

Dear members and friends

I hope that you have had a good summer, despite the fickle weather we have had, not knowing from one day to another whether it will be rain or shine! Even the plants in my garden have been a bit confused! This poppy usually flowers in June or early July but the photo of this glorious bloom was taken only a couple of weeks ago!



Traditionally, summer seems to be quieter for Mothers' Union especially at branch or group level. For the second time we celebrated Mary Sumner Day with a service in Lichfield Cathedral, well attended and live streamed so others could be part of the worship. I am sure that many of you may still have met or had an outing to the seaside or lunch together.

After a spell of summer respite, the trustees are now back at work as there is much to do before the end of the year, and the end of the triennium, looking forward to and planning for the next stage. Please keep us all in your prayers as the current trustees and trustees elect work together to look towards the future of Mothers' Union in this Diocese with the new Triennium theme of **'Join Us and Join In'**.

My love and prayers to you all

*Helen*

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### *Elections*

In the last newsletter the results of our Diocesan elections were announced but I am pleased to let you know the results of the elections at worldwide level.

A message from Mary Sumner House:

*In case you have not heard the news, we are delighted to share the results of our elections, and you can catch up on the full live stream on [Facebook](#) or [YouTube](#). For the first time, the elections were conducted digitally, **achieving a record turnout with leaders participating from around the globe.***

*We are so thankful for the work of our outgoing Board and Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, as they have steered Mothers' Union with grace and diligence, and we are looking forward to all God has planned for us in this new season. And on that note, we are overjoyed that from 1st January 2025 Kathleen Snow will be our new Worldwide President. Kathleen has served on the Board for six years as the Zonal Trustee for the Americas, a member of Mothers' Union for thirty-six years!*

*"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. With God, all things are possible." - Kathleen Snow*

*Here is the link to a special message from Kathleen Snow:*

[A Special Message from our Worldwide President Elect | Mothers' Union \(mothersunion.org\)](#)

The newly elected trustees who will serve from 2025 on the Worldwide Board are:

- Zone A: Joy Hla Gyaw, Myanmar (Korea, Myanmar, North and South India, Sri Lanka)
- Zone B: Judith Spencer-Jarrett, West Indies (Canada, South America, USA, West Indies)
- Zone C: Dorothy Siep, Papua New Guinea (Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia, Australia, Melanesia, Papua New Guinea)
- Zone D: Reverend Mercy Murithi, Kenya (Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Tanzania, Jerusalem and the Middle East)
- Zone E: Maria van Staden, South Africa (Central Africa, Nigeria, South, Sudan, Sudan, Southern Africa, IAMA)
- Zone F: Estelle Dibo, Cameroon (Burundi, Congo, Indian Ocean, West Africa)
- Zone G: Julia Jamieson, UK (Canterbury, including Europe)
- Zone H: Deb Lee, UK (York)
- Zone I: June Butler, Ireland (All Ireland)
- Zone J: Reverend Ann Wren, Scotland (Scotland)
- Zone K: Lowrie Washington-Jones, Wales (Wales)

Additionally, the following trustees will continue to serve, appointed to provide complementary skills:

- Liz Gaylor, UK (Safeguarding)
- Mathilde Nkwirikiye, Burundi (Policy)

Announcing the Worldwide President and Board elect, current Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, commented: "It has been an absolute privilege to serve on the Worldwide Board of MU, first as a Trustee and then as Worldwide President, for a total of 12 years. During this time, I have witnessed the growth of God's Kingdom through the selfless acts of love and courage of our members. I have been deeply touched by their resilience and commitment to transforming the lives of women, families, and communities across the globe. As I prepare to hand over the baton at the end of this year, I do so with hope and confidence. I trust that WWP Elect Kathleen and her Trustees will continue to advance our mission to end poverty, injustice, and violence, while also transforming our beloved movement, ensuring we remain strong and relevant as we move towards our 150th anniversary."

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## *Mary Sumner Day*



I am delighted to report that the 12.30 Eucharist Service on Mary Sumner Day, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> August, was attended by about 40 members and friends of Mothers' Union as well as a few regular Cathedral worshippers and visitors. Our Diocesan Chaplain, Rev Jassica preached and presided at the



Eucharist with members of Mothers' Union taking part in readings and prayers. Afterwards many of us enjoyed fellowship together on the 'Beach', the summer event outside the Cathedral. For the first time the service was live streamed and watched as it happened by 13 'views', one of which was a group of around 30 in Carrigaline Church in our friendship link diocese of Cork, Cloyne and Ross. The members there had lunch out and enjoyed a visit to an old fort in glorious sunshine.



