

## **Speakers' List 2025**

This version of the speakers list has had all personal data removed. Its purpose is to allow all branch members to peruse the subjects available for talks and to determine whether the speakers are relatively local. Branch Leaders should all have a copy of the list with contact details.

### **Speakers and talks available for Branch Meetings:**

The general aim in asking a speaker is to relate to one of the Mother's Union Objectives, or to Christian worship. You may find a speaker whose talk fits one of these objectives, or simply one whose inspiration may help your own faith and that of your members. It is for you to decide.

#### **Objective 1: Marriage**

MU wishes to support, promote and strengthen marriage and married life, which includes preparing couples for marriage.

#### **Objective 2: Supporting Families in faith**

MU hopes to help families explore and enjoy faith together and encourage parents in their role to develop the faith of their children. This includes baptism links, Hand in Hand resource, Children in Church, Messy Church and Muddy Church.

#### **Objective 3: Building a Christian Community**

Faith is central to the work of Mothers' Union. It includes prayer and worship, the worldwide Wave of Prayer, retreats and quiet days.

#### **Objective 4: Supporting Family Life**

Together we can make a real difference to the lives of families and communities around the world, so we work to promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children. This includes campaigning, parenting programmes, literacy and financial education programmes, family life discussion and community development.

#### **Objective 5: Helping Those Facing Adversity**

A lively faith supports without judgement. It includes bereavement support, HIV/AIDS work, prison work, emergency relief support to families and communities, Away From It All holidays, and Community Development Co-ordinators.

**Felicity Hawke**, lives in Kenilworth, Felicity is an ex Diocesan President and ex president of Canterbury Province. She is an invaluable support to Mothers' Union and is always interesting from her wide range of experience.

- *The Wave of Prayer*. What is it and why does it matter?
- *Who Do We Think We Are?* You never know what you might find in your family tree, so how does it affect how we see our neighbours today?
- *Passionate about Parenting* – how the MU Parenting Programme helps parents and carers, and supports family life.
- *Relationships and Sex* – how parenting groups can help parents and grandparents tackle tricky subjects and why it's important.
- *Left to Their Own Devices* Parenting in the digital age, a video based session.
- *M U Allsorts*
- *The First 100 years of the Mothers' Union in Coventry*

**New for  
2025**

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**Brendan Metcalfe**, lives in Kenilworth, CEO Friends of the Holy Land

- *How Friends of the Holy Land are supporting Christians in the Holy Land* – a first-hand insight into the difficulties of daily life for Christians in the region where Jesus was born and Christianity began:
  - *Pictures of the work they are doing and the situation in Israel, Gaza and the West bank*
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**Mary Robins**, NSPCC volunteer, lives in Leek Wootton.

*Day time in winter and anytime in summer*

NSPCC – find out more about what the NSPCC does, including Child-Line, how the money is spent, and what you might do to be more involved.

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**Natalie Thompson** CEO CRASAC. *Why do so many victims of rape choose not to report it?* Hear from the experience of staff working at Coventry Rape And Sexual Abuse Centre (CRASAC)

**Jaime Richards**, *Coventry Haven Women's Aid*, Development and Funding Officer.  
Lives in Coventry CV2

*Coventry Haven* – a presentation based on the services provided, positive outcomes, and a personal journey through abuse. Haven supports women & children through all types of abuse, by providing support, information and safe refuge. Training & awareness-raising are also available to agencies and local community members. She will suggest ways in which MU members can support raising awareness, providing toiletries and other goods.

### **Mandy Williams**

Lives in Exhall

- *Building a refuge for women and children in Azerbaijan*
- *Pilgrims' Walk*

**Anne Short** CCN – *What is the Community of the Cross of Nails?*

**Geoff Litterick** Lives in Kenilworth

*Water Aid and the important role that women play in its work*

**Jane Hudson** *Co-op Estate Planning*

Estate Planning includes inheritance tax, Sideways disinheritance and blended families.

**Olivia Bowskill** Community Engagement Manager at the Myton Hospices (Warwick, Coventry and Rugby)

*The Variety of Services provided by Myton Hospice.* Living well with support from The Myton Hospices. Discover how we help adults with life limiting illness to live well, focusing on comfort, wellbeing, and quality of life, every step of the way.

**Emma Worthington** Admin and Finance Officer. *"Flourish"* is a Christian organisation based in Leamington, mentoring and offering small group courses for teenage girls.

Talks in Leamington and Warwick and Kenilworth only

**Rev. Richard Wilde** *Where have all the flowers gone?*

A reflection on the changes in UK farming at a time of climate crisis, and how it involves us all. FCN is a Christian based charity supporting farmers through difficult times.

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**John Elton**, *Will speak throughout the Diocese*

*Mercy Ships*, a charity surgical hospital to the poor based in West Africa.

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**Chris Stratta** Community Partnerships Team Manager

*The Leprosy Mission in England and Wales*. A talk with film show.

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**Sue Stretton** Healing Hands Network

*Supporting Survivors of War and its Aftermath* is a charity formed in 1996 in the wake of the Bosnian genocide. Work involves physical and emotional injuries. Now in Ukraine driving medical and humanitarian aid, supporting hospitals, orphanages and refuge shelters. **New for 2025**

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**Eva Leaf** *Will speak throughout the Diocese*

**New for 2025**

*Speaking topics include:*

Self-worth and dignity  
Finding hope in troubles  
Following God  
How the past affects the present

Self-sabotage in everyday life  
Listening to God  
Learning to forgive

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**Dr. Sarah Raistrick** *Will speak throughout the Diocese, evenings preferred*

*Women's Health & Health Inequalities*. Sarah is a Basic life support trainer with equipment. **New for 2025**

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**Judith Warner** (volunteer) Zoe's Place Baby Hospice.

Talk on *Zoe's Place, Baby Hospice* 0-5 year olds. Giving respite, palliative and end of life care and much needed support to families.

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**Christine Rutherford** lives in Harbury. *A History of Lent* talk with PowerPoint slides, showing how the practice of Lent has changed.

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**Elizabeth Penlington**

*My continuing journey with God.* Personal reflections from childhood experience to where I am at present.

Afternoons only in Leamington, Coventry and Kenilworth.

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**Rosie Lee** My journey to ordination.

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**Robert and Catherine Carr**

*Mary's Meals* is a charity feeding 2.4 million children in 16 countries. The children are fed daily in their place of education, giving them food, an education and hope for the future. It costs £19.15 to feed a child for a whole school year.

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**Guy Willcock**

*The Leprosy Mission* England and Wales. A talk with a film show.

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**Paul Morris**

To talk about the MU homeless initiatives happening within the diocese.

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