OUR PRESIDENT WRITES…

Dear Friends,

You will receive this edition as our current triennium is drawing to a close. And to open our next triennium, our theme for 2019 is ‘Listen, Observe, Act – in step with GOD’.

I’m sure you will recognise this as the meaning of MULOA – Mothers’ Union Listens, Observes and Acts – words that affirm just what it means to be a member of Mothers’ Union. This is what we are all about. So our work goes on and yes, it is getting harder as our membership in Britain and Ireland declines. But we are not only about meetings of our members at local level, but we are also about telling new friends about what we do and inviting them to come and help us and to take part in our activities.

I am writing this to you as our AFIA holiday at Sidmouth comes to an end. As you know, our wonderful team of volunteers is made up of a combination of members and supporters. Each morning on the holiday, the volunteers come together for a short time of Prayer and Reflection before we begin the day. On one particular morning we were reminded about ‘Comfort Zones’. It is so true that we are all out of our comfort zones on this holiday. The families come to a strange place and are greeted by strangers. They are staying in an hotel – yes, many of them have never been in an hotel before, let alone stayed in one. Many of them have never experienced a holiday either.

They arrive after a long and often stressful journey, with several young children in tow, possibly a baby as well, and bags all over the place. These are families, already overburdened with so many worries, needing all our support and care. We certainly see this as the families arrive. Having cheerful and friendly volunteers on our welcome desk is so important in order to help ease that initial anxiety. The parents can find it so hard to relax with their children in this unfamiliar environment. For some of the volunteers, the holiday is a new experience which gives rise to all kinds of questions going through the mind – what do I do? How do I fit in? How will the week work? How will I deal with the challenges? Our volunteers can be just as much out of their comfort zone as are the families.

We speak so much about how Prayer is at the heart of our work. Well – come to our holiday – and see how we pray together at the beginning of every day - commending our work to God, knowing full well that we cannot do any of it without His help and love. I could go on about the holiday at great length but of course, all our work fits into this category. We cannot do any of our work without God’s help and in His name. And that’s what makes our organisation so wonderful and special. We are not doing this for gain or fame but to show God’s love to all as His instruments.
And it’s when I think about all the work we do, that I am reminded about MULOA and what we stand for. Mothers’ Union – Listen, Observes and Acts but not in isolation. We pray for guidance in all our work both the familiar and also the new. And particularly with new work, we ask ourselves, is this what God wants me to do? Is this where God’s wants me to work? And yes, surprise, surprise, we frequently end up outside of our comfort zone but knowing that God is there for us all of the time. It was the same for the disciples two thousand years ago and it’s the same for us now. In an age when so few people even think about any God at all, it can be very hard indeed to do work which is in step with God.

In this issue, I have asked our Editor to publish Lynne Tembey’s Family Prayer. Many of you will already recognise it from our ‘Dear Lord’ Prayer book. In her prayer, she talks about the lonely, the unloved, the persecuted, the oppressed etc. I think that we all realise that the needy, of Lynne’s prayer, are not living miles away from us, possibly in different countries. The needy are with us in our own communities – I know, because they are with me on this holiday and are also spending time at our holiday home at Rockley Park.

So, friends, I thank you all for your wonderful support for this holiday – you volunteer, you provide the funds, you donate the Teddy Bears and you make the beautiful ‘Cross in My Pocket’ which the families really treasure. And most important of all, you pray for the families – all this is truly Mothers’ Union Listens, Observes, Acts and all this is truly in step with God. With my love and thanks, Rosie

Eight months into 2018 and I am able to report that our membership stands at 1,237, our membership for 2017 was 1,353, a drop of 116. We continue to try to encourage members of closing branches to consider becoming diocesan members.

By the time you read this I will probably know how much MSH will raise the subscription by. We have already set our subscription for 2019 anticipating an increase by MSH, £26 per Branch member and Diocesan Members £26 (individual) £45 (Joint) membership.

Families First magazine
Owing to the new data protection regulations Mary Sumner House has to change how the magazine is paid for and sent out. With effect for 2019, MSH will manage the renewals process and work directly with each of you who currently receive Families First. By the time you read this you should have received a letter with details how to renew, a form to fill in and a free post envelope in your latest publication. Families First will be refreshed for 2019 with more focus on what makes MU unique such as our development and policy work and a greater level of integration with members. The magazine will be sent out four times a year – February, May, August and November and the price will reduce to £10 per year for members.
If you have already received your letter, etc and have not yet renewed, please, can I urge you to do so. I have already heard several members say – “Oh well, members just won’t renew”! Please let us prove them wrong. Give it a go. See what the new refreshed version has to say. If you are a Diocesan member your subscription for 2019 will be reduced to reflect this change as follows: Individual Membership £26 or Joint Membership £45. If you pay by standing order you will need to amend it before the 1st January. New forms can be obtained from the office or you can amend it yourself online or by visiting your bank.

