



Newsletter

September

2025



Paula Spalding, MU Chaplain for Ely Diocese, and Philip Baker, branch leader, with Rosemary Duckitt who was enrolled at Burwell branch meeting in July. A warm welcome to our new member.

Hazel Williams Burwell Branch



Our teas took place on the 5th, 6th and 7th of August in aid of AFIA and the Summer of Hope. We raised more than £1, 040 and there was much laughter and fellowship.

Having done this for several years I plan to repeat it again next year and it would be lovely to welcome members from other branches.

Deirdre Milner St Ives Branch

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Quiet Day Wednesday 17th September at 10am Etheldreda House (new diocesan office), Lancaster Way Business Park, Ely CB6 3NX. Led by Rosey Feuall from Cherry Hinton. Please bring a bible. Everyone welcome.

Autumn Diocesan Meeting Saturday 25th October at St. Johns Church, Waterbeach. 9.30am – 2pm. Speaker – Julia Jameson. MU Zonal Trustee.

A REFLECTION

Philip Baker (22nd July 2025)

This month I start with a verse from John's gospel, 20:21, which reads: Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." It goes on to refer to spreading the Holy Spirit, but the essence of the message surely is in the verse quoted above. As disciples of Jesus, whom we all follow as He is the Way to Heaven, that is our charge, the mission with which we are all entrusted. Jesus went out to meet people where they are, to teach them the Word and to support and help them in their daily travails. This is what we do in the Mothers' Union; we have a job to do – to be active disciples of Jesus carrying on the work he started among the peoples of the world.

A rather overlooked book of the Old Testament, the Prophecy of Obadiah, has something to say about this. Little is known about Obadiah and his book is just one chapter long, but he writes about the Edomites, who were related to the Israelites through Esau, the brother of Jacob. Now God chose Jacob and when the Israelites were being over-run (by either the Philistines or the Babylonians, it is unknown which), the Edomites stood by and watched from the safety of their mountain hide-outs. Even though they could have helped their relatives, they didn't. Obadiah's prophecy concerned a vision in which God promised retribution on them for their inaction. The moral of this book is that to stand by when evil is being committed and not use whatever means is at hand to prevent it, is to be part of the crime. You cannot escape God's judgement!

This relates to the verse from John – it starts with an expression of God's Peace and continues with an exhortation to act as Jesus would, and there are plenty of examples of Jesus intervening in situations where people need help. Thus the focus of our work as members of the Mothers' Union is clear – not to stand by when we see evil being done; to spread the message of Peace that Jesus preached and to act as Jesus would. Reading stories of the work being done makes me think we are trying to do exactly that, Hallelujah!

It is with sadness that I report that our dear friend **Angela Jones** died on 5th August at the Arthur Rank Hospice. We will forever remember such a gracious, loving and gentle lady whose active kindness and leadership enhanced so many lives of all age. I'm sure we will all treasure our memories of her and are so grateful that she can now rest forever in the safety of God's peaceful presence. *Sarah Mascall*



It was wonderful to see so many people at Angela's funeral, many of them Mothers' Union members. She had been an active member for 20 years before coming to live in Ely, where she was one of the founding members of the MU Cathedral Branch. She was very involved in Edward Bear Toddler Group and work with families. For several years, she was also a valued member of our Communications Unit Committee, and used to look after the MU Noticeboard in the Cathedral, as well as being a link with the Cathedral in general.

Her funeral was very moving with an excellent rendering of Pie Jesu by Tara and Megan Bungard.

Our thoughts are with her family at this time. May Angela rest in peace and rise in glory.

COMMUNICATION NEWS – NEW YouTube VIDEOS. Debbie Tye

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

JULY THURSDAY PRAYER: “Continuing in Faith” – Led by Maureen Haigh.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PXZnZZksO8g>

AUGUST THURSDAY PRAYER: Mothers’ Union - Working in Christ – Led by Irene Porter.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H4N2XaQJ3kQ>

Thursday Lunchtime Concerts, Ely Cathedral at 1.10pm.

