

Issue 4/20

October - December 2020

Newsletter



Building Hope and Confidence

New Members

Maidstone Archdeaconry

St Andrew's, Barming Heath

Enrolling took place in the garden with just 5 members present.

Marlene Parks



Congratulations

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

Ospringe Fellowship

60th Wedding Anniversary

Dorothea & Rodney Thorpe

St Martin and St Paul's Canterbury

50 years' membership of MU

Jennifer Llewellyn - see also

memories of her 50 years, in this newsletter. *Note; Jennifer has been our Diocesan President and Richard Llewellyn was at one time Bishop of Dover.*

Golden Wedding Anniversary

Felicity & Roger Loram



FROM THE EDITOR...

We are still in a difficult situation, but happier times must be ahead. Until then, unfortunately, this newsletter will again be a pdf digital copy only.

David Horwood

Front Cover Photo: One of the caravans used back in August where the diocese was able to provide holidays under the AFIA scheme to two families on the Warden Springs Caravan Park on the Isle of Sheppey. See Rita Pengelly's article in this newsletter.

Dear friends

We are slowly rebuilding. If during these lockdown and shielding months you have had a surprising outcome from an unexpected activity please share your news with a picture. In difficult times we continue our action and outreach to families in need through AFIA holidays and support to unaccompanied refugee children. Thank you to everyone who has made face coverings (as pictured).



Branches may now plan to meet inside our reopened churches; wearing masks for worship following all covid19 safety measures and guidance from central Mothers' Union. It is good to know small social groups have been meeting distanced and outdoors. Hurrah for human interactions!

Will you all join in a zoom call on 4th November? – there are 100 places and time is not restricted! I am sorry we are not meeting in person. The meeting will have good news stories from around the diocese and an update of how we can participate in 16 days of Activism. In that context letters have been sent to MPs and Bishops with regard to the progress through parliament of the Domestic Abuse Bill.

The Mission & Ministry Team of the Diocese has worked hard to produce a range of resources to help us all to listen to God and one another afresh this Autumn: Listening & Discerning on the Way Together with Bishop Rose who says “We want to hear what God is saying to our children and young people – their voice is vital in capturing all that God is saying to his people”. Those listening questions are contained within the Together in Prayer centre pages prepared by our MU Chaplain.

We are planning for both a real and virtual Advent service in the Cathedral. The Advent speaker is Revd Dr Emma Pennington, Canon Missioner, who is the Diocesan Ambassador for The Children's Society working with vulnerable young people and children within our communities.

This is a very difficult time for the Mothers' Union and the members of staff at Mary Sumner House. Dedicated workers and MU members of staff have had to accept either voluntary or compulsory redundancy, because the charity can no longer support all the paid staff, despite the generosity of all the members worldwide, who gave so generously to the appeal. We hold them in our prayers.

We send the warmest wishes from all Trustees to you and your families as we head towards Christmas. This certainly hits home:

'Love is what's in the room with you at Christmas if you stop opening presents and just listen.' Bobby – age 7

Grace and Peace

Marianna Poliszczuk Diocesan President,

email: marianna2@compuserve.com

Around the Diocese

St Stephen's, Canterbury

Held their annual Fish & Chip Supper on Tankerton slopes after getting them from Ossie's. 15 members and the Archdeaconry President Rita & Simon Pengelly took part and sat the required distance apart, to enjoy a sunny blustery meal.

Margaret Horwood, Branch Leader



St Martin and St Paul's Canterbury

There are 2 events that are part of our MU programme each year, and we did wonder if we would manage to gather for either of them, due to Covid 19.

Well it takes a lot to stop the Mothers' Union as you well know, so with one or two changes and tweaks the branch programme went ahead.

In July a group of about 20 adults and 5 children met on a quiet part of Tankerton seafront. Pre-ordered Fish and Chips were collected from a nearby shop and a lovely "socially – distanced" evening of eating and chat went ahead. Some folk went for a walk, others had a swim and the rest just enjoyed being out in the fresh air meeting one another. With Rita and Simon Pengelly joining us making it an extra special evening. The weather was perfect, and there was a lovely sunset to end the day.



Mary Sumner Day was a Sunday this year, so ideal for making the most of our founder. The branch leader was invited to lead the intercessions at our 10.30 service, and our Curate Hannah talked about Mary Sumner in her sermon, calling her one of the Church of England "superheroes". Then in the afternoon 22 adults, 8 children and a 4 month old baby met in a beautiful garden for another "socially-distanced" gathering and tea.

