Mothers’ Union
A Celebration of Faith
1876 – 2016

140th Anniversary
Commemorative Programme

Diocese of Winchester

September 22nd and 23rd 2016
As your Patron, I send my warmest congratulations to all members of Mothers' Union on the occasion of the charity's 140th anniversary.

Since Mothers' Union was founded by Mary Sumner in 1876, you have provided vital assistance to families all over the world who are experiencing hardships in their lives.

Now with four million members in 83 countries, the organisation continues to carry out the important work of supporting family life, and communities, through its programmes.

I send my sincere thanks to all those who have contributed to Mothers' Union over the years and I send my best wishes for the continuing success of a charity that has given hope and strength to so many.

ELIZABETH R.
Congratulations on your 140th anniversary! Caroline and I know first-hand from travelling across the Anglican Communion that the Mothers’ Union exists in the vision of Mary Sumner to bring God’s rich provision and blessing to many families and individuals with hope, help and a future. You are present in so many places: homes, cities, hills and villages, where people are lonely, lost, empty or suffering. I praise God for the ways in which you provide support to families, build strength and transform lives in Jesus’ name. Your extraordinary organisation is a community deeply embedded across the world, which listens so effectively to the cries of the poor and the needy. Through you the world glimpses a vision of the light, glory and hope of Jesus Christ, of the beatitudes made real. As you look to Christ and His vision for your future I pray:

Life-giving God, on its 140th anniversary,
We give you thanks for the Mothers’ Union,
For its dedication and faithful witness to Jesus Christ across the world.
We praise you for its compassion, care and acts of justice for families and communities.
Bless all its members in your mission to the world,
Strengthen hearts, hands and voices in the years to come,
As they continue to nurture, defend and deliver your children.
Through their service bring great glory to Jesus and make known your kingdom.
We ask this in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Most Rev’d and Right Hon. Justin Welby
Archbishop of Canterbury
It gives me great pleasure to send warmest greetings to the Mothers’ Union as you celebrate the 140th anniversary year of your founding as a membership organisation providing Christian care for families.

The Mothers’ Union is a holy phenomenon. From Mary Sumner’s first gathering of mothers in the rectory of her home parish, you have grown into a world-renowned and respected international organisation, reaching out in love and service to parents and children in 83 countries and in myriad contexts – especially where families are facing all manner of adversities. The faith, prayer, activities and resilience of your members have made a difference to millions of families and communities, and your life-bringing model of ‘Christian faith in action’ sets an example for us all.

As well as your faithful outreach at grassroots, the Mothers’ Union has enabled sharing of stories and deep friendships among your members in different countries and across continents. This weaving of relationships strengthens the bonds of affection within the Anglican Communion and is a gift to all Anglican participation in God’s mission in the world.

It is my prayer that the Mothers’ Union will grow and thrive as you continue to work for the enabling and flourishing of families and communities, and that God will pour abundant blessing on all your undertakings.

The Most Rev’d Dr Josiah Idowu-Fearon
Secretary General of the Anglican Communion
Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

It is a great delight for me to offer each of you, heartfelt congratulations in this very special year for our amazing life giving, life changing organisation. From the humble beginnings of our movement in 1876, many lives have been touched. In this our 140th celebration year, let us all thank God for the faithful, dedicated service of our membership to communities and individuals in over 80 countries worldwide.

Mary Sumner believed that God was calling her to reach out in love and service to those within her community – “to win homes for Christ”. Today with a membership worldwide of over 4 million, we continue in this mission, remaining locally relevant and recognised in many parts of the world as an organisation which will enable change to occur within communities.

As your Worldwide President, and on behalf of the Worldwide Trustee Board, I thank you all for all you have achieved in the past. I especially thank you for all that you are currently doing, and I thank you most sincerely for all that God will call you to do in the future for him through your service of Mothers’ Union. I encourage you all to continue reaching out in love and service to God’s praise and glory.

I pray that you will look forward with renewed vision, faith, hope and love in your hearts, hold fast to what is true and follow the pathway the Lord has prepared for you.

May the Lord bless you and keep you today and always.

Lynne Tembey, Mothers’ Union Worldwide President

“Be completely humble and gentle: be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

Ephesians 4:2
We are delighted to be able to welcome you to Winchester Cathedral to celebrate 140 years of the Mothers’ Union. In recent years Mary Sumner, Josephine Butler and Jane Austen have all come to the fore in the stories we tell of this place. Through their life and work each reminds us never to separate what happens in the relational sphere from the mighty claims of God’s justice.

