



Windows

The Newsletter of Mothers' Union
in the Diocese of Salisbury
Registered Charity No. 249696

Autumn 2023

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Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Mothers' Union has a vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

MU Office and Shop: St Thomas's House, St Thomas's Square, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 1BA

Opening Hours Tuesdays and Thursdays 11.00 am – 5.00 pm

Telephone number and email address remain the same: 01722 333402

mothers.union@btconnect.com

Website address (local): www.salisbury.anglican.org/workingforjustice/mothers-union

Website address (national): www.mothersunion.org

A Message From Our New President - Sandra Gamble



My Windows Spring 2023 Message began with the theme: Beginnings and Endings - mentioning the upcoming office move after more than 20 years in Crane Street; introducing Alice as our new employed Community Development Coordinator; saying goodbye to Revd Jo as Diocesan Chaplain – while welcoming Revd Jayne in the role; and also saying farewell to Elizabeth Wood as Trustee after many years, along with her husband Neville, of support for Mothers' Union in diocesan, deanery and branch positions.

My Message concluded with the hope and prayer that 2023 would be the year when Mothers' Union comes out of its shell as the best kept secret in Britain and Ireland, as we have so much of which to be proud as we begin the countdown to our 150th anniversary.

The office move has now gone ahead successfully - thanks to Rosemary's and Jenny's leadership - with our new office established on the first floor at St Thomas's House, St Thomas's Square, Salisbury SP1 1BA. It will be open in future for you to visit on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Alice has concluded a year of highly praised activity, leading our established Virtual Babies project while also introducing and conducting family arts and crafts sessions at Salisbury Women's Refuge. Sadly, however, Alice now leaves us, having for some time been exploring whether she might have a call to ministry. She will be facing her first Bishops' Advisory Panel this Autumn!

Nevertheless, the Virtual Babies programme remains strong with the introduction of Lavington School to the project in September and Atlantic Academy in Portland wishing to continue for a second year following Alice's introduction of the project there. Great success too at Rockley Park with our holiday home solidly booked thanks to an energised advertising campaign based on a stunning new leaflet and poster designed by Alice and strong booking support and oversight provided by Suzanne and Sheila and her team. And Angel Tree at HMP Erlestoke, for gifts for children with fathers in prison, is on the agenda once more for Christmas 2023 in conjunction with the prison chaplaincy.

But what does the immediate future hold? Mary Sumner House's several youthful new staff must be commended for their energy! Many priority workstreams are being rolled out, looking in particular to address simplifying diocesan structures and membership decline.

During late spring, Bishop Stephen licensed Revd Jayne Tyrer (also known as Mrs Jayne Davies) as our Diocesan Chaplain and, following the Re-imagining Conference held by Mary Sumner House last year in Liverpool, which Jayne attended in her former role of Diocesan Trustee, she is now focusing in the Diocese on improving, within the Church, the visibility and understanding of Mothers' Union as well as achieving a more effective functioning of Mothers' Union as a recognised part of the shared mission of the local church.

This has led to the Diocese taking part in Mary Sumner House's newly created Church-based Membership Pilot launched with a view to improving relationships with our churches and clergy, supporting clergy in the delivery of their work and increasing our MU supporter base and income. So far, over 20 churches are on board the pilot of which Jayne, at my time of writing, has identified 11 potential participants from the Diocese of Salisbury. If you know of other churches that you think might be interested and benefit, Jayne will be pleased to hear from you.

The Church-based Membership Pilot is part of a Mary Sumner House Membership Review which seeks to increase (or stop the decline of) MU membership. Tied in closely and seen as a lever for parish-based and clergy supported MU engagement, will also be a new "Rise up against Domestic Abuse" national challenge. Its aim is to get as many churches and cathedrals as possible to take three basic actions to become safer places for domestic abuse survivors.

