Festival Service in Durham Cathedral

2022 Theme: Transformation - Now!

Durham Diocese Newsround Autumn /Winter 2022/23

President
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Dear Friends and Fellow members,

After the recent years of turmoil and anxiety over Covid, climate change, wars around the world and financial difficulties, our lives in the UK seem to have reached a still point with the death of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth, who has been the one source of constancy for the lives of most of us. Her life of loving service, commitment to others, and witness to her deep Christian faith has been a shining light in a dark world for more than 70 years. In our sadness, we mourn her death, but we can also acknowledge the great debt we owe to her by giving thanks for her example of Christian living and following in her footsteps. As MU members, we have promised to promote the Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life, to promote conditions in society to support family life and the protection of children, and to help families in adversity. Let us all pay our greatest tribute to the Queen by continuing to keep our promises day by day.

As I look back over the year, the highlight was certainly the festival service – to be back in the cathedral again and processing the banners, brought beaming smiles to every face. We were grateful to Bev Jullien for joining us and giving us food for thought in her address.

Our celebration of Mary Sumner in September in Darlington was another wonderful occasion. Led by our chaplain, Norma Clee, it was a much simpler event, but greatly enjoyed by all who came. It provided an opportunity for more local branches to attend, but was more difficult for those in the northern parts in the diocese. I would be grateful for your views on venues for diocesan events, as we want to enable as many members as possible to attend – not just branch leaders!

As we come towards the end of the year, it has been a particular blessing that members have been able to go back into Low Newton prison to support the ladies and the work of the chaplain, Sarah Parkinson. I am particularly grateful to Kathleen Wilson for all the hard work she has put in, in maintaining contact with the prison during these last years – a true example of faithful MU witness.

By the time you receive Newsround, Christmas will be fast approaching, so may I take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas.

O God, we thank you for the message of peace that Christmas brings to our distracted world. give peace among nations, peace in our land, peace on our homes and peace in our hearts, as we remember the birth at Bethlehem of the Prince of Peace, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Carole

We give thanks for the life and witness of those who have died

Doreen O'Neil	88yrs	St. Paul's ,Winlaton
Bill Storey	80yrs	St. Paul's ,Winlaton
Sandra Wood	82yrs	St Barnabas, Burnmoor
Rita Leitch	99yrs	St Barnabas, Burnmoor
Barbara Anne Wallace	99yrs	Wolviston St Peter
Margaret Henderson	96yrs	Billingham St Aidan/Wolviston St Peter
Doreen Thornton	92yrs	St. Mary's Coxhoe
Joan Nicholson		All Saints Monkwearmouth
Violet Sowden	95yrs	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Freda Moody	83yrs	Easington Viallge
Greta Stevens	85yrs	All Saints Monkwearmouth
Phillipa Russell	92yrs	All Saints Monkwearmouth
Doreen Croft	85yrs	All Saints Monkwearmouth
Judith Rawlinson	74yrs	St Michael & All Angels , Norton
Joyce Ellis	82yrs	St Michael & All Angels , Norton
Irene Skilbeck		St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Flo Duchar	79yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Sue Butters	83yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Ada Hunter.	99yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Margaret Kisby.	83yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Olga Nicholson.	91yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Ann Parks	101yrs	St Michaels and all Angels

Members receiving long service awards

Joyce Siddle.	30yrs	Christ Church, Consett
Anne Dobson	45yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Rita Pelton	61yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Muriel Smith	20yrs	St Aidan's & St Cuthbert's, Durham
Sandra Cruddace	10yrs	St Michaels and all Angels

Members who have celebrated special birthdays

Elspeth Baird	80yrs	St. George's, Fatfield.
Brenda Ridley	80yrs	St. George's, Fatfield.
Brenda Crooks	80yrs	St. Paul's Spennymoor
Heather Moss.	75yrs	Christ Church, Consett
Joan Robson	91yrs	St. Mary's Coxhoe
Kathleen Hirst	85yrs	St. Mary's Coxhoe
Sandra Spence	80yrs	St Philip & St. James Tow law
Joan Nicholson	83yrs	All Saints Monkwearmouth
Lily Scullion	90yrs	All Saints Monkwearmouth
Pat Wison	90yrs	St Mary's Barnard Castle
Judith Jobling	80yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Eileen Youngson	90yrs	St Michael & All Angels , Norton
Audrey Bloomfield	97yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Rita Pelton	88yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Dorothy Chambers 2021	80yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Beryl Purvis 2021	80yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Jean McGranaghan	80yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Gudrun Percival	80yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Frances Hutley	80yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Dorothy Nicholas	85yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Delia Dixon	80yrs	St Aidan's & St Cuthbert's, Durham
Connie Parkinson	80yrs	St Aidan's & St Cuthbert's, Durham
Jeanne Hunt	80yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Jennifer Alps	80yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Audrey Telford	90yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Delia Coulthard.	70yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Pat Napier.	85yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Pat Strachan.	70yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Jean Wilkinson.	90yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Anne Todd	80yrs	St Michaels and all Angels
Elizabeth (Betty) Wilson	94yrs	Sunderland Minster
Elizabeth (Betty) Malaugh	85yrs.	Sunderland Minster