The Court Café continues to provide a much needed service and we continue to make a small surplus, some of which has enabled a family to stay at Rockley Park and another family to go on the Sidmouth holiday. We have managed to provide much needed holidays again this year, branches have been very supportive of this fund and I hope you will continue to support it in 2019, as without this financial support we will not be able to continue. Many thanks are due – Sheila Soper for all the organizing she does for the Rockley Park home and lots of thanks to Ian and Wilma Bromilow and their team of helpers who give unstintingly of their time and energy to run the week long holiday at the Sidholme hotel.

Thank you very much for all your fund raising in 2018; for being so generous.

Suzanne Waters

In Families World Wide prayer diary last January, I read about the work of the Mothers’ Union in The Gambia. My husband, Malcolm, spent most of his working life as a teacher and as an ordained minister in this small, West African country. The last five years of that time, he and his first wife, Gladys, were working as C.M.S. mission partners. In February this year we went to The Gambia for a short visit and with the help of the ex-President of MU Gambia, Dr Florence Mahoney, a visit to the school was arranged. I was very impressed by the devotion and commitment of the staff, working so hard to help the children get early years education, in spite of many difficulties and lack of resources. The classrooms were rundown, but there was evidence of good work being done, I was taken to see the new toilet blocks, which were very clean, equipped with hand washing facilities and a helper to make sure that the children were supervised and taught to use the toilets correctly, as many would not have a ‘European’ type toilet at home.

There used to be a bakery on the site and this income generating project did much to support the school, helping maintain the buildings and provide equipment, but sadly, it closed after the baker left and no-one could be found to replace him. Also, at times in the past World Vision had given much appreciated support with a Feeding Programme. Some new swings and a roundabout have recently been purchased and hopefully now they are installed. The area used as a school hall needs a lot of refurbishment – once that is done it is hoped that people in the area will hire it for events, and so the school will have a new income source. There is still a large area of unused land on the
on the campus. One day there may be enough funds to start to build a primary school, but meanwhile, MU Members are encouraged to rent an allotment and grow crops.

The stats of the school reflect the fact that The Gambia is 90% Muslim, but the day I visited the children were outside the classrooms, under the trees, having a worship time, which is part of the regular curriculum. Although it is optional attendance, some of the Muslim children attend and learn the stories of Jesus and to sing simple songs. I now know how to pray for the school and am trying to raise a little support – a little goes a long way in the Gambia, and every little is a help. I have now made a power point presentation to share with the MU group I attend in Weymouth.

Mary E. Weeks Millard

COURT CAFÉ

Life at the Salisbury Law Court Café continues to keep us on our toes with each day presenting new challenges, sometimes there is very little to do, whereas on others there is no time to even sit down, as we attend to a constant stream of customers. There were four weeks which were incredibly demanding and certainly requiring two volunteers for each shift, and I did wonder how long we would manage to keep up the momentum. But we have a wonderful team of volunteers who are always ready to give more of their time and care for those we serve. As mentioned previously, the café makes a small profit and this year we have been able to provide funds for Guys Marsh Prison.

Earlstoke Prison asked for a shelter for their quiet space, which is next to their chapel, and this has proved to be very popular and, in much use. The café funds have also purchased some art materials for both the Friday art class and the Origami class, and both teachers and prisoners have been very appreciative. Besides these funds for the two prisons we have also funded the Child Contact Centre, thus enabling some children to see their non-resident parent.

Many of these families are referred to the centre by the court, and we pray that the children will maintain these contacts once their sessions are finished.

Lastly the café funds have enabled some families to attend the Sidmouth Holiday this year and others to spend a week in our lovely Mobile Home at Rockley Park.

Joanna Woodd
By the time you read this, our unusually warm (hot) summer will be coming to an end. I shall be a year older after a rather big birthday; my 60th; and I shall also (hopefully) have shared a coming together of my large and scattered family.

It as ever gets me thinking about families and how short, yet important our time with them is. When we have our families life seems to stretch before us but in reality our children are only reliant on us for a short time, possibility 18 years if we’re lucky.

