

## ZIMBABWE

We give thanks and pray for our Southwark Anglican links in Zimbabwe: Southwark Cathedral with Masvingo, Croydon Episcopal Area with Central Zimbabwe, Kingston Area with Matabeleland and Woolwich Area with Manicaland. Food poverty and hunger are major issues in Zimbabwe.

We pray for the 21,000 MU members who actively seek out and engage with the most vulnerable people through work in hospitals, prisons, maternity clinics and on the streets. We particularly ask your blessing on the project helping women to learn better ways of producing their own food to feed their families and to sell in the markets. God bless Zimbabwe, protect her children, transform her leaders, heal her communities and grant her peace. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

## OXFORD DIOCESE

We give thanks and pray for Maureen Weston, Diocesan President, and for all MU members as they care for families in the Oxford diocese. We also pray for their work with the Clewer Initiative to end modern slavery by 2030. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We pray for our Honoured Patron, her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. We give thanks for her faithful witness and her devoted service to us all. Pour out your blessing upon her and her family. Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

We thank you, O Lord, for all those in office, and for all elected to roles within Mothers' Union, and pray that they may be strengthened and sustained by the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives. We pray, using this special prayer, written by Archbishop Justin for the Mothers' Union:

**Loving God, we thank you for the work of the Mothers' Union over the years; for all members who have given tirelessly of their time and resources in your service, over many countries and continents. We thank you for their faithfulness and perseverance, and for their witness to your immense love for humanity. We pray for members around the world, united by their faith and their commitment to work together for the common good. We pray that they would witness powerfully, work faithfully and rejoice in each other's fellowship. In the name of Jesus Christ your Son, our Saviour and our friend. Amen**

*Hymn of your choice*

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.**

We conclude our worship as we share the grace with one another.

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all today and always. Amen.**

2021 Theme: Rebuilding  
hope and confidence



**Mothers' UNION**  
Christian care for families

## Diocese of Southwark

### WAVE OF PRAYER: 31 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2021

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August we celebrated our Founder's Day and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mary Sumner's death. It is good to remember and to give thanks for Mary Sumner. We remember that Mary herself was a grandmother when she started the Mothers' Union in 1876, 145 years ago this year. She was moved to help young mothers as her children started having families of their own. Today we rejoice and give God the glory as we rebuild hope and confidence after the devastating effects of Covid throughout the world. Not one of the 4 million Mothers' Union members has been unaffected by the pandemic, but all remain faithful to the Lord their God. Now we have the Wave of Prayer, itself started in the early 1920s, which prayerfully links the dioceses of the 84 countries. In Southwark we pray for our linked dioceses of Ekiti and Ogori-Magongo in Nigeria, Harare in Zimbabwe, Machakos in Kenya, and Phulbani in North India. We also pray for our UK link Diocese of Oxford and for our Anglican Links in Zimbabwe.

Leader: We meet in the name of God

**ALL: Father, Son and Holy Spirit**

Leader: O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness

**ALL: Let the whole earth stand in awe of Him**

Leader: God is spirit

**ALL: They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth**

Leader: As we begin our worship, let us pray to our Father

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory, are yours, now and for ever. Amen.**

Leader: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

Psalm 22: 27

Through our weakness and ineffectiveness we hinder the coming of God's kingdom. Let us ask for pardon and forgiveness, saying together,

**O most merciful Father, We confess that we have done little to forward your kingdom and to advance you glory. Forgive our failures, pardon our shortcomings and equip us for your service, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.**

Leader: May almighty God bring us his pardon and peace, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*Hymn or Psalm of your choice*  
*Bible Reading of your choice*

Leader: As we meet for this Wave of Prayer, let us say the Mothers' Union Prayer together.

**Loving Lord,  
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.  
We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Leader: Heavenly Father, rejoicing in our differences and our diversity, through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ, we bring before you the thanksgivings and needs of all our linked dioceses. We pray for members in all these areas to have hope and confidence in your love and be inspired by your call to follow the example of Mary Sumner to work to your praise and glory. **Amen.**

*Pause*

### **EKITI**

Ekiti State of Nigeria is one of the country's 36 states: its motto is *The Fountain of Knowledge*. The Diocese of Ekiti is one of the oldest dioceses in the Church of Nigeria, officially inaugurated as a diocese in October 1966. The vision of the diocese is "Raising godly people that are heavenly conscious, through committed pragmatic evangelism, discipleship and Christian living."