Members of Kimblesworth Mothers' Union enjoying a superb lunch at the 'Refuse Cafe' in Chester Le Street, following an inspiring talk from Maureen Victor. REfUSE use food from supermarkets and others, that would otherwise go to waste, and turn it into delicious healthy meals. We can attest to that!

We enrolled three new members to St. Paul's Mothers' Union Spennymoor Branch on Monday 14th February 2022. They are left to right, Rosemary Pinch, Emily McDonald and Norma Metcalfe. They are pictured with our new Diocesan President, Mrs. Carole Hopkinson. This was during a Eucharistic Service followed by our AGM. We concluded with Refreshments. It's so good to get back to some kind of normality.

June Wilson,

INDOOR MEMBERS' PRAYER CIRCLE SERVICE
4th MAY 2022

"Were you there when we prayed for Indoor Members?"
"Were you there when we left a candle light?"

Every normal year members from almost every Deanery meet to pray for, and to remember, Indoor Members – those who have given faithful service to Mothers' Union, church and community but who can no longer manage to get to meetings.

In 2022 we met again after the pandemic, in the choir just in front of the High Altar. Our Chaplain Rev'd Norma Clee prepared to celebrate Eucharist. IMPC officers Carole Pattison and Betty Mallaugh had placed the book of names on the altar. The cathedral Canon Pastor Michael Everitt welcomed members and spoke warmly of his early involvement in MU when his mother hosted her IMPC ladies to tea.

Rumour has it that Norma was nervous, who wouldn't be presiding in Durham cathedral for the first time. It certainly wasn't obvious, she handled it all perfectly. Her sermon was of the bread of life; of Jesus as this precious gift and also of our own "nourishment" from people in our lives. Of the times when we have, in turn, nourished others by our efforts and of how IMPC members have themselves cared for others and how they need care now. Carole and Betty follow the tradition of MU by sending cards and letters.
After the Eucharist, each Deanery was remembered with a lit candle being carried through and left at St Cuthbert's tomb.
Were you there…..
Perhaps you will be in 2023

NOTE… If you know a member who is unable to get to meetings you can ask about their becoming an Indoor member Carole's contact 0191 5142659
Don't forget to check if your members' situation / address etc changes and let Carole know.

We extend a very warm welcome to our newly enrolled members

Rosemary Pinch	St. Paul's Spennymoor
Emily McDonald	St. Paul's Spennymoor
Norma Metcalfe.	St. Paul's Spennymoor
Elizabeth Ramage.	Christ Church, Consett
Pauline Hall	St John's ,Burnhope
Rev Lesley Sutherland	St John's, Burnhope
Enid Phillips	All Saints Monkwearmouth
Mary Reynolds	All Saints Monkwearmouth
Megan Port	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Rev Liz Hollis	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Pat Luckman	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special wedding anniversaries

Margaret & John Brown	65yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
Brenda & John Crooks	60yrs	St. Paul's Spennymoor.
Kathleen & Brian Middlemas	55yrs	Christ Church, Consett
Joyce & Arnold Levy	64yrs	St. Mary's Coxhoe
Margaret & John Brown	65yrs	All Saints, Lanchester
David and Ivy Gilby	65yrs	St Michael & All Angels , Norton
Dorothy & Ken Nicholas	60yrs	St. Mary Magdalene , Belmont
Florence & Mel Robinson	60yrs	St Aidan's & St Cuthbert's, Durham
Maureen & Richard Abernathy	50yrs	St Aidan's & St Cuthbert's, Durham
Joy & Mike Eve	50yrs	St Aidan's & St Cuthbert's, Durham
Rosemary & Billy Harris	40yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Jeanne &Geoff Hunt .	60yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Joan & Norman Wilson	60yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street
Pat & Peter Walker	60yrs	St. Mary & St. Cuthbert Chester le Street

Dates for the diary 2023

March 25th	Lady Day to be celebrated locally
May 3rd	IMPC service in the cathedral at 2pm – with communion -all are welcome to attend
June 13th	Festival service in the cathedral at 2pm, with banners processed. The speaker is Bishop John Packer, MU chaplain for York province. Bishop John is a retired bishop from Newcastle diocese.

