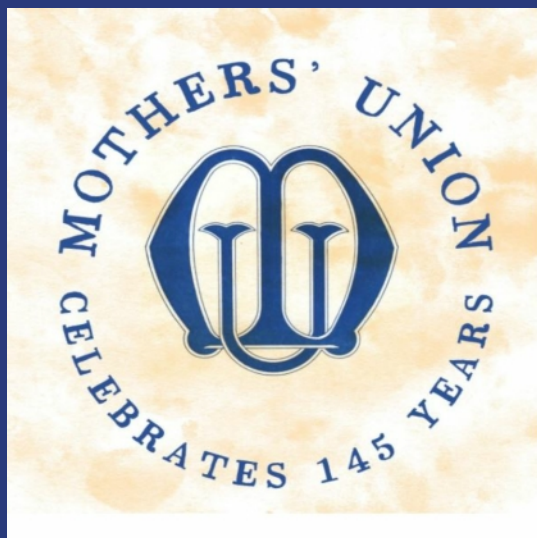


Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



Southwark News

No 260 Summer 2021



Contents

Pages

- 3 Letter from Our President
- 4 Southwark Monthly MU Prayers
- 5 Joyful Celebrations
- 6 The New Trustee Board in 2022
- 7 The Knit-Wits
- 8 Mary Sumner Day Service
- 9 The St Mildred's Ladies' Choir goes Global
- 10 Past Reflections: MU Invalids at Home
- 11 A Diamond Wedding Celebration
A Knitted Last Supper
- 12 News Flash
- 13 Paying Subscriptions by Direct Debit
- 14 Enrolments
Training Officer Vacancy
- 15 Summer of Hope for All

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 2 Oct

.....Diocesan Council St Peter's Norbiton 11.00am

Tues/Thurs 12/14 Oct

.....Diocesan Retreat Wychcroft

Saturday 16 Oct

.....Festival Service Southwark Cathedral 11.30am

Friday 19 Nov

.....Branch Leaders Day 2.00pm (details later)

Thursday 2 Dec

.....Advent Service St Mildred's Addiscombe 11.00am



Letter from Our President

Dear Friends,

Welcome to our Summer edition. I'm not sure what you have all been getting into but this season just happens to be my best. This is not because I expect extreme heat or the sunshine or the beautiful flowers that surround us. This is the time I enjoy playing around with the different shaped vegetable seeds and watch as they become food. All of this takes me back to the story of creation, how the Lord put everything in place and saw that it was good.



The continued restriction means we continue with our virtual meetings. We had hoped to have this meeting face to face but the extra month of restrictions means we are not able to. With the new variants, things remain uncertain and we are unable to make plans. The continued restriction give us room to innovate. Have you heard of Sunday services being held in the Church's car parks? Or in my church where the recessional hymn is sung outside as we bear witness to our living God.

Elections are around again, how quickly three years have gone by. As you will all know, at this time, we seek for members to fill up the various vacant positions available. More and more, it is increasingly difficult to find members who can succeed those leaving. I have always said, we all have gifts and talents given to us by God. (Romans 12 :6-8 ; 1 Peter 4:10) It is my sincere prayer that we will be able to fill up all the vacancies on the trustee board as well as at the branch leaders level as you all prepare.

The Summer of Hope posting should have been received by all

members and all Branch leaders, I hope plans are underway for every branch/area to plan an event at this time. There are also plans to celebrate and remember 100 years of Mary Sumner's death and 145 years of Mothers' Union, all this calls for celebration. Then let's get ourselves active with 'MU on the Move', just 5km of walking, jogging, running etc.

Please, be on the lookout for our strategic planning, our road map for the next three years. It is being presented to various groups at the moment, so we all understand it and own it. Our hope is that all members will take the strategy and run with it. We look forward to all members in Southwark Diocese flourishing together, becoming one big happy family.

Finally, my thanks to all those who have served tirelessly for the past six years and have to stand down at the end of the year. You have all worked hard to make the diocese what it is today. Don't forget, we will always need to tap from your experience and expertise. While we say thanks and goodbye, hopefully you have enjoyed your time of service. To those who are continuing and new leaders coming in, congratulations and I pray that as you come with all your gifts and talents to share with others, I pray that the Lord will equip you for the work ahead.

