



# May Newsletter 2021

I am delighted that all the posts for election as trustees for the triennial beginning January 2022 have been filled. Thank you to those who are standing for a second three years, those who have agreed to fulfil a different post and those who are new to a role. Kristy Leach, who has been our Safeguarding Co-ordinator is happy to stand as a Trustee again but we do have two other trustee posts that are available for co-option. Diederik Vergunst has done an excellent job as treasurer for a number of years, but is moving away from the area. We are delighted that Derek Tye, who has a background in finance, has agreed to be our treasurer. Details have already been sent to treasurers. The April newsletter outlined the areas that each task group covers. If you would like to play a more active part in how the MU Ely Diocese is run or have a particular interest or skill that you feel you could contribute please get in touch.

## Diocese of Ely Mothers' Union

### Elections 2021 for Triennial 2022-2024

**President** Name... Hazel Williams MBE

#### Cambridge Archdeaconry Vice Presidents Nominations

**Vice President 1** Name... Jo Wibberley

**Vice President 2** Name ... Gill Uttin

#### Huntingdon & Wisbech Archdeaconry Vice Presidents

**Vice President 1** Name Helen Banyard

**Vice President 2** Name Maureen Haigh

#### Task Group Leaders Nominations:

1. Praying our Faith Name ... Christine Holt
2. Finance & Administration Name... Catherina Griffiths
3. Fundraising & Communication Name... Debbie Tye
4. Faith in Action Name ... Jean Webb

#### Treasurer

Name....Derek Tye (derekftye@hotmail.com)

\*\*\*\*\*

**CONTACT DETAILS** Charity no. 251394

Ros home 01223 861846 [roswright1@gmail.com](mailto:roswright1@gmail.com)

Hazel home 01638 743897 [hwill66@icloud.com](mailto:hwill66@icloud.com)

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

**MU Thursday Prayer on Zoom (start at 11am)**

**Time: May 20th, 2021 10:45 AM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87585537241>

**ID 875 8553 7241 (no password)**

My secondary school was a Grammar School in Isleworth, west London (or as it was then, West of London). Passing the 11-plus was a big surprise to me, not least since I did not realise I had sat it – it had just been passed off as another “Assessment”. However, I turned up to what had all the appearances of a stately home, it having been the country residence of Sir Joseph Banks, the great botanist (among other worthy things). The headmaster must have come with the house – a real Gentleman of the old school. Of course all the masters and mistresses wore full academic robes (except the sports master) and the whole deal was like living in the past. But it was beautiful with incredible grounds, including a fountain (sadly not working). Anyway, back to the head; he sought to drum into us some religious teaching and would refer to God as “The Three P’s” which he would go on to define as Perfect Wisdom, Perfect Love, Perfect Knowledge. How’s that for succinct?

As is the way of much of what one hears, the full understanding of that phrase took time to sink in and it was not until long after I left school that the meaning of it made sense to me. As I write this, I am in day 182 of my (365 day) bible reading plan, so I am almost exactly half way through reading the whole bible. I must say it has been very easy, but then it is a great story! But reading whole books, not just the extracts we receive during the services and so on, sets a scene within which the meaning of our church readings make better sense and the whole story comes alive.

Sometimes simple things carry huge meaning which passes us by because we do not recognise the setting within which it sits. The Mothers’ Union Prayer Diary for 2021 had “Simplicity” as the theme for week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> April and on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> (which would have been Susan’s birthday) we were reminded that, in Matthew 6:25-34, Jesus gives us this simple but profound message: “Do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will wear. Do not worry about tomorrow; tomorrow will take care of itself.” This is more true when you consider that other oft-quoted phrase: “You do not know what tomorrow will bring” – i.e. we cannot see into the future. Of course, to some extent we have to have a plan, but how good it would be if we could stop overthinking everything we do, worrying about all the things which might go wrong and how we can overcome them if they do. Think about how much less worrying we would do and how much more time we would have to do important things, like getting to know Jesus better.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Communication news - New YouTube Videos.                      Debbie Tye - Co-ordinator**

We have two more new YouTube video links to share with you for April Thursday Prayer and March MU April Branch Meeting.

The theme for April Thursday Prayer was The Joy of Easter, led by our Chaplain, Revd Mike Banyard.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMTBgkC1qNQ>

At the April Branch Meeting of March MU, Hazel Williams spoke about the Clewer Initiative and partnership with Mothers’ Union, working together to end modern day slavery.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hrEhX--vORk>

We hope you enjoy watching these videos.

