

Thursday Prayer 2023

"Transformation - Now!"

Thursday Prayer is held in Ely Cathedral, monthly (usually in the Presbytery), on the 3rd Thursday unless otherwise stated,
from 10.30-11am

They are also held at All Saint's Church, St Ives
on 4th Thursday at 2.30-3pm

See dates below.

Friends and family members are very welcome to attend as well.

Each month we use a common theme and pray for a special concern. We also reflect upon our own membership of the Mothers' Union. If you are unable to attend, please use these prayers in your own group or home.

Thursday Prayer is now available on zoom.
Please see monthly MU Newsletter for details.

Dates for Thursday Prayer 2023

	Cathedral, Zoom	St Ives
January	19	26
February	16	16
March	16	23
April	20	27
May	18	25
June	15	22
July	20	27
August	17	24
September	21	28
October	19	26
November	*23	23
December	21	28

* Please note following change: November is on the 23rd because of Christmas Craft Fair.

Suggested Guide for Thursday Prayer

Introductory prayers

- *opening prayer;*
- *prayers for members and events in the Diocese;*
- *prayers for the theme and focus of the month;*

Bible reading and meditation

- *Bible reading;*
- *Meditation spoken upon the theme/focus or Bible reading either using own words or a chosen passage;*

Further prayer

- *an opportunity to offer personal concerns to God, either aloud or in silence;*
- *the Lord's Prayer;*
- *the Mothers' Union Prayer;*
- *the Thursday Prayer;*
- *the Grace;*

Hymn

- *a hymn or piece of music of the leader's choice may be used where it is considered appropriate. The Cathedral hymn book is the New English Hymnal.*

Our intercessions

In our intercessions we are asked to pray for:

- The worldwide work of the Mothers' Union;
- Sheran Harper (from Guyana) our Worldwide President;
- The Chief Executive; Beverley Jullien
- The Task Group Leaders in Faith in Action, Praying our Faith, Finance & Administration and Communications.
- All who work in Mary Sumner House;
- Our province of Canterbury and Kathryn Anderson, our Provincial President.
- Our Worldwide Links:
Lusaka in Zambia
Shyogwe in Rwanda
Sokoto & Ikka in Nigeria
Karimnager in India
Plus Diocese to Diocese with Kigali & Vellore

The monthly prayers included in this booklet are mostly taken from the new MU books of prayers, "Dear God", "Praying in Every Season", and the Pocket Prayers series – "Faith in Action", "United in Fellowship" and "Vision and Mission"

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord,

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

The Thursday Prayer

Heavenly Father, you have called us apart to share in a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer. Take our prayers we humbly ask, fill them with your love and power, and use them in the cause of your glorious kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

19th JANUARY 2023

Focus: Transformation - Now!

Reading: Romans 12:2

Prayer: Generous God, we affirm your power to bless all cultures and transform communities.

Abundant God, you have provided all the resources to transform communities and create a sustainable future.

Compassionate God, enable your people to see your provision that their sense of worth and quality of life may flourish.

Gracious God, transform the mindsets of the vulnerable from powerless dependency to the freedom of self-sufficiency.

Generous God, we are blessed by your constant provision.

Help us to use your resources well and enable others to do the same.

Amen

16th FEBRUARY 2023

Focus: Choose Life

Reading: 1 Corinthians 3: 1-3

Prayer: Father in heaven,

You are the merciful God who loves us.

Truly, we are your children.

Because of Jesus Christ who died and rose you gave us the right to be your children.

Even though we want to love people like we love ourselves, sometimes it is not easy, such as when we have troubles.

Send your Holy Spirit to help us and be merciful to us and keep us from becoming proud

and love others very strongly.

Help us, with your power

so that everybody will praise you through Jesus Christ

because only He has the glory and the power forever. Amen

16th MARCH 2023

Focus: Celebrating Mothers

Reading: Isaiah 7: 14

**Prayer: Dear God, Creator of all things,
we believe there is a purpose in everything that you have
created.**

**Help us to discover the purpose in all that you have created
through the wisdom and love you have given us.**

**May you always be in the hearts of mothers so that they may
raise your children
with love.**

**Let them overcome all the challenges they face with a
kindness like yours as their
children grow up.**

**May they fall asleep every night with a thankful heart for all
that you have provided
for them.**

Amen

20th APRIL 2023

Focus: Supporting each other in faith

Reading: John 20: 29

**Prayer: Heavenly Father,
Give us the faith to look to Jesus crucified
and risen from the dead.**

Faith to see the invisible, and do the impossible;

Faith invincible in the face of evil and death.