The Cathedral is privileged to host today’s double celebration and grateful to bear witness to the fact that here and worldwide the work of Mothers’ Union is flourishing.

May we in our households and worship eagerly seek the justice that means right relationship with God and each other.

Greetings in the name of Jesus, who is ‘priest over the household of God.’

Hebrews 10:21

The Rev’d Canon Dr Roland Riem,
Acting Dean of Winchester Cathedral
In celebrating our 140th anniversary, we look back with fondness and gratitude to the vision of Mary Sumner, and the inspiration she has been to millions of women and men of faith over the decades. Today, through that vision, bonds of fellowship, friendship and prayerful support reach across continents strengthening faith and envisioning mission. Today, through that vision our four million members put that faith into action to strengthen family life, answering God’s call to live out their faith in the service of others.

The contribution of the prayerful, active mission that Mothers’ Union members contribute to community life in countless parishes in 83 countries makes transformational positive change to well over half a million people every year, including over 60,000 people in Britain & Ireland.
Winchester Cathedral

Celebrating 140 years
of faithful and dedicated witness of
Mothers’ Union

Thursday 22nd September 2016
During the offertory hymn there will be a collection for the Cathedral Appeal. Making this donation under the Gift Aid scheme means that the Government will match every £1 given by a UK tax payer with 25p paid in tax. This is simple to do, as it only takes a moment to complete one of the yellow envelopes available at the end of each row or from other locations around the Cathedral. We do the rest. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

*The Organ is played by Mr George Castle, Assistant Director of Music.*

*We are thankful that the Mary Sumner Choir from Zambia can be with us to lift our praise in song.*

*We are most grateful to the Lord-Lieutenant of Hampshire, Mr Nigel Atkinson, for attending the afternoon service to represent our Patron, The Queen.*

*Please stand as he is escorted to his seat at 2.25pm.*

**MUSIC BEFORE THE SERVICE**

Prelude and Fugue in G Major BMV 541  
*J S Bach (1685-1750)*

---

**The Procession**

### MORNING PROCESSION

- Mothers’ Union, Diocese of Winchester banner
- Mrs Caroline Scull, Diocesan President

- Mothers’ Union, Province of Canterbury banner
- Mrs Nikki Sweatman, Provincial President

- Mary Sumner House Banner
- Mrs Lynne Tembey, Mothers’ Union Worldwide President

- Virger
- Crucifer and Acolytes
- Visiting Clergy
- Virger

- Bishop of Reading
- Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney

- Bishop at Lambeth
- Acting Dean

- Custos

- Canon Sue Wallace (Sub Deacon)

- The Rev’d Katie Lawrence (Deacon)

- Bishop of Basingstoke

### AFTERNOON PROCESSION

- Mothers’ Union, Diocese of Winchester banner
- Mrs Caroline Scull, Diocesan President

- Mothers’ Union, Province of Canterbury banner
- Mrs Nikki Sweatman, Provincial President

- Mary Sumner House Banner
- Mrs Lynne Tembey, Mothers’ Union Worldwide President

- Virger
- Crucifer and Acolytes
- Visiting Clergy
- Virger

- Canon Debbie Thrower
- Archdeacon of Mission, Diocese of Winchester

- Bishop of Reading
- Bishop of Aberdeen & Orkney

- Bishop of Southampton
- Bishop of Basingstoke

- Bishop of Winchester

- Custos

- Canon Sue Wallace (Sub Deacon)

- The Rev’d Katie Lawrence (Deacon)

- Primatial Cross of Canterbury

- Archbishop of Canterbury

- Archbishop’s Chaplain
The Service

PROCESSION
La Réjouissance from Music for the Royal Fireworks
George Frederick Handel (1685-1759)

Please stand as the Mothers’ Union banners and the Clergy process.

OPENING HYMN
During the processional hymn representative tokens from Provincial Mothers’ Unions around the world will be received.

Aotearoa, Polynesia and New Zealand, Australia, Brazil, Burundi, Canada, Canterbury, Central Africa, Congo, India (North and South), Indian Ocean, All Ireland, Jerusalem and the Middle East, Kenya, Korea, Melanesia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Scotland, South America, Southern Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan (inc South Sudan), Tanzania, Uganda, USA, Wales, West Africa (& Internal Province of Ghana), West Indies and York.