We give thanks and pray for the bishop and his wife Mrs Margaret Omotunde, the Diocesan President, for all their members as they actively engage in projects and programmes educating and raising awareness of the importance of stable family life and the rôle young people have to play; as they meet regularly for Bible Study, prayer and fellowship as well as running World Day of Prayer services; for their training conferences on a variety of subjects as well as an Annual Conference that follows the yearly prayer theme and for the four Anglican girls' hostels within the diocese where members assist.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

### **OGORI MAGONGO**

The Diocese of Ogori-Magongo, located in the Kogi State of Nigeria, the Confluent State, north of Ekiti, is one of the youngest dioceses in the Province and was officially inaugurated as a missionary diocese in 2009.

We pray for the Bishop and his wife, Mrs Susan Davies, the Diocesan President; also bless all the members and strengthen them in their work of evangelism, outreach to those in need, visiting the sick and income generation. We pray too for all those in the hostels run and maintained by Mothers' Union members, and for members of the Girls' Guild and Women's Guild with whom MU members work.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

### **HARARE**

Harare is Zimbabwe's capital city, and an industrial hub for the country. Situated in the centre of Zimbabwe, there is much outreach into the urban and tight-knit communities by Mothers' Union members. The watchword of the diocese is "Christian seek not yet repose: watch and pray."

We pray for the Diocesan President, Letwini Mutamiri, and all the members in Harare Diocese who are dedicated to outreach to those who are vulnerable within the

community. We pray particularly for their work raising awareness of environmental issues with schoolchildren, for their efforts to raise general awareness of gender-based violence and HIV infection, and to support the survivors of both as they deal positively with their situations. We pray for Lizzie Zimunya, the Community Development Co-ordinator, as she continues to set up new local projects in the Chitungwisa Archdeaconry, under the Central Mothers' Union Church & Community Mobilisation Process. We pray for the continuing support of vulnerable mothers with the provision of baby boxes.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

### **MACHAKOS**

Machakos in Kenya is a satellite town 64 kms southeast of the capital, Nairobi. An urban centre with a rapidly growing population, it is surrounded by a high number of family farms. It has one of the most advanced economies in East Africa

We pray for Elizabeth Kioko the Diocesan President, and all the members in Machakos. We give thanks for the work of the Mothers' Union Daystar Hostel which provides a safe space for vulnerable young girls, accommodating those who might otherwise fall into prostitution or develop drug and alcohol related issues. As well as for this major project we pray for the success of the many conferences, seminars and vocational skills training which contribute to the life of the church and the community. We pray for the members' continuing support of, and outreach to, the sick and needy.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

### **PHULBANI**

The diocese of Phulbani is in North India, and is part of the United Church of North India formed from Anglican and other Protestant churches. It is scattered over the hilly areas of four districts in the north, and is known for its variety of flora and fauna. Here the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service has a number of ongoing activities which address the issues faced in the area

We pray for the MU Provincial President Neerja Prasad, and for Jharana Natal, President of the Women's Fellowship. We pray for their work with the sick, the elderly, broken families and raising of children in the Christian faith. We pray and give thanks for their work of tackling gender-based violence, supporting refugees and those affected by human trafficking, marriage preparation and running health awareness courses.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**

**SOUTHWARK DIOCESE** covers the area between the South Bank of the Thames through the suburbs of London including a small part of Kent to the villages and towns of East Surrey and the borders of Gatwick airport. Special projects include Tea@3 at the Evelina Hospital; Communicating English as well as strong support for the Away From It All scheme, engagement with Metamorphosis encouraging change and renewal and in the eradication of modern-day slavery.

We give thanks and pray for Comfort Idowu-Fearon, the Diocesan President, Bishop Christopher, our Area Bishops, the Revd Esther Foss, MU Chaplain, the Trustees and all who have a particular role in the MU throughout the diocese. Grant them wisdom and supply their needs. We give thanks and pray for all the projects especially at diocesan level praying that volunteers will come forward to be trained in all these areas.

Lord, in your mercy: **hear our prayer.**