18 years out of 60 that has left me 42 other years to live my life as me. Looking at it like that it enables us to see the fragment of our lives that our children are dependent upon us. 18 truly valuable years, when we care for and nurture young bodies and minds to prepare them for their lives ahead. We try our hardest to provide their every need, sometimes it’s enough, and occasionally it’s not.

In my line of work in the Probation Office, I came into contact with some young offenders who had less than the ideal beginning in life yet sometimes despite their awful upbringings, they were moved to change through having children of their own, they suddenly realized in stark reality what might lie ahead for their children if they carried on they way they had been, and so began the journey to rehabilitation to give their own offspring a better start in life.

Families today take on all forms. One of my siblings who is now in his 70’s and his partner have the guardianship and care of 5 of their Grandchildren, life is very lively and hectic for them. Their family is different from many others. I also know of a single man who in not having found the right partner for himself still longed for children; he decided to adopt and now they make a very happy and joyful family just the two of them. So families take all shapes and sizes and make up. Rather like our Church families.

Right across our Diocese there are families of God, worshipping with guitar, tambourines and singing Celtic or Taize praise; or you may find congregations singing traditional hymns of praise, to familiar old tunes with the old organ squeaking out a tune. Or we may have churches with huge bands of musicians singing modern songs and music written by new young writers; or churches with huge choirs of music scholars singing complicated anthems and arias, we are all as different at the families we find outside of Church. No one has it all right, no one has it all wrong, we are made up of individual, mainly scared, sometimes hurting; sometimes joyful, sometimes needy individuals. But we are all one family.

Part of that large unwieldy family is the Mothers’ Union. Strong, durable (it’s been a force to be reckoned with for 142 years), but as many members of a large family it is ageing, I’m sorry ladies (and gents amongst you) but this is the reality, we are getting older and we need to encourage some younger people to join us, but the landscape is very different from our day, we now live in a technological age and we need to find ways of reaching out to the young people to come and join us. How we do this is something the Trustees of your Diocesan Mothers’ Union are continually addressing.

As we think about these things, let us look at how our roots began, I don’t mean Mary Sumner despite her great input to our faith,
but I mean going right back to the roots of our Christian faith, they began with a young single Mother who found herself in a difficult situation to explain, but she trusted in God and heeded his messenger’s words. She bore a young man who refused to be anything less than free, refusing to be less than utterly committed, who refused to bow down and serve the leaders of his day. His courage, his tenderness, his justice and his joy, in forgiving and healing others, drew people to him, he invited us into a relationship with His Father God, and from that moment, new green shoots of faith began, and from those shoots, new branches came from the deepest roots and when his life was cruelly cut down, his life was so grounded in God, he could not be destroyed. This is how our faith began, in a relationship that was not quite the social norm.

We need new shoots, we need new life to carry on the good works that have begun in you. The Mothers’ Union has worked so hard to come to this point, we now need to LOOK around us, OBSERVE the landscape and ACT when we see young Mums or Dads who might like to become part of our wonderful (if somewhat ageing) family. Be upfront, ask them what would encourage them to join us? What could we offer to entice new members? I bet if you spoke about the social action that the Mothers’ Union is engaged in they would be “in” as quick as you could say Jack Robinson!!

I pray you all have a blessed Autumn and Advent ahead of us. As the year comes to an end, I pray you experience the beautiful frosty mornings, beautiful sunrises and sunsets, I hope you enjoy the crisp, crunch of leaves beneath your feet. It is my favorite time of the year, a time of remembering, being watchful and snug evenings beside the fire. God bless you all! Jacqui xx

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ALL ABOUT MOTHERS’ UNION QUIZ

Questions:

1. How many members are there in Mothers’ Union Worldwide?
2. In how many countries do we have Mothers’ Union Members?
3. What year did the Literacy and Numeracy Development Programme start?
4. By the end of 2013 how many people will have received an accredited qualification in literacy?
5. What is the name of the church that has the ONE branch of Mothers’ Union in Iraq?
6. How many people do the members in Iraq provide traditional food for each week?
7. What is the device called that provides clean water for hand washing, which helps cut down on the spread of disease?
8. What is the name of the Central Fund from which money is used in times of disaster?
9. What is the name of the Diocesan Fund that helps people suffering from stress to have a holiday?
10. What sort of Teddies do members knit for children who have to be taken to hospital?
11. How many years is it since the Mothers’ Union organisation was started?
12. Who started the Mothers’ Union organisation?
13. Who do members knit blankets and bonnets for?
14. If you own one of these in Africa you can improve your health and wealth. What am I?
15. One big difference between our organisation and others is that we are supported by what?

