



# JUNE NEWSLETTER 2020



## BEAUTIFUL ROSES

Many of you will have lovely roses in your garden, but I thought you might like to see two of mine as they have MU connections.

I bought the purple and yellow one at Wisbech Rose Fair last year because I found it so unusual. It is called Abracadabra and 2019 was, I believe, its first year on sale, having just been developed. It followed a visit to the lovely flower festival in the church and a superb afternoon tea served by Mothers' Union members.

The yellow rose, called Golden Celebration, was given to Alan and myself by the MU trustees at our last meeting on March 13<sup>th</sup>, when life was much more normal than in recent months. It was a gift for our 50<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary and I am so delighted it is flowering as those who know me well know gardening is not my forte. Hazel



Congratulations to members at St Mary's Ely Branch.

For Anne-Marie & Philip Burfield who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 5<sup>th</sup> April; and to Bertha Rowell who is 80 years old on 9<sup>th</sup> June. We send them all good wishes for these special occasions.

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The Mothers' Union has been providing support for families since 1876. Since then we have grown to have a global membership providing both spiritual and practical outreach to all. At this time we remember and pray for those who are going through times of stress and hardship and that love and respect may be central to all relationships.

I wish to share with you this prayer which was used in a recent Episcopalian Church service in America.

## A Prayer For The Time In Which We Live

Gracious and merciful God: It is a challenging time for us, your people. Some of us are afraid: afraid of becoming ill, afraid of losing our jobs, afraid we will not be able to feed our families or pay our bills. Others of us are angry at what we view as inconvenience to, and disruption of, our schedules. We are uncomfortable with uncertainty and impatient with what is happening around us. We pray for your continued presence and peace. Embrace those who are ill with your healing power. Envelope those who are dying in your living arms and lead them to eternal life. For you are our guide and our grounding, this day and always. Amen

God bless- Helen Banyard  
(Praying Our Faith Unit Co-ordinator)



Can it really be five years since Jo did her sponsored cycle ride around the whole of the Cambridge Archdeaconry? If you would like to sponsor her this time for her 10 miles a day please send a cheque to Hazel (made out to Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union) or pay direct into our Lloyds bank account (sort code 30-94-47 Account No. 01036836)

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

*Dear Hazel and all Trustees and members in the Mothers' Union Diocese of Ely, Thank you for your most generous donation of £40,000 and for the continuing excellent work of your members, especially during such challenging times. Through all the uncertainties that come with the coronavirus pandemic, one thing that remains constant and gives us immense hope is members' continuing work both here and around the world. Your donation will make a substantial contribution towards enabling the central charity to continue to support members to continue both in work and prayerful fellowship. With your contribution, we are better able to protect the heart of our movement and ensure that we can continue to support members such as yours who, as volunteers, are helping those in need during the coronavirus pandemic and importantly also beyond, as they rebuild their lives, livelihoods and relationships with others. Thank you so much for choosing to release funds to support the central charity of Mothers' Union at this most challenging time.*

*Yours in Christ*

*Bev Jullien, CEO*

From Jo Wibberley, Cambridge Archdeaconry Vice-President

*I hope you are all well and perhaps enjoying a daily walk and even taking advantage of the slightly more relaxed lockdown rules.*

*I have been interested to read about various walks that people are doing and as I cannot do the same I have been looking forward to getting back on my bike. After much trial and error, I am now up and running, or cycling in this case, in our small garden. From our varied selection of pieces of wood, assorted nails and some wood glue I bought online I got some ideas from YouTube and constructed a frame to support the back wheel. It is not a thing of beauty but the main thing is that it works and is stable. I am now enjoying a daily bike ride or two in our little garden (or today the garden room as it was rather too windy), so far lasting only 15 minutes but I hope to build it up. It has opened up a different world, looking over the fence to the trees beyond to watch the bird activity or nearer to watch a bee fly around a group of yellow poppies. Another thing ticked off my "to do" list and a great sense of achievement."*

*Also on my "to do" list is compiling the cycle diary, from the Archdeaconry cycle ride I did a few years ago, into a book. It occurred to me that I could put the two together and replicate the ride I did then with my static bike, cycling the equivalent of up to 10 miles a day for sponsorship in aid of the MSH general fund. It would be accompanied by a daily Facebook/twitter/blog saying which ride I was replicating.*

*Now for my daily bike ride - in the garden room again today as the wind is so strong it lifted our sunshade into our neighbours' garden!*

*Jo will be starting on 1<sup>st</sup> June and hopes to complete her 700 miles by September. She and her husband will remain isolated for a great deal of that time so at the end she will certainly be fitter and hopefully many will have contributed towards her efforts for the MU.*

**Susan Baker** has not been well, with side effects over two past two weeks and as she says, *"I have had to dig deep in our Lord's love. The doctor has reduced the dosage of the chemo so I pray that this will work"*. This is her reflection and photograph –

*You know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. John 14 v 17*

It is such a comfort and a blessing to read these words in the Gospel of John and resonates with the Isaiah verse, *'When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.'* which has been so important to me during my illness.