We have been so lucky to have had these opportunities, and those who felt able and happy to meet up and chat face to face have been able to do so.

Sue Spillett, Branch Leader

Memorable moments during my 50 years' membership of the Mothers' Union.

I joined the Mothers' Union at the height of apartheid in South Africa. Some of the first people I met in Johannesburg were two Mothers' Union workers: Evelyn Mahlatsi and Jo Emery. What moved me to join was the work that I saw going on at grassroots level sponsored and financed by the Mothers' Union. Within a week or two of joining, I was invited to take part in a training exercise in the African Soweto Township. For me this was a first-hand experience of what the Worldwide Mothers' Union could achieve. Here under canvas over 100 women had gathered to take part in a training that would help them in their role as mothers, and often breadwinners because so many of their husbands were in a different part of the country working in the Gold Mines for 11 months of each year. Also, in this training the MU workers encouraged discussion in child care and nutrition with practical cooking demonstrations.

Coming back to this country I wondered how I would find the MU here in England. Richard's first parish was Waltham Cross in North London and here I discovered a very dedicated MU branch.

First Tuesday of the month was Prayer Circle; second Tuesday of the month was sewing circle (the entire production of this group became each year an overflowing stall at the church autumn fair). Third Tuesday of the month was the regular MU meeting. Fourth Tuesday of the month at 9:30 in the morning we had music and movement for the young mothers coming away from the school gates.

What I remember so vividly about this branch was that each of these meetings or gatherings was chaired by a different member of the MU committee. It was my first experience of truly shared leadership.

When we moved to Harpenden there were already quite a few young mothers in the congregation. They were the ones who asked the question "How can the Mothers' Union help me as a wife and mother?" So it was that 28 young women joined the Mothers' Union one Sunday morning at the main Eucharist. We had regular discussion groups; we took part in the Town pageant with an MU float. Some of them, with their husbands, became part of the parish marriage preparation group. What I recall is that their membership encouraged them to be a full part of the Christian community.

Another highlight was when a coach load of MU members from South Africa came to stay in our homes for a week while they were on a visit to this country. Two memorable encounters come to mind. One South African stayed with the Jones family and their four little girls. After supper she asked if she could join the family for their family prayers. Rather embarrassingly the parents looked at each other and said "Well, we don't usually pray as a family at night", to which the South African visitor replied "Don't worry, I'll show you how!". The other memorable story is about Gertrude. Gertrude was a servant to a white family in Johannesburg. She was staying with June and George in their home in Harpenden.

On the first morning of Gertrude's stay, June ran the bath for her and laced it with bubbles, switched on the radio, and put a cup of tea for her on the stool beside the bath. For June this was a perfectly straightforward action for her guest, but for Gertrude it was something that caused her to burst into tears, because for her it was a complete role reversal: back at home Gertrude would be doing exactly the same thing for her employer: at that time it would have been inconceivable that a white woman would run a bath for a black employee. June and Gertrude hugged each other.

It was the MU that gave Harpenden an opportunity to share their home with people from a different race and culture. The whole experience was one of the most heart-warming for me, and I feel was a great learning experience for us all.

Two occasions in Cornwall stand out for me. One was working very closely with the Methodist Women's Network. Sharing our meetings; experiencing quiet days together; an evening together when over 100 of us learnt to write and compose a hymn (and I have still got mine somewhere!) The other occasion was a fundraising one: at a Council Meeting the parable of the talents was acted out. Then, each branch leader was given enough one pound coins to distribute among her branch members, 1500 in all. We were all asked not to bury our pound but to make it grow! And my goodness we did! From trays of tomato plants, to backing a horse that came in at 20 to 1, and making cakes and preserves, knitting jackets and many more exciting initiatives, £1500 became £11500.

And some of you will remember that we did exactly the same thing in Canterbury with much the same result.

The undergirding force of the Mothers' Union, it seems to me, is the continual Wave of Prayer. This prayer is happening somewhere in the world all the time, and I find that amazing. But prayer must be informed, so that we know what is happening within the family of the worldwide Mothers' Union. Prayer and information leads us to glad and generous giving.