**Find the answers on another page.**
CELEBRATING WITH THE MOTHERS’ UNION IN MARIDI, SOUTH SUDAN
Notes of a visit in February-March 2018, by Jane Shaw

While I was in Maridi with a SOMA team to lead a conference for Youth Leaders, I met and spent time with the leaders of the Mothers’ Union – Revd Eunice Naima and Mama Foibe Michael. Here they are with Bishop Justin and his wife Mama Joyce.

The Mothers’ Union held a special celebration service one Saturday morning, at which I was invited to preach. It was a special pleasure to bring them greetings from Salisbury MU and to tell them something of our activities in this diocese. After the service the members – about 150 - lined up for photos by Archdeaconry

Some members were dancing and singing afterwards, and I briefly joined them. And there followed lunch for all members under the tree, and I was their guest for sorghum porridge and “smashed beans”. It was a very happy occasion.

Activities and concerns - Later I was able to sit with Mama Foibe and learn about their activities and concerns. They have an MU Centre in town, where they hold workshops and conferences, which includes a sitting room and a store, together with a shop where they sell members’ craft work such as woven crosses and pottery, and also fabric for school uniforms, and when available, MU’s own fabric. They would like to extend the Centre by adding a kitchen where they could make tea and food for sale as income generation. They have two sewing machines, and employ two tailors who make school uniforms, clerical shorts and robes; they also make sanitary pads for girls, but say the material is very expensive. They also employ a cleaner for the centre.

Help for the poorest - They are very focused on helping the poorest in Maridi. These include victims of the tanker explosion last year, many of whom were left with life-changing injuries and scars from the burns – their names are listed, and they are given food and some domestic items. They also help women who have been left destitute by conflict in the ongoing civil war – Westbury parish sent £300 last year from Lent lunches, and the Mothers’ Union spent it on buying essentials for women in the Amaki Archdeaconry whose houses had been looted and burnt by soldiers - they were given soap, salt and fabric for dresses, as they had none.
The MU also regularly supports 40 widows with salt, soap and occasionally cooking oil; they pay school fees and associated costs (uniform, school bag) for 40 orphans; they visit disadvantaged people such as the blind, and the sick in hospital, and pray for them; if they have no relatives, the MU may supply food. They visit the local prison and as well as the gospel message may give food.

**Annual Conference** - Once a year they have a big conference for all members, funded entirely from the Maridi Town branches. This year, in February, the facilitators included three women including the Bishop’s wife and a member of the State Parliament, and six men including the Bishop. 600 members came, and it lasted three days. Future plans include (subject to funding):

- Recruiting mentors and training them to encourage girls to stay in school
- A sewing machine in each archdeaconry, to make sanitary pads for girls
- Purchasing a vehicle – they have already saved 21,000 South Sudanese pounds
- Training for new MU branch leaders in the archdeaconries
- Training leaders for the new Christian Fellowship Group – this attracts younger women and already has 365 members across the Diocese.

**Gifts for Salisbury** - At the end of our conversation, Mama Foibe presented me with three beautiful woven crosses, made by MU members, for the Salisbury MU. I hope they can be displayed where as many members as possible will see them, and know that our sisters in Maridi remember and pray for us, as we do for them.

Jane Shaw

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**A Family Prayer**

**Lynne Tembey from ‘Dear Lord’**

Lord, it is with a heart full of gratitude that we come before you today. Thank you for the abundant generosity you bestow upon each member of our family. We thank you that in the joyful times we can celebrate together; we are grateful too that in the difficult times of our lives, we have you and each other, to guide, support, encourage and love.

And yet Lord, as we are blessed and enriched by love, we are acutely aware that within the world, your beautiful world, there are so many who are lonely, unloved, persecuted and afraid.

We pray that we might have a heart of love and a generosity of spirit to reach out with unconditional love to the marginalized, those caught up in conflict, suffering through hunger, held captive or facing any sort of oppression or persecution.

We pray that you will enlarge our sympathy, deepen our compassion, and give us courage to reach out in love and service. Enable us we pray to have loving, caring hearts, in your Son’s name, Jesus Christ, we pray.  

