

DIOCESE OF SALISBURY MOTHERS' UNION - JANUARY 2026**S U M M E R W I N D O W S****A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT - SANDRA GAMBLE**

A theme prevails throughout Mothers' Union's Connected Spring 2026 edition – we have been here for 150 years and will be here in 150 years' time.

Now is the "New Dawn" says new Faith and Church Engagement Manager, Lucy Bubb. CEO, Bev Jullien, as she approaches her retirement after 10 years in the role, also reflects on the New Dawn – "there remains a journey to travel, to invite others in to join our Christian fellowship and shared commitment to action".



"So let us arise and shine, get up and glow for the next 150 years," writes WWP Kathleen Snow. This is certainly the year to shine a light on Mothers' Union. Rachel Anderson, Acting Communications & Marketing Director, remarks. "Communicating about our work is not about self-promotion. It is about witness." Remarks Acting Communications & Marketing Director, Rachel Anderson. And we should be looking not just internally, but externally too – of paramount importance to help communities and the wider society discover what a difference MU makes in our communities at grass root level.

I hope in your church or local area, you will feel encouraged to shine that light this year – if you are able.

In the Diocese, there have been, for many, many years, meeting the needs of our communities in diverse ways, the local community projects

- Away From it All (AFIA) holiday home now situated at Rockley Park, Poole
- The Virtual Babies in 7 schools (although continuation is proving difficult due to inability to find a volunteer willing to run it)
- Angel Tree in Erlestoke Prison at Christmas partnered with Prison Fellowship
- Knitting baby blankets for district hospital's maternity ward; and other items for those in need

But, of course, without fundraising efforts by you, our members, supporting these initiatives, they would have been unachievable.

In this 150th year, the central charity, Mothers' Union, is encouraging everyone to support, as best they can, their 150th Fundraising Challenge. Branches are encouraged to apply for the £150 seed funding on offer from MSH to help support local fundraising initiatives and turn the seed money into £1500 for the worldwide movement by the end of the year.

But to be here in 150 years' time requires Leadership. As part of reaching out, succession planning will always need volunteers to lead diocesan work as others step down, and this is the case, whether or not, in the short term, MU Salisbury Diocese becomes part of the southwest cluster and newly formed Mothers' Union South West. The current Board of Mothers' Union Salisbury will retire at the end of this Triennium and, finding new volunteers for the roles they leave will be crucial to the sustainability of MU in the Diocese. Director of Membership, Steph Nunn's, article in Connected "Empowering Leadership In Mothers' Union" highlights the importance.

In the meantime, however, our Windows editor, Liz Goater, is planning a bumper Windows Autumn 2026 edition and will need your help with descriptions and photos of local 150 celebratory events. The June diocesan celebrations, including the Cathedral service on 13 June and intended picnic/reception in the grounds of South Canonry, preparations of which are being led by Salisbury MU Trustee Carrie Walsh, are coming together. She is expecting in the region of 200 attending and 15 branches wishing to parade their banners. It will be spectacular!

Love and prayers and God's blessing to you all – **Sandra**

Important information about the service in Salisbury cathedral on 13 June appears at the end of this newsletter.

FINANCE NOTES

I have now received the audited financial statements and have to report that membership in 2025 was 583, a drop of seventy-six members and our working income and expenditure reports an overspend of £5,466. Unfortunately, our overspends will continue because of the continued drop in membership and increases in our day to day running costs. At our May Trustees meeting, a decision will have to be made to increase our membership subscription for 2027, (2026 portion to MSH is £25 out of our £35, we do not yet have notice of how much they will increase it for 2027), unfortunately when we increase our subscription members cancel their membership. We do have reserves but if we continue with the current overspends, challenging decisions will have to be made within a couple of years. The good news is our membership so far for 2026 stands at 550 and there are still a few to come, can we recruit some new members more during this year as we celebrate in our branches?

The trustees are now working hard to make our 150th celebrations the best they can be. I am really looking forward to Saturday 13 June, when we will all meet in Salisbury Cathedral and I know a lot of branches already have plans to celebrate and fund raise.

Please can I ask that all funds raised be sent to the office and not to Mary Sumner House, I will be writing to our treasurers with further details.

I continue to serve you as treasurer; it is over two years since I announced I wished to hand over the job, please continue to pray that someone will come forward. Is there someone you know who might be interested? I really do not want to step down and leave you without a treasurer.