Watch out too for Mary Sumner House's new Supporter Strategy, an opportunity for a wider pool of people to get behind our charity work and projects. For a year, you will be able to gift a Mothers' Union Gift of Membership, Friendship and/or Support in return for, for example, receipt by the recipient of your gift of copies of Connected, regular emails, invitations to events, updates on campaigns and community outreach work and opportunities to be more involved. It is hoped this will then lead to more donations and regular giving. Crucial to the sustainability of Mothers' Union is also a promised new Strategy to increase fundraising and partner income.

One final word on the elusive – for many of us – MU Live which aims to share experiences of MU engagement and growth and has now been rolled out, not just in Britain and Ireland, but globally by Mary Sumner House. There is a promotion and training drive to encourage usage.

My Autumn 2023 message above began by reiterating the hope and prayer that 2023 would see the Mothers' Union emerge from its shell of best kept secret in Britain and Ireland. I am very happy, therefore, to note one of Mary Sumner House's additional stated priority workstreams - to improve visibility of campaigns and overseas work and to improve the profile of MU generally. If this encompasses Britain and Ireland, I travel in hope, as I expect you may too!

It is a privilege to serve you all and Mothers' Union. The many transformational initiatives coming forward are exciting to consider but they do tend to confine one to one's computer! My great delight, therefore, since writing in Windows Spring 2023, was to be invited by members of Calne Branch including Derry Hill and Royal Wotton Bassett Prayer and Fellowship Groups to give the homily at their special service in Calne's St Mary's Church on Mary Sumner Day. Other Trustees joined our Worldwide President in Winchester to celebrate and pray at the grave of Mary Sumner. When I see you next at Autumn Gathering, I will also have had the pleasure of visiting with members at Trowbridge St James.

May we continue, together in faith, the journey that Mary Sumner inspires us all to pursue.

With love and prayers - **Sandra**

Mary Sumner Day on 9th August at Winchester

"I thank you for your generous prayers and sacrificial giving that have kept the Mary Sumner vision alive....as you touch lives, not only here in Britain and Ireland but overseas too. reaching out to those who you do not even know..you are truly God's hands and feet here on earth". Sheran Harper, Worldwide President, Mothers' Union



Worldwide President Sheran Harper with Carrie Walsh and Suzanne Waters.

With these words Sheran Harper's inspiring address at Winchester Cathedral on 9th August elaborated on the MU programmes and projects throughout the world which transform the lives of women and girls, families and communities and stand as a powerful force for positive change. We were gathered in Winchester Cathedral on 9th August at a service of thanksgiving for the life of our founder, Mary Sumner. A simple and prayerful service and thoughtful intercessions led by Winchester Deanery supported Sheran's eloquent and moving talk about her recent visits to various oversea provinces. She has met with so many enthusiastic and engaged MU leaders and members, witnessed in heartbreaking detail the impact of poverty and abuse on so many women and young girls and the real difference Mu can make. She is also much encouraged by the support of Bishops and Government Ministers for the work of MU particularly in the area of Gender Based Violence and all the spinoff that go with it. Her talk was very moving and so encouraging in this time of change, international conflict and the effects of climate change.

After the service we gathered outside and flowers were laid on Mary Sumner's grave-beautiful yellow and white flowers of hope and the orange glow of a single Mary Sumner Rose. Tea and cakes in the Wessex Hall gave us the opportunity to meet and talk with Sheran and our Provincial President Kathryn and we felt privileged to have had that opportunity to talk personally for a few minutes with our passionate and very committed Worldwide President.



Carrie Walsh, Trustee and Suzanne Waters, Treasurer at MU Diocese of Salisbury attended at Winchester Cathedral. Other events were arranged by branches in Winchester Diocese.

LICENSING OF THE REVEREND JAYNE TYRER AS CHAPLAIN TO THE MOTHERS' UNION

On Wednesday 5th July 2023 I had the privilege of attending the Licensing of the Revd Jayne Tyrer (Mrs Jayne Davies) as Chaplain to the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Salisbury. This short and intimate service was also attended by several trustees as well as Jayne's husband, Canon Nigel Davies who is Vicar of The Close, and two of their long-standing friends who had travelled from Cumbria.