Other diocesan dates for council meetings, deanery leaders' lunch and retreats are yet to be confirmed – information will be sent to deanery leaders asap.

ADVANCE NOTICE – the international AGM for 2023 will take place in York on September 23rd – an opportunity for many of us to attend.

Deadlines for Newsround in 2023 are 31st March & 8th September

Please send entries to:
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joan.parr24@virginmedia.com

In the last edition I incorrectly recorded Margaret & John Brown from All Saints ,Lanchester Wedding Anniversary. I am sorry for any upset this caused as I understand that John died soon after. Fingers crossed it is now correctly recorded in the special wedding anniversary section.

Joan

Congratulation to

Susan Smith and Jason Grimes on their marriage on 9th July at Christ Church Consett

Kathleen Wilson and Canon Precentor Michael Hampel - Durham Cathedral. After being heb was admitted as an MU member.

Members who attended the Annual Gathering in Belfast.

St John's Burnhope ladies celebrating their centenary year in April

Members of St James Mother's Union were among those who welcomed Bishop Joshua Owiti and Mama Pheobe to St Mary's Church Whickham .The couple, from Kenya, were journeying to the Lambeth Conference and attended an MU service of welcome and thanksgiving at St Mary's.

16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence
25th November – 10th December 2022-09-28

Friday 25th November
Prayer Walk through Durham, meeting at the Gala Theatre at 11.00 am
Walking through Durham to the Cathedral.
Everyone is invited to join.

Saturday 26th November
This is the Mothers' Union Global Day

I will be sending out information about how you can join in with the day to all Deanery Leaders.

Have you asked your incumbent to preach about Gender Based Violence? Maybe if you haven't then this is the year to do so.

Sue Begg
Policy and Advocacy

In June we held a Platinum Jubilee Tea to celebrate Queen Elizabeth's 70 year reign as our sovereign. We talked about the day of the coronation and what we were doing that day. A few members were able to watch the actual ceremony on television. We remembered the planning and excitement for the street parties. Due to the poor weather these were held in local church halls but this did not spoil the wonderful atmosphere of joy and hope for the future.
We had tea and cakes which were decorated with icing and a jubilee flag.

Collection of photos from Founders Day Service held in St Cuthberts, Darlington in September

News from Sunderland Minster

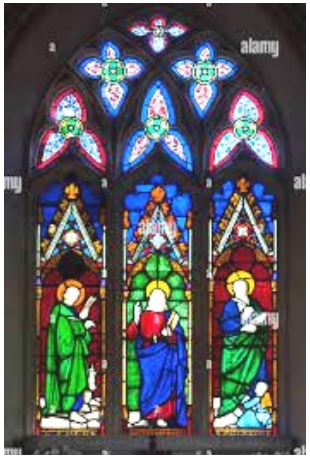
At our April meeting we talked about the role of hats in our lives. The members made Easter bonnets.

Kathleen Wilson, Ann Craig with Betty Malaugh winner of the Easter Bonnet competition. Minster MU ,Wearmouth

Members of Minster MU with their Easter Bonnets. A lovely afternoon of Easter worship and hospitality.

In May we visited St Nicholas' Church at the Barnes Sunderland. Rev Andrew Dowsett (who is the Minster priest with responsibility of St Nicholas),spoke of the church history. It was built just before World War II. We looked especially at the beautiful stained glass windows which were designed and executed by Leonard Evetts.

The first one was placed in the east end of the Lady Chapel in 1958 . Over the next 40 years the wonderful series of windows were placed in the church The subjects were inspired by Biblical texts., Christian themes and lives of the Saints.



Photos from Deanery Leaders Lunch

News from Burnopfield.

At the July meeting three members celebrated their birthdays which spanned three decades. Forever young 70,80 and 90 year olds proving age is just a number.

Eunice from St Mary's Sherburn writes:

Our church warden Paul Willey has written the following:-

A milestone Birthday Celebration on Sunday 29th May this year St Mary the Virgin Church celebrated 150yrs since its consecration in 1872, also on this day Jean Wilkinson from St Mary's Mother's Union and member of the congregation, had her own milestone, celebrating her 90th Birthday with her friends at church after Sunday morning service.

