

# Mothers' Union Matters

in the Diocese of Chester

Summer 2023

Charity Number 221214



*The Prayer Tree  
created at the  
Diocesan Council  
In early July*

**CELEBRATING  
FAITH IN ACTION**

**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

## From the Diocesan President

My Dear Friends,

Greetings in the name of our Lord & Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I do hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the Summer, although as I write this, it is a typical British Summer day pouring with rain; hopefully, the sun will shine soon.

I have recently returned from our Diocesan Council meeting at St John's, Hartford, my first long solo trip out since my fall at the end of last year. It was wonderful to be there and share in the fellowship. We had a lovely morning full of activities and inspiration, and I enjoyed catching up with old friends and new.

Our theme for the morning was 'A Heart for Giving'; you will read more about this later in the magazine. The meeting certainly gave us all a lot to think about and I thank Dawn and the Trustees for putting together the programme and making sure the morning went well despite the technical difficulties.

Being able to travel to Hartford in my new automatic car was a blessing. This is one of the new skills I have had to learn this year, after driving a manual car since I was seventeen.

Being able to meet with members hasn't been easy since I became diocesan president, with the pandemic stopping most travel. I am not alone in feeling the need to make up for time lost whilst we were unable to travel; our worldwide president, Sheran Harper, will be visiting parts of the world this year making up for the time she was unable to travel. In June, together with our CEO Bev, she travelled to Uganda and Kenya where they visited members, shared the message of MU and worked alongside members as they gathered together in retreat.



*Sheran and Beverley with MU members and clergy*

*This has been a busy time for Sheran, and I ask you to please pray for her as she plans her visits for the remainder of the year. Pray for her safe journeys, the energy, and the right words to enable her to fully carry out the work God has given her to do on our behalf.*

*I am looking forward to her sharing at our Annual Gathering, which will take place in York on Friday 22nd September at the York Barbican. The meeting will be followed by Evensong at York Minster at 5.30 pm. Tickets for the Annual Gathering can be purchased on the Mothers' Union Website.*



*As MU members, all of our work is grounded in prayer and many of the resources we use come from the Faith team at Mary Sumner House. One of the most important members of that team is the Faith Development Adviser. For the last sixteen years that post has been held by Catherine Kyte, who has worked tirelessly for Mothers' Union. Catherine has developed many of our resources and has worked alongside our Chaplains and those responsible for Midday prayers, but the time has come for her to retire, and she will be leaving during the summer. I'm sure you will join me in wishing Catherine and her husband a long, peaceful, and happy retirement.*

*We are currently still searching for a Diocesan Chaplain; I am working very hard with members of the clergy to fill this vacancy and I ask you all to please pray that a suitable candidate will be found very soon. It is also with some sadness that we have to say farewell to our Archdeacon, Ian Bishop, and his wife Sue, our ex-officio vice president. During their 22 years here in Chester Diocese they have both been great supporters of Mothers' Union. We wish them both well as Ian takes up his new role as Bishop of Thetford in the Diocese of Norwich and our love and prayers go with them when they leave the Diocese this summer.*

*I am sure that you have all been busy raising funds for the Summer of Hope appeal. This year the money raised will go towards supporting the Away From it All Holidays project and the work done in our prisons. Thank you for all your hard work and*



*please do support the fundraising efforts of your branches as the money raised really does make a difference in people's lives. We are turning Hope into Action.*

*On the 9th of August Mothers' Union members worldwide will give thanks for the vision of our founder Mary Sumner. I am sure that when she*

*began this work, she had no idea that her vision would grow into a worldwide movement - her desire was only to bring about change.*

*In November last year, we heard from Harriet Roberts about Vision Café, a consultation process started by Bishop Mark to seek out the vision for the Church here in Chester Diocese. If you haven't already seen it, I encourage you to watch the live stream of the meeting to conclude that consultation, that was held in Chester Cathedral in May this year. The video can be found on the Diocese of Chester YouTube page.*

