



# October Newsletter 2024



## Election Results for Triennium 2025-2027

Congratulations to Kathleen Snow on the announcement of her election as the new President of the Worldwide Mother's Union. Kathleen, from Canada, has served on the Board for six years as the Zonal Trustee for the Americas and has been a volunteer facilitator for the worldwide parenting programme and the (MULOA) consultation, which engaged 200,000 members globally. She is also the Chair of the MU Development Committee, overseeing programmes like the transformational literacy initiative that empowers women and breaks the cycle of poverty.

Accepting the role, Kathleen commented "This is humbling, and a great honour. I look forward to working with members and staff to continue to build God's Kingdom through Mothers' Union. I am particularly excited that, as we carry forward the torch in January, we will be building on the firm foundations of our transformational programme work. We are about to start a new campaign, speaking up to right the injustice which means that, still today, 765 million adults cannot read or write, 2/3rds of them women, meaning they are unable to read medicine bottles, register the birth of a child, vote or ensure they get the correct change in the market. Sheran Harper (seen above with Bev Jullien), has been president for six years and will hand over to Kathleen in 2025.

The new Provincial President for the Canterbury Province is Comfort Fearon, currently president of Southwark and Julia Jamieson will continue for three more years as our Zonal Trustee.

**The Autumn Diocesan meeting will be held at St. Johns Church, Waterbeach  
Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 9.30am – 2pm**

**Speaker is Diana Minns – co-ordinator of the Women's Homelessness Action Group a  
working group of It Takes a City who advocate for a new approach to women's  
homelessness**

**Donations of basic toiletries would be very welcome to donate to the charity  
Tea/coffee supplied Please bring a packed lunch All are welcome**



Led by Revd Paula Spalding, our MU Diocesan Chaplain on the theme: "Shalom: Wellbeing".

A small number of us gathered at the lovely parish church in the peaceful village of Reach, an ideal place for a Quiet Day. Paula based her five sessions during the day around the book by Ruth Rice: The A-Z of Wellbeing. Each session started with Bible verses, a short meditation and a period of silence. We could stay in the church, stroll or sit in the garden, or walk round the village, and we enjoyed fellowship over lunch.

The five sessions were: Connect; Learn; Get Active; Take Notice; and Give.

We CONNECT through good relationships with God and others, remembering God is Love. We look at nature and the world around us and feel the spiritual energy of church gardens.

We LEARN through God's word in the Bible and from other people. We breathe in God's word – he supports us and never leaves us.

We GET ACTIVE, which is good for the body and mind, and our faith translates into works we do in our lives and for others. God's protection and compassion is there for us, he loves and cares for us, and we can share this.

We TAKE NOTICE by stopping and being in the present moment, and trying not to worry about the past or the present. We are "God's Masterpiece", with new lives created through Jesus – made on purpose for a purpose. We can make time for our interests which give us life.

We GIVE in many ways to the church, of our time, and to others. Such acts which are beneficial to those who receive, also create a positive feeling within us, and lead to thankful hearts. Yadah! – the Jewish word for Praise! We give ourselves to God and we can find him in the secular and sacred, in the busyness and quietness.

We find SHALOM – a deep peace from God – to speak it, share it and live it!

We meditated on Psalm 23: The Lord is MY Shepherd.

We sang: Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here;  
Come bow before Him now with reverence and fear.

In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground;  
Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here.

If you've never been to a Quiet Day, they are great opportunities to stop and pause in our daily lives to connect with God. We may all have taken away something different from this day, but these are the things that spoke to me during this time.

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

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

**“Nurturing Faith”. Led by Ros Wright.**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yrdq0dJaDnc>

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**The Diocesan Members’ Lunch is on Tuesday 5 November, 12.30pm, at Ely City Golf Club.**

**There will be a talk from the Venerable Hugh McCurdy about his visit to Rwanda.**

**Tickets will cost £25. Hot 2-course meal, with dessert, and tea/coffee.**

*Debbie Tye (dmtypost@hotmail.com)*

If you would like to join us and meet some of our diocesan members please get in touch with Debbie.

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## **CONNECTED**

Everyone should have received their Connected Magazine by now. If not please let your branch leader know so that she can ask Ros for a copy. It contains a wealth of information about the Mothers’ Union as well as an A5 sized poster to promote the new campaign **“Empower her Literacy”**. If you have a public place to display it, please do so. It would be a small token from members to support this important message. There is also more evidence about the campaign in Connected and some information on the front page of this newsletter. If you look on-line there is also a short video.

