

OXFORD DIOCESE

We pray for the Trustee Board operating in a new structure. We pray for all MU members as they care for families in the Oxford Diocese and particularly for their 'Children Seen and Heard' project, providing interventions and support for children with a parent in prison. Giving thanks for their efforts to raise awareness in churches of modern day slavery. an the new Coffee & Kids project in Blewbury.

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

As we await to hear who is to be a new Patron we prayer for King Charles and Queen Camilla and all the Royal Family. Pour out your blessings upon them.

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,

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@2 at the Evelina Hospital; Communicating English, as well as strong support for the Away From It All scheme, links with prisons, 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.**

Collect for Mothers' Union Southwark

God our creator and redeemer, help us to grow in holiness, unity, effectiveness, and numbers that we may flourish together. Draw us closer to you and those around us. Give us enthusiasm in our faith, and wisdom in sharing it with young and old. Open our eyes to new opportunities, our lips to sing and speak of you, and our hearts to welcome the stranger as we care for families. Grow your kingdom in us and the world; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

2022-2024 Theme:
Transformation - Now!

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Southwark

WAVE OF PRAYER: 31 AUGUST – 2 SEPTEMBER 2023

Today we rejoice and give God the glory as we seek to continue transformation of Mothers' Union, ourselves as individuals and above all the world we serve. Now we share in the Wave of Prayer, itself started in the early 1920s, which prayerfully links the dioceses of the 84 countries at this time praying for our linked dioceses and also 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 as our Saviour has taught us:

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: Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern what is the will of God—what is good and acceptable and perfect.
Romans 12:2

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

**Merciful Father,
We confess that our loving service is too often limited to our spare time and energy, and too often given to those who are likely to return it. Help us to see all our lives as an act of glad service, in thanksgiving for what you have done for us. Amen.**

Leader: Jesus says "Your sins are forgiven: go, and sin no more." **Amen.**

Hymn or Psalm of your choice

Bible Reading

Philippians 4: 8-9 or *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, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

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 and give thanks for the arrival of their twins. 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, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

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 support of the Shearly Cripps children's home as they aim is to provide a

family environment for the children. This will help in developing a well rounded individual who is capable of participating in community activities thus making a positive contribution to the community. 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, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

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, giving thanks for the 100s of new members enrolled lately.

Lord, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

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 and for the President of the Women's Fellowship for restored communications between us. 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, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**

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, hear us. **Lord graciously hear us.**