The Licensing took place in the private Chapel of the Bishop's House in the South Canonry and was officiated over by Bishop Stephen. The Service began with the hymn Come down, O Love divine and this was followed by Psalm 48 which has the refrain We have waited on your loving-kindness, O God. Rosemary Allen, Co-opted Trustee, then did the Reading from Mark 12.28-34a after which Bishop Stephen performed the Licensing and handed the Licence to Jayne with the words: 'Receive this licence to minister as Chaplain to the Mothers'

Union in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. (Amen)'. The Service concluded with prayers after which everyone was invited to join Jayne and Nigel for tea and cake at their home in The Close. *Photo left to right – Revd Jayne, Bishop Stephen and Sandra Gamble, Diocesan President.*

Jenny Harrison, MU Diocesan Secretary

Chaplain's Chat

I have always loved the Autumn, or at least I did when I was younger. I loved being at school and, though I enjoyed the long summer holidays, the thought of returning in September, for the Autumn term, always filled me with excitement. I think what enthused me was the idea of starting something new - new uniform, new classroom, new challenges and new experiences. However not everybody welcomes new things so easily.

Many of you, at this time of year, will have children or grandchildren who have just started new schools, moved classes or entered into the wider world by starting at university. I am sure that, as Mothers' Union members, you will be trying to support those young people where they are embracing that change and perhaps, even more so, when they are finding it difficult.

But how about you? Adapting to new things can be hard for any of us and I have to say that, as I have got older, and maybe a little more set in my ways, I am less inclined to embrace the new than I used to be. But as many have observed one of the few certainties in life is that change, and therefore accepting new ways, will be part of it. We will all have experienced having to find new ways of doing things, in many parts of our lives, and we may not have always wanted those new changes but actually we

might have found that a different way of doing things worked really well. As one of my favourite authors, Barbara Kingsolver, once said “the changes we dread most may contain our salvation”.

There has been much studied and written about the benefits of staying curious and trying new things. Apparently doing something new can improve your memory, your mood and your motivation. You can increase your adaptability and by overcoming your fears, about ‘having a go’ at something new, you may discover talents you didn’t know you had. In the Mothers’ Union in Britain and Ireland, as in many other things in life, we are having to look at new ways of doing things and looking for people to take on new challenges. This is happening at the centre of our organisation in Mary Sumner House, within our Diocese of Salisbury and in our local branches and groups. No matter how anxious we might be about trying something new we might have to if we want to move forward.

I was intrigued to read, this week, of the retired priest the Revd Sheila Auld, from Newcastle Diocese who, aged 85, has completed a 400-mile journey to Sussex by public transport, to raise funds for the Mothers’ Union. She used her pensioners’ bus pass for the journey, travelling up to eight hours a day for six days, and staying overnight in the homes of MU members. She used 26 buses in all and finished at the home of her sister in Chichester. What an inspiration she is and obviously someone ready for a challenge who is ready to embrace any new experience. In these challenging times of change and transition let us reflect on our own attitudes to trying something new through the following words

A New Life

A new life stands on my doorstep ready to enter my life’s journey.

Something in me welcomes this visitor:

the hope of bountiful blessings,

the joy of a new beginning

the freshness of unclaimed surprises.

Something in me rebuffs this new visitor:

the swiftness of the coming

the boldness of the entrance

the challenge of so many new ways of doing things.

Something in me fears this visitor:

the unnamed events of future days,

the wisdom needed to walk love well,

the demands of giving up and growing away.

A new challenge stands on my doorstep:

with fragile caution I move to open the door for its entrance.

My heart leaps with surprise,

joy jumps in my eyes,

for there beside this brand new opening

stands my God with outstretched hand!

He smiles and gently asks of me ...

“Can we walk this new phase together?”

And I, so overwhelmed with goodness can barely whisper my reply:

“Welcome in”

Treasurer's Notes

The 2022 Accounts have been completed and certified by our auditor and I am pleased to say that our working budget overspend was £822, less than I predicted. Thank you branches for all your fund raising and also thanks to the sterling work Alison Oakes does in collecting gift aid annually. Don't forget, if you pay the Inland Revenue tax on your earnings, pensions, savings, by completing a Gift Aid form (obtainable from the office, Jenny or myself), we are able to collect 25p in the pound from your annual subscription and any donations you make. Branch treasurers, please remember to check with your members when you are completing the annual subscription forms.

