

Mothers' UNION

Diocese of Coventry

Mothers' Union Coventry News Bulletin

24th June 2026

JOIN US, JOIN IN!

Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous deeds among all peoples.
Psalm 96:3

Dear friends,

Praying you're surviving the heat and staying safe wherever this email might find you.

There is no doubt it's been an amazing couple of months celebrating Mothers' Union's momentous 150th year and there is still more to come. God is great!

A Special Invitation from Bishop Sophie to mark MU 150th Anniversary

The trustee board is thrilled that Bishop Sophie has generously invited Mothers' Union members for a coffee morning at Bishop's House on Thursday 23rd July.

A maximum number of 80 tickets has been set for each 10am and 11am hourly slot to ensure numbers can be accommodated inside Bishop's House should the weather be problematic.

Please book early to avoid disappointment and please also note the closing date for tickets is Wednesday 16th July for catering purposes.

There should be plenty of roadside parking available close by or alternatively please use Coventry Memorial Park, Park and Ride.

I would be grateful if blue badge holders or those with mobility difficulties could please contact me for further guidance.

For those with any dietary requirements please also get in touch.

For tickets please click the link below:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bishop-sophies-coffee-morning-for-mothers-union-members-tickets-1992032939145?aff=oddtcreator>

I know Bishop Sophie is so looking forward to meeting us, and is deeply appreciative of our steadfast and faithful service to the Mothers' Union, all in Jesus' name.

Please come armed with any good news stories, special photos and memories you would like to share.

MU 150th Celebratory Service at St Paul's Cathedral

An amazing 1500 MU members and partners gathered to reflect on Mothers' Union legacy. The massive gathering highlighted an incredible milestone for Mothers' Union best described as one of the largest lay movements in the Anglican Communion.

Worldwide President Kathleen Snow spoke of the bravery, strength, and courage, founder Mary Sumner, found in God to "step out of the boat" and begin a supportive network of women in her parlour 150 years ago.

The Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullally preached on the movement's legacy of advocacy and practical action, describing members as the "salt and light" and "powerhouse" of the Anglican Communion.

Drawing on Ephesians 3:14-24 and Matthew 5:13-16, Archbishop Sarah's sermon focused on three core themes:

Sustaining Service: exploring how to maintain spiritual and mental health while helping others, concluding that it requires being "rooted and grounded in love.

Everyday Impact: reminding the congregation that "ordinary, everyday things make an extraordinary difference.

Global Gratitude: commended the members for their grassroots work in over 80 countries, thanking them for their dedication to fighting poverty, injustice, and violence.

For a fuller overview please search this link:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news-and-stories/150-years-anniversary-service-at-st-pauls-cathedral/>

Mothers' Union 150th Annual Gathering

The following day members from across Britain & Ireland gathered at the Emmanuel Centre in Westminster for the MU 150th Annual Gathering for a day of celebration, reflection and looking ahead. The day started with prayer and worship followed by shared memories from former Worldwide Presidents during their time in leadership.

The afternoon's sessions focused on vital community outreach, including initiatives for domestic abuse survivors, prison ministries, hospice care, and services for the homeless. Well done to Paul Morris for sharing how Coventry Diocese Mothers' Union members are reaching out in love to support the homeless in various ways.

We all agreed that one of the most uplifting moments of the day came from the Girl's Brigade Youth Ambassadors who spoke passionately about the importance of involving young people in the future of Christian organisations, offering an encouraging reminder of the next generation of leaders.

Another key highlight was the session 'Enabling Freedom: The power of partnership in antislavery action,' led by Lois Bosatta, Director of The Clewer Initiative. The partnership underscores the shared mission of both organisations to eradicate modern slavery and support survivors through grassroots action.

For a fuller overview, please search this link:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news-and-stories/mu-150-annual-gathering/>

Mothers' Union 150th Fundraising Abseiling Challenge

More excitement will follow as we look ahead to the MU Coventry Fundraising Abseiling Challenge due to take place at Coventry Cathedral on Saturday 1st August. Please see poster attached.

This event is certainly not for the faint-hearted so please pray for courage, resilience and reassurance that all will be well on the day.

If you would like to make a donation and/or read the encouraging messages, please click on the link below.

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/mu-coventry-abseiling-challenge>

If you are free, why not come along to cheer and offer encouragement to Amy, Anne, Revd. Denise, Harrison, Jenny and Karen. There will be a Mothers' Union stand also so please do come and say hello.

150th Celebrations around the Diocese

As we continue to celebrate Mothers' Union 150th anniversary year throughout the diocese, I continue to be inspired by all your acts of love and service.

