



Diocese of Coventry

Mothers' Union Coventry News Bulletin

28th January 2026

"Forget the former things; do not dwell on the past. See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland."

Isaiah 43:18-19

[JOIN US, JOIN IN!](#)

Dear friends,

Isaiah a well-known Bible verse, appearing in the Book of Isaiah in the Old Testament is a message of hope where God tells his people to stop dwelling on the past and to look forward to the "new things" he is creating, such as making a way in the wilderness.

Mothers' Union Coventry Prayer Diary

This Bible verse was chosen by Lynda Howells, to guide our prayers and reflections via the Mothers' Union Coventry Prayer Diary for January and as we step out in faith during this momentous 150th celebratory year, looking possibly for new ways to raise awareness about Mothers' Union and encourage more to Join Us, Join In! - let us also hold fast to this comforting message of hope, transformation and purpose.

A gentle reminder that the Mothers' Union Coventry Prayer Diary is regularly updated each month and can be viewed via our website at covmu.org and I am grateful to all the prayer warriors who support this ministry.

On that note, I would like to express my grateful thanks to Ann Gibbons who has co-ordinated and written prayers for some years now but feels it's time to step back having written her final prayerful contribution for the month of February.

Audrey Hobley RIP

It is with deep sadness that I write with the news that our sister in Christ, Audrey Hobley has died. Audrey served as Diocesan President from 1995 to 2000 and her faithful committed service was recognised when she was installed as Honorary Canon of Coventry Cathedral.

Audrey's funeral will take place at St John Baptist Church, Berkswell on Monday 2nd Feb at 11am. I know you will join with me in praying for Audrey's beloved children Alison and Stephen, extended family and friends during this difficult time.

Nuneaton Deanery Candlemas Service

Nuneaton Deanery members and friends will gather for a Candlemas Service at St Mary and All Saints Church, Fillongley (in the hall) on Saturday (31st January) at 12pm. Refreshments will be provided but please bring your own lunch. Post code is CV7 8ES. All welcome.

Dean John's Retirement Celebrations

The Very Reverend John Witcombe is due to retire with his last Cathedral Eucharist taking place on Sunday 17th June at 10.30am followed by Evensong at 4pm. Dean John is keen to welcome Mothers' Union members to either services and/or his Leaving Do and has asked that we please circulate the attached invitation to members or display in church using the QR code.

I am delighted to confirm that Mothers' Union has been asked to serve refreshments at the 4pm service. Please save the date for now with more information to follow.

MU 150th Anniversary Initiatives and Celebrations

Please let me know of any 150th anniversary initiatives or celebrations you have planned – even if it's still in the planning stage. I am grateful to have received some invitations already.

A gentle reminder that this is the link for all things Mothers' Union central celebrations:
mothersunion.org/150

Tickets are still available for the 150th Celebratory Service at St Paul's Cathedral on Wednesday, 10th June at 5pm. Tickets cost £15 each to cover the cost of the commemorative booklet plus a £1.96 registration fee.

Tickets are also still available for the Annual Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, London on Thursday, 11th June from 10.30am to 4.30pm. Tickets cost £24 plus a £2.71 registration fee.

Good news: the 150th Celebratory Service will be streamed live from St Paul's Cathedral with more details to follow in due course.

MU Connected Magazine

Please note: the cut-off date to ensure members receive the Mothers' Union Connected magazine is 23rd February. Please, therefore, email Patricia Rich in good time with any amendments/additions to ensure the Mothers' Union central portal is updated e.g. details of a new member, change of address etc. Patricia's email address is: Patricia.rich@coventry.anglican.org

Link Up/Branch Programmes

Please remember to send your articles, photos, significant birthdays, celebrations, events and initiatives etc to Felicity Hawke for the next edition of Link Up.
Branch programmes to Sue Foster for the website.

If you are holding an event please keep the staff at MSH informed also via communications@mothersunion.org so they can share our good news stories.

Subscriptions

Thank you to all those who have paid their subscription and to the branch leaders who have returned or about to submit their branch returns. For those still to pay their subscription please give some thought to paying by direct debit or via bank transfer where possible.

Key Dates

1) Nuneaton Candlemas Service: Saturday, 31st January at St Mary and All Saints Church, Fillongley (in the hall) on Saturday 31st January at 12pm.

2) Office Holders/Deanery Chairs Meeting: Diocesan Office, Thursday 12th February at 10am.

3) Lady Day Celebrations & the Rt Revd and Rt Hon Dame Sarah Mullaly, Archbishop Designate's Installation Service: Wednesday, 25th March. Time TBC.

4) Dean John's Leaving Do/Party: Saturday 9th May, 7pm, at Coventry Cathedral, including live music, food and a bar available. Please RSVP.

5) Dean John's Retirement Celebrations: Sunday 17th May at 10.30am for his last Cathedral eucharist service and Evensong at 4pm followed by tea and cake.

For ease of reference, please find attached a full list of dates for 2026.

How wonderful to a close with a prayer by Lynda Howells taken from this month's Prayer Diary:

'We thank you for every member of Mothers Union, bless them we pray in all they do to serve you through their membership.'

Amen

With love and prayerful thanks,



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