*Bishop Mark announced four priorities that God is calling us to here in Chester Diocese*

- 1. Growing, braver, fuller faith*
- 2. Blessing 1.5m lives, one life at a time*
- 3. Transformative loving service (in practice)*
- 4. Engaged locally, working together in loving generosity.*

*This Mary Sumner Day I ask you to spend some time in prayer, thanking God for vision and asking him to guide us in our loving service here in Chester. My prayer for you all is that together we can strengthen our "Hearts for Giving" and that through our efforts and prayers, we can help make the future brighter. I will leave you with these words from Isaiah 6 v 8 which I know we all share as our desire as members of Mothers' Union*

***"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'whom shall I send, and who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here am I; send me!'"***

*Wishing you a wonderful summer*

*God Bless Wendy*





## Diocesan Council

A very successful Diocesan Council meeting was held on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> July at St John's Parish Centre in Hartford. 53 members attended the meeting which began with opening prayers focusing on the theme for the morning which was "A Heart for Giving".

The room was set out with round tables covered in blue tablecloths and a butterfly 'cake' table centre made from card, they all looked lovely. Wendy gave a very informative report which began by explaining that our AGM had been postponed until our November meeting, due to branches not meeting the deadline for getting membership renewals and paperwork to Dawn in time.

Unfortunately, on the morning the projector wasn't working, and we were then unable to have the PowerPoint presentation. It didn't cause too many problems and the meeting was able to go ahead as planned. Following Wendy's report, we all joined in with a quick game of Bingo. The cards were made up of words linked to the MU Live report that we have to complete each year to let the charity commission know how we fulfil our aims and objectives. The winner was hoping for a new car, but settled for the bar of Galaxy, which was the prize for a full house. We had a practice at filling in the MU live reports and blank forms will be sent out to branches to complete throughout the year.

During the coffee break, we had the opportunity to collect items that we could use in our branches such as collecting tins and items from the Enterprise boxes. There were also the kneelers that had come from Chester Cathedral which had been returned to Mothers' Union when the pews were replaced with chairs. These items can no longer be stored in the office and Dawn was hoping not to have to take too much back to the office after the meeting.

Heartfelt thanks were expressed to the 1122 members that have renewed their membership this year and to the 56 branches that remain open in Chester Diocese.

Our next session was titled 'A Year in MU', around the room were 11 display boards all with ideas for meetings during the year. There wasn't a board for December for two reasons; 1. we don't have any trouble planning our Christmas festivities and 2. Dawn ran out of ink!! We had an opportunity to look closely at the boards during the lunch break and following a quiz using the Spring edition of Connected magazine. The questions weren't easy, but we had fun finding the answers. There wasn't a prize for the quiz, but at the end we were asked to lift the butterfly off the top of the 'cake' displays. The top of each cake lifted off to reveal a tray inside containing chocolates, our prize for taking part.

After Midday prayers, we ate our packed lunches together and had the chance to catch up with old friends and new, it was a lovely time of fellowship. The last session of the day dealt with the closure of the office, which will close on 31<sup>st</sup>

August this year, Dawn will continue to work from home and asked that all post be sent to her home address.

**c/0 11 Forest Road Park, Oakmere, Northwich CW8 7 DY**

Throughout the morning we had been exploring the theme of a heart for giving and this was linked to the recent Vision cafes that Bishop Mark introduced throughout the diocese. This consultation period has now ended and the strategy for transforming the Church here in Chester Diocese is being developed with the unanimous approval of Synod. After speaking about the priorities God is calling us to, we were invited to write our prayers for Mothers' Union and the Church on hearts which we then hung on the prayer tree.



## VERY IMPORTANT



# NEW ADDRESS

Mothers' Union Chester  
C/O 11 Forest Road Park  
Oakmere  
Northwich  
CW8 2DY

From 31st August 2023  
Please Use this Address



Those of you who attended the previous Diocesan Council meeting will remember that Ruth Basden, a Diocesan member from Frodsham, who gave a talk about climate change. Here she reminds us of its great importance to us all .....

