



Windows

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

Autumn 2026

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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.

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A Message From Our President - Sandra Gamble



Dear All

Welcome to the Autumn edition of Windows for 2026, the year we have celebrated and continue to celebrate with joy and pride 150 years from the founding by Mary Sumner of the phenomenal worldwide movement that is Mothers' Union.

The year began in splendour as members from the Diocese attended, along with members from all MU's dioceses, the celebratory service at St Paul's in June led by the Archbishop of Canterbury - those unable to be there in person watching it unfold at home via live streaming. Then our own Eucharist at our local cathedral in Salisbury led by the honorary assistant Bishop of Salisbury, the Right Revd Dr John Inge, with an uplifting homily from our newly commissioned Diocesan Chaplain, Revd Sarah Wood-Rowe. There is now the excitement of the worldwide Gathering in Durban, South Africa in October, the pinnacle of the year's events marking the movement's outstanding 150th milestone.



In this brilliant bumper edition of Windows, our Diocesan Editor has brought together a patchwork of fantastic occasions and happenings that you, our members, created and staged to commemorate our long Mothers' Union history and achievements, globally nurturing families in their many forms. Windows 2026 provides cherished diocesan, branch and group moments and memories to visit and revisit.

And, as we step into the final year of this Triennium, let's please take the joy and pride we have experienced in this celebratory year of 2026 with us - "arise and shine", as urged by our worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, "get up and glow for the next 150 years"!

With heartfelt thanks for your many magnificent contributions to 2026.

Love and prayers and God's blessings to all – **Sandra**



Chaplain's Chat

It was a great privilege to be at the service to mark 150 years of the Mother's Union in the Cathedral in June and to be licenced as your new chaplain. What a wonderful occasion it was. It was so good to meet many of you and I am really looking forward to getting to know you all over time. As I have still not met many of you, I thought it might be helpful to introduce myself.

I was born in Devizes, baptised at St James's Church in Devizes but then began attending the church of St Mary the Virgin, Bishops Cannings when I was at primary school and joined the church choir. I consider this church my spiritual home – it was here that I first sensed my calling to ordination; it is here that I was confirmed, where I preached my first sermon and then was married some years ago. Growing up as part of this church installed in me a love for parish ministry, and indeed rural ministry, which has never left me. The good folk of that church became like a second family to me – loving, supporting and encouraging me in my faith in ways which continue to shape and form me today. Before I knew it I was being encouraged to read the lesson, prepare and read the intercessions and serve at the Altar – it was all very special and I thank God for them and their faithful example every day.

I was also fortunate to be surrounded by family members who nurtured and supported me in my faith. My parents took my sister and I to church every Sunday. My great Aunt – herself a member of the Mother's Union as were my other aunts and maternal grandmother – were all faithful Christian women. They were young children in the aftermath of World War One and so were young adults during World War Two witnessing, from the home front, the horrors of another war. For them, faith was always to be lived out and they did this through the Mother's Union and their local parish church, seeking to support, serve and encourage others on the way. My paternal grandparents were equally as influential on my life. They didn't desire travel or grand adventures but instead delighted in their garden, fly fishing for my grandad and meeting friends and chatting (a lot!) for my grandmother - she knew everyone in Devizes where she lived for most of her life. Crucially, they were always just there for my sister and I – to listen, to laugh, to encourage and to remind us – even as we were bombarded with opportunities and adventures they had never been offered – that a life well lived was one that was good, honest and faithful.

I was ordained 18 years ago this month and have served in Poole, in two benefices on the outskirts of Salisbury and earlier on in my ministry, I was a school chaplain in Leatherhead. My current role is Chaplain to the Acting Bishop of Salisbury, Bishop Karen. I live in Salisbury with my husband, two children and our very loving but naughty labradoodle. All that I have written above can read like something from *This is Your Life* but I hope it also shows something quite important. In a world of big gestures and looking for big impact; where success is measured in numbers of people joining or 'following' us, we can forget that sometimes small things can be transformational. Layer by layer throughout my life, and I am sure it is the same for many of you reading this, there have been a number of small gestures which have made an enormous difference; offers of support; a listening ear; an example of serving others and words of encouragement. All this has shown me the love of God, what it is to serve and therefore how we can love and serve the people of God – all people.