**Amen**.
SECRET GARDENS OF THE CLOSE
For the third time the Friends of Salisbury Cathedral held an open gardens event in The Close this May. There were 12 to see this year and on a wonderfully sunny and warm day we were able to enjoy a variety of beautiful gardens normally hidden away from view. Watercolour paintings and pencil drawings were exhibited in the Medieval Hall, The Close Consort played recorders, there was a plant stall and tea and delicious cakes at the South Canonry. The photo shows the beautiful garden at South Canonry and eager people queuing for tea. If you weren’t able to come this year look out for details of next year’s event in spring 2019.

SARUM ARCHDEANERY
Sarum has not had an Archdeacon for years now, and I am writing as the Salisbury Deanery Chair, so our readers can know a little of what the Branches are doing these days. Salisbury is an all-embracing Deanery, as we include both Alderbury and Chalke Valley Deaneries.

Alderbury Deanery includes one Branch and one Prayer and Fellowship Group. The Alderbury Branch offers a lively and very varied programme for its members, many of whom take responsibility for running the meetings, which are held in members’ homes. They had representation at the Deanery meeting on Safeguarding for Children and Vulnerable Adults. Their membership has remained fairly constant and they are a joy to visit and I know visitors would be very welcome. Winterslow P & F have 8 very committed members one of whom celebrated her 105th birthday. They offer a very moving Advent Service, when the church is packed with friends and church members, and they provide Home Communions throughout the year, which are much appreciated.

Chalke Valley Deanery is home to the very active Wilton Branch, with both an afternoon and evening group. They have had some very inspirational speakers over the year, including Colin Fox, and would be very happy to share information with others. They are a real active part of their parish church too, which is always a joy to read about.

Salisbury Deanery includes one Branch, Harnham and two Prayer and Fellowship groups Laverstock and St Francis. Harnham continues to grow in number, and the leadership is now shared with members of a small executive committee. They have actively ‘listened’ to their community and now offer roughly bi-monthly teas for those who are living on their own and feel lonely. This has proved very successful, much appreciated and enjoyed by all those who attend, and who almost need to be chased out when the time comes to close. They continue to provide interesting speakers and a varied programme.
Communications with our link Dioceses have not changed over the year, and we remain fortunate that Alice Wangu in Marsabit northern Kenya continues to e-mail regularly. I don’t hear from our other links, except occasionally from our friends in Botswana.

In May the rains arrived, which is always very welcome in desert like regions, and Alice commented on the quantity of pasture and the closer vicinity of the water, so making life easier for the women and healthier for the animals. They were also very grateful and pleased to receive funds from Mary Sumner House. Unfortunately, some of the areas which Alice visits suffer with tribal conflicts, and Alice asks for our prayers for these members, some of whom with their children have been spending the nights in the bush due to fear of attack. Other members have been displaced and some of the men folk have been killed. Due in part to the impact of climate change, which has brought about longer periods of drought, the animal deaths have increased. These people are pastoralists so very dependent on their livestock for their lively hood. To supplement their income, they have been selling their little girls for marriage in increasing numbers. These friends certainly need our prayers, and perhaps we should consider our carbon footprint more carefully.

Overseas

Joanna Woodd

Laverstock P & F; the year has been difficult and demanding for its members, but they continue to hold together. Please pray that leaders will be found. St Francis P & G has a membership of 13, most of whom are in their 80s/90s but 9 are regular attenders. There are other groups meeting at St Francis Church and MU have been sharing Families First with young Mums who attend an evening meeting, so raising the profile of MU.

Our meetings, held in Church House, are times of fellowship, hearing more about the situations in the Sudans from our Chaplain, Revd Ian Woodward, learning from each other, and of most importance offering support and care for each other as they minister to their Branch and P & F members

Joanna Woodd

Arts and Crafts Event

St Peter’s Parkstone Mothers’ Union hosted a successful new event at on Thursday 12th April. We thought that families might like something fun to do, especially if the holidays hadn’t been sunny (we predicted that one correctly) so we hosted an arty ‘sea adventure’. All ages came together to create; we made all sorts of sea creatures, seaweed, anemones, crustaceans, pebbles and boats and we put everything together onto a big blue sheet for all to see. It was a great atmosphere. There were delicious home-made cakes, tea and squash to keep us refreshed. And lots of chit-chat as we drew, cut and stuck. Many thanks to all those involved.

