

## MSH Update – February 2024 edition

Dear Members,

Welcome to your February edition of Mary Sumner's House Members' update.

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### **MU at the General Synod!**

On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February we held a successful fringe event at the General Synod. “Mothers’ Union – here to help!” 25 attendees, including the **Archbishops of Canterbury and York** joined MSH staff, WWP Sheran Harper, PP Kathryn Anderson, and Zonal Trustee Julia Jamieson to hear about our RISE UP work against domestic abuse and the wider impact we have supporting the clergy and community in Britain & Ireland. We are encouraged by the enthusiasm around RISE UP and the new church-based membership model we are developing designed to support clergy in their mission and engage new audiences. A great opportunity to share the wonderful and important work of MU with clergy and laity.





## Christmas Appeal – thank you!

We are pleased to report the 2023 Christmas appeal, which focused on supporting our savings and skills work in Tanzania raised £110,000, which includes the match funding we receive through the Big Give. This is a small increase on the previous year. We are extremely grateful to all members and supporters for helping us achieve this target.

## Mothering Sunday and Lent Resources

A reminder that we have a host of [Mothering Sunday faith resources](#) on our website including service ideas, crafts, sermons and prayers for your church or group.

You may wish to bestow the one-year [Gift of MU](#) to family and friends. A perfect gift for a special occasion. A great way to share our wonderful movement with new audiences and encourage them to become permanent members. Or, as part of the Make a Mothers' Day (MAMD) campaign, we are offering ethical gifts and this year's theme has a focus on [Gifts of Dignity](#).

A reminder that we have new [Lent Resources](#) too.

## Spring Connected

The Spring edition of Connected should be with you by 26<sup>th</sup> March and focuses on growth: growing membership, discipleship, and our communities around the world. We share an interview with Debbie Bruwer, a double Olympic medallist who was part of the GB Rowing team. She talked to us about how she prioritised both sport and faith even through the peak of her career. We also shine a light on how our members here in Britain and Ireland have been bringing about change in their communities, and showcase some of our work in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Madagascar and Tanzania.

## Lady Day – 8<sup>th</sup> April

In 1897 MU formally adopted the feast of the Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary as its yearly day of prayer, intercession, and thanksgiving. The careful positioning of the work and ministry of the MU – in short, its faith in action – was part of its immense attraction for so many from different parishes and the attraction of faith in action continues to be a draw. This day of prayer and thanksgiving gives us an

opportunity to speak to people who don't know about the work of MU and to invite them to journey with us.

Given the changing dates of Easter, this feast is moved so that it is not held in either Holy Week or Easter Week. This year we celebrate Lady Day on April 8th. A Lady Day service plan can be found at <https://www.mothersunion.org/sites/default/files/resources/public/Lady%20Day%202024.pdf>

### Thy Kingdom Come – 9<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May

Prayer as the underpinning of inviting others to journey with us is essential. Once again, MU will join in the prayer initiative Thy Kingdom Come. We will pray from Ascension to Pentecost, 9<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> May, for 5 people in our network to come to know the Love of God and invite 1 of those 5 to a MU event. Here is our MU link <https://www.mothersunion.org/ThyKingdomCome> for more information - resources will follow.

### Safeguarding Update and Training

MU's safeguarding policy and procedures for Britan (only) are kept here:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/safeguarding> If you would like to attend MU Core and MU specific training, please email our safeguarding email, or contact your DP.

In the meantime, if you do have any questions or concerns around safeguarding, please do email [safeguarding@mothersunion.org](mailto:safeguarding@mothersunion.org)

### Story from MU Live!



*Rhoda - St Pauls, Juba diocese, South Sudan*

"I started here with my sisters and want to go to the end. I thought it was going to be just writing and the blackboard and then you go home. But I found that we discuss things. When we started to discuss things, I felt it was all about me. Sarah encouraged us to share so I told my own story. I have benefited as even in my family we talk about things in a good way now. When I return home, I'm now not expected to do all the work. Now if there is tea my husband will pour it for me. I learned to be humble, and my husband is now doing the same and he's really helping me. I am a mother but didn't know about family planning, so I kept giving birth. So, my life was maternity, given birth, look after children, it was all I did. But now I will bring my child to this group and continue learning, no more maternity. My husband is also starting to learn as well."

Very best,

**Mothers' Union Membership Team**

[membership@mothersunion.org](mailto:membership@mothersunion.org)