In this time of isolation, we have all been thrown on our own resources; for some of us only seeing close family members or indeed no-one at all, many hours without the normal routines, babies born that we cannot cuddle and new ways of living our lives. It has been a time of reflection and for re-discovering who we truly are.

I got out my sewing machine to make a keep-sake for my niece's birthday and my nurse asked me whether I made my own clothes. It reminded me of skills I had forgotten about, many hours in my young adulthood making my own clothes and my wedding dress, skills overtaken in later years by family and my great love, teaching. I unpacked the ottoman and found a piece of satin from my mother's wedding dress in 1937 which I appliqued onto this 'dolly bag' for my niece. A memory of her grandmother.

So, despite the Coronavirus new discoveries are there to be uncovered. My prayer for you all is that you will use this time of quiet to rediscover your inner self and hidden talents and that from these seeds a new world will grow in our local communities. God Bless Susan

My hope is built (Cornerstone)  
Christ alone,  
Cornerstone  
Weak made strong in the Saviour's love.  
Through the storm  
He is lord  
Lord of all.



#### NEWS FROM ST. NEOTS BRANCH

One of our former members, now an indoor member, JOAN TURNER, turned 90 on 7th May. I understand she received a birthday card from MU.

We are sad to say we lost one of our branch members in December. HELENA YOUNG died on 3rd December, aged 95.

#### NEWS FROM YAXLEY BRANCH

ANGELA EDWARDS. Passed away 15th December 2019. Angela was a member of St Peter's MU for many years, the last 10 as treasurer. Angela was always a willing helper at our meetings and events.

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To keep in touch with Jo's cycle ride and lots of other up to date information join our Facebook on

<https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/>

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**A reflection for Pentecost from our Diocesan Chaplain, Rev Mike Banyard.**

**Risen Christ, you have raised our human nature to the throne of heaven: help us to seek and serve you, that we may join you at the Father's side, where you reign with the Spirit in glory, now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

**'But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth..'** *Acts of the Apostles 1: 8*

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Waiting. Waiting. I am not sure about you, but I really don't like waiting. In shops, for the internet to power up, for buses, for trains, for that letter I know was sent a few days ago. The list could be, and often is, endless. Waiting for normality to be restored is what some have been waiting for in these strange times. And to be able to go where we want, for restrictions on our freedoms to be ended, for the virus to go, and for what we used to call normal, to return. To be able to join others in church, and to be able to worship together, rather than over the internet if you happen to have it. And for so many this is not possible, for the rapid changes in technology, leave some of us very bewildered and unable to cope with it, so cutting us off from so much that is good.

Well, it is not going to happen just like that, is it? Though there are some significant changes to our current lockdown due at the start of June, for many of our members they will still be indoors or, if they have one, in their gardens.

Well, I think those first disciples experienced something of all this. Immediately after Good Friday, they would meet behind closed doors out of fear of the consequences. Then they returned to their homes, and some even went back to their work. Peter and some others went fishing. They all met with the risen Lord, and experienced that thrill of those who met Jesus then, and who meet Jesus today. Cleopas and his friend on the road to Emmaus, Thomas finally coming to belief and the others too. They seemed all to be in Jerusalem for the Ascension some weeks later, though after that they were told to wait for the Holy Spirit to come upon them, which of course happened at Pentecost, and witnessed anew beginning of their new transformed lives. And that is the time we are now in. Waiting for the Spirit on Sunday on the Day of Pentecost. So waiting can be fruitful. It can help us to reflect on our relationship with the living Lord, his Son Jesus, and the work of the Holy Spirit among us all.

Please continue to be assured of our prayers here in Ely for all the MU in the Province and around the world, in whatever difficulties you are facing in your own places. Keep encouraging so many others with our fantastic work and ministries. I am delighted to keep hearing of the transformational work members of the MU are doing, often quietly and unobtrusively in your own communities. Above all your prayers are centrally important.

God bless. Mike

*The Rev'd Michael G Banyard: Provincial MU Chaplain*

**Eternal God, giver of love and power, your Son Jesus Christ has sent us into all the world to preach the gospel of his kingdom: confirm us in this mission, and help us to live the good news we proclaim; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**God bless. Christ is Risen: He is risen indeed. Alleluia.**