St Michael & All Angels in Colehill, Dorset - At our June Meeting we welcomed Hilary Goody who told us about the banner she is making for our church. The intricate stitching made by a state of the art sewing machine was truly amazing, and we all look forward to seeing the completed banner which will, no doubt, be a work of art in itself.
“All About Mothers’ Union” quiz: Preparation & Answers

You will need to photocopy a set of the explanations to use them for the first two bullet points. Three ways to use the quiz:

- If your members are mobile and you have enough space, cut the explanations into individual answers and fasten the answers to the wall or notice boards around your meeting room, so that members have to find and read the explanation before answering the question.
- If your members are less mobile or you are limited for space you could cut the explanations into sets of 3 x 5 or 5 x 3 and hand them to the members to find the answers and then ask each group of members to pass their set to the next group.
- Or you could use it as a straight forward quiz to see how much your members know and then read the explanations as you give out the answers – be careful not to embarrass people who may not know all or any of the answers.

Answers and explanations

1. Mothers’ Union is a Christian organisation open to men as well as women and has 4 million members worldwide.
2. Membership of Mothers’ Union spreads over 83 countries, including Gambia, Egypt, Burundi, Sudan and South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Australia, Thailand, and of course UK and All Ireland.
3. The Literacy and Numeracy Development Programme started in 2000 in Burundi, Malawi, Sudan.
4. Learning to read and work out simple mathematics has proved to be life changing for many people. By the end of 2013, 130,000 people will have received an accredited qualification in literacy.
5. Iraq really functions as two countries, Kurdistan in the north is relatively stable, but in the south violence has been escalating since 2008. There is one branch of Mothers’ Union in Iraq at the church of St George, Baghdad.
6. Each week some of the 3,250 members in Iraq provide traditional food for 4,000 people many of whom are unemployed
7. The Tippy Tap is a simple and very effective way of having clean water for hand washing, helping to stop the spread of diseases and improve health
8. In times of natural or man-made disaster money can be sent from the Relief Fund. So that the money arrives where it is needed it always goes via a Mothers’ Union official source.
9. Families, carers, and individuals who are suffering from stress can be referred to Mothers’ Union for a holiday or short break through our “Away From It All scheme.”
10. Members knit Comfort Teddies for use by paramedics, ambulance and fire brigade personnel
11. The Mothers’ Union organisation was started 142 years ago in 1876 at Old Alresford, Winchester, within 10 years the Diocese of Lichfield had Mothers’ Union.
12. Mothers’ Union was started by Mary Sumner after the birth of her first Grandchild.
13. Members knit blankets, bonnets and tiny garments for Premature Babies, they also knit cot blankets after receiving a special request from a local women’s refuge centre.
14. Providing people with a Goat can improve health through better nutrition. Selling milk provides money to pay for school fees and uniforms. Fertiliser enriches the soil resulting in better crop yields. Baby goats are given to other people in the village or are sold to create income.
15. All Mothers’ Union work and members are supported by Prayers. A ‘Wave of Prayer’ takes place at midday every day, where members pray for each other and the work. Each diocese is ‘linked’ with other dioceses, so wherever we are represented, we are prayed for.
ARCHIVE CORNER

I thought that readers might like to see these vintage badges which are kept in the Mothers’ Union Office.

Going from the top and clockwise the first badge has a pin and is dated 1909 with the words “Women’s Union, Diocese of Salisbury” around the outer edge. In the centre is “The Home” and the words “The Head of Mother”, “The Guardian of Prayer, “The Strength of God” are in the trefoil. At three o’clock is a pendant showing the Virgin & Child and at the bottom is shown the obverse of this but as a pin badge with the words “The Mothers’ Union Founded 1886 – Bring up a Child in the Way He should go” (and no, 1886 is not a typing error!). The pin badge at nine o’clock has the MU logo in blue in the centre and the words “Nurses’ Fellowship” around the blue outer edge. Finally, in the centre is a bar badge with “Mothers’ Union” inscribed on the gold bar and the initials FOM in the centre – does anyone know what these initials stand for please?

Jenny Harrison - MU Diocesan Secretary

News From Branches

Heytesbury Deanery - has three Branches and one Prayer & Fellowship Group and our members have pursued a variety of activities in recent months.

Westbury All Saints - We have enjoyed a May Lunch, inviting the Clergy to join us. In June we were pleased to raise nearly £200 at a coffee morning for the Sidmouth Holiday and in August guests were invited to a tea party raising another £200 for “Overseas projects”. We have had two very interesting talks, one from Revd Margaret Davies based on the book, The Gospel of Falling Down at our Quiet Garden day and the other from Revd Martin Weymont on his visits to SE Uganda including his meetings with several Mother’s union groups. We are hopeful to recruit some new members in September as our activities become more known.

