



## **Mothers' Union Coventry News Bulletin**

1<sup>st</sup> March 2024

*Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.*  
Jeremiah 29:12

### **Transformation Now!**

#### **Mothers' Union at the General Synod**

'Mothers' Union - here to help!' was the theme on Monday as 55 attendees, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, gathered at General Synod. The new Mothers' Union RISE UP against Domestic Abuse campaign, as well as, the new Mothers' Union Church-Based Membership model being developed to support clergy, in their mission, gathered much interest.

Emily Brailsford spoke to members last year via zoom about the new Mothers' Union Rise Up campaign and the message she conveyed at General Synod has just been posted via Instagram and remains as strong as ever:

"We want you to know that Mothers' Union is alive and kicking. We are still relevant to today's society. We are influencers, decision makers and activists who are passionate about making a difference for people in the UK and around the world."

Congratulations to Emma who has just been promoted to Mothers' Union National Programme Manager.

#### **Paula's JustGiving page has been launched**

Our very own Mothers' Union member Paula Waters, another 'World Changer' will run the London Marathon on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of April to raise money for two Mothers' Union projects. Please continue to hold Paula in your prayers as she continues her preparation and training. Paula's JustGiving page has been launched, so please spread the word to help Paula reach her £1500 target. For more information or to make a donation, please search:

<http://www.justgiving.com/page/paula-waters-1707572702323>

#### **Make A Mother's Day Campaign**

Continuing on the theme of Transformation Now! There is still time to give a Gift of Dignity on Mothering Sunday and you are always most generous in organising events to fundraise for our Make A Mother's Day Campaign. Please remember to take photos for Link Up and for our Facebook page. You can also tag any posts using #MAMD24 or #MU.

### **Important Dates:**

#### **MU Elections for 2025**

The process commences in April, first with the Worldwide President and Zonal Trustees. Then Provincial Presidents will be asked if the Province wants the central charity to conduct the election process as per the norm.

Although I am eligible to stand again as your Diocesan President, having only served for three years and would be happy to continue, I would be interested to hear from anyone that feels God's call towards this important ministry of Diocesan President, without obligation at this stage.

I would also be interested to hear from anyone who would like to explore the role of Trustee, another important ministry, without obligation at this stage. There is also a useful and informative document 'Being a Trustee' available via the Mothers' Union central website under resources.

Please note Job Descriptions are also available for both roles and will be circulated in due course.

### **Lady Day this year will be celebrated on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April**

Given the changing dates of Easter, this feast has been moved so that it is not held in either Holy week or Easter. Lady Day Service 2024 has now been added to the Mothers' Union website and can be found under resources.

### **Thy Kingdom Come 'Light Up The World In Prayer' (9<sup>th</sup> - 19<sup>th</sup> May)**

During the period of Ascension to Pentecost, I prayerfully hope that Deaneries might come together to pray that more people might come to know the Love of God and invite '1 of those 5' to a Mothers' Union event. Mothers' Union resources will soon be available on the website.

### **Members' Day: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of May**

We will gather at St John the Evangelist Church, Kenilworth on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 9.30am for a 10am to finish at 12.30pm. This is the perfect opportunity to ask questions about our finances, missionary work and vision for the year ahead and beyond. To also celebrate and give thanks for all that has been achieved thus far. Please make a note to BYO lunch. Refreshments will be provided and a warm welcome awaits you. My grateful thanks to St John's Branch, Kenilworth for agreeing to host the event.

### **Rise Up Celebration Service: Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> of May**

A first so please save the date. To be live streamed from the historic Mary Sumner Chapel. Time TBC.

Well done to St John Baptist Church, Berkswell on achieving the bronze Rise Up level award. I have attached the Rise Up Church Pledge form together with guidelines linked to each level of award. There is also a link within the document to the application form. I feel sure the majority of the branches/groups will qualify or come close to qualifying for the bronze award and possibly more. For more information please contact our Coventry Domestic Abuse Champion, Gaynor Parker via [gaynort66@googlemail.com](mailto:gaynort66@googlemail.com)

Assuming the application form is received on time, branches/groups will receive their certificate the week after Pentecost. It would certainly shine a light on Domestic Abuse if your vicar was willing to present the certificate to the branch leader/contact within a Sunday service or such like, as well as ensuring Rise Up prayers were added to the intercessions on a regular basis.

### **Canterbury Provincial Gathering, Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June 2024 in Oxford**

Another first! The Canterbury Province Gathering will take place at the Kings Centre in Oxford. The event is open to all members and as well as friends. Tickets cost £20pp and will be available from mid March. Flyer attached. If there is enough interest I will look at the possibility of hiring a bus. Please let me know ASAP, without obligation, how many seats on the bus you would like or if you are planning on making your own way there.