I have been very grateful to the Mothers' Union for the all the training I have received. I remember especially a session at a 3-day conference when I was a new diocesan president: it gave me very good advice about how to chair a Council of 100 delegates! I remember being slightly amused when we were told that every Council member should be able to leave the meeting with a spring in their step, a broad smile on their face, and huge energy to go back to their branches with an exciting agenda! But what an excellent picture that was. I also learnt at this conference that it was vitally important as a leader to gather a team together, set the agenda together, recognise others gifts and use them so that one day you will find someone to take on your role!

I think I can truthfully say that the MU has given me a confidence, some skills, a worldwide experience and a huge amount of fun, which in turn has helped me in my journey as a Christian.

Jennifer Llewelin, member of St Martin & St Paul's

Around the Diocese

Mothers' Union Supports Refugee Children

With the many boat loads of refugees coming across from France, the adults move on to reception centres where decisions are taken whether or not they should stay. However, unaccompanied refugee children become the responsibility of the Kent County Council which is being required to meet the cost of accommodating them and taking steps to trace their families where possible. They have been inundated with over 400 refugee children this year.

The children mostly come from war torn countries such as Syria, Libya, Iraq and Afghanistan. During their journeys they often become separated from their parents some of whom may have died.

The County Council has established three centres in Kent at Ashford, Cranbrook and Maidstone where the children are accommodated. The Council has now run out of space so cannot take any more. On learning that one such centre was very nearby I felt it my duty as a Christian and as Social Policy Officer of the Canterbury Diocesan Mothers' Union to enquire whether there was any way in which we could give support. After much effort I was able to make contact with the Kent County Council and ascertained that there were many kinds of needs for these children which the Kent County Council simply could not afford to provide. Mothers' Union is associated with the Hat te Bah initiative for integrating refugees into the wider community.

My appeal to Mothers' Union branches across the Diocese has resulted in many donations both of money and gifts. We have been able to provide these desolate children from many nationalities with items such as felt pens and pencils, colouring books and artistic materials, comfort teddies, as well as stress balls and individual night lights with batteries. With the money still in hand we are proposing to purchase more colouring materials and some Lego.



During my pursuit I have come across a most worthwhile charity working across Europe called Safe Passage whose objective is to bring in refugees legitimately and to try and link up refugee children with their families. Full information about their work can be found online.

My sincere thanks to all our Mothers' Union members for their most generous response to this worthwhile cause.

John Sweetman, Social Policy Officer

Together in Prayer

October - December 2020

Revd Lesley Valiant - Saints and Seasons

As I write, it is the heat of the summer season, and the Kent coast is seeing a revival in seaside visitors on holiday. Just like ‘the old days’ we often hear. It is good that family and friends can enjoy themselves outside after some difficult months of staying home, and, for many, a different way of work, leisure or family time. Our prayers and support go out to those who have lost loved ones, homes or businesses, even as we recognise some positives during the last months; less pollution in cities, communities coming together to provide meals, help with deliveries and much more. This time has been an opportunity to help one another, learn a new skill, read, pray, study, garden, and maybe plan and plant a new future. God's call on his Church, of which we as Mothers' Union are part, is to be a beacon of hope in dark times. The past months have presented us with the opportunity to spend time seeking God as a diocesan family, asking for his guidance for the next stage of our life together. It may be a time to talk and listen to other MU members about how you have spent the past months, share new things learnt, and how Sundays are without being able to go into church.

Therefore encourage one another and build each other up. 1Thess. 5:11

Bishop Rose, our Patron, invites everyone to have prayerful conversations this Autumn around these three questions:-

What are we noticing of God's movement at this difficult time?

What are we learning as we reflect on how God seems to be moving?

What might we let go of or allow to die so that we may enter a new future with God?

It would be good if we could start making a few notes (phrases, songs or words) on each of these as we spend time reading our Bibles, reflecting and listening to God day by day. Something we could share at Branch meetings in future.

Barnabas took Saul and brought him to the apostles. He told them how Saul on his journey had seen the Lord and that the Lord had spoken to him, and how in Damascus he had preached fearlessly in the name of Jesus. So Saul stayed with them and moved about freely in Jerusalem, speaking boldly in the name of the Lord. Acts 9:27-28.