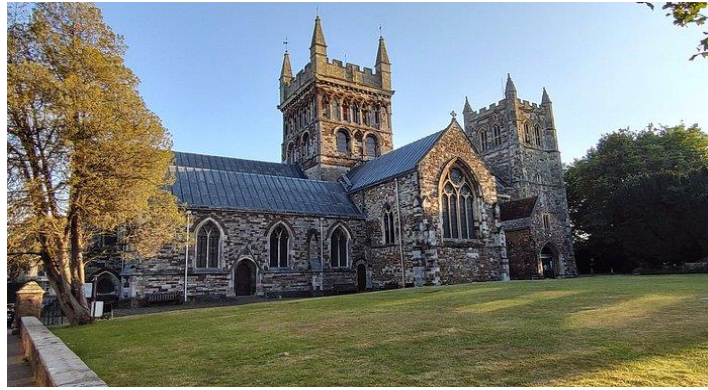
I would like to say 'A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE BRANCH TREASURERS' without your help I could not do my job. My thanks also to Alison for the gift aid work she does. It has been a difficult year with the Lloyds bank changes, which has meant changes in how we manage our branches. I have also had to change the bank details for our Holiday Fund; they are as follows:

Account name: Mothers Union/Sals Dioc/AFIA, Sort code: 30 97 41 Account No: 33314060. This is with immediate effect.

Many thanks **Suzanne**

My new MU Finance email address : mufinsals@outlook.com

WIMBORNE MINSTER



We have taken up the calls of 'Be Loud, Be Proud' and 'Join Us, Join In'. We are proud to have researched our history back to 1884. As part of our PR campaign, we have set up a large MU display board in a prominent position in the Minster. This gives information about MU as a whole as well as our branch. We have recruited 3 new members, so just 2 to go for the target we have been set. We are liaising with our Families Worker to engage with the Minsters young Mums who want to learn to knit. Our aim is to engage with them in an informal manner with the longer-term view that perhaps a younger generation MU group can be formed. To fully celebrate 150 years we are also organising, in liaison with our Families Worker, a family day event and formal Tea Party on 22 August. On that day we are taking over the Minster and the Minster Green. In the run up to the tea party there will also be a PR campaign that will include a revamp of our website page, articles in our local press, posters around Wimborne. We will also be attending the Cathedral service on 13 June before rushing back for our duties at the Wimborne Folk Festival.

WEST LAVINGTON

The Mothers' Union Mothering Sunday Service at All Saints Church, West Lavington led by Jackie Knipe, West Lavington MU Leader. The theme of the service was 'Nurturing'. The flowers were then distributed after the service to ladies of the village.



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HELP FOR UKRAINE

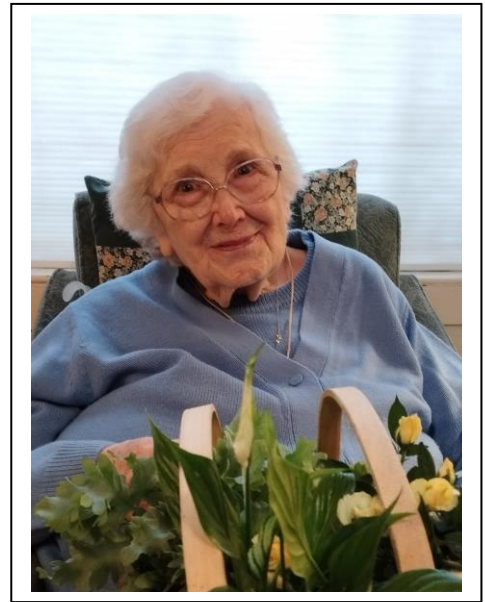
These are a selection of some of the items knitted by Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Salisbury which have been to needy families in the Ukraine.

Jeannette Worth – Celebrating 60 years membership of the Mothers' Union

It was the 2 March 1966 when I was enrolled in the Mothers' Union by Bishop John of Croydon at St John's Shirley, part of the Diocese of Canterbury. A 31-year-old, married mother of two – a son just turned 3 and a daughter 15 months. However, my journey to Christianity began long before.

Having been baptised as baby in 1935 at St Peter's Church Paddington my father's employer, Robert Bernays MP and former clergyman presented my parents with a Bible. It was dedicated to "Roberta", which my father had told him was my name, despite being baptised Jeannette Audrey Irene!