- Thank you to St Peter's Church, Mancetter members for inviting me to speak at their Sunday morning service with a focus on Mothers' Union.
- Thank you to Kenilworth Deanery members for organising a stand at the Kenilworth Lions Grand Show.

It was a joy to see how much the children enjoyed the 'hook a duck' game and the plant sale proved popular too. The display board, Mothers' Union merchandise and various leaflets provided an opportunity for chat and fellowship.

- Well done to St Andrew's Church, Shottery members for organising a 'MU Take Over' service and incorporating within the service, an activity, where members of the congregation were invited to create a 'chain of prayer' using loops of wool, as a way of reaching out around the world, highlighting the presence of MU in over eighty-four countries. The chains were then attached to a cardboard cross to form the MU logo symbolising the importance of Christian faith being at the heart of all Mothers' Union activities and actions. How amazing is that!

The following day St Andrew's members hosted a Strawberry Tea, where members and friends enjoyed a quiz with star guest Revd. Craig McClellan encouraging a sing-a-long using his ukelele and there was also time to enrol three new members.

- Thank you to Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough members for inviting me to their Strawberry Tea where much fun and fellowship was shared.

Please remember to take photos for Link Up and please also keep the staff at MSH informed of any 150th anniversary events via communications@mothersunion.org so they can share our good news stories also.

For those still thinking about planning a service or an event to mark the 150th anniversary – there is still plenty of time to do so and if you need any help please do get in touch.

Alternatively, there is a list of MU events happening around the diocese (please see below) so why not come along, with a friend or two, to join in with the celebrations.

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

Did you know if you click on our website covmu.org and tap on 'History' there is a lovely photo (thanks to our webmaster Sue Foster) of Canon J Proctor conducting a Mothers' Union Service within Coventry Cathedral ruins on Wednesday 29th May 1957?

Mothers' Union Coventry 150th Merchandise

For members wishing to buy a special souvenir to mark this momentous 150th year, please find attached a flyer which Chris Rutherford kindly produced to show the various options.

Wouldn't it be wonderful if each branch/friendship group gifted their church a MU 150th tea towel, apron or mug as a timely reminder that Mothers' Union is still alive in kicking, in Coventry Diocese.

Alternatively, rather than giving a plant to a guest speaker – what about gifting one of these items or use as a raffle prize? What better way to promote and encourage conversation about what we do so more can Join Us, Join In!

For each mug, tea towel or apron sold a minimum of £1 will be directed to the MU 150th fund.

Prayerful Reflection

Psalm 96:3 speaks of a global call to action for believers to actively share God's greatness and His miraculous deeds with everyone, regardless of their cultural or ethnic background.

With so much to give thanks for, new members being enrolled and members continuing to spread the good news story, it seems apt to close with this encouraging prayer taken from this month's prayer diary, lovingly prepared by St Andrew's members:

'We pray and give thanks for all the work achieved by all the branches in our diocese in its many forms, and in the 150 years of Mothers Union we must remember to encourage others to Join us, Join in.'

Amen

To God be the Glory.

Come and Join Us, Join In and Celebrate

- Sunday 28th June: 'MU Take Over' Service (10.30am) with enrolments followed by Teddy Bear Parachute Jump St John Baptist, Berkswell.
- Sunday 5th July: 'MU Take Over' Service (9am) St Martin's Church, Finham.
- Thursday 23rd July: Bishop Sophie's Coffee Morning for Mothers' Union Members (10am and 11am), Bishop's House, Coventry in celebration of MU 150th anniversary year.
Places to be booked via the above Eventbrite link
- Saturday 1st August: MU Coventry 150th Fundraising Abseiling Challenge, Coventry Cathedral. Please share the attached poster far and wide.
- Tuesday 4th August: Fosse Deanery Mary Sumner Lunch (12noon) St Peter's Church Centre, Wellesbourne with guest speaker Revd. Nitano Muller, Canon for Worship & Welcome at Coventry Cathedral.
- Sunday 9th August: Mary Sumner Day Services at St Giles Church, Exhall (10am) and St John's Church, Kenilworth (6pm).
- Wednesday 12th August: Mary Sumner Tea Party for the homeless (12 noon) Gateway Hostel, Coventry.
- Monday 21st September: Fosse Deanery MU 150th Anniversary Service (2pm) St Andrew's Church, Shuttery.
- Saturday 10th October: MU 150th Anniversary Celebration Lunch St Barbara's Church, Earlsdon.

- Sunday 18th October: 'MU Take Over Service' (9.30am) Holy Trinity Church, Hartshill.
- Monday 30th November: MU Advent Service (11am) St Andrew's Church, Shotton.

With love and abundant blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Morris', enclosed within a light blue rectangular border.

Karen Morris
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