O Praise ye the Lord
Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word,
ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him
by whom ye were made,
and worship before him,
in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord!
Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord,
al you of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you
his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you
to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord!
All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord
re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory
forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story
of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord!
Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured
all ages along!
For love in creation,
for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation,
O praise ye the Lord! Amen

Tune: Laudate Dominum 427 NEH
Words: Henry Williams Baker (1821–77)
Music: Charles Hubert Hastings Parry (1848–1918)

from Hear my words, ye people
WELCOME
The Rev’d Canon Dr Roland Riem, Acting Dean of Winchester Cathedral

INTRODUCTION The President of the Eucharist
Morning: The Right Rev’d David Williams, Bishop of Basingstoke
Afternoon: The Most Rev’d and Right Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you
All: And also with you
We come from scattered lives to meet with God.
Let us recognise his presence with us.
Silence is kept
As God’s people we have gathered:
All: Let us worship him together.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION
Deacon: The Spirit of the Lord fills the world and knows our every word and deed.
Let us then open ourselves to the Lord and confess our sins in penitence and faith.
We have not always worshipped God our creator.
Lord have mercy
All: Lord have mercy
We have not always followed Christ our saviour.
Christ have mercy
All: Christ have mercy
We have not always trusted in the Spirit, our guide.
Lord have mercy
All: Lord have mercy
President: May almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you your sins and bring you
to everlasting life,
Through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

HOW MOTHERS’ UNION MAKES A DIFFERENCE
Testimony of Neil Obbard

GLORIA
Peruvian Gloria led by The Rev’d Jane Leese, Chaplain to Mothers’ Union Diocese of Winchester

1. Gloria to God, glory to God, glory in the highest!
2. Gloria to God, glory to God, glory to Christ Jesus!
3. Gloria to God, glory to God, glory to the Spirit—it!

To God be glory forever! Alleluia, amen!
¡A Dios la gloria por siempre! ¡Alleluia, amen!

Alleluia, amen! Alleluia, amen!
¡Alleluia, amen! ¡Alleluia, amen!
COLLECT
Lord we give thanks for the life of Mary Sumner, for her obedience to your calling, for her vision for the Mothers’ Union. We pray that through the grace of your Holy Spirit we may receive renewed confidence and share that vision. We give you thanks and praise for the many people around the world who reach out in the name of the Mothers’ Union, through our work may we touch the lives of those we meet, that they too may know your love: through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

EPISTLE 1 SAMUEL 7:3-12
Morning: Mrs Nikki Sweatman, Mothers’ Union President, Province of Canterbury
Afternoon: Mrs Caroline Scull, Mothers’ Union President, Diocese of Winchester

Then Samuel said to all the house of Israel, “If you are returning to the Lord with all your heart; then put away the foreign gods and the Astartes from among you. Direct your heart to the Lord and serve him only, and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines.” So Israel put away the Baals and the Astartes, and they served the Lord only. Then Samuel said, “Gather all Israel at Mizpah, and I will pray to the Lord for you.” So they gathered at Mizpah, and drew water and poured it out before the Lord. They fasted that day, and said, “We have sinned against the Lord.” And Samuel judged the people of Israel at Mizpah. When the Philistines heard that the people of Israel had gathered at Mizpah, the lords of the Philistines went up against Israel. And when the people of Israel heard of it they were afraid of the Philistines. The people of Israel said to Samuel, “Do not cease to cry out to the Lord our God for us, and pray that he may save us from the hand of the Philistines.” So Samuel took a sucking lamb and offered it as a whole burnt offering to the Lord; Samuel cried out to the Lord for Israel, and the Lord answered him. As Samuel was offering up the burnt offering, the Philistines drew near to attack Israel; but the Lord thundered with a mighty voice that day against the Philistines and threw them into confusion; and they were routed before Israel. And the men of Israel went out of Mizpah and pursued the Philistines, and struck them down as far as beyond Bethcar. Then Samuel took a stone and set it up between Mizpah and Jeshanah and named it Eben-ezer, for he said, “Thus far the Lord has helped us.”

This is the word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL HYMN Be Thou my Vision
Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart,
Be all else but naught to me, save that thou art;
Be thou my best thought in the day and the night,
Both waking and sleeping, thy presence my light.