In our times of significant global uncertainty, it strikes me that the ongoing work and calling of the Mother's Union is needed now more than ever. Something that started with tiny seeds 150 years ago has impacted so many, changed lives and brought people

to faith. The Mother's Union has changed over time, it continues to change, but layer upon layer in gestures big and small, it continues to help, support and encourage people all over the world. This is transformational, it does make an enormous difference to the lives of many people and it still moves forward – all of us together, locally, nationally and globally.

I am really looking forward to meeting more of you over time and to playing my part in helping the Mother's Union continue to thrive into the next 150 years. **Sarah**

FINANCE NOTES

The 2025 Annual report has been completed and will be available at the Autumn gathering at Woodford Village Hall, Middle Woodford. Our membership in 2025 was 583, this year, 2026 our membership is 563, a smaller drop and hopefully following our successful 150th celebrations we will see some new members join us in 2027 and our members enthused with all that is good in the Mothers' Union.

At our September Trustees meeting, a decision was made to increase our membership subscription by £3 for 2027, we have held it at £35 for three years but now because of the continuing pattern of overspends the new subscription will be £38 per member, joint membership £66 (MSH portion remains at £25). We do have reserves, by Charity Law we must hold reserves, if we continue with the current overspends challenging decisions will still need to be made, we are doing our best to keep expenditure as low as possible without failing to keep in touch with you all.

By comparison in 2015 our working income was £43,943, expenditure £40,910. Membership was 1,622 108 D/M's 1,514 branch. Subscription was £20 per member. 2025 Income £30,334 Expenditure £37,965 Membership 583 91D/M's 452 branch 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, can you ask in your local churches? 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 ALISON OAKES AND ALL THE BRANCH TREASURERS,' without your help I could not do my job. Please do not forget to tick the gift aid box if you pay HMRC income tax.

Please check that you have updated your records for the Holiday Fund as follows:

Account name: **Mothers Union/Sals Dioc/AFIA** Sort code: **30 97 41** Acc.No: **33314060**

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

Many thanks **Suzanne**

Branch News

CALNE

Mary Sumner Day and 150 Years of Mothers' Union was celebrated on 10th August in St Mary's Church. Friends from Derry Hill and Trowbridge Mothers' Union branches joined Calne branch for a very enjoyable service with an inspirational talk from Suzanne Waters the Diocesan MU Treasurer and a Trustee.

WILTON

Wilton MU group's outing to Tisbury church took place in July where we saw the magnificent new window, recently voted the best in the country! It contains more than 50 figures and 50 creatures, from deer to butterflies. After a talk about how the window was created to commemorate things dear to the congregation's hearts we had a special service compiled by Rev Jo Naish, during which we were asked to reflect on what we found most meaningful personally from all the various scenes depicted. We were also

treated to a delicious cream tea in the Church Hall afterwards, arranged by Jo.

Throughout August Wilton Members were challenged to Donate. Pray and take Action in a 'Count Your Blessings' appeal. It was just as much a call to pray for our many MU activities and appeals as to raise money and take linked actions. As we prayed for the AFIA holiday, we knitted little bears for the children and donated towards running costs. We prayed for our linked provinces in Kenya, and donated

10p to the Overseas Fund for every time that week we had a drink of tea or coffee, two main exports from that country.

Members were encouraged to come to the mid-week Holy Communion service nearest to Mary Sumner Day, pop a grocery item into the church's Food Bank box and knit, or donate a ball of wool, towards the hospital's

Baby Blankets scheme - and nearly 20 blankets were completed that month.