# Quiet Day

## ! Closing date approaching !



A Quiet Day at Shallowford House is planned for **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September**. The booking details are below. Bookings may also be made by email but please make sure you include any dietary needs at the time of booking. The day is being led by Rev Zoe Braven-Giles who is curate at St Giles Shrewsbury. As previously there is no fixed charge, but please donate as generously as you can towards the cost of that day.

Time: 10 for 10.30 am. until 3.30 pm.

Please complete and return the form below by **Friday September 20<sup>th</sup> 2024** to:

Adrian Palphreyman, Diocesan Administrator

Mothers' Union Office, The Parish Church of St Thomas and St Andrew, Doxey, Staffordshire, ST16 1EQ

You may also book by email: [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk) or telephone 01785 227221

**Please make sure you give us any information about special dietary needs**

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### LICHFIELD DIOCESAN MOTHERS' UNION

I wish to apply for ..... places on the Quiet Day to be held at Shallowford House on **Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

**Names:**.....

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**Please note any special dietary needs:**

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**Contact Name and Address:**

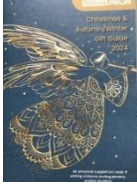
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**Branch**..... **Tel No**.....

**Would you like directions to the venue Yes/No**

## MUenterprises



Ann Hodkinson, our diocesan MUe representative, now has stocks of Christmas cards and the MU diary should now be available – there have been some supply issues. The new catalogue is out but there are many more items on the MU shop website.

If you would like to place an order or arrange for Ann to bring goods to a future event, please contact her using the details below. You can order direct from the central Mothers' Union website but will be charged more for postage. If you do order direct don't forget to fill in 'Lichfield' in the optional 'Name of Diocese' box!

Telephone: 01785 712357 or email: [riverpenk9@gmail.com](mailto:riverpenk9@gmail.com)

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### Summer Events



I am sure many of you will have been holding events over the summer, whether fundraising for the Summer of Hope appeal or for your own local project, or perhaps just for a time of fellowship, and catching up with one another. If it was an outdoor event, I hope the weather was kind to you.

Please send any photos and I'll try to include them,

Part of the spread  
at Tettenhall Wood

For more about the appeal visit:

[www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope-2024](http://www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope-2024)

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### Christmas Cards for Prisons

There are approximately 1,500 Christmas Card held at Doxey at the moment and to meet demand we need about another 1,500 cards. I know that it is only September and that many of you will just be starting meeting again after the summer break, but may I ask that if you have cards already written can you please arrange to have them delivered to Doxey. (Please phone before setting out to check that Adrian will be there.)

They could be brought to the Quiet Day at Shallowford or, if it would be easier, they can be delivered to me, Deb or Katherine. If you haven't yet written your cards, please can you do so as soon as possible and bring them to the Autumn Gathering on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November at the latest. May I also ask if you would consider increasing the number of cards you send this year so that we can meet the demand. Thank you.

A gentle reminder that cards should not feature children and the wording inside the card must read "*With love and prayers from Mothers' Union*".

Thank you for your generosity in providing the cards - they may be the only card that some prisoners receive. Thank you too for the books received for the prison visitor centre. There are enough in stock now but we shall let you know if/when more are needed. We are still waiting for some more information regarding the suitability of toys for one of the other visitors' centres.

Julia Collinson

The trustees can be contacted via the office if you have any queries.