Our 2022 membership was 761, for 2023 it is 713, so sadly another decrease of 48 members. Twenty-one pounds per member has been sent to MSH and for 2024 they will be raising it to £23. We did not increase our subscription for 2023 but trustees have now had to make the decision to increase the diocesan subscription to £35 per member and £60 for joint membership for 2024. Attached is the letter from MSH explaining their need to increase the central charity subscription.

Dear Members

Britain and Ireland Subscription for 2024 - £23 The Britain and Ireland (B&I) Trustees and Provincial Presidents unanimously agreed that the subscription amount for 2024 that goes to the central charity at Mary Sumner House is £23, equating to less than £2 per month. This amount forms part of the membership rate set by your diocese. By having the leanest central staff team and resources in recent history at Mary Sumner House we can continue to offer you one of the lowest subscription rates in the charity and membership sector. What does this £23 deliver for members? Two Connected magazines and monthly e-newsletters. Annual Prayer Diary. Resources available through the website including Facebook, midday prayers, and a wide range of faith, membership, and group resources. Communities of Interest (COLs), sharing best practice and improving the impact of our work on Prisons, AFIA, and Domestic Abuse which you are welcome to join. Support and information for the governance of dioceses. Re imagining MU agenda, where extensive member consultations led to the design and delivery of priority projects in 2023 and beyond that focus on ensuring the sustainability and longevity of the global MU movement. Mothers' Union Campaigns including the current Summer of Hope campaign, with resource packs including case studies of those who have benefited from work supported by the membership in B&I.

Continuing support for MU policy and advocacy including against domestic abuse. MU Live, now adopted globally, a member resource that in 2022 demonstrates that over 700,000 individuals benefit directly from the work of MU members. Connecting the Mothers' Union family, for example on key projects like Flourishing Families and Metamorphosis. Global programmes and development work overseas - enabling projects such as the 20 years of work in Burundi on literacy, which has benefited over 165,000 individuals, with 3% of the adult population becoming literate, able to lift their families from poverty. Operational management of the central charity. The Provincial Presidents, Trustees and MSH staff thank you for your member subscription and all you do.

With every blessing, Bev Jullien CEO Mothers' Union

Can I remind branch leaders and treasurers that if you are having to consider closing a branch or moving to Prayer & Fellowship group, please in the first instance contact Jenny Harrison, our secretary to be guided on the correct steps to take. Standing Orders: More important than ever, there are still standing orders that have not been amended to reflect the increase in subscription. Many are still at £26, £27, £28, £30. Please can you check that your standing order is up to date? I have been reporting this for several years and still they remain.

In the spring edition, I informed you of my hope to hand over the role of treasurer to someone new, sadly to date, I have had no response. Please can I ask you to spread this further in your parishes, there might be someone in your congregation who might consider this role. And finally, I know you will read about our office move elsewhere in this edition but on a personal note, I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to Jenny for finding us our new office and all the organising of the move. Huge thanks also go to June Watt and Rosemary Allen who have spent many, many Tuesday's sorting through countless years of filed paperwork, etc. The move will mean I will show a larger overspend in the 2023 budget but we have reserves that can bear this cost, which we have tried to keep to a minimum.

Suzanne Waters

Salisbury Pantry

At our gathering last autumn, Alice Page asked us to think about joining forces with local food banks, women's refuges, community fridges, baby weighing clinics etc to get us in on the ground with the families that need help the most. I was aware that Salisbury Pantry was planning to expand – Tuesdays had become so busy, they wanted to start opening on Wednesdays. So, the idea was born. Joan (one of my fellow members in the Laverstock branch) and I decided to explore this opportunity. We now volunteer every other Wednesday; the Pantry opens from 3.30 – 6.30 so it's available to people who work but are on low incomes or struggling with the current cost of living crisis. We are part of a lovely team of volunteers under the guidance of our 2 managers – it's Liz on Wednesdays – and it's clear how much this provision of a social supermarket is needed and appreciated. We explained from the outset that we were there as members of Mothers Union, which has led to questions about MU and a possible candidate for our Caravan holiday next year. I am enjoying my involvement in this a great deal, and I would encourage others to explore similar opportunities in different parts of the diocese.

