



to the latest newsletter.

Dear friends and members

As I write we are once again experiencing another spell of hot weather. Whilst it is good for families who are on holiday it can be difficult for many of us to cope with and the gardens and parks are suffering from lack of rain. Although here in the Midlands we are not suffering as much as areas further south, we need to pray for our farmers whose crops are suffering from the dry weather and will either not mature or will ripen too soon which results in a reduced harvest.

I have been able to have some time away from home, revisiting Northumberland and then catching up with family and friends in Scotland and Tyneside. The weather was kind to us and the travelling was fine apart from the last leg of our grand tour. A journey from the renowned Tebay services should have taken about 2½ hrs took nearly 8 hrs! The M6 motorway was closed because of a lorry fire but we were thankful that we had neither children or animals with us. It was good to reach Charnock Richard services though!! I believe, that on another stretch of the motorway a brass band had left their vehicle and been entertaining those around them! As far as we know there had been no injuries so we thank God for that.

As you know Katherine May represented the diocese at the Reimagining MU conference at the beginning of July and a comprehensive newsletter from her was sent out very shortly after the event. We welcome, indeed NEED, feedback either to Katherine direct or via the office so that the trustees can discuss and formulate a plan for the way ahead in the Diocese of Lichfield. We appreciate that it may have been difficult to print off and circulate but hope that, by reading it and passing on the information to other members, some positive ideas may emerge. We hope to hold some Zoom meetings which will be publicised soon.

I know that many of you do not meet in August but there are still events such as garden parties being held so I hope that all goes well with these. Don't forget to send photos to Jean Price for the next edition of the Lichfield Beacon! I hope that the rest of the summer provides a break to catch-up with friends and/or family if you haven't yet been able to do that.

Love and prayers

*Helen*

### Diocesan AGM

At the recent Diocesan AGM the draft Constitution and Regulations were discussed and approved. These documents were sent to Kathryn Anderson, Canterbury Provincial President who has suggested some very minor alterations in wording. The documents will then be sent to the Charity Commission for final approval. The trustees hope that this process will be finalised without too much delay.



## Mary Sumner Day 2022

August 9<sup>th</sup> is Mary Sumner Day, dedicated to the founder of Mothers' Union – Mary Sumner, and we would like to commemorate her life with a quote and prayer below:

"Her foresight, her wisdom and judgment laid the great foundation stone for us. And as the building grows, and far and wide her early message goes forth – the same message, though to a different generation – we pray that the faith which shone through her every word and thought may illumine ours, that we, with grateful hearts, may build well and truly, as she did."

*December 1927; Mrs Boustead, Central President of Mothers' Union*



### A prayer written by Mary Sumner in 1876:

*All this day, O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;  
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live. Amen*

### News from Mary Sumner House Lambeth Conference 2022

The 15<sup>th</sup> Lambeth Conference began on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July and ended on 8<sup>th</sup> of August. It is a gathering of the Bishops and their spouses of the Anglican communion, who come together to address matters related to the Church, and to delineate a path forward. Mothers' Union is proud to have been associated with the conference for many years, and supported the creation and delivery of the spouses programme. This year, we put up a stall at the main conference hall at University of Kent, showcasing our work across the world, some of the products we produce and our #NoMore1in3 campaign against gender-based violence. We invited people to draw, sign, smudge or mark the wall if they pledged to end gender-based violence. Our stall attracted a lot of attention and many Bishops, spouses and volunteers pledged their support for our campaign.

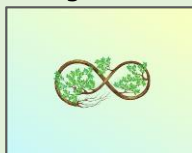


Worldwide President, Sheran Harper (pictured centre) addressed the Conference as well as being involved with the spouses' programme and in the resource space.

## A Reflection for August from Jenny Barton

Zonal Trustee for Wales on the Worldwide Board

My dear friends, greetings in the name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Here we are in the eighth month of the year, but it only feels like yesterday we were celebrating Easter. This got me thinking and of course my first thoughts went to Mary Sumner Day, which, although we celebrate this on the 9<sup>th</sup> of August, should be celebrated on the 8<sup>th</sup> of August, however this date was already the Feast Day of St Augustine, so the 9<sup>th</sup> was chosen for Mary Sumner. I then thought about the significance of the number 8 and on looking it up found that in biblical terms it represents new beginnings just like Easter. The first of these new beginning leads us to Noah, when God saved 8 people to begin a new life after the flood. Then looking at the New Testament, we see that Jesus showed himself alive 8 times after his resurrection from the dead. His first appearance alive was to Mary Magdalene (Mark 16:9 - 11). He then showed himself to two disciples traveling to Emmaus (Luke 24). Next, he appeared to all the disciples except Thomas (John 20:19 - 24) then a week later to all them when Thomas was present (John 20:26 - 29). According to the apostle Paul, Christ also was seen by 500 believers at one time (1Corinthians 15:4 - 7). Jesus also met his disciples at the appointed place in Galilee (Matthew 28:16 - 17) and on Galilee's shores (John 21:1 - 24). His final meeting was on the Mount of Olives, where he gave his followers instructions before ascending to heaven (Acts 1). New beginnings can also mean a new order or creation, and mankind's true born again event when we are resurrected from the dead to eternal life. So, the number eight certainly has a great deal of significance for us.



I like this picture which shows the tree of life entwined in the number eight reminding us that this is a God given blessing. We certainly need to celebrate Mary Sumner Day again this year and the Mothers' Union have once again produced materials for us to do so even if we don't celebrate until the 9<sup>th</sup>. Therefore, in this 8<sup>th</sup> month of the year let us celebrate new beginnings following our theme of Transformation—NOW

Let us also continue to pray for our CEO Bev and the Senior Leadership Team, Rob, Adam and Richard. Remembering and giving thanks for Sheran, our WWP and the members of the WW Trustee Board as they seek to further the work begun by Mary Sumner and that first group of inspirational women so ahead of their time. Have a wonderful day however and when you remember our founder.

Love & Prayers  
Jenny

### Diocesan Chaplains

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley	Interim Minister, Telford <a href="mailto:jassica@telfordchurch.co.uk">jassica@telfordchurch.co.uk</a>	01952 957348
Rev Kathryn Trimby	Llanyblodwel, Oswestry Deanery <a href="mailto:kathpant@aol.com">kathpant@aol.com</a>	07944 504330    01691 590025
Associate Diocesan Chaplain	Rev Chris Rushton	<a href="mailto:chris-rushton@outlook.com">chris-rushton@outlook.com</a>

Please remember that the Chaplains are there for every member, in every part of the Diocese.

### **Diocesan Office**

The times when Adrian, Diocesan Administrator, will be available to take calls are:

Monday 9.30am – 1.30pm  
Tuesday 10.30am – 2.30pm  
Thursday 9.30am – 1.30pm

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