



Mothers' Union Coventry News Bulletin

7th October 2025

"You are the light of the world ... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."

Matthew 5:16

[JOIN US, JOIN IN!](#)

Dear friends,

This Little Light of Mine

I feel sure we all fondly remember singing the song "This Little Light of Mine" and tradition has it that the song actually started as a poem back in 1925 and then was recorded as a song in the early 1930s.

The song also takes its theme from Jesus' remarks to his followers in Matthew 5:14-16 and whilst it's fun to reminisce, let us also take a moment to prayerfully reflect on the real meaning of the song – we are the light of the world, and we need to let our light shine, let it shine, let it shine!

Indeed, together, we can continue to be a light in the world, drawing others into a community of faith, service, and love. Thanks be to God.

Canterbury Province Gathering

Several members from Coventry Diocese gathered in Oxford last weekend for the MU Canterbury Province Gathering and it was a joy to hear about the many acts of love and service happening within the province.

Grateful thanks to Paul Morris for representing the Midlands Cluster, with particular focus on homeless outreach and from the feedback received, the star of the show, was the MU homeless wheelie bin which took centre stage. As a result, one member, who is also a Cathedral churchwarden, confirmed her intention of placing a MU homeless wheelie bin within her Cathedral. Well done to Paul for helping to shine God's love amongst the homeless within our city centres.

MU Annual Review 2024

Many of you will be starting to think about next year's Mothers' Union 150th anniversary celebrations as well as organizing events within your church community. Matthew 5:16 encourages us to boldly shine the light of Christ into the darkest corners of the world and that's what Mothers' Union members do best.

With this in mind, the Mothers' Union Annual Review 2024 is now available to view on-line via <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources> that gives us more reasons to be loud and proud whilst sharing our good news stories.

MU 150th Anniversary Celebrations

The MU 150th Anniversary also provides us with an opportunity to mark this momentous year by giving thanks to our Founder Mary Sumner – the faithful commitment of our membership – past and present – and recognising the impact of our transformational projects/initiatives.

Key dates to make a note of:

- 150th Celebratory Service at St Paul's Cathedral at 5pm on 10th June 2026
- Annual Gathering at Emmanuel Centre (next door to Mary Sumner House) 10.30am – 4.30pm on 11th June 2026.

For those who have not attended a Mothers' Union gathering before, I would like to share some encouraging words from Val Brant, MU Coventry Diocesan Members' Correspondent:

'Perhaps you do not normally consider attending such gatherings, which is understandable in view of the effort and expense involved. I would encourage you to do just one, and what better than this historic event? I have been a member since the 1990s and went to my very first Annual Gathering in 2023, in York - it was such a wonderful, unforgettable occasion that every member should have the opportunity to experience, so book your ticket as soon as you can to avoid disappointment.'

Please note tickets should be available shortly via the MU 150 page: www.mothersunion.org/150 This page also provides members with an opportunity to sign up to receive the official 150th events newsletter and more.

For those of you that attended the MU virtual business meeting on Thursday, I did confirm a link would be available today but having investigated this further, there is now a delay so apologies for any inconvenience caused. There is an expectation that the live link for tickets will now be available from next Thursday, 16th October so please do keep your eyes peeled.

Modern Slavery (13th Oct to 19th Oct)

Anti-Slavery day takes place every year on 18th October with Anti-Slavery Sunday being the next day. Throughout the week there is an opportunity to raise awareness within our church community that over 49.6 million people in the world today, and an estimated 122,000 people in the UK are trapped in conditions of modern slavery.

Thank you to those who have been knitting chains (a powerful symbol) to raise awareness about modern slavery in church. Interestingly, there are no official statistics for the total estimated number of people in modern slavery in Coventry. However, in 2024, the Coventry City Council received 167 reports of adult exploitation, with the most common types of exploitation being labour exploitation, criminal exploitation, and sexual exploitation. Modern slavery is a hidden crime, making it difficult to accurately identify and count all victims, therefore, the number is no doubt higher than the statistics suggest.

Within the latest edition of Connected on page 25, there is a useful grid to follow and use as a checklist to encourage engagement and prayerful reflection. Did you know over the last few years, the Clewer Initiative and Mothers' Union have formed a vital partnership, united in their goal to end modern slavery? For more information, prayers and resources e.g. Anti-Slavery Day Liturgy, please search clewer.org.uk and click on 'Hidden Voices'. New modern slavery resources will shortly be added to the central Mothers' Union website. Did you know, there is also a modern slavery helpline: 08000 121 700 to seek information, advice and guidance about any modern slavery issues?