Throughout the past year, the work of the Faith In Action Task Group has continued whenever possible. Sadly, the most beneficial work within Little Hey prison has not happened, but I am sure the inmates have been remembered in prayer.

We were able to provide 5 AFIA breaks for needy families at the October half-term, and Di Sabel, our bookings officer is currently arranging some for May half-term. Unfortunately these are restricted in number, and the cost has risen accordingly.

Maureen Haigh, Local Projects Officer has been kept busy throughout, and hostels and refuges supported whenever possible. Knitting continues to be received and thank you all knitters, and those sewing up blankets.

The collections made by branches of toiletries, or cleaning materials have been invaluable, as were all the gift vouchers sent at Christmas. One of the Refuges we support (Mid-Cambs.) has been reviewing how they will be moving forward, out of the crisis, and how we can best support. The refuge suggest **£5 vouchers for Wilco, Home bargains, BM, etc.** which can be used towards new items, giving women the opportunity to choose their own things, and help them regain confidence, self-esteem and contribute towards their mental well-being.

Also, they have asked for support particularly for items less often received (**see below**). If you aren't planning a big branch fundraiser (and I know many branches like to do so in the summer), perhaps consider a collection of items, ask in your church, and use social media if you are familiar with it – here in Ely I have had many people delighted to support our projects in this way. (Mainly young Mums).

Currently Mid-Cambs. have good stocks of second-hand bedding and sanitary products.

I am delighted that the enterprise supporting the homeless in Wisbech, previously known as 50 Backpacks, now named 50/50 Vision, has been absorbed into the work of the Salvation Army. We will be responding with help for warm clothing again when it is requested.

### **Mid Cambs. Refuge Wish List**

biological washing capsules

fabric softener

loo paper

tissues

toothbrush and toothpaste

deodorant

liquid soap

squash

biscuits

bathmats

tea towels

flannels

size 4 or 5 or 6 nappies

foil, baking parchment, cling film

food plastic bags small

new plastic food storage boxes for fridge

cheap mop and bucket

AAA and AA batteries

sellotape and scissors

snuggly dressing gowns

new cheap phone for emergency use whilst in refuge

**Local Contact Liz Elson 01480 211726**

**[jjimelson@talktalk.net](mailto:jjimelson@talktalk.net)**



### Sixty-two years of Mothers' Union membership

Three weeks after my son John was born, I walked into St Andrew's Church, Bexhill and spoke with Marion Swift, the MU Enrolling Member, in front of the branch, saying that I wanted to join the Mothers' Union. Marion was shocked by my question and said I should join the Young Wives Club, but I said no, I had a baby and wanted to join the MU! During the second week of November 1957, I joined the Mothers' Union and was given a preparation card. I took my son with me to the meetings

and communion services, which were held once a month. I was admitted on 10 July 1958 and spent a year being guided by an elderly branch member, who kept in touch after I moved from Bexhill to Ilford, until John was 15 and was confirmed. I joined the St Albans branch in 1959.

St Albans was a younger branch and was much more hands on. Grace Merry was the Enrolling Member and worked at Mary Sumner House. We were a very forward-looking branch and closely involved with the Korean MU and funded a missionary worker. During the Mothers' Union centenary celebrations in 1976, I had a ticket to the service at Westminster Abbey and the reception at Lambeth Palace, where I met the Korean representatives, and was able to send our greetings back with them. By now I had two daughters, Penny and Wendy, and all the children came to church every Sunday, six years down to a babe in the pram. They were quite a handful, but the supportive MU were there helping me through everything, with

encouragement and family life. My Wendy, the youngest, had Alice Hart, a MU friend, as godmother.

In 1967 we moved to Rampton from Ilford and lived in the servants' quarters of the Vicarage, which was great fun and we fostered several children. I joined the local MU branch, who called us as 'the Londoners', but soon we settled to country life and I worked on the land with them. I became Treasurer to the branch and Enrolling Member. Diana Goodhart used to drive through Cottenham and take me to Thursday Prayer at Ely Cathedral every month. I also became the Deanery Prayer Representative, encouraging prayer and planning the twice-yearly Quiet Evening and Days.

The MU Quiet Day, which took place at Neil House, Huntingdon Road, Cambridge, was a challenge for me when I felt God had called me to respond to His call. This was not an easy calling in the early 1970s for a woman. I took up the challenge and answered the call, supported by dear Mary Sibson, who encouraged me with her support and prayers. During this time, I trained as a Reader and was licensed as Ely's first women Reader on 30 April 1977, my birthday.