Pip Carter

At our gathering last autumn, Alice Page asked us to think about joining forces with local food banks, women's refuges, community fridges, baby



West Moors - This year the West Moors MU Branch has been raising money by 'Colouring the Crown'. The idea being to colour in the jewels on the St. Edward's Crown by asking for donations from family, friends, colleagues and congregation, and at the same time promoting the projects MU is involved in. Each 'type' of jewel had a suggested value and could be coloured in when the donation was received. Two of our members young granddaughters coloured in their grandma's crowns beautifully, as can be seen above.



Harnham -

We do like to eat at Harnham MU. We have Community Teas 4 times a year when people from around Harnham enjoy sandwiches, cakes, strawberries and cream and lots of conversation and Soup and Sweets Lunch in May in aid of MU's work overseas. Also, in July we went for our Lunch Outing to the Horse and Groom at Woodgreen for excellent food with a South African flavour. We do invite some very interesting speakers. A representative from Mercy Ships told us all about their work visiting ports particularly in Africa performing operations and giving medical help to people who travel miles seeking help. Alice Page and Ruth Brooks-Martin from Spurgeons talked about Virtual Babies and Baby Bundles and we always have very good discussions.



Dilton Marsh -

This is a photo of our Dilton Marsh MU members, Liz and Veronica, on the raffle stall at our Garden Party, Summer of Hope event. I am hoping it can be included in the Autumn Windows Magazine. The event was in July at Melon Grove, Dilton Court Farm, the home of MU member Jane Brake. Cream Teas were enjoyed by all. We raised £333 for the Summer of Hope fund raising.

A wonderful day at Old Arlesford -

What a privilege it was, on a lovely sunny day, to be at the service at Old Arlesford Church on Mary Sumner Day to celebrate the life of Mary Sumner where it all started, and to meet our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, as she visited the Winchester Diocese. Michael and I, together with two more members from West Moors, were invited to the service in the afternoon to witness a former member of our branch being welcomed into the Old Arlesford Branch. Sheran's address was truly inspiring and emphasised how much the work of Mothers' Union is still needed and appreciated in the present time. After the service Sheran planted a tree in the churchyard and then we adjourned to a local barn where we were able to meet her informally as we enjoyed tea and cakes.

Elizabeth and Michael Bowler

Photo: Worldwide President Sheran Harper with the new members at St. Marys Church, Old Arlesford



VIRTUAL BABIES AT CLARENDON ACADEMY, TROWBRIDGE, 2023

We always receive a warm welcome at Clarendon as we arrive with the virtual babies and this year was no exception. 'The Ladies with the Babies', as we are known, are regular visitors every year in June & July. Just nineteen students took part this year which was less than previous years. This was since students had GCSEs on the Monday and it was not acceptable to have a disturbed weekend caring for a virtual baby. Students eagerly await our arrival on a Friday afternoon ready for the discussion on how they are to look after their babies and of course, their selves, and to think about how to arrange their weekend. We talk about the plans they have for the weekend and that if they were going out, the babies and their equipment, such as bottles and clean nappies, need to go with them.

When the students are happy and ready to go home, we have the compulsory photograph for their school magazine. Among various weekend activities revealed, one girl said that she was going to a local football game. No venue was discussed only that she still needed to be responsible for her baby and it's needs. One of our helpers was also going to a local football game to watch her grandchild play and discovered that one of our babies was there with her weekend mother. We really do not spy on our students to make sure they are taking full responsibility! We always look forward to knowing how the students have coped with their babies. Therefore, on a Monday morning after collecting the babies from the school, I find the results on my laptop so that I can inform the teacher and helpers.

