

## NEWSLETTER 2020



There will be no issue of Grapevine this Spring because of the coronavirus situation. Last week I sent out a copy of our MU Review for last year giving an overall picture of what has happened in the Ely Diocese. This is more detailed than the report which would have been in Grapevine. I will also include in the newsletter special anniversaries and birthdays that you tell me of as well as remembering members who are no longer with us.

I thought that this lovely photograph from Sarah Bradbury in Wisbech would help us to remember that in our natural surroundings most of life is continuing as normal. It is our own lives that have changed.

**With each unfolding seed, with every Spring,  
He breathes the rumour of his resurrection,  
as birdsong calls your hidden heart to sing.  
So may this season be his benediction,  
to lift your love, and bid your prayer take wing,  
to thaw your frozen hope, to warm your mind,  
for Spring has come! Can Heaven be far behind?**

**Malcolm Guite**

***Risen Christ, you filled your disciples with boldness and fresh hope: strengthen us to proclaim your risen life and fill us with your peace, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.***

In this time of isolation, we are all missing our usual support and enduring a time of grief for all that we had and so I send you my love and prayers through this written word. I pray that new beginnings and an appreciation of God's purpose through the people we are able to be virtually in contact with, will spring forth from this time of enforced reflection.

We are so thankful for our home and the beautiful weather which has brought the warmth of God's love with the sunshine into our hearts. For me on my chemo journey I would be at home anyway but I realise how difficult it must be for those who live on their own and for those amongst us who are vulnerable.

I am almost half way on my 6 months chemo journey and the lesson I am learning is to take each day as it comes. Some days for me are better than others but there is always something to be thankful for and to enjoy. I do try to get out into the greenhouse or garden every day to enjoy the beauty and minutiae of God's world. I am marvelling at every seed that grows.

I thank God for you all and for our beloved members of MU across the Dioceses, Province and the world. May God's seeds grow in your communities. I send you all my blessings

Susan Baker

Whether we are alone or with others our prayer life is particularly important in these challenging times .As MU members it helps us to know that we can share the daily prayer focus in Families Worldwide, mid-day prayers and our Diocesan monthly prayer leaflet

Let us also develop and strengthen our prayer lives by using the materials we have at hand, perhaps on our bookshelves, eg our Bible, bible notes, books of prayers and, if you have a computer, suitable websites. You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Have courage and be of good cheer. God blessings on you all.

Helen Banyard

*O God help us to trust you,  
help us to know that you are with us,  
help us believe  
that nothing can separate us  
from your love  
revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*



## Communications

Keep in touch with news by visiting the MU Ely Diocese Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/> and also looking at the resources on our page on the Ely Diocesan website: [www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/](http://www.elydiocese.org/church-in-action/mothers-union/)

During these difficult and uncertain times, our MU membership can stay connected by joining in with **Midday Prayers** and following many of the helpful resources available from the MU Website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources-support-us-challenging-times>

Midday Prayers are said **LIVE** at 12noon via the MU Facebook page and are joined in by members all over the country and from places around the world: <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion/>

“Thy Kingdom Come” Global Prayer Movement runs from Ascension Day, Thursday May 21<sup>st</sup>, to Pentecost, Sunday May 31<sup>st</sup>: (<https://www.thykingdomcome.global/>). On the MU website there are special Midday Prayers during this period: <https://www.mothersunion.org/what-we-do/faith-and-prayer/midday-prayers-wave-prayer>

I hope you are all continuing to keep well and in good spirits during these ongoing difficult and uncertain times, which is proving to be challenging for so many.

Debbie Tye

*My heart is filled with thankfulness, to him who walks beside;  
Who floods my weaknesses with strength, and causes fear to fly;  
Whose every promise is enough, for every step I take;  
Sustaining me with arms of love, and crowning me with grace.  
(Townend/Getty)*



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FFF for children in your church or family, a reflection from Revd Michael Banyard and information about sewing scrubs and bags for NHS and carers is also included.

## Support for the Refuges and Hostels

Like all charities, the refuges and hostels are suffering at this time. This is because they are unable to accept donations at the moment.

I had this message recently from one of the refuges.

*" 2 women have had problems with their phones and it is great just being able to sort them out with some of the gift vouchers, to get a new basic phone, or credit, so they can continue to be able to communicate during these difficult times.*

*It's so kind of you (M U members) to continue to support the women we work with."*

If you are taking advantage of this time to have a sort out, please remember that items will be desperately needed when this is all over, as there will be many ready to be rehomed. I hope you can find space to keep these items for the time-being, but it would be very helpful if you could let me know what you have, so that we can match items where most needed.

Jean Webb

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**Joyce Rank**, indoor member of the Anglesey Group sadly passed away on 17<sup>th</sup> April aged 98. Joyce had been a member of MU for an amazing 72 years!

Her enrolment took place at the Bottisham branch in 1948. Following in the footsteps of her mother, Ruth Blincoe, she became enrolling member for many years. Joyce was a very active lady, especially with her knitting for many MU projects, and a well-known figure in her role as Red Cross volunteer at local functions. At the time Joyce was presented with her 70 year membership certificate, in January 2018, she was still knitting blanket squares for MU. Her certificate was framed immediately and always on display thereafter in her home and later in her care home room. Her friends and fellow members will miss her, but rejoice to have known such a remarkable lady. Rest in Peace Joyce.

Thank you for the messages of congratulation on the celebration of our 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary. The intended destination of our honeymoon hotel on the Isle of Arran will have to be next year!  
Hazel & Alan Williams

## In Loving Memory

**Joan Glover** from Wimblington died on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2019, aged 86 years. One of our Diocesan Members, she had been a MU member for over 60 years, both in Derby and for the last 35 years in Ely. As well as being a speaker for a number of years she was also a Vice President for 6 years. She is greatly missed.

**Irene Howarth** and **Pauline Rogers**, both from the Burwell branch, have recently passed away. Although ill-health had prevented their attendance at meetings in recent times they remained passionate supporters of the work of the Mothers' Union.



*Bob and Win on their wedding day and 70 years later in their garden*

Our best wishes go to **Bob and Win Jamieson** who celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on 1st April but of course were unable to have any visitors. Having moved to St. Neots 5 years ago to be nearer their family they immediately joined the parish church and both continued with their membership of the MU. Bob has written a few words for us:

Win and I were both born in London and met through mutual friends at a wedding in 1947; I met Bert whilst in the RAF and Mum lived next door to Bert's sister.

We married on 1st April at Stratford Church and a few years later we had our only daughter, Marian.

I worked for the same transport company in London for 50 years whilst Win brought up our daughter before doing some part work in a number of wages and accounts department in Rayleigh and then Bromley.

We spent many happy years in Shortlands, Bromley and moved to Eastbourne in 1993 and finally to St Neots in 2015 to be closer to our daughter.

Win and I shared a great passion for music and we also loved to dance, I remember her brother going home the night we met telling her Mum and Dad that Winnie had danced with the same man "all night"!

It was through the various dancing schools that we met so many of our friends and shared so many magical moments with them; we managed to keep dancing until we well into our 70's which I think has stood us both in good stead both mentally and physically.

So many people ask how we have lasted so long.....well its simple - a true love, friendship, trust and a willingness to support each other throughout everything that life throws at you



**Knitting and crochet.** Many wards that are isolating patients are asking for pairs of knitted or crochet hearts, about 6.5 cm across, one is given to the patient to keep while the other is sent to their loved one. Hearts are also requested by other wards and care homes where patients are isolated. If you are participating, let us know, we would love to know of your experiences.

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