Growing up in wartime London, many families were poor and children would play in the streets – marbles, hopscotch and ball games. Very few cars in those days, only horses and carts. I recall sitting on the steps up to our house where we lived in a flat on the very top floor. One day, a lady dressed in a grey and burgundy uniform from the Church Army at Emmanuel Church, Harrow Road stopped to ask if she could speak to my mother. The lady asked my mother if the children could come to Sunday school? So, my brother and I went the next Sunday! We were given little text cards with bible quotations, which I have kept in my bible to this day.



I soon joined the Brownies and later the Girl Guides and I started going to Church. I loved it! My faith grew and at the aged of 12 years, I was confirmed at St Mary's Church, Paddington Green.

Due to family circumstances and despite winning a scholarship to the grammar school; my father insisted I left school in 1951 (the year that "O Levels" were introduced) to start work full-time at Woolworth's where I had worked Saturdays and school holidays. However, after making a chance telephone call to the BBC I landed a full-time job where I was able to pursue a career. Eventually managing the artists' wages, all calculated using punch card systems in the very early days of computing!

Three years later, romanced blossomed and then I married Ted at St Michael's Church, Wood Green in June 1956. Starting married life in Brixton, we then moved to our own home in Elmers End, near Beckenham, Kent and regularly attended St James' Church. In 1963, we were blessed with the arrival of our first child – a son. Then, 21 months later, our second child, a daughter.

Needing more space, we moved to Shirley, near Croydon in March 1965 where we attended St John's Church, Shirley. I was Churched soon after and our daughter was baptised in July. In an era when women left work to raise their children, I decided to attend a young women's fellowship group run by the Mothers' Union. The meetings were held during the daytime. I subsequently joined the Mothers' Union being enrolled on 2nd March 1966.

In 1970 we welcomed the arrival of our third child – a second daughter and, just as portrayed in the very popular Call the Midwife TV series, ante-natal classes were held in the Church Hall along with the road safety Tufty Club for the younger siblings.

I moved to East Ham in 1982, in the London borough of Newham where I transferred to the Mothers' Union branch at my local church - St Paul's Church, East Ham. Five years later, I was admitted as enrolling member of St Paul's East Ham branch on 14th July 1987.

I became Newham's Young family representative shortly after and attended all the council meetings in Chelmsford. At one of the council meetings, somebody touched my shoulder. It was a lady called Audrey Todd, who I had worked with at the BBC many years earlier and had lost touch with. Now, both in our nineties, we have remained in touch ever since!

The East Ham branch had monthly meetings and to encourage new members, I held Knit & Natter social gatherings in my home. Many women of all ages would join us to enjoy an afternoon sharing their knitting skills making an array of garments from hats, gloves, scarves, jumpers to blankets and toys; and of course, some good company! We even made a large number of Mothers' Union church kneelers. One elderly lady, who had no family, I would collect in a wheelchair before the meeting and take home again afterwards – she loved it!

We also had regular outings to the theatre, pantomimes and even day trips to Bruges and Calais by coach going through the newly opened Channel Tunnel.

In 1998, I moved to the village of Hilperton, Wiltshire but continued to return to East Ham for Mothers' Union meetings and my charity fundraising for the Royal National Institute for the Blind.

One day at the church gate of St Michael's and All Angels Church in Hilperton, I was stopped by a lady who had spotted I was wearing my Mothers' Union badge. It turned out she was a member of the Mothers' Union branch at St James' Church in Trowbridge. I was delighted to learn there was a local branch and I soon transferred.

When I eventually gave up travelling due to replacement hip and knee, the new lady curate at St Paul's Church, East Ham offered to take over the group which I had run for 22 years. Chelmsford diocese sent me a letter of thanks for my 22 years' service.

For the last 27 years I have enjoyed the monthly meetings at St James' Hall, as well as outings to other village groups in the deanery. On one such occasion Bishop Nick from Salisbury Cathedral came to give a teaching day.

Over the past 60 years of my Mothers' Union membership, it has been a privilege to enjoy the fellowship of so many. Despite having become housebound 3 years ago, my Christian faith and the Mothers' Union has still found a way to bring joy. Many of my carers come from Zimbabwe and their mothers are in the Mothers' Union too! I sent my Mother's Union cross on a chain to one in particular - she was thrilled to receive it, and she wears it to church every week.