### **Recruitment of a Mothers' Union Finance Administrator**

The Trustee Board has approved the Job Description and the post will be advertised shortly via Mothers' Union Facebook and the Diocesan Bulletin. Please pray that the right person is called to serve in this way and the recruitment process runs according to plan.

## Housekeeping:

### **Subscriptions – Action Needed**

Thank you to those who have paid their subscriptions and a gentle reminder to those that have yet to do so. As you know, each subscription received provides financial support to Mothers' Union to ensure the work of the world's largest lay-led missionary organisation continues throughout the UK and in 83 countries across the globe. It is very easy to sign up to pay by direct debit via our Mothers' Union Coventry website and it cuts our administrative costs. Please search: [covmu.org](http://covmu.org) and on the home page click on resources and scroll down. Should you need further help, please contact Gary Askew, MU Diocesan Treasurer via [Gary.Askew@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:Gary.Askew@coventry.anglican.org)

### **Sending cheques to the Diocesan Office**

Please ensure all correspondence is addressed FAO The MU Finance Administrator to save letters getting lost within the Diocesan Office general post. It would also be useful when sending cheques or important correspondence, to email Gary or me, to ensure we know to expect it.

### **Website**

Putting a branch programme together is no easy task so please take the next step in sharing your programme with our Webmaster, Sue Foster via [mu@susanfoster.co.uk](mailto:mu@susanfoster.co.uk) so as she can add it to our website. An up-to-date Speakers' List will be circulated to branch leaders/contacts early next week and my grateful thanks to Heather Greaves for working tirelessly to update it.

## Thank you for inviting me:

### **St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley**

Nuneaton Deanery members reported a great turnout for their Candlemas Service at St Mary & All Saints Church, Fillongley. Revd. Steven Medley's sermon provided a timely reminder during this season of Lent, that God is in control and just as Jesus was revealed to Simeon and Anna he moves in mysterious ways to reveal himself to each one of us.

Grateful thanks to Revd. Steven Medley for leading the service and Nuneaton Deanery members who were involved in the planning and those that took part.

### **St Peter's Church Centre, Wellesbourne**

It was a joy to enrol five new members (three members were from one family) at St Peter's Church Centre, Wellesbourne Connection Service last Sunday. Revd. Charmaine spoke about how Hannah demonstrated her faith through obedience, even when it meant an extreme personal sacrifice and Children and Families worker Liz Host Elofson creative style of worship had everyone on their feet singing songs with actions.

Grateful thanks to Revd. Charmaine, Liz and branch leader Veronica for their warm welcome and inviting me to speak about Mary Sumner and the long-lasting impact she made.

### **MU Coventry Prayer Diary**

Ann Gibbons Vice President would welcome anyone that would like to be part of this ministry in helping to lovingly prepare the monthly Prayer Diary to ensure a variety of styles of prayers are offered. My grateful thanks to Ann for co-ordinating the Prayer Diary and her prayerful ministry to Mothers' Union members and more.

It seems rather fitting to finish with Ann's heartfelt prayer on this World Day of Prayer:

*'Thank you Lord that we are free to bring our prayers to you in safety today. We pray for Christians around the world who are persecuted for their faith in You. Give courage and strength in these situations that they may know your love for them. Amen'  
God will you be there. As we pray in faith. Let God's Name be there.'* Amen

With love and prayers,

Karen Morris  
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**covmu.org**

**Please save the dates**

- Lady Day 8<sup>th</sup> April
- Mothering Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March
- London Marathon: Paula Waters Running for Mothers' Union projects on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> of April.
- Thy Kingdom Come: 9<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> May. Resources soon to be added.
- Members' Day, St John's Church, Kenilworth: Monday 20<sup>th</sup> of May, 9.30am for 10am start to 1pm.
- Rise Up Celebration Service: 22<sup>nd</sup> May, live streamed from MSH Chapel. Time TBC
- Provincial Gathering: Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> of June, Oxford 10am to 4.30pm.
- Virtual Members' Business Meeting: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> of October, 6.30pm to 8.30pm.
- Members' Celebration Lunch: St Peter's Wellesbourne Church Room: Sat 12<sup>th</sup> October, 12.30pm for 1pm start to 3.30pm.
- Advent Service: Provisional date – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> of December.

**Attachments:**

Coventry Mothers' Union News Bulletin  
MSH News Bulletin  
Mothers' Union Coventry Prayer Diary  
Rise Up Church Pledge  
Rise Up Level Awards Document  
Canterbury Province Gathering Flyer