Barnabas became the bridge between the convert (Saul) and the apostles, as new Christians need sponsors, people to come alongside them to encourage and teach them, and introduce them to new believers. See how bold Paul was in Jerusalem; this would characterise the rest of his life. Learn more by reading these passages from Acts: 11: 22-30, 13: 1-12 and 42-49, 14: 1-6 and 21-28, and 18: 23-28.

“The LORD bless you and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.”

Together in Prayer

October - Saints and Seasons

4th October, we remember St. Francis of Assisi who founded the Franciscan Order. Those who joined, and still do today, commit to prayer every day and keep a Rule of Life, and to serve God through prayer, study and work, after the example of Francis. In 13th Century St. Francis' challenge to the Church was to follow Jesus' earthly life, to proclaim the gospel and bring justice and peace.

It started in 1209 when God spoke to Francis in the little church of St Damiano during the Gospel reading of Matthew 10: 7-10 which outlined the pattern of the life that Francis craved. His literal obedience to the verses made him throw away his staff, take off his sandals, and change his leather belt for a rope.

This was the start of a new Order.

Praised be you, my Lord,
through Sister Moon and Stars.
In heaven you have formed them,
lightsome and precious and fair.

And praised be you, my Lord,
through Brother Wind, through
air and cloud, through calm
and every weather by which
you sustain your creatures.
Praised be you, my Lord,
through our Sister, Mother Earth,
who sustains us and directs us
bringing forth all kinds of fruits
and coloured flowers and herbs.

A few verses of Francis' Canticle of the Creatures

*Lord, make me an instrument of your peace
Where there is hatred, let me sow love
Where there is an injury, pardon
Where there is doubt, faith
Where there is despair, hope
Where there is darkness, light
And where there is sadness, joy*



*This 20th Century prayer
is a tribute to St. Francis.*

Together in Prayer

November

This month starts with All Saints Day, then a week later we remember the Saints and Martyrs of England, who were not concerned about fame and fortune but faith in God.



For several years, as a child, I went on the annual Pilgrimage to the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban and to the shrine of Alban just as many have done down through the centuries.

Alban who is buried there and is the first known British martyr. He lived at a time when religious freedom was not allowed. It is told that Alban helped a Christian priest by sheltering him in his own home. Alban saw that the priest spent day and night in prayer, and he was moved by the grace of God. They spent several days talking together and Alban was so impressed by the priest's sanctity and devotion that he became a Christian and wanted to imitate the piety and faith of his

guest. Encouraged and instructed by the priest, Alban renounced his idol worship and embraced Christ with his whole heart. He helped the priest escape but was executed for refusing to deny his new faith, and died a martyr in 305 AD.

Prayer: God of our pilgrimage, you have kindled the flame of love in the hearts of the saints and martyrs: grant us the same faith and power of love, and grace to follow the path of your will, that we may be sustained by their example and fellowship, in Jesus name. Amen

Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you. Follow God's example, therefore, as dearly loved children and walk in the way of love, just as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God. Ephesians 4:32 - 5:1

8th November 2020 is Remembrance Sunday and provides an opportunity to be silent and to reflect on the sum of wartime grief and loss, military and civilian, knowing that we cannot restore life that has been lost: that belongs to God. But we **can** commit ourselves to shaping a world of justice and of peace. Two well-known symbols: The Poppy and the Cross. What comes to mind when you see them? What does the poppy have to do with the cross?

Well the words we might use about them may be similar for they both raise thoughts about: death and life, sacrifice, repentance and love, gratitude and peace. On Remembrance Sunday we look back with **gratitude** at those who laid down their lives for their country, that we might be free.

For a Christian **every** Sunday is Remembrance Sunday, for we look back with gratitude at God, *who so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son*; we look back with thankfulness at Christ, who died to reconcile us to God. We lay a wreath of red poppies and remember. We come to the Lord's Table and drink red wine and remember.



Readings: Micah 4: 1-3 and Romans 5: 1-10

Prayer: Ever-living God, we remember those whom you have gathered from the storm of war, into the peace of your presence; may that same peace calm our fears, bring justice to all peoples and establish harmony among the nations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Together in Prayer

December

The 6th December is the feast day of St. Nicholas, 4th century Christian bishop of Greek descent from the maritime city of Myra.

He was rich, kind and helped the poor.

Nicholas' fame lived long after his death because he was associated with many miracles, and reverence for him continues to this day independent of his Christmas connection. He is the protector of many types of people, from orphans to sailors.