Be thou my wisdom, be thou my true word,
Be thou ever with me, and I with thee, Lord;
Be thou my great Father, and I thy true child;
Be thou in me dwelling, and we reconciled.

Riches I heed not, nor all the world’s praise,
Be thou my inheritance now and always,
Be thou and thou only the first in my heart,
O Sovereign of heaven, my treasure thou art.

High King of heaven, thou heaven’s bright Sun,
O grant me its joys after vic’ry is won;
Great Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be thou my vision, O Ruler of all.

Tune: Slane 339 NEH
Words: Irish, c 8th century, tr. Mary Byrne (1880–1931)
Music: traditional Irish melody
versified by Eleanor Hull (1860–1935)
GOSPEL  Luke 18: 1- 8
read by Mrs Lynne Tembey, Worldwide President of Mothers’ Union

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ

All:  Glory be to thee, O Lord

Then Jesus told them a parable about their need to pray always and not to lose heart. He said, “In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor had respect for people. In that city there was a widow who kept coming to him and saying, ‘Grant me justice against my opponent’. For a while he refused: but later he said to himself, ‘Though I have no fear of God and no respect for anyone, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will grant her justice, so that she may not wear me out by continually coming.” And the Lord said, “Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God grant justice to his chosen ones who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long in helping them? I tell you, he will quickly grant justice to them. And yet, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?”

This is the Gospel of Christ

All:  Praise be to thee, O Christ

SERMON

Morning:  Right Rev’d Nigel Stock, Bishop at Lambeth
Afternoon:  The Most Rev’d and Right Hon. Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

ANTHEM  All power was given to me to proclaim the gospel  Jackson Chikoka

CREED

President:  Let us declare our faith in God
All:  We believe in God the Father,
From whom every family
In heaven and on earth is named.
We believe in God the Son,
Who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.
We believe in the Holy Spirit,
Who strengthens us
with power from on high.
We believe in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION.  Please join with the Taizé response ’O Lord hear my Prayer’

THE PEACE

Jesus said ‘Love one another. As I have loved you so you are to love one another.’
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

All:  And also with you.
We offer one another a sign of peace.
OFFERTORY HYMN  Here I am Lord
during which a collection will be taken for the Cathedral Appeal and the elements taken up
to the Altar

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
    Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord?
    I have heard you calling in the night.
    I will go, Lord, if you lead me.
    I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of sea and sky,
I have heard my people cry.
All who dwell in dark and sin
my hand will save.
I, who made the stars of night,
I will make their darkness bright.
Who will bear my light to them?
Whom shall I send?
    Here I am, Lord. ..... 

I, the Lord of snow and rain,
I have borne my people’s pain.
I have wept for love of them.
They turn away.
I will break their hearts of stone,
give them hearts for love alone.
I will speak my words to them.
Whom shall I send?
    Here I am, Lord. ...... 

I, the Lord of wind and flame,
I will send the poor and lame.
I will set a feast for them.
My hand will save.
Finest bread I will provide
till their hearts be satisfied.
I will give my life to them.
Whom shall I send?
    Here I am, Lord. ..... 

Tune:  Here I am, Lord 332 HON
Words:  Daniel Schutte (b. 1947)
Music:  Daniel Schutte after Isaiah 6

Eucharistic Prayer

President:  The Lord is here
All:  His Spirit is with us
       Lift up your hearts
All:  We lift them to the Lord
       Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
All:  It is right to give thanks and praise.
       It is right to praise you, Father, Lord of all creation;
in your love you made us for yourself.
       When we turned away you did not reject us,
       but came to meet us in your Son.
All:  You embraced us as your children
       and welcomed us to sit and eat with you.
       In Christ you shared our life
       that we might live in him and he in us.
All:  He opened wide his arms of love upon the cross
       and made for all the perfect sacrifice for sin.
On the night he was betrayed, at supper with friends, he took bread and gave you thanks. He broke it and gave it to them, saying, take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

All: **Father, we do this in remembrance of him; his body is the bread of life.**

At the end of supper, taking the cup of wine, he gave you thanks and said; drink this all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.

All: **Father, we do this in remembrance of him; his blood is shed for all.**

As we proclaim his death and celebrate his rising in glory, send your Holy Spirit that this bread and this wine may be to us the body and blood of your dear Son.