### Strange but True

At the Council meeting held on 1st July, Dawn Colwell reminded us about the aims of Mothers' Union projects - which the national website summarises as: "Stopping violence, stopping poverty, stopping injustice. Our projects are helping build a better future."

It is **strange but true** that the food you buy and the meals you cook can be part of 'stopping poverty' and 'stopping injustice'! How can this be? Well, it is generally acknowledged that the richer nations of the world, with their industrial revolutions, have produced a lot of the greenhouse gases, such as carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) which are causing climate change and this is badly affecting the poorer (mostly southern) nations on the planet. Taking action to slow down climate change will help to reduce poverty and also help to redress the historical injustice of this situation. Both governments, corporations and people in their everyday lives must take action and make changes to the way we live!

**Climate Action when you shop!** Every summer, the 'Frodsham Festival in the Park' takes place in Castle Park. All sorts of local groups are invited to have a stall and to showcase their organisation to local residents. This year the event was on July 2nd and 'Climate Action Frodsham' set up a stall as a pretend shop - **a carbon supermarket!**

We invited people to come and use a shopping basket to gather a typical day's supply of food for themselves or their families, selecting from various items that we had on display. At the till, we had information that enabled us to add up the carbon footprint of each basket. People could then see how much CO<sub>2</sub> their meals were adding to the atmosphere.

As you may know, beef (most beef) has a high carbon footprint and so does lamb (I used to think that lamb was much better than beef, but there isn't much difference!). Chicken is better, whilst cheese and fish are both below chicken and are about equal. Some people were shocked to see that dark chocolate has quite a high carbon footprint!

If you would like to see the chart of information with the carbon footprint of various food items, please email me at this address:

[info@climateactionfrodsham.com](mailto:info@climateactionfrodsham.com)

However, there is plenty of information to be found on the web, so you could do your own research.



**Baked beans have a very low carbon footprint**, and, whilst other beans were not listed, I expect that the same is true for them as well. I use different types of beans in various recipes. Tofu (produced from beans) may be cooked in various ways and also has a low carbon footprint. **Nut recipes** are another option. "Eating less meat can help **reduce pressure on forests and land used to grow animal feed**, which in turn protects biodiversity, the earth's ecosystems, and people living in poverty who are bearing the brunt of climate change. Eating less meat means eating foods that are plant-based rather than those that are animal-based." *From this website: <https://sentientmedia.org/how-does-eating-less-meat-help-climate-change/>*

You may have heard of '**Meat-free Mondays**'. Well, one day a week without meat is a good idea for the planet (- it doesn't have to be Monday, of course!) If you already have a meat-free day, could you increase this to two meat-free days and so on?! Eating less meat has health benefits for you personally, as well as being good for the planet (for both people and nature), so it really is a **win-win situation**.

There are plenty of meat-free and dairy-free recipes to be found, so you could experiment and try some new-to-you meals. When you find a vegan recipe that you like, tell other people about it - for example, members of your MU branch and 'family and friends'. You could even invite people to come and enjoy a new meal with you - then they can taste it for themselves!

**Talking about planet-friendly changes is important - we can encourage one another.**

*Ruth Basden, Diocesan member*



## Bowdon Deanery Festival



The four branches of **Bowdon Deanery**, Holy Cross with Christ Church Timperley, St Anne's, Sale, St George's, Altrincham and St Mary Magdalene, Sale, (above) celebrated their first Deanery Festival since Covid followed by a light lunch in the Parish Hall on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July at Holy Cross, Timperley. The service was led by Fr Steve, Vicar of Timperley and we were pleased that Dawn, our Diocesan Secretary, Joan Tanner, their 5 Deanery Contact, Fr Tom, Parish Curate and 45 members were able to join together in fellowship. Donations raised £126 for the MU project – Prison Ministry at Sty1al and Thorn Cross.