If you are coming to any of our Thursday Prayer Services, there are some Lunchtime Concerts this term which coincide with our dates:

18 September – Ben Norris (piano).

16 October – Ely Chamber Ensemble.

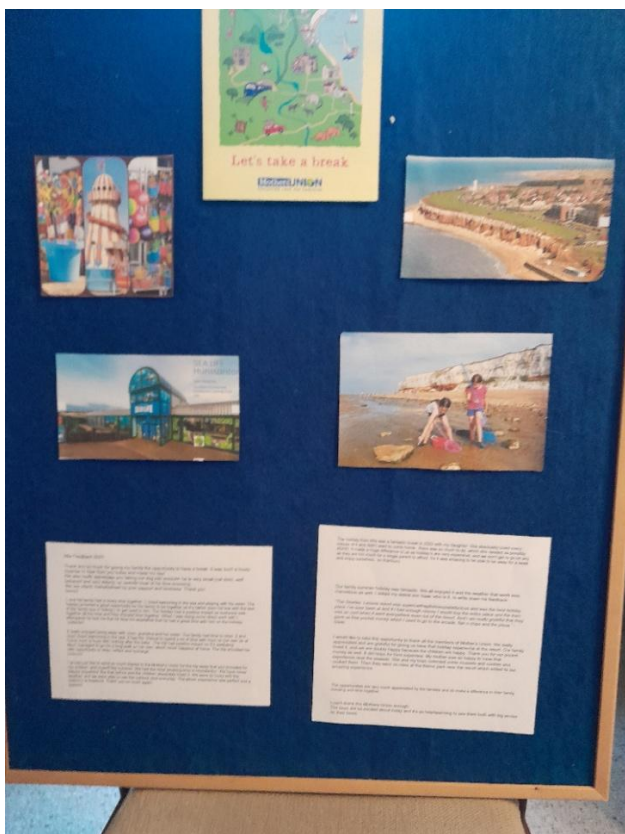
The current Concert Series is running from 18 September to 6 November, and a full list can be found on the Cathedral website: <https://www.elycathedral.org/music/concerts-and-recitals/lunchtime-concerts>

St Mary’s Ely MU Branch – Afternoon Tea Party.



St Mary’s Ely Branch held a very enjoyable **Afternoon Tea Party** in July which raised £165 from the event, and was increased to £200 with an additional amount from Branch funds, to be donated to AFIA. Another £200 was also sent to 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.



In August, **Yaxley MU** held a coffee morning to raise funds for AFIA. There were seaside themed activities. "Beach" volleyball up the aisle, our Vicar thought this should be a regular feature, seaside jigsaw to complete, holiday wordsearch, a sandpit, lots of cake and pictures of Hunstanton with comments from some of the families. We raised £222 for AFIA. Irene

WORLDWIDE NEWS

We often have photos of Mothers' Union members in our link diocese in Zambia, Rwanda and Nigeria, wearing their blue and white uniforms. I thought you might like to see the members from Ghana in their colourful outfits. Ghana isn't one of our links, but is just to the left of Nigeria, in west Africa. They are celebrating Mary Sumner day. *Irene Porter, Worldwide Links*



Saturday 27th September 2025.
Canterbury Provincial Gathering is at The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0ES. **Tickets** £20 per person and are available at www.ticketsource.co.uk/mothers-union
 Join Us, Join In is the theme. The event is open to all members and your friends too and it is not too late to buy a ticket.

**Thursday Prayer in Ely Cathedral and
on Zoom 10.30am on 18th September**

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

**Meeting ID: 852 0929 8628 Passcode
080127**

150th Fundraising Challenge

The official countdown to the launch of the 150-Year Fundraising Challenge has begun! We are offering each diocese £150 in seed funding and challenging them to turn it into £1,500 or more by 31 December 2026.

It is time to get creative... from bake sales to bike rides, coffee mornings to concerts, supper clubs to sponsored prayer walks, your challenge, your way!

Database Information

Hazel asked, through the July newsletter, that branches send her their most recent up to date information and has already received eleven branches with more on their way. These have been sent on to Stuart. If you have not sent your information yet it can either still come to Hazel (hwill66@icloud.com) or direct to Stuart -see below.

Below is information from Stuart Mitchell who has volunteered to update the new database for Ely Diocese.

So we speak the language of MSH, the database should be referred to as MU Portal or the Portal.

For the purpose of Portal business I have created this email address muportalely@gmail.com

So, a bit of work to be done and a need for all the up to date 2005 branch returns as soon as possible.

2026 Mothers' Union Membership Subscription is £25. This will all go to Mary Sumner House and there will be no MU Diocesan subscription.