There are also photographs of all the Christmas cards. Why not get together in your branch to order cards, diaries or calendars and have them shipped directly to one local member for distribution. Hazel has many of the cards if individuals want to get in touch and will have some at Diocesan day. Always remember to mark our diocese of Ely in the appropriate place when ordering as we receive a small percentage in the form of a grant to be spent in our diocese.

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**Thursday Prayer in Ely Cathedral and on Zoom 10.30am**

**17<sup>th</sup> October**

**Presented by Sue Claydon.**

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85209298628?pwd=VDTrciGq12BVz8luyEa34M6BRLZDIK.1>

Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628 Passcode: 080127

**A REFLECTION – October**

*Philip Baker*

I am going to start this month with what may surprise some, something that might be seen variously as a claim or a confession, but almost certainly unexpected. As I entered my twenties in the mid-sixties, I had a

grounding in both classical and rock music, and I have recently found the joy of contemporary worship music. Whilst I have reservations about some of the communities giving rise to this style of praise, there is much to find in the music itself.

One of the songs I find uplifting is called simply "Praise", written and performed by Elevation Worship (who also wrote "The Blessing", adapted by the Church of England so effectively). It contains the line: "As long as I'm breathing, I've got a reason to praise the Lord". Could there be a simpler summary of our belief? I am not suggesting that everyone should seek to enjoy this style of worship song, but I do suggest that we should think about how we express our faith and love for God, and be prepared to try whatever is available.

Psalm 96 is one of many to exhort us to greater expression of praise of the Lord. It is too long to quote here, but read it yourselves – It starts "Sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord all the earth. Sing to the Lord, praise His name;". Emphasising this, Psalm 100 starts "Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness; come before Him with joyful songs." It seems to me that we are intended to celebrate our Lord God with simple joy and happiness, glad to be one of His own regardless of our circumstances in this life.

From the standpoint of someone looking at Christianity for the first time, much of what we do can appear impenetrable! Being direct and expressing our faith simply is surely good. When I was young, I could follow the whole service in Latin – but did not understand any of it! The earliest Christians had to make huge changes to what they did and how they perceived their faith. In a living faith we too have to continue that change as society around us changes. We can do it!

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### **Quiet Days – Rosey Feuell**

If your branch would like to run a quiet day (or half day) Rosey Feuell would be happy to help. Please see below.

*I am writing to let you know that I am someone who is willing and well qualified to lead Quiet Days or similar for Mothers' Union groups locally. I am now an LLM at Gt Shelford St Mary, an experienced spiritual director and well known to the Sawston Mothers' Union group under Janet Martin.*

Rosey Feuell

[roseyleaf@talktalk.net](mailto:roseyleaf@talktalk.net)

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### **Sally Rowlands**

It is with sadness we inform you of the death of Sally Rowlands, a member of the Ely Cathedral Branch. She frequently used her lovely garden for the summer garden party of the branch which raised substantial funds for the Mother's Union. Last year she was presented with a long service certificate by Hazel for her many years in support of the Mothers' Union. Her funeral is in Ely Cathedral on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October.

### **Anne Gilbert**

Anne Gilbert, a member of Burwell branch, passed away recently after a short illness. Always kind and with a wide smile, she will be much missed for her calm and friendly approach to everyone.

### **Ruth Chilvers who passed away on 23rd August 2024**

Ruth was one of the founder members of the March Deanery Evening branch that started in the mid nineteen nineties, for members who could not attend afternoon meetings due to work commitments.

For many years, Ruth welcomed us into her home and hosted our monthly meetings. During this time, she held the position of Branch leader, who, with the help of Mike, kept us well informed of events being held within the Diocese and details of meetings via email and telephone. Mike certainly honed his secretarial skills in taking note of countless telephone messages and information to pass on to us all!

During the pandemic many of us looked forward to, and welcomed, Ruth's phone calls for a chat. As she said, it was just to 'keep in touch', and to ask 'how are you and all the family?' Family was everything to Ruth and she loved sharing family news. Even when we visited her in hospital, a week before her death, she wanted to know how our children and their families were, many of which she had taught as a early years teacher.

Ruth was especially supportive of the Ely Diocese Mothers Union fund raising causes. She gave support to the Worldwide fund, the Fenland Women's Refuge and Ely Diocese AFIA fund which provides a caravan holiday at Hunstanton for families in need of some respite and quality time together. It is so fitting that Mike and the family have chosen AFIA for one of the donations in Ruth's memory.