When we prayed for our Indoor Members, we were asked to knit a hat for Cancer patients. When we prayed for the Women's Refuge we were asked to buy a voucher for presents for those living there and when we prayed for the MU Literacy Fund we had to find a book or two to bring for our next 'Bookswap' table. The donations, both in cash and in kind, were taken to our first group meeting in September.





LAVERSTOCK

Laverstock MU held their annual Garden Party on 13th August in St Andrew's churchyard – on the hottest day of the year!

We weren't sure how many people would come in the heat, but we had a very gentle and relaxed afternoon with



both members and villagers who came to support us. The ice-creams and lollies were popular! And we had a range of home-made cakes and scones. The children were kept occupied by organised activities. We raised just over £500 for MU projects.



WEST MOORS

Here at St Mary's West Moors Mothers' Union we celebrated 150 years of MU at the 10am service on June 14th. The key roles in the service were undertaken by members, who chose all the hymns. Our secretary Alyson Scott LLM, gave the address outlining the work of MU worldwide. The congregation were given copies of the MU prayer so they could all join in during the intercessions. During the service I presented certificate many of our members

for the longevity of membership. Dawn Beek had been a member for 60 years, Mary Keegan and Pam Pendergast had clocked up 50 years. Many were 40, and 30 years. As we always do at our Church after the service there was tea/coffee and a celebratory cake made by Alison Butler a member.



ST THOMAS' ENSBURY PARK BOURNEMOUTH

We celebrated the 150th Anniversary in July with a Cream Tea which included a Raffle and Quiz. We set out a display of our MU memorabilia dating back to 1953 for people to view. We have also been holding a fundraising collection in the form of a money line with people putting £1 coins on the circles. We are hoping to raise £150. Last year members were sent out a packet of Sunflower seeds. Pam Steed one of our members planted them.

The picture shows an amazing result.



HARNHAM

In July members of Harnham and a few from Laverstock celebrated the 150th anniversary by visiting Old Alresford where Mary Sumner lived and where the Mothers' Union was founded. We were greeted by members of the current MU with tea, coffee and cakes. We looked around the church and then had a short service. This was followed by the bells being rung and then we went to have an excellent lunch in Alresford.



History of MU and Old Alresford

In Old Alresford the church of St Mary's is famous for its association with Mary Sumner. She lived in Old Alresford Place and began a support group for village mothers in 1876, which became the Mothers' Union. She was the wife of the vicar at the time. In 2015 a window in the south transept of the church was dedicated to Mary Sumner and the area is now known as the Mary Sumner chapel.



There is a plaque on the wall of the church commemorating the life and achievements of Mary Sumner, and several banners which have been used by local Mothers' Union groups in past processions.

Mary Sumner



Salisbury Diocesan Guild Old Alresford, Hampshire,
St Mary
Thursday, 23 July 2026 in 46m (10–0–9 in G)
1260 Plain Bob Doubles

- 1 Dorothy France
- 2 Elizabeth Johnson
- 3 Susan Smith
- 4 Patricia Davidson C (Harnham Branch)
- 5 Ruth Beavin (St James, Trowbridge Branch)
- 6 Jessica Hay

Rung by members and local ringers following a service for the 150th Anniversary of Mothers Union. It was here at Old Alresford Rectory that Mary Sumner held the first meeting in 1876.

DILTON MARSH - Lighting the way for generations to come

Our contributions to this have been truly blessed and it was with love and joy in our hearts that we involved ourselves in fundraising and promoting the work that we do.

Seven of our members in Dilton Marsh enjoyed tea in the Salisbury Cathedral Cloisters following the Service of the Word. During the service our branch banner was carried in a procession from the font to the altar in the cathedral's Quire.