RISE UP Virtual Support Session led by MSH staff (16th Oct at 2pm)

You are warmly invited to the next virtual Rise Up support session on Thursday 16th October at 2pm.

This will be a relaxed and welcoming space for everyone involved in the Rise Up Campaign to share stories, offer advice and find mutual encouragement as we continue to work together to make a difference.

Everyone is welcome, whether you've been involved for years or just looking to start. Please find the zoom link below:

Topic: Supporter Session

Date & Time: 16th Oct 2025 at 2:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84233026485?pwd=xqPHUEyFMrOBypW31EaTAixsVHyYx5.1>

Meeting ID: 842 3302 6485

Passcode: 753298

MU Quiet Day

Please make a note of the MU Quiet Day due to take place on Wednesday, 12th November at Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough at 9.30am for 10am start. Revd. Denise Burgess will be leading. Refreshments will be available throughout the day but please bring your own lunch.

16 Days of Activism (25th Nov to 10th Dec)

Thank you to those already planning their displays to raise awareness of DA. Please let me know, if you need 'statements with shoes', Rise Up posters or the Rise Up Prayer.

For those still to apply for the Rise Up Bronze certificate please do so.

To achieve the Bronze award your branch or church should:

1. Put a RISE UP poster raising awareness about domestic abuse in an appropriate public place such as in churches, toilets, community centres, village halls etc.
2. Commit to pray for those affected by domestic abuse, including the victims, survivors, perpetrators, and those who work in the field of domestic abuse.
3. Make a connection with your local domestic abuse support organisation to see how you can support them. You could offer moving in and moving on packages.

For more information please email: riseup@mothersunion.org

The Red Chair Project

An alternative approach is displaying a 'red chair' within your church to raise awareness about DA. Please get in touch if you would like further information. It couldn't be easier to get involved: all you need is a chair and a sign!

The Counting Dead Women Vigil

This will be the 5th year that a group of local women organise the Counting Dead Women Vigil, due to take place on Saturday, 29th November at 9am to 4pm, located in Coventry city centre just outside WH Smiths. The aim of the vigil is to honour the UK women killed in male violence throughout the year, to raise awareness of domestic abuse and to showcase local support services. Each women's name will be read aloud every hour on the hour and a huge display of shoes to represent each one that has died ensures many shoppers stop to listen and to reflect.

Speakers' List

Grateful thanks to Heather Greaves for maintaining the MU Speakers' List for several years now and is ready to pass on the baton. However, before doing so, Heather has kindly updated the Speaker's List with several new speakers added to be circulated to branch leaders/contacts shortly.

A note of thanks also to Chris Rutherford, branch leader and trustee for being the point of contact regarding the Speakers' List moving forward.

Members can also access the Speakers' List with names and contact details omitted due to GDPR via our website covmu.org by clicking on resources.

Giving Thanks to the Lord in Prayer

A gentle reminder that the MU Coventry Prayer Diary can now be accessed via our website and the plan is to also add the MSH monthly reflections which are also a joy to read.

It seems apt now to close with a prayer taken from this month's MU Coventry Prayer Diary, lovingly prepared by Susan King:

'Creating God, your name is written on every leaf, every bird, every river, every stone, every living being. We praise and worship you for the magnificence of your creation. Make us attentive to the wounds of the earth and willing to work for the healing of the whole creation, through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen. (a prayer from arocha.org.uk)

We pray also for those preparing services and activities in our diocese which reflect our wonder and thanksgiving for the beauty of nature and the provision of the harvest. May we encourage one another to be thankful for the many blessings we have through nature and may we inspire one another to do what we can to be wise stewards of the earth's resources. Amen.'

Please Save the Dates

- MU Members and Friends Celebration Lunch, Saturday, 11th October, St John's Church, Westwood Heath at **12.30pm for 12.45pm** start.
- Mothers' Union Coventry Anti-Slavery week initiatives run from the 13th to 19th October.
- MU Quiet Day, Wednesday, 12th November, Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough at 9.30am for 10am start. Revd. Denise Burgess will be leading.
- 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence starts on 25th November to 10th December.
- MU Advent Service, Monday, 1st December, St Giles Church, Exhall at 11am. Revd. Gail Phillip will be preaching.

With love, prayers and thanks,



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