

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

MARCH

NEWSLETTER 2023



EASTER CARDS ARE AVAILABLE NOW

Packs of five cost £3.50

Available from Mother's Union
shop online or branches get in
touch with Hazel Williams on

hwill66@icloud.com

01638 743897

QUIET DAY – Tuesday 28th March at St Peter's Church Yaxley. 10am - 2.30pm led by Revd. Paula Spalding, MU Diocesan Chaplain. The Theme is **Walking with God**. Those attending are invited to bring anything that will help them to spend time quietly - bible, journal, other reading material, drawing materials, craft activity, etc, for which they are able to bring all their own requirements.

SPRING DIOCESAN MEETING and AGM

Friday 21st April at St. Peter's Church Hall. March. 9.30am -2pm

9.30am Coffee for a 10am Start

A speaker from 'REFUGE' who support victims of Domestic Abuse

Displays, MU cards.

Please bring a packed lunch. Drinks will be supplied

LENT LUNCHESES, ELY CATHEDRAL.

MU Members will be helping with serving Lent Lunches in Ely Cathedral every Friday during Lent (starting on 24 February and ending on 31 March). Beginning in the Lady Chapel with a simple Eucharist and short reflection at 12.10pm, followed by Lunch at 12.45pm. All donations will go to AFIA ("Away From It All" Holidays).

Ely Cathedral Lunchtime Concert.

There will be a special Lunchtime Live Concert in Ely Cathedral on Thursday 16 March at 1.10pm being given by pupils from The King's School Ely.

If you are coming to Thursday Prayer or in Ely that day, why not pop along after lunch and hear the music students performing. Concerts usually last about 30-40 minutes.

<https://www.elycathedral.org/events/kings-ely-students>

Ely Deanery Lady Day Service is on Friday 24 March at 2.30pm, St Mary's Church Ely. Led by Revd Stephen Leeke. Banners will be paraded. Refreshments served after the service. All welcome to attend.


**THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and on
Zoom 10.30am**
March 16th Theme: Celebrating Mothers
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83847809128?pwd=VVhXUGlNWkpaGkyMUdwWHQvcC9tQT09>
ID. 838 4780 9128/Passcode 338053

**MU Diocesan Garden Party – 14th July 2-5pm in
Bishop Stephen's Garden, Ely.**



Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union
Charity no. 251394
<https://www.facebook.com/MUElyDiocese/>
Ros 01223 861846 roswright1@gmail.com
Hazel 01638 743897 hwil66@icloud.com

Cambridge Concert Orchestra
**Hear, There and Everywhere -
A World of Women Composers**
An orchestral concert
7pm Sunday 12 March 2023
West Road Concert Hall
11 West Road
Cambridge CB3 9DP
Tickets: adults £15, children FREE
Online box office: cco.org.uk
Postal tickets: +£2, ring 0333 666 3366
Remaining tickets will be available for sale at the door

In recognition of International Women's Day
To raise funds for Cambridge Women's Resources Centre



Conductor:
SUZANNE DEXTER-MILLS
cco.org.uk
[facebook.com/cambridgeconcertorchestra](https://www.facebook.com/cambridgeconcertorchestra)



Reg. charity 263524
Reg. charity 80280

Lent calendar. The season of Lent is upon us and Resources can be found on the MU Website here: <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources/general-faith-resources> It gives suggestions for special ways to mark every day through Lent in preparation for Easter. Please do share this with your churches and members

Brampton Branch News

Julie Barker

We had a fantastic start in January when we welcomed 11 new members. We were amazed by the overwhelming feeling of support. We also celebrated (at least) 100 years of our branch. We displayed all our records from the last 100 years including photos and notes of meetings.

Last year we were busy with a combination of afternoon and evening meetings. We invited friends from church and village to our meetings and everyone became involved in our activities. We attracted an extra 30 people who were happy to join in. We raised money for the the "Away from It All Holiday Scheme" with sales of jams, marmalades and cakes, we supported Huntingdon Women's Refuge by collecting toiletries to donate to the refuge as well as money to buy scented candles for the mothers and a selection of chocolates and sweets for the children for Mothers' Day, we donated items such as nappies and nighties to the Antenatal Ward of Hinchingsbrooke Hospital for expectant mums who arrive with nothing, we knitted lap blankets and twiddle muffs for the dementia wards of both Hinchingsbrooke and Peterborough Hospitals, we knitted hats for the Homeless in Wisbech and Peterborough and finally, we collected and donated more than 15 winter coats for the Ukrainian women who fled to this country last year because of the war in their country.

Let's hope we can continue with this level of activity in 2023.

mu@eastleightonstone.com



Annual Gathering, 22nd September 2023, York – all in ONE day!

Book now to avoid disappointment. **There will not be another Annual Gathering until 2026**, so make sure you come to this one! The theme is Transformation in Action, with a keynote address by Sheran Harper, our Worldwide President, prayer and reflections with Bishop Emma, our Central Chaplain and inspiring member stories from here and Overseas. Evensong follows at York Minster with the Archbishop of York, Stephen Cottrell. **Please contact Ros if you would like tickets for the service or the Annual Gathering**

More information is on the website: www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023

It is with sadness we inform you of the death of Shelagh Connor on February 10th 2023. She was a member of the St. George's Church Littleport Branch and she held the Mothers' Union and its work close to her heart.