On August 4 we held a fundraising cream tea in the church to which all the villagers were invited. A big success. Great enjoyment and jollity which together with a raffle raised £450 towards our Mother's Union national goal. Our special part of this afternoon was our display. With materials loaned to us by Salisbury and also the Salisbury banner to promote Mother's Union we put together a stunning display of boards explaining the work we do. 'Rise Up' Mother's Union fight against domestic abuse, a display of the 'souls' of our shoes, each of us loaning a shoe which matched



the various 'voices' of the sufferer. The Literacy Campaign, Virtual Baby into schools explaining the point of it. Rockley Park holiday home with its on site facilities being available to those in need. Supporting Erlesoke Prison for men in our diocese where within the Angel Tree project , the children of prisoners receive wrapped gifts at Christmas. The very many other ongoing projects, Ending injustice, Ending poverty, Ending violence, Ending modern slavery. These boards and material stayed in place for five days as our church is open each day.

On Mary Sumner day we gathered in Holy Trinity Dilton Marsh for a special service of commemoration where special intercessions and Mother's Union prayers were said. Thank you God.

WIMBORNE

On 22nd August 2026 we held an all-day 150th Celebration with our Minster Families. Thankfully, God answered our prayers, and the weather was sunny, dry and not too hot. On the Minster Green we had 2 adorable Sardinian donkeys, a children's entertainer doing science and sending rockets into the air, painting, kite flying, a Minster Mum doing hand massage & express nails and teddies using a zipwire from the Bell Tower. Throughout the morning, we served refreshments in the Minster.

At 2.30pm Di Hiscock, our Leader and Revd. Canon Andrew Rowland, our Rector opened our Tea Party. The Rector told an amusing fictional story about one of our first MU members in 1884. Di cut the celebration cake she had made for us.

The aim of the day was to raise the profile of Mothers' Union, encourage recruitment and to find out what would make younger women join us and join in. We did also



raise some money through donations.

We now wait to see if any of those who showed interest in us will come and try us out. In the meantime, we will be following through on the feedback received from the younger women.





WESTBURY

We celebrated the 150th Anniversary of Mary Sumner on an exceptionally hot day and despite the heat we were very pleased to welcome over 30 guests. We decorated the Hall with bunting, balloons and a display of booklets and pamphlets and erected our display

board. Everyone seemed to enjoy this social occasion.



BRIDPORT AND BOTHENHAMPTON

The P&F Group - Bridport and Bothenhampton celebrate the 95th birthday on Tuesday 13th October 2026 and the remarkable life of a long-standing MU member of over 50 years' service, Marjorie Lathey. Marjorie has certificates both for 75 years as a collector for the Royal British Legion and 70 years as a member of the British Red Cross.

Recently, our small group chose to answer the government questionnaire, 'Growing up in an on-line world', we found this challenging but it was important to put across our view. Both

Eileen Fuszard a former MU Treasurer and Jill Pryke a former MU Leader relate many happy and challenging memories when our Branch was larger.

Joan Hand assisted in completing a Memory board covering many years of our branch, which will be displayed at St. Mary's Church, Bridport during the town's Quilt Festival.

Amongst everything else, it has been a learning experience to share time with such down-to-earth MU members and to celebrate our 150 years with Jo Higgs.

Michele and James Craddock

URCHFONT

Scarecrow Weekend Flower Festival

Each year hundreds of people come to Urchfont over the May Bank holiday to try to identify about 50 scarecrows arranged on a route around the village. Many residents are involved in supporting the event, selling programmes and souvenirs and providing refreshments for the



At the same time our beautiful church is open. There is a prayer corner with opportunities to light a candle and add a reflection to our prayer tree. Members of the church provide activities and refreshments for children, and there are performances by the bell ringers and the handbells. There is a Songs of Praise Service on Sunday evening with the congregation choosing their favourite hymns.

Our many village organisations also provide flower arrangements. This year's Mothers' Union arrangement included several arrangements and objects illustrating our aims and projects.