Remember Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things in Christ who strengthens me." and Isaiah 40:31 "but those who wait on the Lord shall renew their strength, they shall run and not be weary....."

Your friend

Comfort

Southwark Monthly MU Prayers

MU Midday Prayers are not being held in the Harvard Chapel, Southwark Cathedral at the moment. But on the 4th Wednesday of each month prayers will be set and distributed to Branches to follow in their own particular way.



Joyful Celebrations

On Lady Day, March 25th, 2020, Margaret Munt and Jeane Dunsford were due to receive their 60 years Certificates following the midweek Eucharist at Christ Church East Sheen, with Revd David Guest presiding and preaching. We had invited Comfort and many members from Kingston Deanery to the service, the presentation, a talk by Deirdre Munro on her work as a SPA and a buffet lunch. Bishop Richard then informed me that the Bishop and clergy and their wives from Zimbabwe were visiting



Kingston and could the wives come to our service? We were delighted and honoured. The Bishop's wife would present the certificates to Margaret and Jeane, who were enrolled together at St. Andrew's Mission Church in East Sheen in 1960.

Sadly all this was cancelled due to the pandemic. However on May 5th, 2021 a small group of us gathered together at Christ Church and it was an honour for me to present the certificates to Margaret and Jeane, Penny Bell-Wright, the Branch Leader, gave them a card with a photograph of St. Andrew's and a bouquet of flowers. Revd David had moved to Otford in Kent, but his successor Fr. Chris Griffiths was presiding and preaching at the Eucharist, and it was with great pleasure that I admitted him (assisted by Penny) as a Mothers' Union Member on June 9th. We are still waiting to celebrate with refreshments and a special Mothers' Union cake, but we will and without masks! Margaret will celebrate her 100th birthday in July, there will be further celebrations.

Wendy Moss, Kingston Area Vice President

The New Trustee Board in 2022

During the AGM on 30 June 2021, Comfort Fearon was elected as the Southwark Diocesan President for the triennial 2022 – 2024. The election was held on Zoom using 'Polls' and Comfort needed at least 50% of those present to vote for her but she did receive 98% of the votes.

For all the other positions, only one person had been nominated so there was no need for an election.

Please note that there are still some positions needing to be filled.

Area Vice Presidents

Reigate	Susan Gibbin	(New)
Croydon	Sally Steele	
Kingston	Wendy Moss	
Woolwich	Yemi Ojumu	(New) + 1 vacancy (Yemi wishes to be a joint Vice President with another person from the Woolwich area)

Unit Co-ordinators

Action and Outreach	Sally Steele	(New)
Faith and Policy	Penny Lohead	
Finance and Administration	Joy Morrall	
Fundraising & Communications	Vacant	

Area Reps on the trustee board

Reigate	Margaret Fitch	(New)
	One vacancy	
Croydon	Two vacancies	
Kingston	Ursula Hodges	
	One vacancy	
Woolwich	Roseline Okiti	(New)
	Jennifer Barrington	(New)

The Knit-Wits

How many years have we been knitting as a group? I don't know. The answer is lost in the mists of time. I believe it was originally a way of using up odd pieces of wool and making something useful from them. Along with the knitters were 'bandage rollers'. These ladies collected unwanted



old sheets (which had often already been turned sides to middle – do you remember that?) and tearing them into strips before winding them tightly into bandages and tying up. This of course is not acceptable any more.

From these small beginnings as a knitting group, Tadworth Knit-Wits evolved, changing with the years to suit the needs of the time. The group, now about 6 regulars, meet once a month in a member's home or garden, and put the world to rights over the clack of knitting needles, followed of course with tea and cake. As well as our Mothers' Union members, we have several other kind knitters who contribute squares to be made into



blankets, as well as completed ones. These ladies are often housebound with maybe failing sight, and in fact say that being able to give something in this way is a lifeline for them as well. Another church member crochets around the edges to finish the blankets beautifully.