The birth rate is still down in Trowbridge and the students do say that they do not want a baby yet as they cannot do what they want to do as a baby takes priority. I know one student's mother says that she is not ready to be a grandmother yet! When I asked the teacher if she wanted us next year, she said, 'You know the answer to that as it is so worthwhile!' What a great project this is!

Marlene Haffenden & Helpers



MU Coronation Parties



Coronation Celebration at St James MU Trowbridge

At the May meeting members entered into the spirit of the afternoon and wore hats, crowns or tiaras and something red, white or blue (if possible) Those who did not have something suitable pinned a ribbon bow of the Union Jack to their clothes. After a regal-themed quiz and a sing song, afternoon tea was enjoyed including red jelly served with blueberries and cream.



Harnham - Crowned with Tea and Friendship, Sunday 30th April

Regal bunting and tables decked with flowers and crown-shaped confetti greeted guests as they arrived in the Parish Hall to meet friends old and new at springtime Community Tea.

The raised and recently redecorated Hall ceiling was soon echoing to the sound of animated conversation as apron-clad volunteers glided to and fro as efficiently as the fabled Corner House 'Nippies' of years gone by dispensing hot drinks to accompany the sumptuous spread of sandwiches and cakes. Hosted by members of The Mothers Union and friends, guests settled down for a comfortable afternoon of laughter and chat, with occasional canine comment from Lulu, a charming assistance dog who divided her time happily between sitting on her master's knee and prospecting the floor for possible crumbs. Thanks to all who prepared and served the tea, helped out generally and to those who came to enjoy a sociable afternoon. A good time was had by all.



Wilton Coronation Party

We raised £40 with this (£20 of which went to buy a Welcome Pack for the MU Holiday Home) and another £30 from a sale at a 'Made at Home' meeting for the Summer of Hope appeal. We are also giving any money collected at the service for the same cause.



Sudan Link

News-cutting of the MU Stole Project Stall being visited by Her Excellency, the Ambassador for South Sudan, at St Francis Church.



The Move

It came as a great shock at the end of 2022 to learn that the Diocese of Salisbury was selling Church House and we were going to lose our office and where were we going to go. The Church of England had owned the property since 1881 when they saved it from demolition. Its origins can be traced back to the 15th Century and, having started as a private home for the Audley family, it became a workhouse in the 17th Century. Deemed to be no longer suitable for the needs of the Diocese, with a guide price of £2 million, it now awaits new owners.

So far it has not been possible to establish the exact date when Mothers' Union were first offered an office in Church House but we believe it was probably at least 40 years ago. Over that time, it has been a wonderful facility for our organization offering all the amenities we required. We have particularly benefited from its central position, generous space, it's kitchen and copious storage cupboards.

Finding somewhere else that offered similar accommodation was no easy task but we think that we have been extremely fortunate in being able to establish our new base in St Thomas's House. The actual move went really well thanks to the efficiency of the company from Andover who completed the task on the morning of Monday, 24th July, 2023. It was not simple as they had to make three trips as they could only use a small van capable of negotiating the archway into Church House. Also, due to St Thomas's House having no vehicular access, everything had to be carried from where the van could park, up a ramp to the front door and then up quite a narrow staircase to the first floor where our new office is located. Amazingly it didn't rain.

Packing up the office was quite challenging as, having had so much storage space, we seemed to have accumulated an inordinate amount of "stuff". We lost count of the bags of paper we filled for either recycling or shredding. For the most part we were able to find new homes for many items and very little actually went in the skip. We acquired two cupboards from the Diocese and purchasing some shelving will be our only expense.

We feel we are very blessed to have found such central new home and hope that members will enjoy visiting us. We are looking forward to giving you a warm welcome and a cup of tea/coffee should you feel like one.





Archive Corner

One of the delights in going through the files in the MU Office prior to our move from Church House to St Thomas's House has been the discovery of various old publications and the above are good examples.