HOLY TRINITY WITH CHRISTCHURCH

On Mary Sumner Day, Holy Trinity with Christchurch Mothers' Union, Bradford on Avon, held their service celebrating 150 years of our organisation. The service was held in Holy Trinity Church and was the main service of the day being held at the same time of 9.30am when our main Sunday services are held. The service was conducted by one of members, the Venerable Ian Stanes.

Jill Wright gave the talk and I enrolled two new members, Jane & Mal, and welcomed Jill from Norwich now joining our branch. Our Rector, Jenny, kindly agreed that the collection taken from the service should all go to the Mothers' Union. This amounted to £322 for our funds. Of course, we had to end with drinks & cake to celebrate this wonderful occasion of 150 years of the Mothers' Union. I was handed the knife by Sally, our cake maker, to cut the first piece of the cake. I was delighted and so thankful to everyone for embracing and supporting this wonderful occasion.

WOODFORD

In celebration of the 150th anniversary the Woodford Valley branch's fund-raising event, was a Fuchsia growing competition. In April, we purchased twenty-eight fuchsia plugs, potted them up, for a donation members and friends took a plant. These were nurtured throughout

the summer; sadly, some did not survive the heat waves we have experienced.

Finally, on Saturday 8th August, on a perfect summer evening, we gathered in the garden of one of our members. Of the twenty-eight plants, fourteen fuchsias were judged

by Mrs Gina Rawle the sister of a member of our parish.



After much deliberation Mrs Jenny Hazzard was declared the winner and awarded a beautiful purple Salvia plant. We raised £140 for the 150th Appeal.

St Paul's Service

On Wednesday, 10th June 1,500 members from the UK and around world gathered in St Paul's Cathedral in London to celebrate 150 Years of Mothers' Union. Seven of us from the Diocese of Salisbury managed to meet up so we could sit together for this memorable occasion. From the attached photo you can see we were quite far back but, although our view was restricted, the sound system worked well. It was a wonderful feeling to be there amongst so many kindred spirits to enjoy this unique experience. It was an evening Eucharist with uplifting hymns and choral music celebrating the 150 years of faithful and dedicated witness of MU.

Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President, gave a testimony and the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Dame Sarah Mullally, Archbishop of Canterbury, Patron of MU, led the service. In her sermon she reflected on both the legacy of our founder, Mary Sumner, and the continuing relevance of MU today. When we left we were not only enthused by what we had seen and heard but we were greeted outside by sunshine and the uplifting sound of the cathedral's bells.



ANNUAL GATHERING LONDON 2026

On Thursday, 11th June, Mothers' Union held its 2026 Annual Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, Marsham Street, London. This was a new venue for this event and was attended by 600 members. The meeting opened with prayers led by the newly appointed MU Bishop Ambassador, the Right Reverend Kelly Betteridge, Bishop of Basingstoke, followed by welcomes from both Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President, and Bev Jullien, Chief Executive Officer. The morning session covered reflections from previous Worldwide Presidents, one on video and the other five in person. After Midday prayers two major projects, "Rise Up" (domestic abuse) and AFIA (away from it all) holidays

were showcased with examples of their success in several diocese. In the afternoon the focus was on Prisons, Hospitals and Homelessness and Global MU. Looking to the future, Safeguarding was featured but the most important topics were the two partnerships which have been undertaken. The first is with the Clewer Initiative (antislavery) and the second with the Girls' Brigade (impacting our young people for the future). The final topic was "Securing our Future - Lighting the Way" growing MU. Before the meeting ended there was a presentation to Bev Jullien who has been CEO of MU for nearly 11 years. Many tributes were made acknowledging her outstanding service to the organisation. Finally we sang Mary Sumner's personal prayer which had **12** been recently set to music by the Reverend Richard-Oxley.

Diocesan President's June 13, 2026, Presentation in the Cathedral Cloisters

As Salisbury Diocese Mothers' Union President, it is a joy to welcome and thank you for being here today to celebrate with us 150 years.

