



September Newsletter 2024

MU Banner Exhibition



Many thanks to all who were able to come to Ely Cathedral for the Banner Exhibition in August. We had lots of wonderful comments from members as well as those who were enjoying a visit to the Cathedral.



One of the banners I now know includes leather in its design bought from a shop that sold bikers jackets. Just what was needed!

A group of four French young men came to make a special visit the Lady Chapel. They had been at school together and now each year spent a holiday visiting a place where they could sing. It was wonderful choral singing which lasted about an hour. A delightful afternoon to be stewarding the exhibition.



One lady stopped to speak to us and I commented on her necklace which was the silver Way of Life design taken from the modern sculpture designed to mark the new millennium. She was very privileged to now be the owner of the model that Jonathan Clarke designed which led to him receiving the commission. He presented it to her as a gift.

The service on Mary Sumner Day was very special with 100 members attending, visiting the exhibition and having tea and biscuits afterwards. Thanks go to the Cathedral Branch for providing them and enabling members to meet together. It was lovely to meet members of Southwark who travelled to Ely to see the exhibition and join the service.



if anyone would like a copy of the service sheet for Mary Sumner Day Service please get in contact with Debbie Tye (01353 666883) and she will either email it to you or send a hard copy.

**The Autumn Diocesan meeting will be held at St. Johns Church, Waterbeach on
Wednesday 23rd October 2024 9.30am – 2pm
All are welcome.**

Diocesan Members' Lunch.

Debbie Tye, Diocesan Members' Officer.

Just to remind Diocesan Members that the Annual Lunch will be taking place on Tuesday 5 November, 12.30pm, at Ely City Golf Club. There will be a talk from the Venerable Hugh McCurdy. Full details and further info will be circulated later in the month. Looking forward to seeing everyone at this event again.

Faith in Action

Jean Webb

I'm writing this, sitting beside a caravan, in a lovely setting, listening to bird song, watching an occasional red kite fly over. Do peaceful. It is the sort of relaxing experience we know is of benefit, and why we so wholeheartedly support our Afia "Away from. It All" holiday scheme for families. Today I received this

"I would just like to say so much thanks to the Mothers' Union for our trip away. We had the most amazing time. We have never stayed anywhere like that before. The children loved it and we were able to swim in the outdoor pool every day, as the weather was great.

The whole experience was wonderful. Thank you so much again"

After the busyness of the Banner Exhibition it has been good to relax. I want to thank everyone who supported, visited, commented etc. We couldn't have done it without your support. From the Feedback we've had, people who visited know a lot more about us now. I have even had an Afia enquiry from a visitor who saw the display.

Sadly, one item, a book of photos and text belonging to Shingay Deanery, seems to have gone astray. Did anyone collect it with their items in error? Please look if you have " a bag of bits" still waiting to be sorted. I believe it would be A4 size. Thank you.

Collections/deliveries to Refuges, hostels, hospitals etc have continued, and thank you for all the items made, collected and passed on.

St Ives Branch held three days of Afternoon Teas in the garden of Deirdre Milner on the 6th, 7th and 8th of August.

Funds were raised for AFIA and Summer of Hope. Although the weather was not always sunny, it was very pleasant to enjoy the tea, cakes and company. The total raised, including the sale of some homemade jam and donations, was £924.00.





In August, Lusaka Mothers' Union held their national conference. You will see Romans 12 1-8 on the banner, a very encouraging reading for Mothers' Union. The conference was very well attended, with many speakers. Visit the Anglican Diocese of Lusaka Mothers' Union Facebook page to hear some of these and view the colourful outfits worn by those attending. A sports Day was also included as you can see in one of the photos.





Request for storage

We have a number of banners, in perfect condition, made to show the previous sections of Ely Mothers' Union (Action and Outreach, Social Concern etc.). We would like to keep these for display in the future but need dry storage for them. **Each plastic container is approx. 1mtr (39") x 46cm (18") and there are two containers.** Can anyone offer safe storage for them? Please get in touch with Hazel.

A REFLECTION – September

Philip Baker (20th August 2024)

The House Group I attend has been working through the Gospel of Mark and, at our last session, we reached the section including the story of the blind beggar, Bartimaeus. You may recall that Jesus asked Bartimaeus "What do you want me to do for you" (Mark 10:51). Bartimaeus replied "Rabbi, I want to see" and Jesus restored his sight with the words "Go, your faith has healed you." (Mark 10:52). We were then asked to consider privately what we, as individuals, would ask God to do for us. How many times have you stood back and asked yourself that question? I cannot recall a single time that I have. Oh, I have asked God for a lot of things over the years but always in the moment, I have never stood back and viewed myself in the third party, as it were. However, I knew with instant clarity what it would be, something I have never considered but realised I have always needed (no, I am not going to share it!). It was a very powerful moment – read the story in Mark and then, while your mind is "in the zone" ask yourself that question – see what happens.

