

Central Charity's Monthly Update – March 2026 Edition

Dear Members,

Welcome to the March edition of your monthly Central Charity Update.

New Bishop Ambassador for Mothers' Union Appointed

We are delighted to announce that Bishop Kelly Betteridge, Bishop of Basingstoke, has accepted the invitation to be the new Bishop Ambassador for Mothers' Union.

Bishop Kelly succeeds Bishop Emma Ineson, who acted as Central Chaplain for MU until November of last year.



The title is intended to reflect the role of strengthening relationships between MU and the Church of England, and Bishop Kelly's appointment has been approved by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York. The Board unanimously approved the appointment, and we are

delighted that Bishop Kelly, who is already an active MU member, has accepted.

The photo was taken at the Bishop Kelly's consecration service in October last year. Also present at the service was Elizabeth Cheruiyot, the new PCDC in Kenya, who served as liturgical deacon and proudly wore her MU headscarf, creating a powerful symbol of connection across the worldwide fellowship. The service was the first at which Archbishop Sarah presided following the announcement of her election. The Bishop of Southampton and the Bishop of Winchester were also present, offering a strong and encouraging witness to women's leadership within the Church.

Bishop Kelly commented

"My interest in and support of the Mothers' Union was first ignited in the 1990s during two visits to the African continent where I experienced the

vibrancy and impact of the MU in Tanzania and Ghana. I welcome the global connectivity that the MU offers and sustains.

I've been a local MU member whilst in Truro Diocese and am in the process of transferring my membership to Winchester. I have chosen to be a member largely because I greatly value the radical and transformative work of the MU, its ethos as a grass roots movement and its reach in working globally with and for communities where there is greatest need."

Please join us in warmly welcoming Bishop Kelly as she steps into this important role, and in holding her in your prayers as she begins this new chapter of service.

150th National Events and Activities and the Global Gathering

There are a few tickets left for the 150th Celebratory Service at St Paul's Cathedral, 5pm, 10th June 2026. A glorious celebration of Mothers' Union. Tickets are now on general release until 16th May 2026.

Join us for the joyous Annual Gathering the following day, 11th June, at the Emmanuel Centre next door to Mary Sumner House. Members will celebrate our legacy, showcase our present and shine a light on our future. Tickets are now on general release until 16th May 2026.

❖ Annual Gathering Programme:

10.30am - Join Worldwide President (WWP) Kathleen Snow, CEO Bev Jullien, former WWPs and invited guests as they start by **celebrating our history and impact**, followed by live Midday Prayers. After enjoying your packed lunch, and the opportunity to **visit the exhibition in Mary Sumner House**, the afternoon will **showcase grassroots work** with member presented case studies on programme work in Britain & Ireland, including prisons, AFIA, and domestic abuse. An update will follow on our Global Work. The final session will **shine a light on our future** including the importance of safeguarding, and our partnership with the Clewer Initiative on Modern Slavery and our work with the Girls Brigade, focusing on how MU is adapting to serve the needs in today's society and for the future. The day will finish at **4.30pm**.

Celebratory Service and Annual Gathering tickets can be found here: <https://www.mothersunion.org/event/150/>

❖ Global Gathering

Join us in **Durban, South Africa** for a once-in-a-generation celebration of **150 years of Mothers' Union** — a movement of faith and action that spans the globe. Tickets on sale from 27th February 2026.

30 September – 3 October 2026

This historic gathering will bring together members from across the world to celebrate our legacy, strengthen our global fellowship, and boldly explore what it means to be the Next Generation Mothers' Union.

Together, we will:

- Flourish in faith for the future,
- Live out our faith by empowering communities, and
- Celebrate our unity as one worldwide family in Christ.

This is more than a conference. It is a celebration of who we are, what we stand for, and how we will light the way for generations to come. More information can be found on our website: <https://www.mothersunion.org/event/worldwide-gathering-2026/>, including an [Information Pack](#)

A Sacred Conversation on Healing at Synod Gathering



On 11 February, Mothers' Union was delighted to host a General Synod Fringe Event at Mary Sumner House, welcoming **United in Solace and Grace**, Survivors' Voices, and Survivors in Transition to share their vital and inspiring work.

Held in the chapel at Mary Sumner House, a sacred and peaceful space, the event offered Synod members an opportunity to learn more about the development of resources to create safe spaces for survivors of abuse within church communities.

At the heart of the event was United in Solace and Grace, a series of reflective church services reaching out to survivors of abuse of all kinds, as well as their families, supporters, and professionals. The service was developed with great care and prayerful attention to ensure that people who attend feel safe, heard, and respected, particularly in spaces that may, for some, have previously felt unsafe.

Partners Survivors' Voices and Survivors in Transition also shared their mission and the collaborative work they are undertaking to support survivors and advocate for meaningful change within church and society.

Through our [Rise Up campaign](#) that forms part of our wider **National Domestic Abuse Programme** of work in Britain and Ireland, we continue to raise awareness in churches and communities about domestic abuse and gender-based violence, advocating for justice, compassion and practical support.

The gathering at Mary Sumner House was a powerful reminder that the Church must be a place of refuge, healing, and hope. By listening to survivors and creating spaces shaped by their experience, we take meaningful steps toward ensuring that all can worship in safety and dignity.

Thank you for your continued support!

Membership Team

Mary Sumner House

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