Jean has been an active member of the congregation at St Mary's for 50+ years. Jean has always been a leading force, volunteering in many roles over the years, previously running the Sunday school and continues to lead St Mary's Mother's Union.

A rousing "Happy Birthday " to Jean was sung by everyone, as the candles were blown out and the cake was cut and a toast was made. Jean received many congratulations with cards and presents.

Re-Imagining MU

In July this year, Mary Sumner House staff held a conference to consider the best way forward for our organisation, which is reducing in numbers – and thus income- very quickly. This inevitably has an impact on our effectiveness in helping others. One positive suggestion which came out of the conference was that we should simplify our systems. We all know the problems of finding volunteers to take on positions of leader, secretary and treasurer, so let us try to find solutions in ways that suit our own particular branch.

Suggestions are – working as a team, with different individual members acting as leader, planning prayers etc. for each meeting; abandoning formal minutes to reduce a secretary's workload; encouraging members to pay subs by direct debit – as more bank branches are closing, this would greatly reduce the treasurer's tasks; even uniting adjacent branches. The trustees are trying to follow these suggestions by streamlining our financial system – all donations to AFIA, Overseas and IMPC should now be made payable to Mothers' Union Durham Diocese, and sent to Edna Thompson with a covering letter to explain which fund the money is for. This will also simplify the annual account forms! We would love to hear your ideas.

We know that we live in a society that is changing faster than we can deal with comfortably, so please give thought to how you want your branch to be organised. They will all be different, which can only be a sign of strength – as we look at the physical world around us, we know God loves variety!

Carole Hopkinson

2022 Theme: Transformation - Now!

Away From It All

"Wow! We can't thank you enough. We've had the most amazing time. Many, many memories made. We've loved and appreciated every second. Today, before we left, Izzy, my autistic daughter, found the courage to jump in the pool! This was the cherry on the top of a fantastic week."

Teacher's letter – "The family had a fantastic time on holiday. I was teary hearing all about what fun they had. Thank you so much for organising this – it was actually a life-enhancing experience for them all – they didn't want to come back."

These are responses from families who have benefited from AFIA holidays this year. Our members should be very proud of what their generosity can achieve, by fulfilling our aims and objects. As the holiday season is coming to a close, we need to prepare for next year – by raising funds for AFIA (any donations should now be made payable to Mothers' Union Durham diocese and sent to diocesan treasurer, Edna Thompson), but more importantly by spreading the news in our local communities that this fund exists, so that 2023 will see even more families helped by Durham Mothers' Union.

Carole Hopkinson

Acknowledgement to Wearmouth Deanery MU Members. From Her Majesty The Queen on the receipt of a congratulatory card and letter on her 70 year accession

We owe so much to our past leaders….. Thank you.
Writes Jean Carleton

Sarah Murphy was a faithful Christian, a proud and supportive mother and grandmother and a lively, amusing and dedicated member of Mothers' Union. Sarah became a member a week after she married a curate in N. Ireland serving as a branch and deanery leader and then, as most of you knew her, as Archivist for the diocese. Up until the end she was willing to undertake searches for information requested by branches. She attended weekly Mothers' Union meetings at St Andrew's was always interested in M.U. happenings at all levels and was delighted at the growth of projects and extent of M.U. work. Sarah had been in England for over 70 years but she never lost her beautiful Irish accent – her gentle sense of humour was legendary and her wealth of family stories a joy to hear. Now her ashes lie with those of her husband in Down and Dromore.

Amelia Jackson will be remembered in several deaneries in this diocese where she was Vice President. In Hartlepool she was Deanery leader and something very important to her was her as I.M.P.C. officer – she valued this contact with Indoor members enormously.
Mrs Jackson, as I knew her, was a quiet, gentle lady; one who was a committed Christian, a devoted mother and grandmother and a faithful Mothers' Union member. Her husband, Gordon, became her taxi service around the diocese to enable her to fulfil her duties then she patiently cared for him as his sight diminished. Amelia was so organised her Minutes and recorded material were clear and precise, and as I understand it, she was "sorted" to the end having her funeral arrangements in place.

Also Carol Common writes ..

On the 3rd June 2022 St. John's Brandon lost our dear leader Win Dunning, she was a member and leader for many years and was very passionate about MU for which she worked very hard and was proud of the work it did all over the world. Win told me her grandmother started up the branch and she had a lovely photograph of the founding members taking pride of place in her dining room. In June 2017 we celebrated our 125th anniversary. We will miss Win very much and remember her with fondness. Our church congregation will also remember her and the hard work she put into our church and also her expert flower arranging. Rest in peace Win.