These booklets give details of the Pageant that was organized in 1936 and which took place in The Royal

Albert Hall at the beginning of November to commemorate 60 years since the founding of Mothers' Union. The Pageant Master (who was also the designer and producer) was The Revd Eric Cheetham and on Page 4 of the coloured booklet he says:

"The Lord's Prayer is one of the chief treasures of Christendom and has proved throughout the ages its power to meet the needs of all sorts and conditions of Christian people.

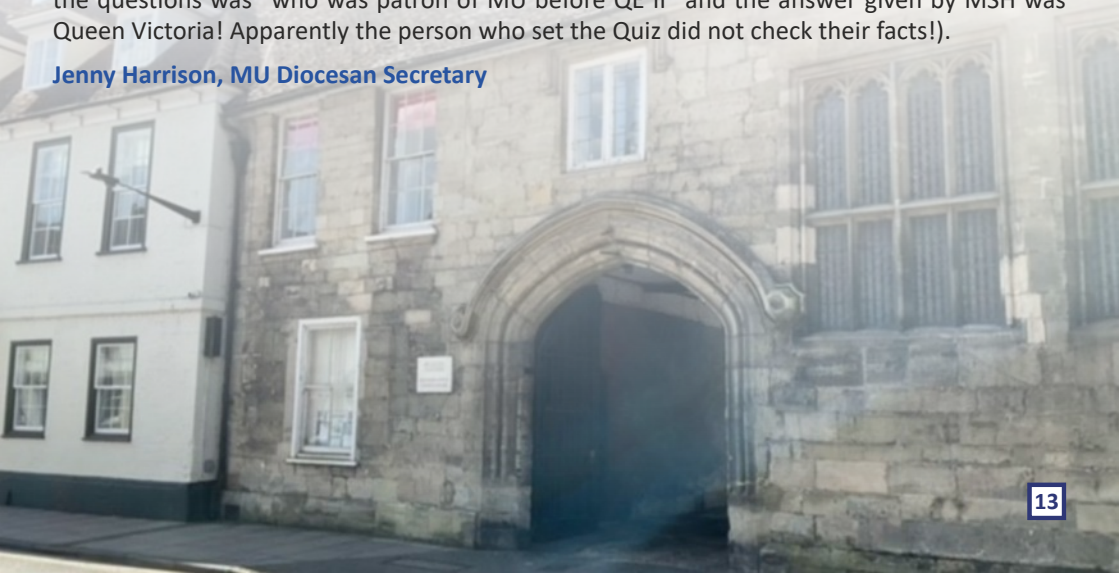
It is here presented in the form of a Pageant, as an act of thanksgiving to Almighty God for all the blessings bestowed on the Mothers' Union during the past sixty years, and as the expression of the Mothers' Prayer for the world, their country and their homes.

The Pageant is performed by members of the Mothers' Union, but the real success will depend upon the audience playing the part that has been assigned to it."

I imagine the Pageant would have been a glorious sight to witness and take part in as it opens with Trumpeters, the Choragus and a Company of Fair Women of the present year advancing down the terraced steps which can just about be seen on the front cover of the coloured booklet.

(Footnote: the smaller booklet indicates that the Patron of Mothers' Union in 1936 was Her Majesty Queen Mary. However, those of you who took part in the Quiz in memory of our late much-loved Queen Elizabeth II at the Autumn Gathering last year may remember that one of the questions was "who was patron of MU before QE II" and the answer given by MSH was Queen Victoria! Apparently the person who set the Quiz did not check their facts!).

Jenny Harrison, MU Diocesan Secretary



MUe - The Shop

It is with great pleasure that we can now inform you that our MU shop has been reinstated in our new office in St Thomas's House. Over the past years we have noticed that fewer members come to the shop in person. Now that we have moved to premises that, although central, are not as easily accessible as previously, this downward trend will undoubtedly continue. For this reason we suggest that, as far as is practical, members order direct from MUe at Mary Sumner House by post, telephone, email or online:-

MU Enterprises Ltd, Sales Office,
Mary Sumner House,
24 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3RB,
Tel: 020 7222 5533

Email: retail@mothersunion.org,
www.mueshop.org

We will continue to keep badges, membership cards and a selection of greeting and other cards in stock and we will take the shop to the Spring and Autumn Gatherings. Orders can still be taken but will incur postage costs if not collected in person either from the office or at one of the Gatherings.

