



# Diocese of Coventry

**Mothers' Union Coventry News Bulletin**

13<sup>th</sup> March 2026

*'Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ.'*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

**JOIN US, JOIN IN!**

Dear friends,

Lent is a time of intensified prayer, a season to draw closer to God in repentance and renewal and as we continue to journey towards the cross may we continue to stay strong and focused as we seek a closer relationship with God through our Lenten sacrifices and prayers.

### **Mothering Sunday Songs of Praise**

Mothers' Union takes the spotlight on Songs of Praise.

Make sure you watch BBC 1's Songs of Praise recorded in the Diocese of Liverpool for Mothering Sunday at 1.15pm which showcases some of Mothers' Union's important work in communities across the breadth of Britain and Ireland.

Members can also hear Kathleen Snow and Bev Jullien talking about the history of Mothers' Union in this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year on UCB1 (United Christians Broadcast) Radio station.

<https://www.ucb.co.uk/qrlisten#waystolisten>

### **MU 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Initiatives and Celebrations**

Mothers' Union members at All Saints Church, Leek Wooton will take part in Morning Worship tomorrow as part of Mothers' Union 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Well done to Janet Jackson, members and friends for getting the Mothers' Union 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations off to a good start!

For those planning services and events to mark the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary: May these celebrations reflect the rich history and continued purpose of the Mothers' Union.

Please remember to keep the staff at MSH informed of any 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary events via [communications@mothersunion.org](mailto:communications@mothersunion.org) so they can share our good news stories.

A gentle reminder also for all things Mothers' Union 150<sup>th</sup> celebrations and events, please search [mothersunion.org/150](https://mothersunion.org/150) for tickets, resources etc.

### **Barbara Roberts RIP**

There will be a Thanksgiving Service at St. John's Church, Kenilworth for our sister in Christ, Barbara Roberts on Tuesday 17th March at 1.30pm. Barbara's funeral will be a private occasion, but all those who knew and remember her are encouraged to attend the Thanksgiving.

Barbara served faithfully as a Trustee and Training Officer and will be remembered fondly for her cheerful and happy disposition. Well done, true and faithful servant. May Barbara rest in peace and rise in glory.

I know you will join with me in praying for Barbara's niece Sally, members and friends during this difficult time.

### **Link Up/Branch Programmes**

Please remember to send your articles, photos, significant birthdays, celebrations, events and initiatives etc to Felicity Hawke for the next edition of Link Up by no later than 1<sup>st</sup> April. Branch programmes ASAP to Sue Foster for the website.

### **Kenilworth Deanery Events (All welcome to Join Us, Join In!)**

St John's Branch has invited Eva Leaf to speak at their branch meeting on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm on Finding Hope in Troubles.

St Nicholas Branch is organising a trip to Hanbury Hall, Worcestershire National Trust House on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May. The cost of the coach is £13.50pp plus £17 for non-NT members.

Please contact [karen.morris@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:karen.morris@coventry.anglican.org) for more information.

### **Dean John's Retirement Celebrations**

The Very Reverend John Witcombe is due to retire with his last Cathedral Eucharist taking place on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am followed by Evensong at 4pm. Dean John is keen to welcome Mothers' Union members to either services and/or his Leaving Do. Please see the invitation attached to this email.

I am delighted to confirm that Mothers' Union has been asked to serve refreshments at the 4pm service. Please save the date with more information to follow as help will be needed.

### **Mothers' Union Members' Day in May is changing**

During this 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year members will meet via zoom on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30pm for a Business Meeting. Followed by a 'Thank You' lunch on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 10.30am at Berkswell Reading Room. Revd. Denise has kindly offered to lead the worship and as this is an extra special occasion hats or fascinators would be much appreciated. More details to follow shortly.

### **Mothers' Union Family Fun Day**

Plans are underway for the Mothers' Union Family Fun Day due to take place on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June at Coventry Cathedral. The day will comprise of two craft and art workshops and a treasure hunt with special surprise guests (watch this space). More details to follow in due course.

### **A Moment in Time**

Tickets are still available for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Service at St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> June at 5pm. Tickets cost £15 each to cover the cost of the commemorative booklet plus a £1.96 registration fee.

Tickets are also still available for the Annual Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, London on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> June from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Tickets cost £24 plus a £2.71 registration fee.

Please don't delay to avoid disappointment. Tickets can be bought via [mothersunion.org/150](http://mothersunion.org/150)

### **Mothers' Union Resources & Hymns**

Please note the following resources are now available:  
Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer to music

Mothers' Union Hymn  
Lady Day Service  
Lady Day Prayers  
Membership Challenge A3 poster  
WWP Easter Letter (attached)

*\*Many of the resources are available on the central website [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org). Until MSH develops their new website further with member-only accessible content, there is a special space just for members - MU's Resource Hub – if you haven't already signed up to access the resources here – click here and register: <https://mothersunionresourcehub.com>*

Please also find attached to this email a document with some useful wording to help with the MU 150<sup>th</sup> National Fundraising Challenge.

### **Subscriptions (Last Call)**

Thank you to all those who have paid their subscription and to the branch leaders who have returned or about to submit their branch returns. For those still to pay their subscription please give some thought to paying by direct debit or via bank transfer where possible. Please contact [patricia.rich@coventry.anglican.org](mailto:patricia.rich@coventry.anglican.org) for more information.

### **Key Dates**

- 1) Lady Day Celebrations & the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullaly, Archbishop Designate's Installation Service: Wednesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March.
- 2) Eva Leaf, Finding Hope in Trouble, St John's Church Kenilworth, Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April at 2pm.
- 3) Dean John's Leaving Do/Party: Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> May, 7pm, at Coventry Cathedral, including live music, food and a bar available. Please RSVP.
- 4) Dean John's Retirement Celebrations: Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> May at 10.30am for his last Cathedral Eucharist Service and Evensong at 4pm followed by tea and cake. Please RSVP.
- 5) Mothers' Union May Members Business Meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> May via zoom at 6.30pm.
- 6) St Nicholas Branch Summer Outing on Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> May to Hanbury Hall.
- 7) Mothers' Union 150<sup>th</sup> Thank You Lunch on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May, 10.30am at Berkswell Reading Room.
- 8) Mothers' Union Family Fun Day on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> June, 10am at Coventry Cathedral.
- 9) Mothers' Union 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Service on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, 5pm at St Paul's Cathedral.
- 10) Mothers' Union Annual Gathering on Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June, 10.30am at the Emmanuel Centre, London.

With Mothering Sunday fast approaching, let us reflect on Susan King's meaningful prayer, taken from this month's MU Coventry prayer diary:

'Loving God,

Thank you for mothers and children and for all the joys and sorrows of family life. May you bless those who rejoice today, and comfort those who are feeling sadness because of loss, or because they are apart from those they love. Amen'

A gentle reminder that the Mothers' Union Coventry Prayer Diary is available via [covmu.org](http://covmu.org) by clicking on the prayer tab together with MSH's reflection for March which includes details about Mary Sumner's Christian journey and where that all began.

With love and prayerful thanks,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen Morris', is centered on a light blue rectangular background.

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