Jeannette Worth

A.F.I.A - Rockley Park Holiday Home, Poole

The Holiday Home was 'woken up' and kitted out on March 10th by Jill Beech, Pam Ellis, Elaine Sullivan, me and my husband Jeremy! The Winter period and battering rain had caused a few damp issues to the furnishings which were identified prior to the opening-up. Dehumidifiers had been

placed in all the rooms last Autumn when the Holiday Home was closed up, emptied out and water and heating systems drained down, which had certainly helped, but were not robust enough to cope with the excessive damp caused by the rain and cold. Thankfully, our cleaner Tracey was able to loan us an electric dehumidifier. This was most efficient and, along with the very efficient heating we have, now that everything is reconnected, it helped dry out the home well enough to make it habitable for our guests. New pillows, protectors and pillow cases had been bought along with egg cups, which also seemed to have disappeared last season!

The season at our Holiday Home started well with both weeks of the Easter School holidays taken by families who seemed very happy to have had the opportunity of an early holiday. The facilities at Rockley Park are excellent and all our guests enjoy special privileges from being 'Friends and Family' of the Owners of the Holiday Home – You!

Bookings for the remainder of the School holidays in July and August are good, but outside of those dates the Holiday Home will be standing idle for a lot of the time, unfortunately. This is such a shame as it is an ideal location for families with young children and MU members to have a relaxing and enjoyable time away. Comfortably sleeping 6, (8 if the pull-out bed is used), all bedding is provided, discounts are given at the Supermarket and guests are given exclusive access to the 'Tides' Owners-only complex. Please consider it when thinking about your next break, or if you just need to get away for some R & R.

Alison Oakes
Holiday Home bookings

SHERBORNE

Our Deanery was visited by Bishop Isaac and his wife Mama Nora from our link diocese of Ezo in South Sudan. Nora came to speak at our meeting and told us much about the work of the MU in that place. She was a wonderful speaker, full of the Spirit of God.



Sherborne Activities for MU 150th celebrations

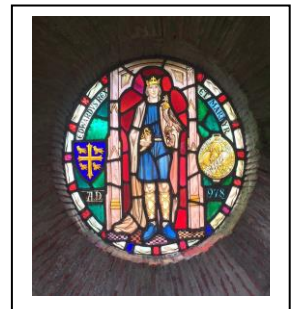
Here are our fundraising and other activities in honour of MU's 150 years.

- 1) May 6, 7 and 8. A sponsored walk along St. Edward's Way.
 - 2) Our MU board in the Abbey will feature the History of the MU. This display will then be moved to a charity shopwindow in Cheap Street, Sherborne.
 - 3) A further MU board display will highlight (with Biblical references) 150 plants mentioned in the Bible
 - 4) A member is repairing, at considerable cost in time and money, our MU banner in order to have it looking at its best for our Service on June 13th in Salisbury Cathedral.
 - 5) Over a number of weeks members have been coming up with the names of British flowers (150 again) and making a monetary donation at the same time. A member will then paint a picture, in the shape of a cross, surrounded by these flowers. From this, copies will be made and sold as bookmarks in the Abbey Shop. These activities have involved all members of our Branch in one way or another and have increased our publicity in Sherborne.
- This is lengthy, so up to you to pick and choose !



Over three days at the beginning of May eight members of the Sherborne MU

branch walked St Edward's Way in Dorset. Beginning at Lady St Mary Church in Wareham where we received a blessing from the Revd Hilary Bond, the group set out on this ancient way following the route taken by those carrying the remains of St Edward following his death at the hands of his stepmother at Corfe Castle. We finished day 1 at Winterborne Kingston having enjoyed a walk across the heathland of Wareham Forest. Day 2 was quite a long day and took us through some glorious Dorset countryside where we enjoyed fields of wild flowers and beautiful views across Dorset. Eventually we arrived at Shillingstone. Our final day saw us heading towards Shaftesbury, around Hambledon Hill before finally arriving in Shaftesbury via Gold Hill and then on to Shaftesbury Abbey where a very welcome cup of tea and delicious lemon drizzle cake was waiting for us. Shaftesbury Abbey was the final resting place of St Edward before it was moved once more it was moved once more in 1988 to the Russian Orthodox Church of St Edward the Martyr in Brookwood Surrey.