In 1978 I was asked to work with Rev Richard Smart in Dry Drayton, Bar Hill and Madingley, a group of parishes north of Cambridge. I joined the Madingley MU Branch. The Branch had members from all three parishes, whose members were quite a cross section in differing church outlooks: Bar Hill – Ecumenical; Dry Drayton – middle-of-the-road Anglican; and Madingley – Prayer Book-oriented. We were led wonderfully by Elizabeth Seale, who was a thoughtful, caring leader for us all. Elizabeth kept in touch with me about MU when I moved to Cambridge to work in the Parish of the Ascension, which had no MU Branch. I trained as a speaker with Norma Emmerton and on 29 September 1980 I became a speaker, and have been asked to speak in many branches about women's



ministry. Some members who listened become Readers and some have gone further, which is inspiring for the MU in widening our outreach in differing ways.

After moving to Cambridge I became a Deacon in 1988 at the Parish of the Ascension in Cambridge, and then moved to Cherry Hinton, a large demanding parish. It was an honour to be ordained with the first women in 1994. I kept in touch with the MU through the Diocese and Quiet Days. Cherry Hinton did not have a branch and so I stayed in contact with Elizabeth, who continued to send me the Home and Family magazine.



Bishop John Flack asked me in the year 2000 to become a Canon of Ely Cathedral; I retired in 2004

after nine years at St George's, Chesterton and moved to Sawston. There I met an MU friend, Joan King, who had been the Representative for Young Wives in the past. She invited me to come to St Andrew's, Stapleford, where I was able to join the MU branch and attend their meetings and Quiet Evenings led by Suzanne Watt. The branch asked me from time to time to give talks. There were branch outings to Milton for Sausage Sizzles and meetings and lunches at Mary's and Phillipa's in their lovely garden. I even managed to go to Winchester and Edinburgh with Kay Coe for the Central Council meeting. The picture is of Hilary Street and I running a few yards with Alice Leadbeter, Susan Baker's daughter, welcoming her whilst she was running around all the branches in Ely Diocese to raise money for MU in 2017, before she ran the London Marathon.

Mary Sumner left us quite a legacy to carry on. I look back on the MU members I have met over 62 years, who have been part of my spiritual journey. They are such dedicated group of people who are in the service of their Lord and family life in so many ways. Thank

you, Mothers' Union, for the great work you do, giving so much good.

The scope and fellowship of the Mothers' Union help widen our horizons and is definitely worth joining.

With thankfulness for so many years in the Mothers' Union,

Rev Canon Pam Reed



Ely MU Garden Party 2015



## DATES TO REMEMBER

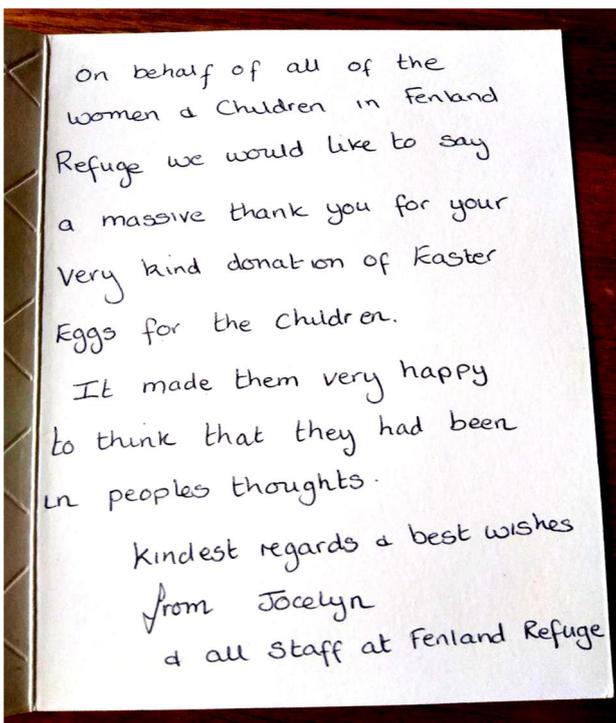
**BISHOP'S GARDEN**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> July**

**3 – 5pm**

**The MU will be hosting an event, using a large marquee, in the Bishop of Ely's Garden in July.**

**Look out in future newsletters for more details**



## EASTER EGGS FOR THE FENLAND REFUGE

Anne Hassall from Steeple Morden organised a collection of Easter eggs from both members and others in the congregation for the Fenland Refuge. 54 were delivered and some lovely thank you cards were received.



Congratulations to Barbara and Mike Clegg on celebrating their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary in mid-May.

Made even more special because Mike was hospitalised with Covid