In 1876, our founder Mary Sumner's vision was that women could all support one another in MOTHERHOOD regardless of class, age and status – which was very advanced thinking for its time and with no online mums.net yet to consult. The principles on which her work focused included the recognition that faith is the foundation of family life.

And faith and prayer continue to be at the heart of everything Mothers' Union members do - as witnessed this week in St Paul's at the 150th celebratory service led by the archbishop - and whether we live here in Britain and Ireland, or in one of the many countries around the globe – of which there are 83 with roughly 4 million Mothers' Union members.

Our fundamental focus has remained steady over the last 150 years – demonstrating faith in action by the transformation of communities worldwide, through the nurture of the family in its many forms, working

with people of all faiths and none. In Britain & Ireland, we support the Mothers' Union three Pillars: Ending Injustice, Ending Violence and Ending Poverty through community grassroot projects and national and international programmes in which we personally participate or for which we fundraise.

Our four flagship national programmes today include:

Domestic Abuse - working closely with local domestic violence refuges.

Away From It All (AFIA) – supporting families in adversity through the provision of holidays and trips.

Prisons Work - centring on supporting the continued connection between individuals in prison and their families.

Modern Slavery – which will raise awareness about Modern Slavery in our local communities and provide access to relevant agencies that help.

Mothers' Union's global programmes - including in Burundi, South Sudan, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Uganda - seek to sustainably address poverty, injustice, and gender-based violence through a grassroots, community-led approach that empowers vulnerable individuals, particularly women, - by focusing on literacy education, financial independence, parenting and shifting harmful societal norms.





While here, in the Diocese of Salisbury, we:

- own a 6-bed holiday mobile home at Rockley Park, Poole which is let out to assisted families who need a break
- in partnership with the charity Prison Fellowship, we fund, purchase, wrap and send, as if from the parent, Christmas presents to the children of prisoners in HMP Erlestoke
- knit baby blankets (hundreds during a year!) for mothers-in-need leaving Salisbury District Hospital's maternity ward
- work with local secondary schools focusing on the issue of parenting and pregnancy, using as a catalyst a set of virtual babies, looking to encourage individual self-awareness, confidence and aspiration
- support the women and their children who seek sanctuary from domestic abuse in Salisbury Women's Refuge by providing essentials such as toiletries, clothing, toys
- work to raise awareness of the repressive issue of gender-based violence through organisation of an annual communion service in Salisbury Cathedral and via our Rise UP! Project to raise awareness of domestic abuse.

It was in a parlour in Alresford, Hampshire in 1876 that the birth of the eventual global Mothers' Union movement began. Then, from Mary standing up at the 1885 church congress in Portsmouth and 57 branches quickly appearing – "Those that rock the cradle rule the world," she told them - followed by further growth globally as families moved overseas, particularly throughout the Commonwealth, followed by yet more reach in support of women's suffrage and, since her death, Mothers' Union in 2000 gaining consultative status at the UN on poverty, gender equality and HIV/AIDS and in 2010 the launch of the Bye Buy Childhood campaign– all some only of why we are here today!



At the culmination of 150 years, it is not surprisingly - on our record to date - that our Worldwide President Kathleen Snow urges us "to arise and shine, get up and glow for the next 150 years". For too long, we've hidden our light. Now is the time!

Sandra Gamble

Sudan Medical Link Garden Party - As the South Canonry was not available this year, the Sudan Medical Link Garden Party was held on Sunday, 7th June in the grounds of the Cathedral School. It proved to be an excellent venue but didn't attract quite the number of visitors as in previous years although a record sum of nearly, £10,000 was raised. The Mothers' Union stall was in a prominent position and many people were interested in our project. We sold three stole kits but our main function was to talk about all MU does in support of the populations in the Sudans as they continue to combat both conflict and famine. This is particularly relevant in our 150th Anniversary Year.