Why did eight ladies of a certain age do this? To mark the 150th anniversary of the Mothers' Union and to raise money for the MU Literacy Programme. At the time of writing we are set to have raised about £3000.

HARNHAM

A Soup and Sweets this April was held on a Sunday to coincide with St George's patronal festival. We had around 60 people enjoying a variety of soups and delicious deserts, happily chatting and making new friends. It was a good advertisement for Mothers' Union both here and overseas.



We raised £582 from the lunch and with a previous donation of £450 we have met the target for the plough!! So we have written to Archbishop Charles to let him know the good news.

This was our challenge for the 150th anniversary.

Will you help us buy an oxen plough like this for our Mothers' Union link in Torit, South Sudan?

An oxen plough is essential to prepare the soil for planting especially after crops like maize, sorghum and cassava. Hiring one is expensive and it is not available when needed, whereas owning one means the Church members can plough the fields at the right time and hire it out at other times to gain more income. The total cost is 5 million Ugandan shillings!! In pounds about £1000.

Can we do it?

We are also celebrating the 150th year with a visit to Old Alresford in July where we are having a short service in the church followed by a walk round the village, a talk and lunch in the pub.

New MU Chaplain

We are delighted to welcome Revd Sarah Wood-Roe as our new MU Chaplain for Salisbury Diocese. She will be licensed during our 150th Celebration Service on Saturday 13th June by The Ven. Penny Sayer, Archdeacon of Sherborne. Sarah has been invited to preach at the service.

Sarah is also Chaplain to the Bishop of Salisbury and will continue in that role. Sarah was appointed Bishop Chaplain in September 2023 after serving as Associate Priest at St Lawrence Church, Stratford-sub-Castle in the Benefice of St Francis.

ALL SAINTS WESTBURY

We were delighted to enrol 2 new members for our MU branch at our Patronal Festival in November.



We have been busy knitting teddies for Salisbury Hospital.



We have endeavoured to gain the Bronze Award and had 2 speakers from Fear Free in Trowbridge this year. They gave us an insight into their work with victims of Domestic Abuse in Wiltshire.



GUERNSEY

Here are details of our 150th Anniversary Celebration for the Mothers' Union. The Rector of Vale Church has agreed to hold a Service of Dedication to the Mothers' Union on Sunday, 9 August at 10.30am. We have already spoken about the Service which I hope will be enjoyed by those who attend. It will be followed by a lunch at a hotel. If anyone is visiting Guernsey at this time and would like to attend the service and lunch they would be made most welcome.

Please email me for more details: tcbr@cwgsy.net. Therese Roussel, Guernsey

Celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union at Salisbury Cathedral

Our Service of Celebration for this wonderful year takes place on Saturday 13th June in Salisbury Cathedral starting at 11pm. The service will be led by the Right Reverend Bishop John Inge, honorary assistant bishop in the Diocese of Salisbury. Bishop Inge was formerly Bishop of Worcester retiring in 2024 before moving to Wiltshire and we are very pleased that he has agreed to take our service. During the service The Ven Penny Sayer, Archdeacon of Sherborne will licence Revd Sarah Wood-Roe. as our new MU Chaplain.

The Service will be held in the Quire. Please be seated by 10.50a.m. There will be a parade of MU Banners both at the start and end of the service. Following the service, we will all move to the West Door for photographs to commemorate this special occasion. Following the photographs please make your way to the South Cloister where we will be holding our picnic and enjoying a Celebration Cake. Full details of all the arrangements, including parking and where to leave your picnics and chairs, will be coming out shortly.

We look forward to seeing you as many of you as possible and having a memorable day.

Carrie Walsh, Trustee

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

St Paul's service	5.00 pm 10 June 2026
Salisbury Cathedral Service	11.00 am, 13 June, 2026. To celebrate 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union
Autumn Gathering and AGM	17 October at Woodford Valley Village Hall, Woodford Road, Salisbury, SP4 6NR
16 Days of Activism	Salisbury Cathedral Trinity Chapel 12pm 17 November

IN MEMORIUM

Joyce Walker	Diocesan
Ruby Barnes	Blandford
Phylis Davies	Sherbourne

Please send news for the Autumn edition of Windows before 10 September 2026

to Mrs Elizabeth Goater, 17 Chiselbury Grove, Salisbury SP2 8EP. Tel: 01722 433855,

or best by email: lizgoater@hotmail.com

Please send pictures and photos in a separate file and not as part of the article.