



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

# NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2021



## COMMISSIONING SERVICE

**ELY CATHEDRAL 23<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Commissioning Service, Saturday 23 October.** Celebrant and Preacher: The Rt Revd Stephen Conway, Bishop of Ely. A selection of photos taken at the Service to Commission the new Board of MU Trustees in the Diocese of Ely for the next Triennium (2022-2024) compiled into a video. Click on the link below.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8qCzWCXf5o>



**COMMUNICATION NEWS – NEW YouTube VIDEOS.**

**Debbie Tye – Task Group Leader**

We have more new YouTube video links to share with you for September and October Thursday Prayers.

**September Thursday Prayer:** The Gift of Harvest. Led by Catherina Griffiths.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0BoWDYakhs>

**October Thursday Prayer:** Women and Peace. Led by Sue Claydon.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DHVHrPSz8wc>

We hope you like watching these videos and thanks go to Debbie for making it possible for so many to enjoy them. Below is a reminder of trustees for the new triennium.

Diocesan President - Hazel Williams. Vice-Presidents – Jo Wibberley, Gill Uttin, Helen Banyard & Maureen Haigh. Task Group Leaders - Jean Webb, Catherina Griffiths, Christine Holt & Debbie Tye. Safeguarding – Kristy Leach

## Thursday Prayer

Helen Banyard - Praying our Faith task group leader.

A big thank you to Sue Claydon for organising the practicalities in setting up a successful October Thursday Prayer from Ely Cathedral and everyone who attended either in person or by zoom. It was lovely to see you all and we could tell by both the smiles on the screen and in the Presbytery that being able to pray together was a joy.

We hope to repeat the experience on Thursday 25th November at 10.30am both on zoom and in the Cathedral Presbytery when Jo Wibberley will lead us. Her focus will be Whitworth House in Cambridge which is one of the practical ways we support young women throughout the year and will help us in our prayers for the start of our 16 Days of Activism Campaign.

### **16 Days of Activism Against Gender - Based Violence and Abuse 25th November - 10th December 2021**

Ideas for your involvement.

- 1 Everyone is welcome to visit our MU display ( just to the right inside the Cathedral West Door ) showing our involvement with this world wide Campaign.
- 2 Attend either in person or on zoom our Thursday Prayers from Ely Cathedral on Thursday 25th November at 10.30am
- 3 Join other MU members and supporters outside the West End of the Cathedral to form a circle to remember and support 1 in 3 women throughout the world who suffer from physical or mental abuse. We hope every third person will wear a purple scarf over their eyes/mouth to advertise # no more 1 in 3 at 1.03pm on Saturday 27th November for a 3-minute silence.
- 4 If you are unable to come to Ely consider doing something similar with your branch or deanery on Global Day ( Saturday 27th November) either in or outside you church or hold a 3-minute silence in your own home.
- 5 Use the 16 Days of Activism Prayer Diary to focus your prayers on those living with Gender- Based Violence. Read the articles in our magazine - Connected, to help in our understanding the impact of GBV across society.
- 6 Consider placing a display of the 16 Days of Activism in your Church. The 2 prayers on Page 18 of the prayer diary are a good start - your display needn't be large but make it thought provoking. Some branches place a Prayer tree in their church while others use a piece of netting on which to hang prayers. Anything you display may cause people to stop, think, recognise and pray for instances they know and perhaps to act or speak out.
- 7 Don't forget the back page of your 16 Days Prayer Diary makes 3 bookmarks - share them with others.

**CONTACT DETAILS Charity no. 251394**

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#### **Thursday Prayer**

**25<sup>th</sup> November at 10.30am**

**In the Presbytery of Ely Cathedral  
Whitworth House by Jo Wibberley**

**Also on Zoom**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83847809128?pwd=VVhXUGlNWkpaGkyMUdwWHQvcC9tQT09>

Meeting ID: 838 4780 9128

Passcode: 338053

## Faith In Action Coordinator – Jean Webb

I've had a lovely response to our Christmas Giving Wish List, and thank everyone who has already donated, or enquired about supporting in this way.

Re stamps for Moggerhanger Hospice, Margaret Bails phone number should be **01480 472493**. Sorry for the misprint last month.

Just a reminder that when buying gift vouchers, to please check that the cards have been activated. Some stores offer gift receipts with each purchase.

Several members have recently asked if we want knitting. Soft twiddle muffs, lap blankets, clothing for 6 month + babies, and adult warm clothing are always needed, as are general domestic items and toiletries, and we can distribute where they are most needed.

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Mrs Mary Hay

From Wendy Smith, Branch Leader

### Died 15th October 2021 aged 94

*Mary was born in Melton Mowbray on 13th May 1927. She was educated at St. Francis Xavier convent in the town where she became head girl. Although she was an Anglican all her life, following her schooling she inclined towards the Anglo - Catholic tradition of the Church of England.*

*During the 1970's she moved to Hereford and was appointed Diocesan Secretary and Treasurer at the Cathedral Branch of the Mothers' Union at that time.*

*In the 1980's she moved to Saffron Walden and became enrolling member in 1982 and Presiding member of SW Deanery in 1986.*

*In 1992 she moved to Elm near Wisbech and continued as a Mothers' Union member until the branch folded and from then on, she attended as a member of St. Peter's Mothers Union (now called Wisbech Mother's Union)*

A long and faithful servant of the Lord and loyal member of the Mothers' Union. *Hazel*

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This powerful poem was part of Thursday Prayer led by Sue Claydon in October and is being reproduced here in case you missed it.

## The Power of Forgiveness by Sheila Sakara, age 12, Zimbabwe

There is power in forgiveness  
If you fail to forgive  
You contaminate every relationship in your life  
Watch out!  
Others can initiate events or behaviour  
But it is you who chooses how to react  
Acknowledge history  
Without being controlled by it  
Be committed to resolve  
Rather than perpetuate hatred  
There is power in commitment to a peaceful world.

My thanks go to all who have returned comments and answers to the questions on Re-imagining the Mothers' Union. I will hear viewpoints from across Britain and Ireland at the conference in January and report back.