYER led by Gail Swanson on “Service with Love”.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PX4uQMltGZk>

JUNE THURSDAY PRAYER led by Maureen Haigh on “Trusting in Christ”.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kV7VP8CW_hzs

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