All: **As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us one in Christ our risen Lord.**

With the whole Church throughout the world We offer you this sacrifice of praise And lift our voice to join the eternal song of heaven:

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

THE LORD’S PRAYER  *Please join in, in your own language*

Deacon: Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All: **Our Father, who art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, The power and the glory, For ever and ever. Amen**

President: We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

All: **Though we are many we are one body because we all share in one bread.**

Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us. Jesus bearer of our sins: have mercy on us. Jesus redeemer of the world: grant us peace.

**GIVING OF COMMUNION**

President: Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper

All: **Lord I am not worthy to receive you But only say the word and I shall be healed.**
MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

will be sung by The Mary Sumner Choir, Zambia and will include an anonymous setting of Mary Sumner’s Prayer

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

President: Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name, your servant Mary Sumner revealed your goodness in a life of tranquillity and service: grant that we who have gathered in faith around this table may like her know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge and be filled with all your fullness; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Merciful God, you have called us to your table And fed us with the bread of life. Draw us and all people to serve you through your Son, Our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen

POST COMMUNION HYMN   How Great Thou Art
during which the Officiating Ministers process to the High Altar

O Lord my God, When I in awesome wonder,
Consider all the worlds Thy Hands have made;
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

Then sings my soul my Saviour God to Thee
How great Thou art, how great Thou art.

When through the woods, and forest glades I wander,
And hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees.
When I look down, from lofty mountain grandeur
And see the brook, and feel the gentle breeze.

Then sings my soul...

And when I think, that God, His Son not sparing;
Sent Him to die, I scarce can take it in;
That on the Cross, my burden gladly bearing,
He bled and died to take away my sin.

Then sings my soul...

When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
And take me home, what joy shall fill my heart.
Then I shall bow, in humble adoration,
And then proclaim: "My God, how great Thou art!"

Then sings my soul...

Tune:   How great thou art 546 AMHS       Words: Stuart K. Hine (1899-1989)
Music: Swedish folk melody arr. Stuart K. Hine

BLESSING

President: May God, who gives patience and encouragement,
give you a spirit of unity, to live in harmony as you follow Jesus Christ,
So that with one voice, you may glorify God,
the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All: Amen
**DISMISSAL**  The Acting Dean
We have worshipped together knowing that our heavenly Father is present throughout the world.

**All:** Loving Lord  
We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.  
We stand with families around the world.

We have worshipped together acknowledging the part we play as disciples of Jesus.

**All:** As members of the Mothers’ Union we shall seek to share your love with all whom we meet.

We have worshipped together enlivened by God’s Holy Spirit.

**All:** We are empowered by your Spirit and united in prayer and worship; we shall serve you wherever you place us.

We have worshipped together with a desire to grow closer to God.

**All:** And so in love and service we reach out as your hands across the world.

*In Jesus’ name. Amen*

Deacon: Go in the peace of Christ

**All:** Thanks be to God

**RECESSIONAL HYMN**  Hope of our Calling

Hope of our calling: hope through courage won;  
By those who dared to share all Christ had done.  
Saints of today, Christ’s banner now unfurled,  
We bring his gospel to a waiting world.

Hope of our calling: hope with strength empowered,  
Inspired by all that we have seen and heard;  
This call is ours, for we are chosen too,  
To live for God in all we say and do.

Hope of our calling: hope with grace outpoured,  
From death’s despair the gift of life restored;  
Our call to serve, to wash each others’ feet,  
To bring Christ’s healing touch to all we meet.

Hope of our calling: hope by faith made bold;  
To sow God’s righteousness throughout the world;  
Bring peace from conflict, fruitfulness from weeds,  
The kingdom’s harvest from the kingdom’s seeds.

Hope of our calling: Spirit-filled, unbound,  
Old joys remembered and new purpose found,  
Our call refreshed by sacrament and word,  
We go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

*Tune:* Woodlands 186 NEH  
*Words:* Ally Barrett (b. 1975) 493 AMHS  
*Music:* Walter Greatorex (1877–1949)

**ORGAN VOLUNTARY**

Finale (Symphony No.6)  
*Charles-Marie Widor (1844-1937)*
Mary Sumner, with her husband Rev’d George and their two small daughters, moved into the rectory at Old Alresford, Hampshire in 1851 and it was here that their son, Heywood was born. As is well known and well documented, when her eldest daughter became a mother, Mary Sumner remembered vividly the anxiety she had felt at the responsibility motherhood brought for the spiritual well-being as well as physical well-being of children. She formed a group of local mothers, inviting them to come to the rectory.