Dilton Marsh Branch - is led by a small executive committee and members have recently participated in a variety of activities. There have been enlightening talks by our Team Rector, who explained her journey of Faith, and Hilary Fairfield who works to support those suffering from Motor Neurone Disease, a talk which opened our eyes and shocked us to realise the life-restricting conditions of the disease. Members helped to organise a ‘Big Lunch’ at Fairfield Farm College and, with Westbury Branch, enjoyed a Quiet Day led by one of our members the Revd Margaret Davies. Our major fundraising event of the year was our annual Cream Tea and Garden Party, attended by 70 people which enabled us to send £406 to the ‘Summer of Hope’ appeal. We had an outing to Bradford on Avon which culminated in a visit and delightful tea courtesy of the members of Holy Trinity MU Branch.
Minster Church of St Denys - Prayer & Fellowship Group - The highlight of the last few months was definitely our “Quiet Day” in May. Led by one of our retired clergy, Revd Liz Smith, we had a very thoughtful day of studying and thinking along the title “Our Hope”. Liz used Rembrandt’s expressive painting “The Return of the Prodigal Son” first to illustrate her talk on the Hope of Forgiveness. After a time on our own (some brave souls, well wrapped up, in the garden!). Before lunch she introduced her second concept of Hope - Hope of Resurrection - living as people of the resurrection through our lives. After another time of silent reflection, we enjoyed our sandwiches, when we were allowed to chatter! The afternoon got under way with a talk about the ‘Hope of Blessing - God’s desire that we shall flourish. Another time with our own thoughts, before coming back together for “All shall be well”. We were given beautifully printed cards with the whole of Julian of Norwich’s saying - a lovely way to end the day. “All shall be well, and all shall be well, and all manner of things shall be well”.

A memorable day, especially as we were joined by friends and members of the congregation. £45 from generous donations was sent to the Diocesan MU’s fund “Away from it All”.

Mere - In June we had our Garden meeting at Christabelles’ home, with a fun quiz and excellent cakes! We were very lucky with the weather but not so on August 9th when 18 members and friends met at St Michael’s Church for Corporate Communion to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. Revd Carol officiated with readings by members, then we had a Bring & Share lunch in the Grove Building instead of our planned picnic! We are looking forward to our Autumn meetings and the Deanery Carol service in December.

Jocelyn Short Deanery Chair

St James Trowbridge - Dorothy Scammells, a former branch and deanery treasurer died in December 2017 in a nursing home in Oxfordshire where she had moved to be near one of her daughters. Her daughters decided that donations at her funeral should be given for St James MU Trowbridge. This amounted to £195 (rounded up to £220 from branch funds). We decided that this should be donated to the Literacy project.

On 1 August we held a Cream Tea, Raffle and Cake stall and raised £405 for the “Summer of Hope Appeal” Members from Bradford-on-Avon and former members from Holt came to support us. The Summer of Hope Appeal also benefitted by £150 from the Festival Service at St John’s Upper Studley.

Wareham Branch - At the Purbeck Deanery Quiet Day in Swanage in May, three members of Wareham Branch were presented with their fifty year membership certificates by Iris Parker former Archdeaconry chairperson. From left to right, Jane Patterson, Mary Green, Eve Crewe and Iris Parker.

St Marks, Talbot Village - Heather Ash received her certificate for 60 years service.
**Harnham Community Teas for those on their own** - A third successful and very well attended Community Tea was held in August. There have been on average around 40 people attending each time drinking tea, eating sandwiches and luscious cakes and enjoying the company of people in the Harnham area. Some were church goers, some Mothers’ Union members but most were just people from the area who wanted an afternoon friendship and fun. At the first event we wondered who would come and were delighted when everyone mixed with strangers and chatted like old friends and so it has continued. The next one is on 28 October, 3-5pm.

**Dilton Marsh MU Garden Party** - A great success with around 72 people attending. Wonderful weather and fabulous views from member Jane Brakes’ farm. Jane also made the delicious scones and jam.