**Faith to pass on the good news of Jesus to the next
generation;**

**Faith to live in sustainable ways to bless the earth you
created.**

**Faith to take up our cross and follow Jesus all our days
until we come to our eternal home.**

In Jesus' name. Amen

18th MAY 2023

Focus: Being a disciple

Reading: Luke 24 : 44-53

**Prayer: Lord Jesus, we ask for your blessing on those who
feel called to your service.**

**Give them joy as they reflect on your call and are open to
share their faith with others.**

Give them grace for the work you are asking them to do.

Give them the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

**May they know the joy of walking with you as they follow
your call.**

Amen

15th JUNE 2023

Focus: Mothers' Union - Serving God in Prayer and Humility

Reading: Hosea 6: 3

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, as we meet as members of Mothers' Union, may we know your presence and hear your word.

Teach us to know how best to serve you, not just in the needs locally, but in those of the wider world.

Fill us with your Spirit, that we may have the strength to follow your way.

We pray with sure hope and assurance.

Amen

20th JULY 2023

Focus: Understanding God's Word

Reading: Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23

Prayer: God of every generation, as we serve you in the present help us commend your mighty acts to those who are following on; that they may be envisioned for all that lies ahead.

God of every generation, fill us with faith for the future.

We pray that we will play our part in equipping those who are following on, to continue to share the love of Christ and to build God's Kingdom on earth.

Amen

17th AUGUST 2023

Focus: Following in Christ's Footsteps

Reading: 1 John 2: 6

Prayer: Your children come to you, loving God, confident of your goodness and mercy.

May the sacrifice of Christ, and his service among us teach us to live as servants to all.

As stewards of your generous gifts, may we bear witness to your goodness in our lives by the good we do as servants of all your children.

Blessed are you, God of all goodness. May our service give you glory as we pray now and always through Christ our Lord.

Amen

21st SEPTEMBER 2023

Focus: Forgiving each other

Reading: Mark 11: 25

Prayer: God of forgiveness, we ask for your unfailing love to be with us today, so that we may reach out to others with love and compassion. Help us to seek peace and reconciliation with each other, and unite us as one family of God to your glory. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

19th OCTOBER 2023

Focus: Peace

Reading: Romans 12: 18

Prayer: O Lord, open our eyes to your presence. Lord, open our minds to your grace; open our lips to your praise; open our hearts to your love; open our lives to your healing and be found among us.

Amen

23rd NOVEMBER 2023

Focus: Being prepared

Reading: Romans 13: 11-14

Prayer: Loving Lord, we look back with gratitude on all that has been achieved thus far in the name of Mothers' Union Worldwide.

We give thanks for our development and project work. We pray for all initiatives, large and small, to transform families and communities.

We give thanks for our influence with governments. We pray that our campaigns for social justice will bring lasting change throughout the world.

We give thanks for our members across the globe. We pray that our membership will flourish and grow as stories of our work and achievements are heard.

As we step into the future, we pray that we may always act justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

Amen

21st DECEMBER 2023

Focus: Waiting for Christ

Reading: Luke 1: 46-55

Prayer: Lord, may there be bread for the hungry, love for the unlovable, healing for the sick, protection for our children, and wisdom for our youth. We pray for the forgiveness of sinners and abundant life in Christ. Holy Spirit, fill our hearts with your love and power. In the name of Jesus Christ we pray. Amen

We pray that through the power of Christ and in love and unity with each other we may be enabled to:

- **support, promote and strengthen marriage;**
- **help families to explore and enjoy faith together;**
- **build a Christian community that is grounded in faith and love;**
- **support all forms of family life;**
- **help those facing adversity.**

“How lavish is our God! We celebrate his generosity to us with thankful hearts”.

The Thursday Prayer is prepared and published by the Praying our Faith Team of Ely Diocese Mothers’ Union. Please feel free to photocopy as many booklets as you need for your branch/group’s use.

Mothers’ UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Ely

Registered Charity No. 251394