## *Autumn Gathering*

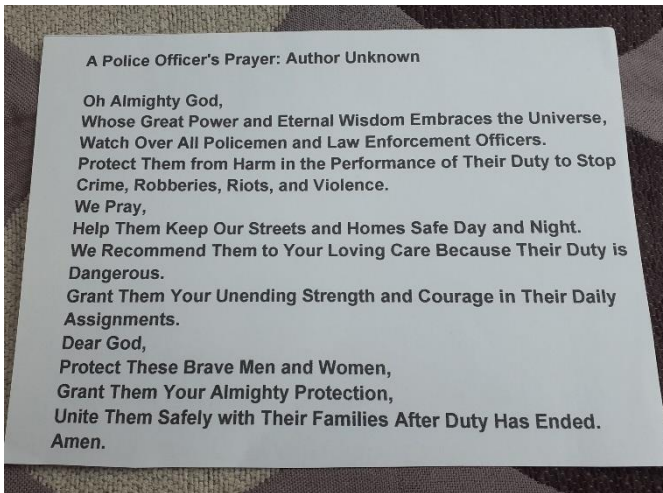
Advance notice that the last diocesan meeting of this year, indeed of this triennium, will be held on **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> November**, in the morning into the early afternoon. It is planned that a buffet lunch will be provided. More details will be shared nearer the time. We shall welcome the Bishop of Stafford, the Rt Revd Matthew Parker as our speaker.

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### *News From Tutbury Branch*

During the outbreak of disorder around the country this summer, Tutbury MU reached out in support of Police Officers in our community. Wendy Rees's late husband, Rev Les Rees, was Police Chaplain at Burton on Trent. No-one has replaced him yet.

Wendy visits with gifts at Christmas and Easter to keep a Christian presence. She is a member of the Christian Police Association and, as a Friend of "Good News For Everyone" Bible organisation (formerly Gideons International UK), has taken them pocket size New Testaments with their own Staffordshire Constabulary Badge on the front.



As a gesture of support from Tutbury MU she took a prayer card, and a copy of a version of The Police Officer's Prayer to Burton Police Station, to protect them. The members had already begun to pray this together on our WhatsApp chat.

At the same time, she delivered tins of chocolates for those holding the fort, as well as for "the troops" being deployed to Tamworth and Stoke and other trouble spots.

They were both surprised and touched by our response, and grateful for this "evidence" of community spirit in their midst.

As a result, we are going to continue to befriend our police family and include them in our prayers. We give thanks for this new opportunity that arose out of a difficult and dangerous time for many, but prayers were answered.

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### *Diocesan Day of Prayer*

As we have done on previous occasions, including earlier this year in March, Lichfield Mothers' Union will be taking a part in the 24 hours cycle of prayer from noon Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> September, finishing at noon on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September. The time 'slots' in which we are participating are **5.30am and 7.30am on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup>**. If you are an early riser then please join Deb as she prays for Mothers' Union locally, nationally and worldwide. You are welcome to join any other sessions, perhaps your own deanery, or another area of diocesan work. All sessions are available via the Diocesan Zoom room - the link is available on the Diocese of Lichfield website, search for 'Diocesan Day of Prayer September 2024'



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## *Diocesan Chaplain*

As I reported previously, Rev Jassica is our only Diocesan Chaplain now. As a busy parish priest Rev Jassica has a limited amount of time to fulfil the role of chaplain and the trustees are seeking someone willing to help out in the short term, until the end of this triennium in December, but also who might be interested in joining Rev Jassica as she continues in the role for a second term. Please get in touch with the office if you have any thoughts on this matter and, just as important, please keep Rev Jassica in your prayers.

Rev Jassica Castillo-Burley      [stoswald.minister@gmail.com](mailto:stoswald.minister@gmail.com)

Please remember that the Chaplain is there for every member, in every part of the Diocese.

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### *Prayers*



The prayer link continues:  
using Email, phone, WhatsApp.  
Just say how you want to be included.  
To offer to be a 'pray-er' or request prayers for yourself,  
someone else or any situation, please contact Deb or the office.  
Details are below.

Let's share.                      Many thanks.  
Deb: [debtudor@live.co.uk](mailto:debtudor@live.co.uk)                      01543 382390  
Office: [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)    01785 227221

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### *Mothers' Union Diocesan Office*

**Diocesan Administrator: Adrian Palphreyman**

The times when Adrian will be available to take calls are

**Normal Opening Times**  
Monday 9.30am – 1.30pm  
Tuesday 10.30am – 2.30pm  
Thursday 9.30am – 1.30pm

Mothers' Union Office, Parish Church of St Andrew and St Thomas,  
Doxey, Stafford, ST16 1EQ

***Please call if you intend to visit to ensure Adrian is available.***

Tel: 01785 227221                      (answer machine available)  
email: [office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk](mailto:office@mothersunionlichfield.org.uk)                      website: <https://mothersunionlichfield.org.uk>