**In Mary Sumner’s Footsteps** - Following IN MARY SUMNER’S FOOTSTEPS is just what three members of Alderbury Branch did on Mary Sumner day. In June I went to Old Arlesford to see the church where Mothers’ Union was founded in 1876 with the idea of a branch outing there. It is really amazing that MU has its foundations in such a small village. Later I was making enquiries and was informed that Old Arlesford branch has a service each year on Mary Sumner day (9th August) to which anyone is invited, just take a picnic lunch.....so we did. After negotiating the traffic going to a pop festival that was taking place in Winchester we arrived just in time for a most uplifting service, afterwards eating our picnic in the dining room of Old Arlesford Palace, the very place where our founder had lived. We hope to attend next year taking more of our members with us. I wonder if others would be interested, it was well worth the journey. **Gillian Mackenzie**

**IN MEMORIAM** - We give thanks for the lives and dedication of the following members, all remembered with love.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phyl Ash</td>
<td>Trowbridge, founder member of St James Young Wives</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Hall</td>
<td>Trowbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Turner</td>
<td>Trowbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rosemary Granville</td>
<td>Trowbridge</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joan Gooch</td>
<td>Diocesan Member, Dorchester Deanery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shirley Meech</td>
<td>Preston Team, Weymouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margaret Tambling</td>
<td>Preston Team, Weymouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Angela Dutton</td>
<td>Urchfont</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pam Goodman (member for 63 years)</td>
<td>Harnham</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marjorie Beer (indoor member)</td>
<td>Talbot Village aged 103</td>
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<td>Angela Dutton</td>
<td>Urchfont with Stert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Felicity Walker</td>
<td>Devizes St John and St Mary</td>
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<tr>
<td>Margery Butcher</td>
<td>Devizes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Doreen Grant</td>
<td>All Cannings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Joyce Gardner (Diocesan member)</td>
<td>Broughton Gifford</td>
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Spring Council 2019:
Wednesday 27 March at St Francis Church, Salisbury

AGM/Autumn Council 2019:
Saturday 12 October at Market Lavington Community Hall

Other dates:
MU Charity Stall in the Salisbury Christmas Market on Thursday 29 November 2018
Trustee Training Day – 15 January 2019 at St Paul’s Community Centre Salisbury
Triennial Festival in Salisbury Cathedral – Saturday 1 June 2019 at 11 am

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL MU COMMUNION SERVICES
12 noon on 4th Tuesday of each month except August and December

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Celebrant</th>
<th>Deanery</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 23</td>
<td>to be confirmed</td>
<td>Salisbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>November 27</td>
<td>Very Revd Paul Mellor</td>
<td>Salisbury with Alderbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>Salisbury with Alderbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>February 26</td>
<td>Revd Jane Dunlop</td>
<td>Chalke</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 26</td>
<td>Revd John Tarrant</td>
<td>Heytesbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>April 25</td>
<td>Revd Jo Naish</td>
<td>Weymouth</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 28</td>
<td>Revd Jane Shaw</td>
<td>Chalke</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>June 25</td>
<td>Revd Betty Port</td>
<td>Blackmore Vale</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>Revd Colin Fox</td>
<td>Salisbury with Alderbury</td>
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<tr>
<td>September 24</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>Salisbury with Alderbury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>October 22</td>
<td>Revd Jeffrey Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26</td>
<td>Revd Becky Roberts</td>
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BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2016 – 2018

Diocesan President: Rosie Stiven
Chaplain: Revd Jacqui Clark
Secretary: Jenny Harrison
Treasurer: Suzanne Waters
Archdeaconry Chairs:
Sherborne Daphne Furey
Dorset Sheila Soper
Wilts Marlene Haffenden
Wiltshire (Vacant)
Menorca (Vacant)

Unit Co-ordinators:
Action & Outreach (A&O) Joanna Woodd, Sandra Gamble
Faith (Vacant)
Fund Raising/Communications (Vacant)
Training (Vacant)
Diocesan Members’ Contact (Vacant)
Elected Trustees:
Faith Rosemary Allen
Fund Raising/Communications Mike Bowler (Membership)
Training Liz Bowler
Diocesan Members’ Contact (Prayer & Fellowship Groups)
Elected Trustees: Elizabeth Wood
(Reflections and Intercessions)
(Three vacancies)
Co-opted Trustee: Alison Oakes (Gift Aid)

Trustees Meetings: all at 10 am
Thursday 24 January
Thursday 28 February
Thursday 9 May

Please send news for the Spring edition of ‘Windows’ to: Mrs Elizabeth Goater,
17 Chislebury Grove, Salisbury SP2 8EP Tel: 01722 331899 Email: lizgoater@hotmail.com
by 1st February 2019