This is the Season of Advent, a time of making and meditating, story and symbols....as we prepare our hearts and homes for the celebration of our Lord's incarnation and birth.

The Jesse Tree is an old Christian tradition started in Medieval times. It is a visual aid telling the Bible story from Creation to Christmas. It comes from the book of Isaiah 11:1-4

A branch is a sign of life, growth and new beginnings. Jesse was the father of King David, and Christians understand Jesus as the Messiah from David's line, born in Bethlehem. Religious artists

since the 11th Century have used the idea of the Jesse tree for

painting, sculpture, stained glass and tapestries with Jesse at the root and Jesus as the crowning glory to aid the peoples Biblical learning.

Today we can use a Jesse Tree as a type of Advent Calendar. We can mark the days of waiting and preparation in Advent with a Jesse tree at home or church. Each day of Advent we can hang on the tree something that shows an aspect of Jesus or part of the story of His birth. We can use pictures of his ancestors like David or Solomon or our own family/ church family.

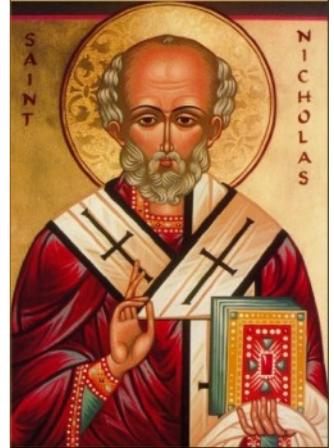
All we need is a tree, symbol and Bible passage to read or even write on a luggage label. It is after all about a journey! One that inaugurated the greatest event in history!

Symbols could be a shepherd, light, gate, angel, crown, star.. Bible verses telling the story from the appearance of the angel of the Lord, through Mary visiting Elizabeth, to Joseph and Mary in the stable with the Christ-child and visited by shepherds and men from the East. As we read a little of the story as we travel through Advent, we can choose a symbol or verse to hang on the tree, and share the experience with those close to us. Like: *the virgin will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel – which means 'God with us' Matt. 1:23, or There were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flocks when an angel of the Lord appeared to them. Luke 2:8 or We saw his star when it rose and have come to worship him. Matt. 2:2b*

Advent is the time when believers prepare for Jesus' coming; coming not just as a baby in a stable on Christmas Day, but coming to us as our Lord and God everyday. So in a quiet time let us think how we can change some of our ways to be ready to meet Him. These might be to:-Stand firm in our faith. Love God and our neighbour. Not be afraid to tell others about Jesus. Alert and not led astray by worldly ways. Obedient to God's good ways for us.

Prayer: *May we know joy this Christmas time aware that God loves us, sent His Son for us so we can know God and His great mercy, peace and compassion for us. Amen.*

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas and receive the Christ-child into our hearts, my prayer for each of us is that we find joy and peace at this time. May God bless you all, Lesley.



The 12 Days of Christmas

The “true love” mentioned in the song is referring to God and the “me” is referring to any baptised person. Below is a list of what each of the “gifts” could possibly mean:

The “partridge in a pear tree” is Christ Jesus upon the Cross. Christ is symbolically presented as a mother partridge. A mother partridge would pretend to be injured to decoy a predator away from her nestlings. She was even willing to die for them, just as Christ died.

The tree in the song is the symbol of the fall of the human race through the sin of Adam and Eve (The Tree of Good and Evil in the Garden of Eden). It is also the symbol of redemption by Jesus Christ on the tree of the Cross.

The “two turtle doves” refers to the Old and New Testaments.

The “three French hens” stand for faith, hope and love—the three gifts of the Spirit that remain no matter what happens.

The “four calling birds” refers to the four apostles who wrote the Gospels—Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. These four books tell the story of salvation through Jesus Christ.

The “five golden rings” represents the first five books of the Bible, also called the Jewish Torah: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy.

The “six geese a-laying” is the six days of creation.

The “seven swan’s a-swimming” refers to the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit: wisdom, understanding, counsel, fortitude, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord.

The “eight maids a milking” are a reminder of the eight beatitudes listed in the Sermon on the Mount.

The “nine ladies dancing” were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit found in Galatians 5:22-23: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self control.

The “ten lord’s a-leaping” represents the Ten Commandments

The “eleven pipers piping” refers to the eleven faithful apostles.

