



Mothers' Union Coventry News Bulletin

18th August 2025

You are the salt of the earth. But if the salt loses its salty taste, it cannot be made salty again. It is good for nothing, except to be thrown out and walked on. "You are the light that gives light to the world.

Matthew 5:13-14 (NCV)

[JOIN US, JOIN IN!](#)

Dear friends,

What a wonderful couple of weeks it has been and thank you for all your kind invitations and the warm welcome received.

Link Up

It's always good to share what we are doing with others as a way of encouraging more people to 'Join Us, Join In!' and Link Up is a great resource to do just that. A gentle reminder therefore to send your articles, photos of celebrations, trips, outreach and fundraising initiatives etc. to Felicity, by no later than Friday 29th August, to ensure they are included.

Below is a snapshot of what has been happening around the Diocese to mark Mary Sumner Day and more:

Kineton Evening of Summer Fun and Fellowship

Kineton diocesan members' friendship group gathered for a wonderful evening of fun, food and fellowship where Mothers' Union's 150th celebrations, planned for next year, were discussed and well received. The evening also provided an ideal opportunity for members and friends to raise a glass to Lizzie, fast approaching a significant birthday and to also express grateful thanks for the many years Lizzie has opened her beautiful home and extensive garden, in support of Mothers' Union Kineton members.

Wellesbourne Deanery Lunch in celebration of Mary Sumner Day

Wellesbourne branch, hosted its ever-popular annual deanery lunch and with some 50 members and friends in attendance, Veronica and branch members, certainly rose to the challenge. Keynote speaker Paul Morris updated members about the various MU homeless initiatives happening across the Diocese and a delightful moment ensued when three new members were enrolled.

Mary Sumner Day Tea Party for the Homeless

Berkswell diocesan members' friendship group kindly volunteered their services to ensure the Mary Sumner Day Tea Party for the homeless, with some 50 residents in attendance, went according to plan. To embrace the theme of 'Join Us, Join In!' this year, three friends of

Mothers' Union provided the entertainment and it wasn't long before residents and staff were dancing and singing along to the band.

St John's Mary Sumner Day Service

More excitement followed when members and friends gathered at St John's Church, Kenilworth, for a Mary Sumner Day service, led by Felicity and to celebrate St John's branch 120th anniversary. Revd. Denise Burgess' (MU Diocesan Chaplain) spoke within her sermon about the importance of Mothers' Union's outreach and the various acts of love and service members provide. Her 'call to action' not only inspired but also encouraged a renewed sense of commitment in all that we do in Jesus' name.

The service concluded with the enrolment of two members followed by cake and fizz. Looking through the displays of past achievements and activities was not only informative but also fun. A personal favourite was seeing a photo where the retiring Diocesan President was being presented with a fur coat as a parting gift!

St Oswald's Mary Sumner Day Cream Tea

A final treat was attending St Oswald's branch cream tea, organised by Julie and Sandra, to meet members and friends whilst also giving thanks for Mary Sumner's witness and for all that has been achieved in her name for the Glory of God.

With Grateful Thanks

A special note of thanks to Revd. Denise Burgess for attending the Mary Sumner Day Service and for preaching.

Grateful thanks also to everyone involved in planning, supporting, taking part and/or leading the above events. You are all simply amazing.

STOP PRESS:

Congratulations to June Smitten for being awarded the Berkswell Association for the Prosecution of Felons Trophy for faithful and committed service to the church and Berkswell village. June's support of Mothers' Union is strongly felt also within the church community and further afield. You also might like to know, the Prosecution of Felons began prior to 1790 and June is the only second women to be awarded with the trophy. Well done June.

Congratulations to Lynda Howells who has been awarded the PACT 'St Dismas Award' in recognition of Lynda's outstanding contribution to supporting prisoners and their families. Stuart Lynch, Head of Volunteering of PACT also writes, 'Lynda's collaboration with her church and the Mothers' Union has been invaluable to PACT.'

Lynda will receive her award at the House of Lords on Tuesday 11th November, followed by an afternoon tea. Well done Lynda.

Giving Thanks to the Lord in Prayer

Let us close with a prayer taken from this month's MU Coventry Prayer Diary, lovingly prepared by Lynda:

'Dear Lord, we put our hope in you, thank you that we can always rely on you. Your Holy Bible tells us we are your beloved children and through your word you teach us, you encourage us, you speak words of comfort to us, and you tell us you love us. Thank you dear Lord. Amen'

Continuing on the theme of prayer and Mary Sumner's prayer in particular, you may like to know that Mary was moved to write her prayer in 1876 and she prayed this prayer every day for the rest of her life.

Please Save the Dates

- MU Canterbury Provincial Gathering, Saturday 27th September, The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford, OX2 0ES, 10am for 10.30am start. Please note this is a ticketed event.
- CCN (Community of the Cross of Nails) Sunday, 28th September, Coventry Cathedral at 10.30am.
- MU Members and Friends Celebration Lunch, Saturday, 11th October, St John's Church, Westwood Heath at 12.30pm for 1pm start.
- Mothers' Union Coventry Anti-Slavery week initiatives run from the 13th to 19th October.
- MU Quiet Day, Wednesday, 12th November, Holy Trinity Church, Attleborough at 9.30am for 10am start. Revd. Denise Burgess will be leading.
- MU Advent Service, Monday, 1st December, St Giles Church, Exhall at 11am. Revd. Gail Phillip will be preaching.

May we all find time during the month of August to be still and find rest in Him.

With love and prayers,



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