A REFLECTION

Philip Baker (23rd February 2023)

About 40 years ago (in 1980 to be accurate), one of my favourite bands – Pink Floyd – wrote and recorded a song called “Comfortably Numb”. I wonder if that describes us today?

My reflection this month is going to require you to take a (mental) journey round the world and look at the way in which much of the world lives. On our journey (I am coming too, I hope you don’t mind sharing) we will see many places where people are living in fear because of war or insurrection. It is one thing for the combatants in many of these places, but quite another for the civilians who just want to be allowed to scratch out a living. Think South Sudan, Ukraine. Then we come across places where there is drought or flood or extreme temperatures – places where even scratching out a living is a daily struggle against failure and death. Think Syria, Yemen. Seen enough yet? Shall we go on to places where there is totalitarian leadership, where there is no choice, even of thought. Think Afghanistan, Myanmar. It often happens that it is worse in these sorts of places if you happen to be a woman.

As we go on this journey, are you noticing how much of the world population falls into one of these, or similarly bad, circumstances? Think Russia, China. Have you seen how few places have people living freely and relatively comfortably, like us? Then go one step further and ask yourself why are we different?

I can answer that in one word – “chance”! “Luck” would work as an answer too. Through chance (or luck if you prefer) we do not generally exist day by day, depending on charity to survive. So what do we do, what do we feel about this privilege that we enjoy, purely by chance. We know that it is there, we cannot deny it, because we have just seen it all in our minds! If we have visited some of the holiday spots it is visible all around us. How can we possibly stay sane with the pressure of all this suffering of fellow human beings, when it could so easily have been us?

I can answer that too, but this time in the words of the song title, we have become “Comfortably Numb”! We have seen it on television and sometimes in the flesh, and we have normalised it so we can cope with the knowledge of it.

But the parable of the Good Samaritan applies to this situation just as much as it does to someone we might pass in the street. Just because this “neighbour” is on another continent does not mean we can allow ourselves to be numb to their plight. Remember what Matthew records as Jesus’ reply (Matthew 22:34-40) “Love your neighbour as you love yourself” (*extract*). Jesus does not want us to be “comfortably numb”, He wants us to be very much active in helping these people. Remember also, there is a consequence if we fail to heed the plight of our fellows!

This is where the Mothers’ Union front line is, this is why we need to show our support for our members in such places. This is where we really can make a difference to people’s lives. Let us give thanks for Mary Sumner’s vision in founding this wonderful organisation and make it the tool that God uses to help them.

Thy Kingdom Come 18th – 28th May 2023

This year, rather than producing an online service, we are encouraging members to hold events in their local areas and involve both their own church and other local churches.

The expanded remit of TKC this year to “*go the extra mile, empowered by the Holy Spirit, to love and serve those we are praying for or others who are in need*” fits particularly well with our vision and mission, and gives good opportunity to share this with others, who may be less aware of MU.

Resources and ideas are available now on the website : www.mothersunion.org/news/thy-kingdom-come-2023-0 Please signpost these to your members and encourage them to take part.

Susan Baker Memorial Fund

PURPOSE OF THE FUND

For supporting those who work with families, particularly in Areas of Deprivation, Changing Market Towns, or with identified need within the Ely Diocese.

Ways in which we might support

Resources for groups i.e. Books, Audio Visuals, Art and craft materials

Christian themes – Advent calendars, Easter resources

Administration

Courses

Venue hire

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

For an application form apply to:

Ely Diocesan Mothers' Union C/O Mrs Jean Webb, 35, Norfolk Road, Ely, CB6 3EJ or jmw35n@gmail.com

Faith in Action task group will make the decision and report to trustees of the amount granted. Maximum is £500.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

This year the theme for International Women's Day is #EmbraceEquity.

We will be taking part in this global campaign to highlight the difference between equality and equity and show how, as movement, we are embracing equity.

It is important to know the difference between equality and equity. Equality means that each individual is given the same resources and opportunities to help them succeed. Equity understands that each individual has different circumstances and life situations, which means resources need to be tailored to reach an equal outcome for everyone.

The International Women's Day 2023 campaign aims to highlight that equal opportunities are no longer enough and the world needs to start talking about, and embracing equity. Gender equality now needs to become gender equity for meaningful progress.

We would love to hear how your Mothers' Union branches are embracing equity to help transform lives in your communities.

Please do send examples of equity to Communications@mothersunion.org.

We really look forward to hearing from you.

You can find out more about the campaign here: <https://www.internationalwomensday.com/>



Photographs of our MU stand at the Diocesan Market Towns Conference which took place at the end of February.



WORLDWIDE LINK NEWS

Irene Porter – Worldwide Officer

This has come from Revd. Claudine Mukawera

Dear Irene Porter, thank you so much for the news from Mother's union Ely Diocese. For us in Shyogwe diocese we are well. Some activities we are doing is to visit among us, the committee of diocesan level visiting parish in order to encourage them and help them for activities they have.

Here we take the leaders from archidiaconal then meet together then we go to visit the one parish we choose. and we help the children in Sunday school. attached is photo. God bless you. and greet all.



For us we continue the commitment of helping our children in Sunday School. This is the mums helping the children.

Mothers' Union leaders at Diocesan level who organise the visiting of MU in other parishes in order to help and encourage them in Mothers' Union work.

Visiting is very important among the leaders at Diocesan level and members of Kirombozi parish.