At the beginning of year, Ruth celebrated her milestone 80th birthday. Ruth invited all the MU members to join her in a lovely afternoon tea at Skylark. A most enjoyable memorable afternoon was spent together with Ruth, a memory which we all look back on fondly.

As a branch, we give our thanks for Ruth's commitment and dedication to the aims and objectives of the Mothers Union, and her support to families especially those less fortunate. Ruth has left us treasured memories of being a special person who has inspired and enriched our lives through her devotion, her friendship and love.

Margaret High

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### The Revd Carol Avery BEM - RIP



Rev Carol Avery BEM, died on 10<sup>th</sup> September. She was an extraordinary Pioneer Priest, alongside her incumbent husband Andrew, in Stanground, Farcet and Fletton. Carol spoke at one of our Diocesan meetings about her ministry and the formation of the charity 'Mary's Child', which had a transforming effect on many people, especially those who were distressed and desperate.

Due to her close involvement with communities in Peterborough, the funeral will take place in Peterborough Cathedral, led by Rt Rev Dr Dagmar Winter, Acting Bishop of Ely, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> October at 1pm.

Donations may be made to [Mary's Child – Loving, caring and supporting families \(maryschild.org.uk\)](https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/) and can be given online [here](#).

Picture shows Carol with Esther a support worker at Mary's Child.

Ely Diocesan M U Charity no. 251394 <https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/>  
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WHITWORTH TRUST

Report from Jo Wibberley

"Last Monday there was a most successful Garden Party held in the garden at Whitworth House. The previous week three trustees had spent an afternoon tidying the garden and we hope a volunteer gardener

will come forward to keep it in trim and support the young women who are keen to plant flowers. The trustees had provided a gazebo and extra chairs but the House supported the trustees in the provision of cakes and drinks.

The garden party was by invitation only and it was good to meet the support workers, two of the young residents, former trustees and representatives of other agencies including Kristian Hewett, the newly appointed chaplain to CCHP (Cambridge Churches Homeless Project) and Diana from WHAG (Women's Homeless Action Group). Diana has offered to speak about WHAG to the MU so I could pass this on to Stapleford, Sawston & Linton branches or perhaps a diocesan day?

Those who wished could go inside the house and we were shown one of the rooms for a resident which was currently empty and the kitchen/diner/common room. It was particularly interesting to speak with the support workers and young residents who are so appreciative of the support that the Trust and the MU give. The 4 bedding packs supplied by the Trust recently have all been put to use already. As well as the welcome bags, they are in need of a constant supply of essentials – soap, toothpaste, shower gel, sanitary products.

The support workers spoke of the activities they plan for the residents: crafts, cooking, a hot chocolate evening etc. Many are at college and it was rewarding to hear how the computer recently given to a resident has been so much valued and appreciated in supporting her in her studies. In the vacation they were able to go to a nearby activity centre and they all spoke so positively about the interests and enthusiasm of the residents, though not hiding some of the difficulties encountered when they first arrive and have to work through. Some residents were volunteering at the Shepreth Wildlife park and particularly the hedgehog rescue centre which gave them a sense of motivation that something was relying on them.”

**AFIA**

*Jean Webb*

10 families have been away this year, and so far one is booked for half term. We also received a request for details from a worker in Cambridge, who had seen the display at the Banner Exhibition.

Di Sabel will be finishing as our “bookings officer” at the end of this triennium, and our thanks go to her for all her work. I am pleased that Ros Wright has agreed to take this position on next year.

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## **WORLDWIDE NEWS**

In August, 13 Deacons and 14 Pastors were ordained in the Kigali Diocese in Rwanda. Mothers' Union members took part in the service parade.



## **RISE UP AGAINST DOMESTIC ABUSE**

**To achieve the Bronze award your branch or church should:**

- 1. Put a RISE UP poster raising awareness about domestic abuse in an appropriate public place such as in churches, toilets, community centres, village halls etc.**
- 2. Commit to pray for those affected by domestic abuse, including the victims, survivors, perpetrators, and those who work in the field of domestic abuse.**
- 3. Make a connection with your local domestic abuse support organisation to see how you can support them. You could offer moving in and moving on packages.**

**Get in touch with Hazel if you can achieve all of the above.**

**More information on the MU website.**