The “twelve drummers drumming” were the twelve points of belief expressed in the Apostles’ Creed.

Copy for the next Newsletter to be with the Editor, David Horwood, by Friday 30th October 2020. Please let me know what is happening in your area. Send to: 27 Abbey Gardens Canterbury CT2 7EU or email: boycieboycie@icloud.com.

NEWS FROM OUR OVERSEAS LINKS

First of all a big THANK YOU to each and every one of you who responded to the appeal for financial donations towards face masks for our friends in the Kajo-Keji refugee camps. So far £480 were raised and sent to Jane who sent the money to the MU in Kajo-Keji. Jane asked me to thank you all for your generosity.

Kajo-Keji

On July 31 I heard that Cecilia, wife of Bishop Emmanuel and President of MU was poorly and in hospital. Please pray for her after her successful surgery.

Due to the pandemic the move back from the camps in Uganda to Kajo-Keji in South Sudan were cancelled and borders closed. People were unable to travel back to KK as hoped.

On July 27th I received the following letter from Bishop Emmanuel in Kajo-Keji:

Receive greetings from the Diocese of KAJO-KEJI in Moyo. Thank you for updating us with what is taking place in Canterbury, we have been praying for you, it worries us a lot when we hear that the number of infected people were increasing in England. Here in Moyo we have been involved in sensitizing the refugee on the presidential orders and the guideline given by the Uganda ministry of Health. This has contributed a lot to curb the spread of COVID-19 in Obongi and Moyo district.

We would like to thank you for praying for us at this time of corona virus challenges. May God bless you.

Find attached is our Newsletter (voice of Hope Newsletter). Convey our love to all members of the Mothers' Union)

Thanks + Emmanuel.

Here is a summary of the news letter describing the situation in the camps:

Since the government permits agricultural activities during COVID19 members were given five different seeds to plant in their vegetable gardens

With many challenges we were able to make ten ovens and eight are now in use.

The Bethlehem tailoring training centre was set up with eight sewing machines and workers were chosen to work on them. 400 face masks were produced so far and sold out.

Prayer items : Corona virus situation, parents/children relationships, permanent peace in South Sudan, MU project developments.



NEWS FROM OUR OVERSEAS LINKS

Dutse, Nigeria

Bishop Markus and Mrs Danbinta have been corresponding regularly during the pandemic, sharing all their worries. Here is the latest letter dated July 15, and a photo of Bishop Markus and his wife.



Greetings to you and the people of God at Mary Sumner House. Hoping grace and mercy be multiplied to all in the precious name of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

To the glory of God, Churches and mosques were opened for services here in Jigawa state after few weeks of lock down. The Task Force on covid-19 tried to educate the citizens on the

danger of neglecting the rules laid against the spread of the pandemic when services were resumed, but respecting those rules is at about 20% or even less.

People just go on with their normal life and believe that corona virus is now part of history. We divided our Sunday services to two sections - one by 6:30am and the other by 9:00am in order to observe the social distance. No all members come to Church with face mask, may be 2% of the entire congregation.

To the glory of God, no member of our Diocese died or was infected with the pandemic though it affected us spiritually and financially. In all, only 2 Christians were said to have been quarantined and all were discharged alive.

We are happy to hear that life and Church services are gradually returning to normalcy in U.K.

The pandemic leaves us with no option than to cancel many important events and programmes. No wonder Lambeth is also affected. I hope by the mercy of God we shall be alive in 2022 to attend Lambeth.

Thank you for your prayers and love.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop and Mrs. Markus Y. Danbinta 5, Dutse of Diocese, Jigawa State.

Update on 17 August:

Here in my state and Nigeria at large, the lockdown is lifted. People can travel to any part of this country except that in some few places, social distance, the use of facemasks and hand sanitisers are enforced.

Now that people seem to have some relief from the corona virus pandemic, the women are struggling to fix new days for their conference which is hopefully to come in September 2020. They covet our prayers.

Tarime, Tanzania

Unfortunately, despite writing many letters to Grace Monge asking for news of the Diocese and the situation of the pandemic in their part of the world I have heard absolutely nothing this year. From the internet I found out that, as of August 1, Tanzania had 509 Corona cases, 21 deaths and 183 recovered.. Please pray for our friends there as we wait to hear some news.