The growth of Mothers’ Union in the diocese

In October 1888 Mrs H May FitzGerald, wife of the local Magistrate, and living in the Candovers – neighbouring villages to Old Alresford – enrolls five members in Bentworth, and attends meetings at six branches in the vicinity enrolling mothers. Letters from Mary Sumner show that she believed these “upper class” women, such as Mrs FitzGerald, should use their influence to bring Mothers’ Union to women of all classes. Meetings were usually held in local gentry’s “Drawing Rooms” and were opened in prayer by the Vicar and a short address, followed by a hymn and then tea.

Records also show that branches were started in North and South Army Camps at Aldershot. Several Officer’s wives were enrolled, and it was these ladies who first took Mothers’ Union overseas as their husbands were posted abroad.

The first Journal was published in 1888 and members paid 1d per issue and 11,000 copies were sold. Documents indicate that Mary Sumner had the idea for one cover design: a view of Winchester Cathedral from her home at No 1 The Close, printed on salmon pink!
In the same year, a distinction became clear between Subscribing Members – ladies who paid 1/- to the Union and promised to use the prayer daily, and Associates who could be married or unmarried members of the Church of England.

After many amendments and discussions, particularly regarding the Scottish Mothers’ Union and membership contributions to central funds the Mothers’ Union was incorporated under the Companies Consolidation Act (1908) in 1912. It was agreed that every diocese was to use the original Mothers’ Union membership card and adhere to the Central organisation. Branches were to be started or worked without the consent of the incumbent of the parish, and diocesan councils were given autonomy for their local organisation.

An undated letter written by Louisa Gore-Brown, Mary’s daughter to Lady Horatia (Erskine – who in 1890 developed the Mothers’ Union in the London Diocese) expressed her wish that the Mothers’ Union would gently allow her mother to resign as Central President, which she did in 1909. She continued as Diocesan President in Winchester until her death in 1921. George and Mary Sumner are both buried in the graveyard to the south-east of the Cathedral. Every year, on Mary Sumner Day, 9th August, Winchester diocesan Mothers’ Union members pay tribute to Mary by placing flowers on her grave and holding a service of prayer and dedication at St Mary’s Old Alresford.

In 1912 Mothers’ Union members from around the British Empire subscribed to pay 1d (penny) each for two of the supporting buttresses required along the south wall of the Nave in Winchester Cathedral in recognition of Mary Sumner’s work. The plaques are still visible. For our 140th anniversary, we will again support the fabric of the Cathedral, in the hope of keeping alive Mary’s spirit in the “home” of Mothers’ Union.
The Inspiration of Mary Sumner

Anti-clockwise from top:
Church Community Mobilisation has led to income generation in Uganda:
friendship and fellowship:
parenting training in Myanmar:
Bye Buy Childhood panel General Synod of CoE 2015:
Ballet Rambert Dance Workshop with Mothers’ Union Birmingham

Today’s Mothers’ Union is a globally flourishing Christian movement of 4 million members in at least 83 countries of the world. Our global nature ensures our membership is diverse in every sense, yet all are united in faith, and share a desire to put that faith into action in service to others. We serve Christ in some of the most impoverished communities in the world, and wherever we work our aim is to bring hope and to build resistance to adversity.

From small community initiatives to national programmes we strengthen family life by nurturing relationships that are loving, faithful and respectful.

Mothers’ Union is unique. We don’t work alongside communities, we work inside communities. Based in countless Anglican parishes in over 600 dioceses worldwide our work is run by local people for local people. Breaking the cycle of dependency we give people the courage to transform their own lives and communities by facilitating change.

As we enter a new decade, our goal is to bring positive change to over one million people a year by 2021.
What a wonderful privilege to be joining you for my first General Meeting as Chief Executive, and on this extra special celebration of 140 years of Mothers’ Union!

Over the last year, I have been fortunate to meet many members, and to witness first-hand your true ‘Faith in Action’ – whether in shared worship and fellowship, or in practical action in the community – both in the United Kingdom, the home of Mothers’ Union, and abroad in Uganda and Kenya, where I have seen the life-changing work of members in their communities.

I have been deeply touched to see and hear of so many “ordinary people doing extraordinary things” – those many little acts of kindness which you “just do”, which mean so much to others.

We know that, thanks to you, over half a million lives worldwide were touched last year – amazing!