Many different charities have been the recipients of our efforts. To name but a few: Hope and Aid Direct which took container lorries to Kosovo, Brickhill Baptist Centre in Bedford, several Care Homes, a Tanzanian Orphanage, Mission Without Borders, Evelina Children's Hospital, and at present we are supporting the Croydon Refugee Centre and the wonderfully named Charity 'Happy Baby Community' which sees over 250 women a year and lots of babies. They are waiting to see if accepted for immigration, having fled from traffickers and violence to seek

international protection in the UK. They usually arrive with nothing and are given a special box made up of various items including a baby blanket. As you can imagine, I have been told their smiles say it all.

A wide range of knitting skills has been shown over the years and literally hundreds of teddy bears, baby cardigans, bonnets and booties, children's jumpers, as well as the pretty blankets of all sizes, have been crafted to give with love to those who may need a helping hand. We hope to carry on for as long as there are recipients for our efforts.



Margaret Fox

Mary Sumner Day Service 2021

On 9 August MU celebrate the centenary of the death of Mary Sumner with a special online service to a global congregation, this is particularly good news for our Diocesan and Deanery members..

<https://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/whats-on/mary-sumner-day-service>

Available to view live from 3pm on 9th August on our Facebook page and YouTube channel.

Dates and times - 09 Aug 2021

Event venue - Virtual



The St Mildred's Ladies' Choir go Global!

At the end of the St Mildred's Mothers' Union branch AGM a few years ago, Penny Locke read Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer:



*All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives
as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live. Amen*



After the meeting, Roger Hagon our vicar, who had been in the chair, asked if he could set the prayer to music for the Ladies' Choir - who were delighted to agree. The prayer had its first performance at our branch 90th birthday party and has been sung a couple of times since – notably at Southwark Cathedral for the Diocesan Festival Service in 2019.

Mary Sumner founded the Mothers' Union 145 years ago and this year marks the centenary of her death. To celebrate the anniversary, Mary Sumner House is producing a global service of celebration of her life and work on 9 August and we were asked to let them have a recording of Roger's prayer.

We had 2 weeks' notice and thanks to the skills of Penny Locke and Richard Mander our Director of Music – knitting together a mixture of live and virtual recordings ready for loading onto YouTube video, we were able to meet the deadline ready for the global launch on 9 Aug. The prayer can be heard here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n4rOv4NXIQs>

Look out for links to the online service here:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/get-involved/whats-on/mary-sumner-day-service>

Margaret Simmons

Past Reflections: MU Invalids at Home

I grew up with the very active and working knowledge and life of the Mothers' Union. My Mother, Veronica Bamfield, became Diocesan President of the Mothers' Union for St Asaph in the 1950s and also became Worldwide President of what was then known as "Mothers' Union Invalids at Home". She wrote them all chatty friendly monthly newsletter sharing events and stories about her family life together with prayerful thoughts and reflections. She would travel to speak at and lead the prayers at MU Diocesan and worldwide MU gatherings and conferences. This was all long before the technical age we live in today – she had a very basic manual typewriter and envelopes were hand-written! The monthly letters, the birthday and Christmas cards written by my Mother to members far and wide created a superb mail-bag to us, her family! We'd receive chatty cards from all sorts of people who knew lots about us whereas we knew nothing about them!

Born in 1908 my Mother, Veronica – daughter of a soldier killed in WW1 – became increasingly aware of the agony suffered by her Mother when she received "the letter" informing her of her husband's death. In 1920 she, together with her sisters and brother, was taken by her Mother to stand and pray outside Westminster Abbey as the cortege carrying the coffin containing the unknown warrior – "who could be their Father" - was ceremoniously carried into the Abbey and placed in the specially prepared tomb.

During the 1950s and '60s, Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, offered superb accommodation so we would stay there when she was on Mothers' Union business. Being very near Westminster Abbey, she would take me round to stand and pray at the Tomb then hurry back to Mary Sumner House for Evening Prayer in the Chapel. Family life, worldwide life, spiritual life, prayerful life - all wrapped around that inspiration of Mary Sumner.

I remember the then MU magazine 'Home and Family' so well. MU branch meetings, MU banner in our village church made by a group led my Mother. I now have the privilege and honour of being a Diocesan Member so have very much enjoyed 'Families First' and the new 'Connected' magazine and look forward to reading and learning of the continued spiritual inspiration of Mary Sumner.

['Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers....' Hebrews 13:1-2](#)

Trot Lavelle (nee Bamfield)

A Diamond Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Congratulations to Norma and David on their 60th Wedding Anniversary. The celebrations began with a Renewal of Vowels and Blessing at St. Mark's Church on the 6th June by the Revd Canon Roxanne Hunte, during which David gave Norma a beautiful diamond ring.

It was a lovely service that included four generations of the McKnight family in church. Everyone attending was given a lovely piece of cake in a box, (made by Norma), which was very tasty indeed.

Their actual Wedding Anniversary was on the 10th of June, which was celebrated at home, with many good wishes, cards, and more cake and Champagne !

Here's wishing them many more years of happiness.



St Mark's Mothers' Union

A Knitted Last Supper

On display in St Barnabas Church, Sutton when it reopened on Easter Day was this wonderfully knitted Last Supper.

*Sally Bramdaw,
a former Sutton,
St Barnabas
Mothers' Union
Branch Leader
writes:-*



During a brief respite from lockdown last year, I met Carol Davison, a fellow Mothers' Union member. Carol had seen an article in a magazine with a photograph of a reader's knitted version of "The Last Supper" by Leonardo da Vinci. Knowing that I enjoy making knitted figures, Carol

challenged me to make my own version. Unable to go out to buy more wool, I used what I had, scaling the figures down a bit. I did try to use similar colours to the original painting but wasn't always successful.

It was fun knitting them, giving them all different hairstyles and beards and it helped fill quite a few lockdown evenings. I also enjoyed finding out a bit more about the original painting, which took Leonardo da Vinci about 3 years to complete between 1495 & 1498. It measures approximately 15ft x 29ft. It portrays the moments after Jesus revealed that he knew that one of the disciples gathered with him in the Upper Room would betray him.

From the left hand side of the scene, the figures represent Bartholomew, James Minor, Andrew, Judas Iscariot, Peter, John, Jesus, Thomas, James Major, Philip, Matthew, Thaddeus and Simon.

Da Vinci used tempera on stone which he hoped would last well. Tempera is the use of coloured pigments mixed with egg yolk which does last well, although within 50 years it was apparently showing some signs of deterioration. Vibration from WWII bombing also added to the damage. In 1980, a 19 year restoration commenced, but unfortunately, very little of the original paint remains.

I was surprised to discover that "The Last Supper" is not in Rome or the Vatican City – it has always been where da Vinci painted it – in a convent, Santa Maria delle Grazie in Milan; fittingly, on the wall of the dining hall.

I gave my figures some platters of bread, fish and meat, as well as a drinking vessel each, but, in the painting, there are several symbolic items on the table including a bag containing the thirty pieces of silver in front of Judas Iscariot.

I hope everyone enjoyed seeing them as much as I enjoyed making them. Thank you Carol for giving me the opportunity to learn about this beautiful mural.

News Flash

Direct Debit is coming

From January 2022 there will be the option
to pay your subscription by Direct Debit

Watch out for further information in the Autumn edition
of 'Connected'

Paying Subscriptions by Direct Debit

Members of the Southwark Finance Unit had a meeting on Zoom with Richard Miller, the Head of Finance at Mary Sumner House, in early June 2021. The meeting was for Richard to inform them about all that would be required for Southwark members to set up direct debits for their 2022 annual subscription. The trustees agreed to the setting up of direct debits at their mid June 2021 meeting.

From Richard's meeting with the Finance Unit, it was emphasised that paying annual subscriptions by direct debit, although preferable, **will not be compulsory**.

Full details for Southwark members will be included with the late September issue of Connected, the new magazine, which will be sent to every member whose name and address is on the MSH database.

The information below gives brief details of how it will work. This is aimed at the branch member but deanery and diocesan members will also be able to participate.

The direct debit will only be for the combined MSH subscription and the Southwark subscription. If any member chooses to pay a separate donation through the branch or deanery or pay a local subscription, this will still need to be collected by the branch treasurer.

Completed direct debit forms will need to be returned to the MU office at Trinity House by the date given in the information sent with the Connected magazine.

Having an email address will also be necessary but, if any member who wishes to fill in a direct debit form does not have one, then another email address could be given. However, the owner of that email address should inform the member of any notifications about direct debits sent to them.