NEWS FROM OUR OVERSEAS LINKS

Akoko-Edo, Nigeria

At the end of May, Victoria Oyekpen wrote:

We are fine and Pentecost Sunday was celebrated with members gathered by social distance.... Yesterday new cases in Nigeria was 553 with 9,855 total affected persons. Death is 273, discharged is 2,856. God will bless and keep us all.

On August 1, Victoria wrote the following:

*Happy new month of August. In the eighth month in the year of Darius was the message of divine visitation. Also in the eighth month was the house building finished in all parts thereof. Therefore being justified by faith, you will have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **Amen.***

Stay safe.

Daniele Ligneau-Wilton, Action and Outreach Overseas Officer

Away From It All holidays

Thank you Margaret Horwood for your support with the booking of the two Caravan Homes for our families, and thank you also for supplying lovely cuddly teddies for the little one, a generous gift from the caravan owner that will remind them of their happy holiday. Thank you Sue Thomas and Rachel for making two wonderful welcome baskets for the families, they really made them feel welcome and cared for.

Not forgetting Janet Robinson, thank you Janet, it was great that we were able to provide them with a donation that meant they could buy some extras for the children and themselves.

We are so blessed that as a Diocese we can provide a time and place for families to enjoy each other's company, relax, have fun and leave their every day worries behind.

Rita Pengelly, AFIA holiday Coordinator

This newsletter is produced by Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Canterbury. All items must come with a note of the contributor's name and contact details. The editor reserves the right to edit or not publish anything received. Items are not intended to represent the official position of the Church of England, nor the official position of the Mothers' Union.

Dates for your Diary

Please remember in your prayers:

Tuesday 6th October	Maidstone Archdeaconry meeting on Zoom at 10.30
Tuesday 20th October	10.00 - 12 noon on-line celebration presented by central MU
Thursday 29th October	Coffee lounge - online - 11.30 am
Friday 30th October	Copy deadline for Newsletter
Wednesday 4th November	Members Meeting online 10.30-12.30 by Zoom. Apply to admin for password.
Wednesday 18th November	Trustee Board Meeting - 1.30 pm on Zoom
Thursday 26th November	Midday Prayers against domestic abuse (global 16 days of Activism to end gender violence 25 November-16 December)
Tuesday 1st December	Advent Service 11.00am Canterbury Cathedral - speaker The Revd Dr Emma Pennington, Canon Missioner
Saturday 5th December	11.30am MU online national campaign event 'No More 1 in 3'

In Memoriam

Canterbury & Ashford Archdeaconry

St Leonard's Deal

Heather Lewis

She was a helpful and cheerful member of the group and church and will be missed by us all.

Hawkinge & Acrise Fellowship

Valerie Martin

Ospringe Fellowship

Bridget Willis

Bridget joined the Teynham MU Branch in 1988 and when the Branch closed in 2007 she became a member of the Ospringe Branch. When she moved into a Nursing Home four years ago, she continued attending our meetings - coming in a taxi or one of her daughters pushing her in her wheelchair! She very rarely missed a meeting. Bridget was a lovely, kind and caring lady with a lovely smile. We will miss her.

St Martin & St Paul's, Canterbury

Ann Ferreira

Ann died suddenly leaving us all very shocked. She was the lovely quiet soul who always was there helping with the refreshments at the Diocesan meetings and will be sadly and greatly missed.

Maidstone Archdeaconry

Holy Trinity, Milton Regis

Mary Williams

A Word from our Canterbury Archdeaconry President

John 12: 1-8

Thank you all for being part of our wonderful, life changing MU, for being the kind of people that give their love so freely, to those in need through actions of prayer, friendship, care, listening, and love. You truly love extravagantly.

Did you know? I am sure many of you did that 100 years ago Mary Sumner would have lived through the Spanish flu. Also 100 years ago every member gave £1 so Mary Sumner House could be purchased.

Our past is what makes us who we are today, I believe that because many of you have lived through a world war, you take this pandemic in your stride. Thank you for inspiring me with your courage, resilience, care for each other and passion for helping those in need. Thank you to the knitters, those who have supplied clothes, toys, books to families in need, also to a women's refuge. For your support to food banks. The list goes on.

Jesus says come aside and pray, thank you for your continued prayers.