I am convinced that Mothers’ Union has a bright, vibrant future in store. On behalf of the staff at Mary Sumner House, I want to assure you of our continued support for your work as you invest your time, your talents and your resources in looking and reaching outwards, and may I encourage you to let the light of your actions shine out into the world, to “touch as many lives as possible” in the future.

Thank you so much!

Beverley Jullien, Mothers’ Union Chief Executive

Welcome to Hampshire, and to Winchester, Old Alresford and Basingstoke in particular. I hope you have been enjoying this year remembering the beginnings of Mothers’ Union through to the current day, and that these two days of national and international celebration will be a wonderful highlight.

I hope you enjoy meeting up with friends and strangers in between our two services, and at the General Meeting. Our local members are looking forward especially to spotting badges as you travel between Winchester and Basingstoke and during any time you take to tour Hampshire, including Old Alresford Place and Church.

Finally I have to thank the organising committee and all of our members who have offered prayer, time and talents over the last year, to thank you, for your prayers for us, and most of all, for coming to be with us.

With love

Caroline

Caroline Scull, Mothers’ Union President, Diocese of Winchester
The General Meeting

Hampshire Court Hotel

Friday 23rd September 2016

MORNING PROGRAMME

Please be seated by 10.30 am

_The Mothers’ Union Story_ – Saltmine Theatre Company

Worship

Welcome to Basingstoke

_Called into God’s Service_

Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey

Midday prayers and worship

140th anniversary celebrations

AFTERNOON PROGRAMME

Please be seated by 1.30 pm

_Our time to shine_

Head of Fundraising & Communications, Daniel McAllister

_A leap of faith_

Chief Executive, Beverley Jullien

A pledge to our organisation

Closing Worship

Retiring collection in aid of Mothers’ Union 140th Anniversary Funding Appeal
General Meeting Programme and Worship

All worship led by The Right Rev’d Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading, Central Chaplain to Mothers’ Union

THE MOTHERS’ UNION STORY: Saltmine Theatre Company

Opening Worship

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

CALL TO WORSHIP

Chaplain: Enter his gates with thanksgiving and his courts with praise; give thanks to him and praise his name. For the Lord is good and his love endures for ever; his faithfulness continues through all generations.
Psalm 100:5

All: Loving Lord, we praise your name as we look back down the years and see the imprint of your faithfulness on all that has come to pass.

We thank you for the life and witness, of our founder, Mary Sumner.
We praise you for her far-reaching vision which has inspired succeeding generations.

We thank you for those who have led the way in worship and service to your world.
For those who have faithfully served you in quiet and unseen ways.

All: As we look back with gratitude so we look forward in faith.
We place our trust in our loving God whose faithfulness spans all ages. Amen

We commit our day to God as we gather in his presence.
May all that we share together deepen our gratitude for the past and envision us for the future.

All: This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. Amen

“Her foresight, her wisdom and judgment laid the great foundation stone for us. And as the building grows, and far and wide her early message goes forth – the same message, though to a different generation – we pray that the faith which shone through her every word and thought may illumine ours, that we, with grateful hearts, may build well and truly, as she did.”

Yours

Mrs Boustead,
Central President of Mothers’ Union:
December 1927
Midday Prayers

As we approach the time to unite together with our fellow members across the world in our Wave of Prayer, let us bring our praise to God for his grace and faithfulness to us as we gladly serve him in this present age.

**HYMN**

Now thank we all our God,
with hearts and hands and voices,
who wonderous things hath done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mother's arms
hath blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever joyful hearts
and blessèd peace to cheer us;
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and keep us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given,
the Son, and him who reigns
with them in highest heaven,
the one eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore,
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

M. Rinkart (1586-1649)
tr Catherine Winworth (1827-78)
Nun danket J Cruger's Praxis Pietatis Melica
(c. 1647)

“I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world.”
Romans 1:8

All: Lord of the nations,
as we celebrate with joy
140 years of Mothers' Union
we bring to you our praise
for the precious fellowship
we share with our members worldwide.

We thank you for the blessing
of being united together in vision.
Bind us together in love and support
as we uphold one another in prayer.

All: God of grace, enable your servants
to carry out your mission on earth
through the work of Mothers' Union worldwide.