The branch treasurer will be told which members have opted to pay by direct debit so that they will know which annual subscriptions still need to be collected.

The first collection of subscriptions by direct debit will take place at the end of January 2022.

It will also be possible to complete the direct debit form online.

Enrolments



In keeping with our theme this year Horley branch is 'rebuilding hope and confidence' in the future of



our branch and the wider membership and flourishing of Mothers' Union. At our delayed AGM in May, Team Rector Les Wells enrolled his wife Stephanie and during a family service in June, as Vice President, I was able to enrol 3 new members. Joining Nadia, were sisters Verity and Cherish.

Penny Lothead

Training Officer Vacancy

The role of the Training Officer within the Diocese is to arrange training for Branch and Deanery Officers as well as to support and encourage speakers.

The position has become vacant and the Finance and Administration Unit are seeking a person/s with knowledge of the work of the Mothers' Union and the ability to inspire and create effective communication and training.

Email Anne Love (mu@southwark.anglican.org) for a full job description and for further information contact:

Comfort Idowu-Fearon (comfortlambeth@gmail.com),
Joy Morrall (joymorrall@btinternet.com) or Anne Love.

Summer of Hope For All

The sun is shining through the window at the moment, so much so that it is difficult to see what I'm writing. Summer has come and the sun and warmth are making the flowers in the garden zing with reflected colour

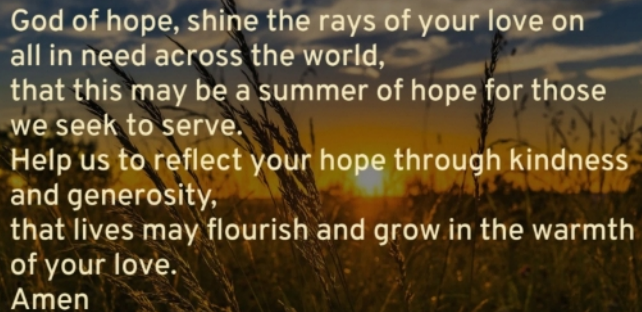


under a cloudless sky. After the very wet spring the rose bushes are absolutely covered in blossom and there is an enormous amount of bud still to come. For exactly the same reasons, the flowers on the fruit trees died early – but not before they had been pollinated by the bees so that the hope of a bumper crop is already hanging among the leaves. How we are blessed in our gardens and parks!

Because of Covid we have all been making good use of our open spaces to exercise or relax or meet up with friends and family at a safe distance. Our hope now is to resume our physical contact with those same friends and family and perhaps meet for the first time some new members of our families, the so-called “Covid babies” who have known no life outside their own immediate circle. Already our 7 month old granddaughter shows signs of discomfort when she accompanies her brother to the school gates: she is unaware that the noise of children en masse is generally a happy sound and looks around with eyes wide in surprise. The hope is that she and all babies like her will soon be joining with their peers in exploring their wonderful new world together. We all look forward in the hope of resuming an almost normal life when we can go to church without having to sit in designated places, and sing our hearts out in praise of our God ... and even return to our beloved Cathedral for the Festival Service and Cathedral Prayers in the Harvard Chapel. Hope and confidence are being restored.



We are “uplifting hope through the warmer months” as it says on the MSH website, and in so doing are remembering not only our own hopes but those of our fellow members worldwide. This year we celebrate 145 years of Mothers’ Union, founded in England but by a mere fifteen years later, starting to spread throughout the world. We are privileged to be members together of an organisation which supports families and communities, following the amazing achievements of Mary Sumner, supporting each other through prayer, advocacy, campaigning and giving. For the past few years the MU tradition has been to fundraise during the Summer of Hope so that women in communities worldwide can be empowered to establish their homes as places of religious education and growth, continuing the vision of Mary Sumner, who died in August 100 years ago. I pray that it is the hope of all of us to return to meet within our branches and consider, not only our own needs, but those of our sisters throughout the world. We work through hope and confidence in God our Saviour.



God of hope, shine the rays of your love on
all in need across the world,
that this may be a summer of hope for those
we seek to serve.
Help us to reflect your hope through kindness
and generosity,
that lives may flourish and grow in the warmth
of your love.
Amen

Liz Pullen

