



**Mothers' Union Coventry News Bulletin**

11<sup>th</sup> November 2025

Dear friends,

What a blessing to see children having such fun during the half term holiday and I know many of you will have enjoyed spending special family time with the grandchildren at some point last week. I fondly remember pumpkin picking and stomping through autumnal leaves when I was a child and the excitement of the clocks going back where we could go out for a late afternoon walk with torches guiding our way.

**Coventry Prayer Diary for November**

We now turn our attention to the month of November, seen as the Season of Remembrance and the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed running from All Saints' Day until Advent Sunday. I am grateful, therefore, to Wellesbourne Branch members who have lovingly written prayers, for this month's Coventry Prayer Diary, to help us reflect. These prayers are now available via the [covmu.org](http://covmu.org) website for ease of reference.

**The Very Reverend John Witcombe Dean of Coventry is to retire**

Since writing, you may have seen the news that The Very Reverend John Witcombe, Dean of Coventry has announced that he is to retire on May 31st 2026. Dean John has held the position since January 2013, and will have served 42 years in ordained ministry. Dean John has always been a steadfast supporter of Mothers' Union within Coventry Cathedral and I know you will join with me in praying for Dean John as he prepares to hand over the baton.

**The installation of Rt Revd and Rt Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury**

Lady Day for Mothers' Union members is always significant occasion but even more so next year due to the installation of The Rt Revd and Rt Hon. Dame Sarah Mullally, as the 106th Archbishop of Canterbury, due to take place at Canterbury Cathedral on March 25, 2026, the Feast of the Annunciation. This will mark her symbolic start in the role, following her Confirmation of Election on January 28, 2026, and installation as the Diocesan Bishop of Canterbury. Also, as the first female Archbishop of Canterbury, a historic moment for the church. Please continue to uphold Sarah, Archbishop Designate in your prayers - thanking God for calling her, for strength, wisdom, and vision, and asking for blessings and protection in her preparation.

### **Subscription Thank You Letter**

Turning now to Mothers' Union Coventry subscription rates for 2026, please find the 'subscription thank you letter' attached which I hope is self-explanatory but please do get in touch if further clarification is needed. I would like to re-iterate grateful thanks, on behalf of the trustee board, for all the support you continue to provide to Mothers' Union.

### **MSH News Bulletin**

The Membership Team at Mary Sumner House has kindly forwarded their News Bulletin (attached) which is packed full of useful information e.g. Get ready for the 150th Anniversary, Celebrating Christmas with faith resources and more. You will note tickets for the 150th Celebratory Service at St Paul's Cathedral and the Annual Gathering the following day are now available. I hope to organise a table, for a celebratory bite to eat, before or after the service, so please get in touch, should you wish to join me so we can make a decision that suits the majority.

### **Pact (Prison Advice and Care Trust) St Dismas Award**

Congratulations and prayers please for Lynda Howells who will be attending the Volunteer and Citizen Awards ceremony at The House of Lords, in the Houses of Parliament on Tuesday 11th November. Lynda will be presented with the Pact 'St Dismas' Award for her dedication and support as a Family Services Volunteer. Lynda's collaboration within her church and the Mothers' Union has also been invaluable to Pact. Well done Lynda and richly deserved.

### **MU Themed Quiet Day Walking With God**

I am looking forward to seeing many of you at the Mothers' Union Quiet Day, due to take place on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 10am for 10.30am start at Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough with Revd. Denise Burgess leading. Please see the flyer attached for more information. All welcome.

### **Bare Necessities Virtual Evening**

I know many of you are busy preparing for the 16 Days of Activism Campaign Against Gender Based Violence by displaying 'red chairs' and/or DA statements with shoes and writing prayers for victim survivors to be included within your branch meetings and/or church services.

With this in mind, I am pleased to announce, a MU Coventry ' Bare Necessities Virtual Evening' has been organised where we will meet via zoom, on Monday 24th November at 6.30pm. The aim of the evening is to pray, learn and reflect together and I am delighted that a staff member from Coventry Haven and Kairos will be our keynote speakers. I am hoping Mothers' Union members from around the cluster will also join us. For more information, please find the flyer attached. All welcome.

Embracing the theme of 'Join Us, Join In!' why not invite members and friends around to your house for a cuppa to zoom in and share what Mothers' Union is doing to raise awareness about Domestic Abuse. We are making a difference and we are stronger together.

Please remember to capture the evening by sending photos for the next edition of Link Up with feedback.

### **MU Advent Service**

Save the date - Monday 1<sup>st</sup> December, 11am at St Giles Church, Exhall with Revd Gail Phillip preaching.

### **Message from Lynda Howells**

Whilst praying and celebrating Lynda's good news, it seems fitting to close with this message from Lynda herself:

“Christmas is coming and I would be so grateful if you can donate toys for the children at Christmas, No plasticine, playdough, magnets or toy guns are allowed. I am happy to receive financial donations to fill the gaps and to buy selection boxes for children. The age range is 0 to 15 years. Thank you so much. Your gifts mean so much to the families.'

To God be the glory.

With love and prayers,

Karen Morris

Diocesan President

Mothers' Union Coventry

7 Priory Row, Coventry CV1 5EX

Tel no: 07952542776

Charity Number: 250129