If the response proves elusive or even "nothing" then here is a thought to get you going. Every day in Compline as part of my daily prayer plan, I say the prayer of penitence that asks for God to forgive our sins and we confess "before the whole company of heaven and one another, that we have sinned in thought, word and deed and in what we have failed to do." We are usually aware of what we do that is wrong, but how often do we consider those things which we failed to do? Perhaps we could let our minds dwell on that thought for a while and ask God to help us to realise how we sin through carelessness. And this is why it is important: if we do not know the extent of our sin, we cannot acknowledge it and therefore confess it. We ask God (there you are, the link to the story of Bartimaeus) to forgive the sins which we have confessed. I leave you to fill in the blanks!

Dear Joanna,

It is with great sadness to let you know that my wife, Matilda (Tilda) passed away on 6th June after failing health which ended with her being on palliative care at home for the last three months of her life. She enjoyed receiving your letters which laterally I would have to read them to her because her eyesight failed to the point that she was registered blind. Many thanks for your faithful ministry to the Indoor membership of the Mothers Union in the Ely Diocese.

Every Blessing

Allan

(Received from Canon Allan Viller, Narborough)

Muriel Irene Missin

Born 12/04/1939 - died 25/07/2024

Her son Nicholas spoke at her funeral at S.S. Peter and Paul Church Wisbech and said the loves of her life had been church, music and children.

She met her husband at St. Mary's Church in Nottingham where he was the organist. They were blessed with the arrival of two sons Nicholas and William. Muriel became a primary school teacher and she became a member of Mothers Union in 1968 in Newcastle.

Muriel had a positive and humorous nature and moved to Wisbech in 2007 but in 2018 she had to make a life or death decision and decided to have a leg amputation at Addenbrookes Hospital in Cambridge, but her positivity still shone through.

She became quite independent as the years moved on, with using an electric wheelchair and motorised scooter. Her grandchildren would call her gangster granny! The humour was evident when going along a street in Wisbech one day when a female approached her and said; "Have you got any spare change?" to which Muriel replied; "Have you got a spare leg!"

Farewell Muriel and thank you for your long-term support of Mothers' Union

Wendy Smith -Branch Leader.

Wisbech and North Nene Branch

Joanna Sanders still keeps in touch with a MU lady in Malawi and thought you might like to see her photos. I think the MU is very strong in Africa in the Commonwealth. Mama Agnes is a lovely lady and many years ago she stayed with us.

Hello my dear Gogo Joanna,

How are you over there?

It has been a long time since I heard from you.

Thank you very much for all your prayers. Glad to hear about the exhibition of M.U. Banners at the Ely Cathedral.

Sorry to hear about the decline in the Mothers Union. While here in Malawi MW the membership is growing and young women are joining the M.U., two of my daughter in-laws have joined the M.U. too.

From 8th -11th August 2024, we had a Mothers Union gathering too where members from all the four Dioceses in Malawi MW gathered together to celebrate the Mary Sumner day, had many activities like prayers, marching, hospital visitation, door to door evangelism and helping the needy, teaching on the M.U. objects and many more.

Unfortunately, I was unable to go and attend as I was down with High Blood pressure and Flue.

I have also tried to contact Canon Agnes but no response.

Glad to hear you will be sending 6 Diaries and the MU. and the M.U. Calendars through Charlotte, may the Lord bless you 🙏🙏🙏❤️ abundantly, Charlotte will send them to me.

I just pray that one day we shall meet again there in the U.K., but Charlotte says Airfares are expensive these days. But our God is full of miracles, one day He will make it happen and it will be nice to see you again.



Congratulations to Barbara and Mick Hoy who celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary on July 4th. Barbara was a Branch Leader of the **Somersham MU** for many years as well as a deanery Vice-president and MU Trustee.

Thursday Prayer

We may be unable to Zoom Thursday Prayer for September as the quality of the screen shot and the sound is too poor using the new, smaller camera used by the Cathedral. We are looking to buy a new camera owned by the Mothers' Union. This means that **the information for the next Thursday Prayer will be distributed separately before 19th September**. The Choice of members to view using Zoom instead of travelling to the Cathedral is valued by a number of those who do not live close to Ely. As we start to move into the winter months it becomes even more valuable.

Every branch leader receives a copy of the service and I hope distributes this to members but reading it does not replace worshipping together and hearing the short talk given by a different member each month. Please note the dates in your diary and spend 30 mins. at 10.30am either in person at the cathedral or by zoom.

Those of you who would like to take part could receive a separate individual invitation each month, as well as having information in the newsletter. Please let Hazel know if you are interested.

Many of you will remember the marathon bike ride that Jo Wibberley undertook in 2015 visiting all the branches of the Ely Diocese. She has just finished a book with stories and pictures of this wonderful feat.

If you would like to buy a copy please get in touch with Jo (jowibs.mu@gmail.com).

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