May the roots of faith grow strong within you. May your vision of peace be like a clear sky. May you be touched by the lightning flash of bright hope. May you drink deeply at the well of joy. May the love of Jesus Christ guide you, strengthen you, change you and enfold you this day and always.

In His precious name I pray. **Amen.**

Love and hugs, Rita Pengelly, Ashford & Canterbury Archdeaconry President

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Maidstone Archdeaconry President

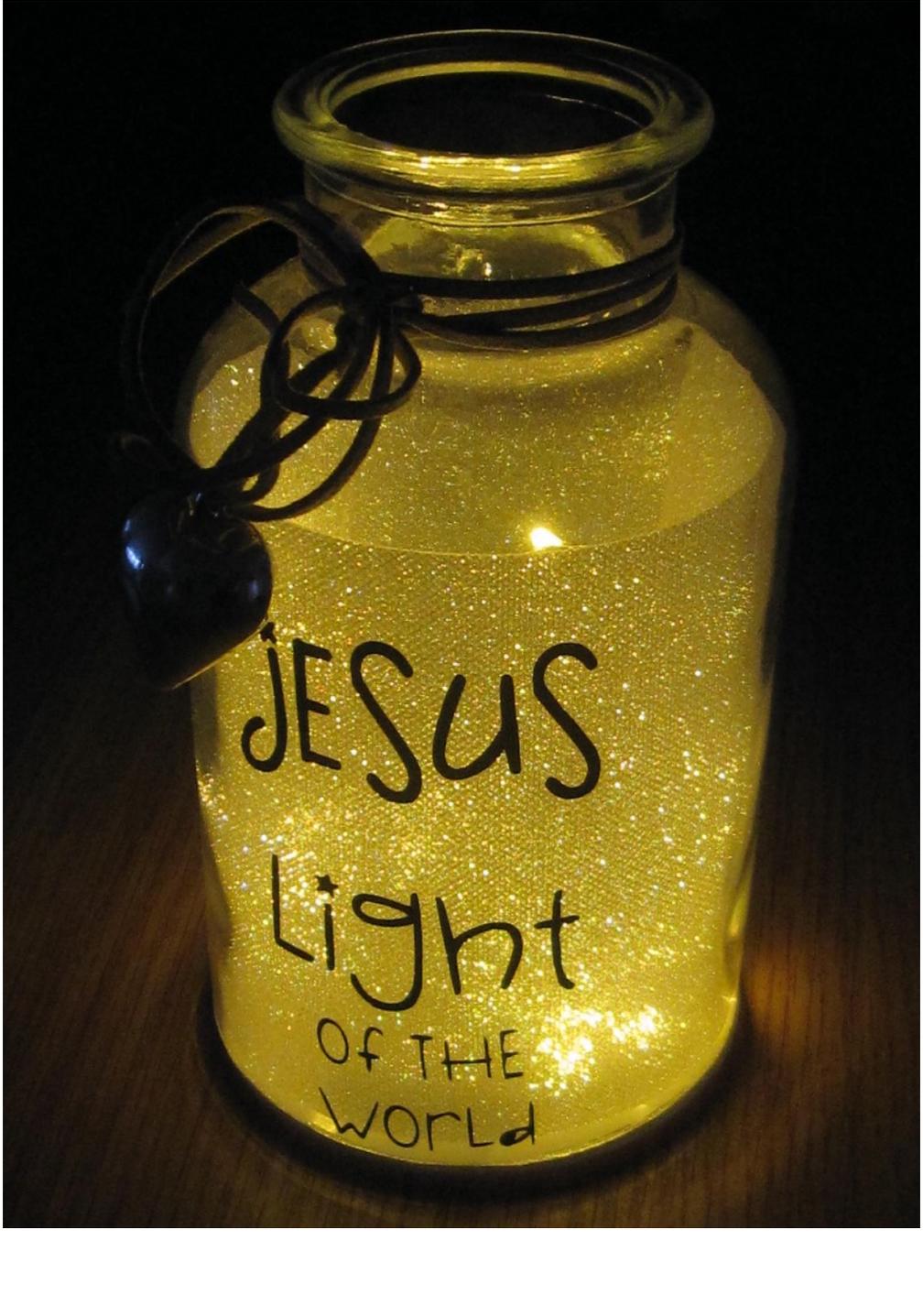
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Registered Charity No. 250124



JESUS

Light

OF THE
WORLD