



# Newsletter May 2023



Some wonderful knitting to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III seen on a post box in Darlington.

## AFRICAN VISIT

Sheran and Bev are visiting Africa for three weeks to meet Zonal Presidents as well as Diocesan leaders and members. They are in Uganda for a week and then Kenya where representatives from Rwanda and Tanzania will also join them. Their first event was a Worldwide Council Global Gathering (using Zoom) where sharing and learning took place at international level.

The visits will focus on strengthening relationships and inspiring and encouraging the membership.



It was good to be at the Diocesan Spring Meeting at March, to receive wonderful knitted items, postcards, stamps – and so many items for the refuges. Jocelyn and Angela, our speakers were overwhelmed with your generosity. Thank you all.

The postage stamps are being passed on to our contacts for the 3 charities. May I please ask that care is taken over removing the stamps from the envelopes. Please leave a good margin of paper around each stamp, as damaged perforations make the stamps worthless. Please do not steam stamps off envelopes.

At the meeting we heard that there are 2 young expectant Mums in Whitworth House, so if you know of baby equipment, please get in touch so that they can be supported.

When I got home I had a message to say that 1 young man was moving into his own accommodation form Wheatsheaf Close, and 3 young people were expected in; so more items being requested. Fortunately, Maureen has some in stock in her o-so-useful garage.

The demand for our support goes on!

I displayed knitting patterns, especially for our newer items - Levi Lovey comforter square (pictured), a knitted teddy, and a cannula sleeve for dementia patients (pictured). If anyone would like these, or patterns for baby hats and blanket, adult hat and twiddle muffs, I will be happy to email them to you (or someone in your branch).



### MU Diocesan Garden Party

14<sup>th</sup> July 3-5pm i

Bishop Stephen's Garden, Ely.

Annual Gathering

22<sup>nd</sup> September 2023, York

More information is on the website:

[www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023](http://www.mothersunion.org/annual-gathering-2023)

Ros has one ticket available for the gathering



### Gifts for Easter

Anne Hassell and the residents of Steeple Morden have collected 50 Easter eggs. Reverend Carol at Farcet and Mary's Child were delighted to receive them





## TRIP OUT

Members of Burwell MU enjoying tea, scones and chat at the Twenty Pence Garden Centre.

Paula, our MU chaplain was with us too but took the photo!

## WORLDWIDE NEWS

## IRENE PORTER - WORLDWIDE LINK

Some lovely pictures for you from Claudine in our link diocese of Shyogwe in Rwanda. Mothers' Union members helping one another with gifts of cows, pigs and goats. At our Thursday prayers in April we were joined, via Zoom, by two members from Kigali, Rwanda. They told us how Mothers' Union is involved in Parish visits, Healing prayer, Bible study and that several new members have joined Mothers' Union recently.



### From Sue Claydon

Having some great experiences. This is Lyn's first time in Lesotho. When we got here on Thursday she was putting something in the bin when she saw a scorpion on the curtain, really knew she was in Africa then.

We are staying at the Durham Link Centre, boy what a set up. We are in the guest rondavel which could be a holiday let.



## A REFLECTION

*Philip Baker*

At nearly every church service we talk of “Peace” – perhaps most memorable is the phrase from Philippians 4:7 “And the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus”. But what do we mean when we say it? In fact, what does “peace” involve, what are we wishing on ourselves and our neighbours when we say it?

This is another of those words, phrases or complete prayers that we know by heart and say largely without considering. When we pray for world peace it is fairly obvious what we are thinking of – we hope for the absence of war and aggression so that the inhabitants of the named places can enjoy a quiet tranquillity. This is the same kind peace we refer to when we go for a country walk to get away from the noise and bustle and to find a little peace and quiet (except rather significantly more so!). But the Peace of God – what is that?

Most of us probably consider “peace” to be an intensely personal experience, how can this possibly be shared? But I suggest that God’s “Peace” is something different, something not just shared but requiring us all to contribute to in order for it to exist. Consider for a moment the condition of an individual in a traumatic state, possibly someone in Sudan or any other area of great turmoil and unrest. That person can achieve a state of peace only fleetingly, however hard they may pray for it. So where do we come in?

Our Christian role surely is to stand with that person, to know they exist and work for an easing of the dire conditions in which they exist. If we know that people exist in such appalling conditions, how can it be possible for us to achieve our own state of peace unless we know we have tried to help? Consider the Good Samaritan parable; certainly, the robbed individual was greatly helped, but by the same actions the Samaritan also gained. He was in the knowledge that he had done the right thing and through that could be at peace with himself. Had he walked on by (as others did) his conscience would have carried the load of knowing he had not done as he should, as those who walked on by probably discovered for themselves.

What does the Bible say about this? One definition it provides is “the harmony and calmness of body, mind and spirit that supersedes earthly circumstances”. Paul starts most of his Letters with the phrase “Grace and Peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ”. Peace is a blessing from God and requires a mixture of humility and courage to experience. Proverbs 3:5 says “Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding”. So, even though the Peace of God is beyond our understanding, if we have Faith we can still receive it as long as we have the courage to make our own contribution.

The consequence of this might therefore be summarised that, in addition to praying in Faith for our own “Peace of the Lord”, we must pray and take positive steps to support others to have such Peace, or we may be disappointed!

\*\*\*\*\*

### **COMMUNICATION NEWS – NEW YouTube VIDEO. Debbie Tye - Co-ordinator**

We have a new YouTube video link to share with you for **APRIL THURSDAY PRAYER**: “Supporting each other in Faith”. Led by Maureen Haigh, Huntingdon & Wisbech Archdeaconry Vice-President.

YouTube Link: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Evj5VuC7\\_nw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Evj5VuC7_nw)

### **Diocesan Members’ Lunch.**

We are delighted to be able to organise this annual event again, which this year will take place on Tuesday 7 November, 12.30pm, at Ely City Golf Club. Full details and further info will be circulated in the Autumn, but please put this date in your diaries.



**Thy Kingdom Come 18<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mothersunion.org/news/thy-kingdom-come-2023-0) Please signpost these to your members and encourage them to take part.

\*\*\*\*\*

**THURSDAY PRAYER in the Cathedral and on  
Zoom 10.30am  
May 18th**

**Theme: Following in Christ’s Footsteps**

*There will be a different ID to connect to the cathedral Zoom in May, which will be sent out later this month. Please look out for it.*

**Ely Diocesan Mothers’ Union  
Charity no. 251394**

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

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

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

**The Autumn Diocesan meeting will be at  
Waterbeach Church on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2023.**

**More details later but please put the  
date in your diary.**

If you are a Branch leader and have not yet received a copy of the book *Metamorphosis*, from Hazel, please get in touch and let her know.

Contact details above.



Beautiful Easter Lilies paid for by donations in,  
memory of loved ones.