News from St. Mary and St. Cuthbert Chester le Street

At our Lady day meeting on 28th March we welcomed the Rev. Norma Clee our new Mothers Union Chaplain as well as members from Holy Trinity Washington and Christ Church Lumley. Pat Luckman was admitted to our branch of Mothers Union during this service . We have been blessed to welcome 6 new members this year and we thank God for each and everyone of our members.

There is always a great sense of loss when any of our treasured members leave this earthly life to be with Our Lord ,never more so when it is someone who had such a huge impact on the running of our Mothers Union branch . Pat Walker writes this about our dear sister in Christ Sue Butters who we lost in July this year.

" It was with great sadness that we said goodbye to our dear friend Sue Butters who died recently. Sue was a Joint Branch Leader with Betty Stockdale for 6 years and a long time member of our Branch at Chester le Street. She was a delightful lady and worked very hard throughout her membership and was noted for her kindness and keen sense of humour .
She was a great Auctioneer when we had fund raising events for charity , some would say she could "sell snow to the Eskimos". Her sense of fun will be much missed and we send our love and sympathy to her husband Joe and all the family .
Rest in Peace dear Sue we will miss you so much ."

Mothers' Union Verse

Found in some old papers of Kathleen Hooper – submitted by Hazel Wilson, Easington Village

Ten MU members came along when fine
But then it started to rain- and then there were nine
Nine MU members arriving very late
One found the hall locked up-and then there were eight
Eight MU members, one moved to Devon
No one commended her-and then there were seven
Seven MU members, no programme did they fix
One got bored to tears-and then there were six
Six MU members glad to be alive
One died of laughing – and then there were five.
Five MU members, seemed loyal to the core
The vicar upset one-and then there were four
Four MU members serving parish tea
One member wasn't thanked- and then there were three
Three MU members with nothing much to do
One joined the WI- and then there were two
Two MU members argued who should run the AGM
And then there was one

But one faithful member praying what to do
Brought a Christian friend along -and then there were two
Two MU members went knocking on the door of Mams
with children just baptised-and then there were four
Four MU members entertaining tired mothers
Calling, praying, witnessing drew in many others
They were so outward looking the branch just grew and grew
Please God provide this grace and zeal in our parish too.

ST. CUTHBERT'S MOTHERS UNION, BLAYDON-ON-TYNE,
100 YEARS BIRTHDAY CELBRATION

In July 2022 St. Cuthbert's Mothers Union celebrated their 100 Birthday by holding a special service in church which was attended by many Mothers Union members and friends from our deanery. Also, the President Carole Hopkinson, our Vice President, the retiring President Jean Carlton and our local M.U. representative, Joan Wardrobe.

Revd. Diane Ryan, along with our Branch Leader Olive Weddle led the service with able support from other Mother's Union members.

St. Cuthbert's M.U. members received long service award certificates including Mrs. M. Shippen, our longest service member of 47 years. It was also lovely to be joined by some members who have struggled through the covid lockdowns.

It was a lovely service with prayers, uplifting hymns and music, ending with refreshments and of course Birthday Cake made by our M.U. friend Mrs. C. Cockram.

Here's to the next 100 years !!

Our Priest Revd. Diane Ryan, Durham M.U. President Carole Hopkinson, Branch Leader Olive Weddle and M.U. helper Christine.

The photos below show some of our M.U. Members.

News from St Michaels and all Angels MU

We held a beetle drive, using a caravan, to raise money for AFIA. We raised £130

This photo is our Jubilee party and we had an entertainer who sang vintage music. This was enjoyed by all.

We had an outing to South Causey Inn for afternoon tea which was enjoyed by everyone.

We had a member of the Salvation army visit our meeting and our members brought donations of food for their food bank

MOTHERS' UNION RETREAT AT SHEPHERD'S DENE

We're back!

Yes, Mothers' Union members were back on Retreat at Shepherd's Dene. As with so many things we haven't been for 2 years, this lack of meeting seemed to create a positive feel because members were full of life and laughter in the free times.

Chaplain Norma Clee (she just gets everywhere) led us with a Sabbath theme, a background of Jewish celebration; the joy and effort to enjoy and share the special day. Through Bible readings and poems we heard about the need to rest, for humour, to be refreshed and to take time to appreciate the pleasures of life. That isn't difficult at Shepherd's Dene, the house is lovely and so comfortable, the food is excellent and the surroundings perfect. Some of the fit "girls" took advantage of the grounds taking walks and sitting out.