Rosemary Allen – MUe Rep



Old shop



New shop



IN MEMORIAM -

We give thanks for the lives and dedication of the following members, all remembered with love.

Liz Robertson

Lorna Coombes

Josephine Haslam-Jones

Margery Gill

Ruby Thompson

John Loud

Pam Sotheran

Wilton MU

St Luke's Parkstone MU

St Luke's Parkstone MU

Former Diocesan President 1990-1997

Diocesan Member

(formerly of St Peter's Parkstone MU)

Heytesbury Deanery Treasurer

West Moors

Ruby Thompson

Strongly believing in the ethos and work of Mothers' Union, Ruby was an active and committed member of St Peter's Parkstone branch until its sad closure at the end of 2021. She served tirelessly on committee for many years, always to the fore in hospitality but supportive in every area and at every event. Ruby 'stood in' for the treasurer when needed and took on that responsibility for two years to help keep the branch going. Ruby had a gift for pastoral caring and contacting members in times of trouble or ill health. The following verse (source unknown), perfectly describes Ruby who is greatly missed:

*You always had a smile to share,
Time to give, time to care;
Sincere and true in heart and mind,
A beautiful memory left behind.*

Margery Gill

Margery Gill served as Diocesan President of the Salisbury Mothers' Union from 1988 until 1996. During these years many new initiatives and projects grew.

I had the privilege of working with Margery for many years and found that underneath her quiet exterior there was a wonderful sense of humour and we enjoyed many happy times of fun and fellowship. I especially remember the Deanery Chairman Conferences!

She was a person of great personal faith and led us as we upheld the foundation and primary purpose of the MU. That of prayer.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Alan and the family at this time.

"Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory" Margery.

Carol Reynolds

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Activism Service Against Gender Based Violence	Tuesday 21st November at 12 noon
Wave of Prayer	Salisbury Cathedral
Feast of the Annunciation	5 – 7 February 2024
	25 March 2024
(Date and venue of the Spring Gathering 2024 is yet to be confirmed)	

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL MU COMMUNION SERVICES – 2024

All Services take place in the Trinity Chapel of Salisbury Cathedral starting at 12 noon. Members will be notified if there is any change to these details.

Tuesday 23 January	Revd Julian Poppleton	Salisbury Deanery
Tuesday 27 February	TBC	
Tuesday 26 March	Revd Jane Dunlop	Alderbury Deanery
Tuesday 23 April	TBC	
Tuesday 28 May	Canon Nigel Davies	Vicar of The Close
Tuesday 25 June	TBC	
Tuesday 23 July	TBC	
	<i>(No Service in August)</i>	
Tuesday 24 September	Canon Michael Goater	Salisbury Deanery
Tuesday 22 October	Revd Lisa Rodrigues	Alderbury Deanery
November – Date TBC	Revd Jayne Tyrer	Mothers' Union Chaplain

BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2022 – 2024

Diocesan President (Chair)	Sandra Gamble
General Trustees	
Wilts Archdeaconry Chair	Marlene Haffenden
Sherborne Archdeaconry Chair	Jo Higgs
Dorset Archdeaconry Chair	Sheila Soper
	Liz Bowler
	Mike Bowler
	Jayne Davies
	Carole Jones
	Jocelyn Short
	Carrie Walsh

Co-opted Trustees

Diocesan Members' Contact	Rosemary Allen
Gift Aid	Alison Oakes
Ex-officio	
Secretary	Jenny Harrison
Chaplain	Revd Jane Tyrer
Treasurer	Suzanne Waters
Community Development Co-ordinator	Alice Page

Please send news for the Autumn edition of Windows to Mrs Elizabeth Goater,
17 Chiselbury Grove, Salisbury SP2 8EP, Tel: 01722 433855,
Or best by Email: lizgoater@hotmail.com

Before 1st February 2024