Today we pray for the people and work of
Rumbek in South Sudan; Soroti in Uganda; Aba
Ngwa North & Oyo in Nigeria; Peterborough in
England and North Eastern Caribbean & Aruba

All: We pray for all members.
May God be with them
in every part of their lives,
encouraging them and leading them,
sheltering and strengthening them
so they may work to your praise and glory.
Amen

**THE MOTHERS’ UNION PRAYER**

All: 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

---

WELCOME

*Called into God’s Service*  Lynne Tembey, Worldwide President

---

**THE MARY SUMNER CHOIR, ZAMBIA – Precious Promises**

**140TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS**
Afternoon

Our time to shine  Daniel McAllister, Head of Fundraising & Communications

A leap of faith  Beverley Jullien, Chief Executive

Closing Worship


After this the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go. He said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest. Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves. Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road. Whatever house you enter, first say, ‘Peace to this house!’ And if anyone is there who shares in peace, your peace will rest on that person; but if not, it will return to you. Remain in the same house, eating and drinking whatever they provide, for the labourer deserves to be paid. Do not move about from house to house. Whenever you enter a town and its people welcome you, eat what is set before you; cure the sick who are there, and say to them, ‘The kingdom of God has come near to you.’

HOMILY: The Right Rev’d Andrew Proud

All: God of the past, the present, and the future, we celebrate and give thanks for your faithfulness through the years. We commit ourselves afresh to your loving purposes. May we continue to enrich family life for future generations. Amen

HYMN

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord: unnumbered blessings, give my spirit voice; tender to me the promise of his word; in God, my Saviour shall my heart rejoice.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his name: make known his might, the deeds his arm has done; his mercy sure, from age to age the same; his holy name, the Lord, the Mighty One.

Tell out, my soul, the greatness of his might: Powers and dominions lay their glory by; proud hearts and stubborn wills are put to flight, the hungry fed, the humble lifted high.

Tell out, my soul, the glories of his word: firm is his promise, and his mercy sure. Tell out, my soul, the greatness of the Lord to children’s children and for evermore.

© 1961 Timothy Dudley-Smith
Tune: Woodlands

FINAL BLESSING

All praise be to God, by whose power the vision for Mothers’ Union became reality; whose faithfulness has led us through the years and whose Spirit inspires for what lies ahead. The blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. Amen.

United in love across the world, go in peace to serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.
Amen

This year our retiring collection will contribute towards the 140th Anniversary Fundraising Target. However you have raised funds (from walking 140km to baking a cake) we are deeply grateful. Thanks to your generosity, the £1.4m raised will help ensure that the work in Britain and around the world can continue to thrive and change the lives of so many thousands in need.
Saltmine Trust

Saltmine Trust is a Christian Charity and Theatre Company inspired by the life and teaching of Jesus. As a team we passionately believe in the power of story. Our lives are made up of stories that have shaped, or are shaping who we are and what we are becoming. At Saltmine we create and retell stories with a commitment to making a difference for the good in society and individual lives by delivering high-quality creative performances. Our work is very diverse from educating on social issues to telling the biblical narrative in innovative ways. We also create bespoke performances for partners such as Mothers’ Union or YMCA where we have retold their founder’s story. In an average year our creative team of actors, directors, writers, technicians, design and media staff create over twenty productions to audiences in excess of 100,000 children, young people and adults. We tour up and down the UK to schools, communities, theatres, churches and events.

To enquire and book a performance –
email creative@saltmine.org
or call 01384 454807

---

Fretwell Print and Direct Mail

We are delighted to offer our support to Mothers’ Union on the occasion of their 140th Anniversary through the printing of this Commemorative Programme.

Fretwell has a multi-million pound annual turnover, and uses the latest print and digital technology to meet the needs of clients, including Mothers’ Union with whom Fretwell has worked to supply printing resources and direct mail to members and supporters all over Britain & Ireland.

Paul Cayton, Business Development Manager for Fretwell is delighted to be at the General Meeting, to discuss printing needs for regional Mothers’ Unions and to join with members as they celebrate this very special occasion.

Paul Cayton
Business Development Manager
Fretwell Print and Direct Mail
Healey Works, Goulbourne Street
Keighley, West Yorkshire BD21 1PZ
tel: 07748 638782
e-mail paul.cayton@fretwell.co.uk
www.fretwell.co.uk

Our grateful thanks to the Acting Dean and Chapter of Winchester Cathedral, particularly Richard Pratt, for all their support to help make these celebrations run so smoothly.

Commemorative Programme compiled and edited by Fiona Thomas, for Mothers’ Union. © 2016
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