

## **MSH Member Update – May 2025 Edition**

Dear Members,

Welcome to your May edition of your monthly MSH Update.

### **Contents**

1. His Holiness, Pope Francis: A Message of Condolence and Hope
2. June Leadership Conference
3. Church Based Membership
4. 150th Year Celebrations!
5. RISE UP! 2025: Come Celebrate With Us!
6. Thy Kingdom Come (TKC): Join the Global Prayer Movement
7. Safeguarding Update
8. A Knicker Night To Remember
9. Father's Day Resources

### **1. His Holiness, Pope Francis: A Message of Condolence and Hope**

In the wake of the passing of His Holiness Pope Francis, our Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, has shared a heartfelt letter reflecting on his legacy of compassion, service and unity. As we mourn his loss across the global Mothers' Union family, this message from our WWP offers words of comfort, solidarity, and inspiration for how we all should continue in the spirit of charity as an extension of God's hand in our own communities. [Read the full message online »](#)

### **2. MU June Leadership Conference**

Instead of the MU Annual Gathering this year, MU is holding a conference for MU leaders in B&I to focus on membership growth and our upcoming 150th year celebrations. Taking a break from an annual gathering this year for members, means that next year's one will be welcomed, and hopefully busy! All dioceses were invited to send one or two representatives to attend. It takes place at Liverpool Hope University, where we held the joyous Reimagining MU Conference in 2022. Your WWP, Kathleen Snow is joining us as she focuses her first year on B&I, nurturing, growing, and securing the movement for the future as part of the triennium theme

“Join Us, Join In!” Look out for updates and outputs from this conference over the next couple of months, including resources and support for 150th activities!

### **3. Church Based Membership**

This launches over the next two months, and is a member-driven idea that came out of the Reimagining MU process to help arrest the rapid decline in membership in B&I. It is an opportunity for local dioceses to ask churches where there is no MU presence, or a branch is recently closed, to take up our new membership subscription. The church will receive a package of resources and support and an opportunity for their parishioners to engage in local MU programmes and to fundraise for MU, all for an annual contribution to MU. It is hoped that this new way of engaging the 75% of churches that do not benefit from MU will help churches in their ministry, increase interest in MU and lead to more groups forming.

### **4. 150th Year Celebrations!**

The June Leadership Conference is focused on preparations for 2026. National initiatives from the central charity include:

- the MU National Celebratory Service at St Pauls' Cathedral on the evening of 10th June 2026, and,
- the MU Annual Gathering on 11th June 2026, at the Emmanuel Centre next door to Mary Sumner House

Both the Celebratory Service and the Annual Gathering will be available to book from July.

- 150th MU Recruitment Challenge!
- 150th MU Fundraising Challenge!
- 150th MU Big Picnic
- 150th MU Sunday Takeover!
- 150th MU Song
- 150th MU Prayer Book,

are being scoped and resourced. These will be launched at the June Leadership Conference so look out for further information.

Provincial and local activities are being coordinated by one of your B&I Trustees on the Worldwide Board, Deb Lee. Deb is meeting with your Provincial Presidents and

Diocesan Presidents to establish some consistent local activities across B&I and to hear from you about all the local activities in your dioceses. A reminder that any provincial and local activities need to follow the MU 150th Guidelines attached.

## **5. RISE UP! 2025: Come Celebrate With Us!**

We are excited to invite you to a special moment of joy and gratitude in our Mothers' Union calendar. On Wednesday 11th June at 1pm, we will be gathering in the Chapel at Mary Sumner House for a RISE UP! service of celebration and thanksgiving.

If you would like to join us, please let Emily know by emailing [emily.brailsford@mothersunion.org](mailto:emily.brailsford@mothersunion.org) to reserve your seat.

## **6. Thy Kingdom Come (TKC): Join the Global Prayer Movement**

Thy Kingdom Come is back for 2025, running from **29 May to 8 June**. Christians across the globe are invited to pray for five people, friends, family members or colleagues, to come to faith and know the love of Jesus Christ and invite at least one of them into faith and fellowship.

There are lots of creative resources on our website to help you take part; from interactive prayer stations and origami doves for our RISE UP! campaign, to guided prayer walks in your local community. Whether you are gathering with your branch, your diocese, or joining individually, there is something for everyone to engage and join this prayer movement. Use this link to access the resources on our website.

[Here's how you can get involved with Thy Kingdom Come | Mothers' Union](#)

## **7. Safeguarding Update**

As part of our ongoing commitment to keeping everybody safe, we are running a series of Core Safeguarding Training to equip members and bring them up to date on all safeguarding matters.

All four sessions of Core Safeguarding Training scheduled for this year have now filled up. We celebrate your enthusiasm and thank you for securing a place on this training.

If you missed out this time, do not worry, as more dates will be shared in the coming months so please keep an eye on your inbox.

If you are a DP and you have not completed your MU Core Safeguarding Training, please email our Safeguarding Lead, Deena Patel, at [safeguarding@mothersunion.org](mailto:safeguarding@mothersunion.org) to secure your place on the next round of sessions.

### **Ongoing Support**

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility. Please continue to report any safeguarding concerns or queries to [safeguarding@mothersunion.org](mailto:safeguarding@mothersunion.org).

Thank you for your dedication to ensuring safeguarding is at the forefront of everything we do.

## **8. A Knicker Night To Remember**

Sometimes it is the most unexpected events that open the way to social change. One Mothers' Union branch found a creative and compassionate way to raise awareness of domestic abuse and in the process welcomed new members into Mothers' Union. What is your Diocese doing to raise the profile of MU and draw new people into the movement? In Liverpool Diocese, it started with a "Knicker Night."

To find out how underwear, community, and advocacy came together, read the full story [HERE »](#)

[How a Knicker Night raised awareness of Domestic Abuse campaign | Mothers' Union](#)

## **9. Fathers Day Resources**

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> June is Father's Day. MU have produced a selection of resources to help you make the most of this opportunity to strengthen families and engage with your local community.

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/fathers-day-reflection-2025-2>

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