It was good to be able to attend the Sudan's Day again and to set out a stall displaying the long-established Clerical Stoles project. Other displays included Juba Diocesan Model Secondary School (celebrating 20 years), Bishop Allison Theological College, the Episcopal University, Mission Aviation Fellowship and the Callard's remade cards in aid of the Medical Link. The main speaker was Patrick Watt, CEO of Christian Aid, followed by Benjamin Avelino. Patrick outlined the challenges of working in a vast, war torn, poor country but was confident that the CA model - working through local partners - was effective. Ben had travelled from Sheffield, where he works in education, to tell us about his journey from growing up in Sudan, during a rare moment of peace, through further and higher education abroad. As part of the Sudan Diaspora he does all he can, informing and influencing movers and shakers, to promote Peace Building in South Sudan. Both speakers faced questions about the upcoming elections and both had reservations about it. On GAFCOM, the breakaway Anglicans, Patrick said it made no difference; Christian Aid works with all Christian churches in the Sudans. The afternoon session focused on healthcare projects, education initiatives and the Deanery links. It was particularly pleasing, but also sad, to hear the Mothers Union described as the chief provider of social services.

We are grateful to members who give us materials and trimmings in liturgical colours or fund the purchase of interlining. Cut out and ready-to-sew stoles are available from Rosemary Allen in the MU Office or at the Sudan Fete in The Close, Salisbury on June 13. Completed stoles (or even not quite finished ones), can be returned to Rosemary or handed over at the fete to be forwarded to Sudanese ordinands. **Maureen E Frost**

AFIA REPORT OCTOBER 2026 - The Holiday Home at Rockley Park will have been used 17 times this year, between 28th March and 31st October, with 41 adults and 47 children benefitting from a holiday or weekend break. Referrals this year have mainly come from Mothers' Union members. The erratic nature of the term timetables in schools across the Diocese meant that full weeks could not be taken at the beginning or end of the summer holidays by families with school-age children as terms either ended or started again mid-week. We have allowed a couple of families to hire the Holiday Home for a 2-night Friday to Sunday stay this year as a result of this. However, those families that visited during the Spring and Summer have certainly enjoyed themselves and we have received lots of positive feedback.

My thanks go to Jill Beech and her team of 'Welcome Pack' providers and deliverers who have gone above and beyond the call in providing personalized packs for our guests each

week, even accommodating those families that were only able to take a weekend break. Thank you also to all Mothers' Union members and groups who have donated so generously to the AFIA fund this year, which enables us to offer this wonderful resource to families in need for whatever reason.

Thankfully we have had few issues with the Holiday Home this year, apart from a couple of Callouts to the maintenance team at Rockley Park for the cooker not lighting, no hot water and broken window catches, which were all sorted out promptly. Tracey, our cleaner continues to be our on-site eyes and ears. Only one family has caused her to contact me for not following the rules!

The closing up and emptying of the Holiday Home will take place shortly after our final guests have left. I hope to have a date in time for our Autumn gathering at Woodford on October 17th for those who would like to help.

Alison Oakes

IN MEMORIAM -

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

Brenda Birt	Sturminster Newton
Marilyn Davies	Sherborne
Emma Smith	Wareham

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Trustees' meetings	24 November 2026
16 Days of Activision	17 November 12 noon
Christmas Tree Festival at St Thomas's Salisbury	1 December
Wave of Prayer	5-7 February 2027

SALISBURY CATHEDRAL MU COMMUNION SERVICES - 2026

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 27 October	Revd Jane Dunlop	Alderbury Deanery
Tuesday 17 November	Revd Sarah Wood-Rowe	MU Chaplain

Please send news for the Spring edition of Windows to Mrs Elizabeth Goater,
17 Chiselbury Grove, Salisbury SP2 8EP. Tel: 01722 433855
or best by email: lizgoater@hotmail.com before 9 April 2027.

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