If you've been why not revisit. If you haven't been give it a go but remember numbers are limited so be quick in 2023. I suppose we could go back to 2 M.U. Retreats per year.

All Saints, Monkwearmouth

Lily Scullion receiving flowers for her 90th Birthday

New members
Enid Phillips & May Reynolds

LOW NEWTON BRANCH.

At the Festival Service lovely to see Low Newton Banner, carried by their clergy, and a volunteer from Wearmouth Deanery.

We have reopened the Branch at Low Newton Prison. We have Mothers' Union Sundays---Monthly. We begin with Communion and service participation. To include MU meeting ,discussion and update for all who attend.

We are continuing with Sycamore Tree facilitators training which is going well, slow due to our absence through Covid restrictions.

We were invited to the prison, to listen and observe the residents progress, on reconciliation,, through their poems , cooking and discussion. Followed by a delicious lunch cooked by residents.

We are to participate in "Story Book Mums". A programme which enables Mums send out a bedtime story on CD . We are eager to support residents in reading and recording their choice of story. Something new for us and them. Learning together.

Prayers and poems sent to the Chaplain, always read to the residents.

Looking ahead to Christmas , where we donate Christmas cards and finance towards the Angel Tree gift project for residents children

We are encouraged by your prayers and support , given by you as our members and friends who show a great interest in all we do.

A reminder of our wonderful Mothers Union, Founder Mary Sumner, would be proud of our commitment and progression in all that we do. Thankyou to all the Trustees, who with me, continue this prison support.

If invited I will come along to your branch meetings and keep all updated.

Please pray for all prisoners, their families, prison staff and volunteers.

"He Is Our God The Servant King He Calls Us Now To Follow Him"

Love and Every Blessing.
Kathleen Wilson.

Sharing of the peace
God was in Christ, offering peace and forgiveness to the people of this world.
2 Corinthians 5.19

As we share God's peace together we also reach out in peace to those with whom we are linked across the world.

We offer each other a sign of peace

Hymn

Lord, as we have celebrated your goodness together,
may our unity deepen and grow.
We are the family of God.
His love draws us in to himself and out to one another.
We reach out as your hands across the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen

The GRACE

Wave of Prayer service

Welcome to our Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer service.
We gather to give thanks for our Wave of Prayer links across the world and for the privilege of prayerful support that we both give and receive.
We gather to commit ourselves afresh to upholding our unity in prayer in the year ahead.

Lord of all the earth, we come to worship with thankful hearts.
Let us praise His name together. Amen

Hymn

With thankfulness and love, we take our place in the family of Mothers' Union worldwide.
Open our eyes to the significance of relationship with members wordwide; with those known to us or not.

With support and love we reach out to our sisters and brothers across the word
Strengthen our commitment to those with whom we share vision and values, wherever we may live.

In unity and love, we link hands with our worldwide family of God.
Unite us in worship; build us in service, as together we seek to share your love.

Confession

Merciful Lord, who died that we may be accepted into the family of God, forgive us for the times when our love for each other is strained, when the bonds between us are loose. Forgive us when we choose to ignore the joys of shared relationship and focus on weakness and strife. Help us to change our selfish ways, that we may love God and his children with all our hearts. Amen

Absolution
May our heavenly Father open wide his arms in loving forgiveness and grace. May we know the joy of restored relationship with God and His people. Amen

New testament reading: Ephesians 3.14 – 22

This is the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Gospel reading: Mark 12: 28-31

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.
Glory to you, O Lord

Hymn

Thanksgiving and Intercessions

As we come to give thanks for Mothers' Union worldwide, and particularly for our link dioceses, may God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.

Loving Lord, we bring to you our praise for the fellowship and prayer support that we have through our links with – **Namibia; Mount Kenya South; Northern Izon and Ijebu North in Nigeria.** We give thanks for the blessing of being united in prayer with them. We pledge to continue to remember our sisters and brothers in prayer

Loving Lord, help us to appreciate the blessings of being united together in the family of God. Let us ever be ready to intercede for each other for God's assistance and protection.
May God encourage us in heart and unite us in love.

We pray for all members.
May God be with them in every part of their lives, encouraging them and leading them, sheltering them and strengthening them so they may work to your praise an glory. Amen

Christian care
for families worldwide