Branch Leader, Janet

Warburton, writes that on 4th April, members of **St John. Sandbach**, (right) went out for lunch to celebrate the branch's 90th birthday and a great time was had by all!

*Below, their celebration cake*





## Welcome to our new members

**Christ Church and  
Timperley**

Lynda Wood

**Lache cum Saltney**

Joanne Lucas

Kathleen Connah.

**Over St. Chad**

Amanda Procter -

**St George Stockport**

Angela Foulkes.

## Greetings and congratulations to

**Eileen Spencer and Jean Waters,** both from Holy Cross & Timperley Branch, who have celebrated their 90th birthdays.



Above ( reading from L to R ) **St Chad , Over** celebrated the enrolment of Amanda Procter as a new Member ,with Christine Ruxton and Barbara Percival who each received their 50 years membership certificates with our Enrolling member, Jenny Ince, and Callum, Vicar of St Chad. .

**Gawsworth St James Branch** celebrated; King Charles' coronation. They held a tea party, at which all present had made crowns to wear and a poetry competition was held.





## More Right Royal celebrations!



**Oxton St. Saviour's** Branch also held a Coronation Tea Party in the "presence" of the King and a crown made by a member of the Church. The cardboard cut out of King Charles was provided by one of their members.

After prayers for the King and Royal Family and a toast to the King, members completed a quiz about the coronation before tea. The Revd. Dr. Joe Kennedy, the vicar and an MU member, joined them for tea. The event, which raised over £200 for Mothers' Union projects, projects.



## Wedding Anniversary Congratulations to :-

### 60<sup>th</sup> years

on 28<sup>th</sup> Sept Ann & Roy Williams will celebrate their Diamond anniversary St Stephen Birkenhead

### 70 years

On 21<sup>st</sup> March 2023 **Beryl and Denis Scholes** (below) celebrated their Platinum anniversary, They were married at St. George's Hyde and now have two daughters, three grandchildren and five great-grandchildren .



*(Platinum honoured by a gemstone that symbolises true love, purity, rarity and strength, qualities I'm sure Beryl and Denis have displayed during their long marriage Ed)*

## Two fishy tales (tailes?)



*Left* these are the thirty four “fish” made by Henbury MU at their April meeting ,for the Casting the Net Wide exhibition in Chester Cathedral. There was plenty of laughter and it was a fun evening .

*And right* are the “fish” made Rainow Branch at their April meeting. They had as much fun as did Henbury did making them.



## STOP PRESS

Many congratulations to **Kate Pwaisiho**, who was ordained on 1 July. We wish her every blessing in her ministry. She is currently a member of Mothers’ Union, Henbury Branch.

Kate, a Solomon islander, is the youngest of five siblings. She arrived in the UK in August 1997 with her parents and two brothers to serve in the Diocese of Chester. Kate had the joy and honour of serving in youth ministry for the parishes of St Pancras, Plymouth, Zac's youth project, Bolton, All Saints church Coventry and most recently, served her ordinal placement at the parish of St Philip & St James, Alderley Edge. It was during her final years of youth ministry that the desire to serve the wider context of ministry began to take root.

She is the daughter of Kate Pwaisiho senior, who died in 2019 and who was an Ex- Officio Vice president of Chester Mothers’ Union for many years, and Bishop William Pwaisiho , who was Vicar of Gawsworth St James until his recent retirement and a great supporter of the work of Mothers’ Union .

## Diary Dates 2023

31st July	Chester Office closes
5th September	Office re-opens after Summer break AT NEW ADDRESS
22nd September	Annual Gathering at York Barbican
4th November	Diocesan Council—Hartford 10 am—2 pm
21st December	Office Closes for Christmas break

### Mothers’ Union Diocesan Office

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### From the Editor

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**By NOV 11th**

“Where would the Anglican communion be without Mothers’ Union ?”

Archbishop of York , Stephen Cottrell