

Chichester Link

Be Joyful. Keep the Faith. Do the Little Things



As I sat down to think about what to put on the front page of this edition, I recalled a televised Sunday morning worship programme where a Bishop was alone in the Cathedral due to the restrictions imposed by the coronavirus. Despite the rather surreal image of his lonely figure, it was a beautiful service and was very memorable and extremely welcome at such a difficult time for everyone. He concluded with the well-known words: **'Be joyful, keep the faith and do the little things'**. It seemed to me to be the perfect way to begin this edition, along with the mothersunion.org 'Paint the Rainbow and Connect with your

Community', which back in March encouraged us to create a rainbow with a bible verse and stick it on our window, to bring hope and a smile to those going on their daily walk.

With the news that both our Spring and Autumn Members' Meetings had to be cancelled this year, the Trustees decided to have a bumper edition of the Link in October! My aim as editor has been to produce an uplifting magazine that would bring a smile to your face and showcase the wonderful work that is being achieved throughout the diocese and beyond. My sincere thanks to everyone who has contributed to this edition and I

hope that I have succeeded in doing this **'little thing'**.

I know that everyone will wish to congratulate Kathryn Anderson on becoming Provincial President and warmly welcome Karen Hill as our new Diocesan President. As we move forward in these uncertain times, I find comfort in what The Rt. Reverend Martin Warner said, while talking about the inspirational work of the Mothers' Union at Karen Hill's Commissioning Service, 'The simple things can have profound importance'.

Corinne English
Editor

A Visit to the National Cat Centre

In October 2019, Lewes District Coleman's Hatch & Hartfield Branch enjoyed a visit to the National Cat Centre at Chelwood Gate, Haywards Heath. As well as campaigning for cats protection they are the UK's largest cat rehoming centre. We were given an excellent talk and guided tour by Laurence Lence, which included areas that were not open to the general public, such as Maternity and Special Care.

Sheilah Fenton



The Clewer Initiative

In October 2019 St Richard's Heathfield Branch were very pleased to welcome Derek Nichols, who gave an extremely interesting and informative talk about 'The Clewer Initiative'. Derek explained how this initiative enables Church of England dioceses and wider church networks to not only raise awareness, but also to develop strategies to detect modern slavery in their communities - and help to provide victim support and care.

More than 200 years after the abolition of the slave trade there are still an estimated 40.3 million men, women and children trapped in modern slavery, and up to 136,000 potential victims in the UK alone.

Nora Millward



A Wonderful Tribute - Beautiful Ceramic Poppies

While sitting in the shade in a member's garden, Walberton Branch took advantage of a warm summer's day to make ceramic poppies. Our good friend Sue helped us and then took the poppies away to fire and paint them. She then brought them back so that they could become part of our Remembrance Day Service. There was one poppy for each of the men from our village who had fallen in the two World Wars. Members took them up to the chancel steps during the service while we all thought about the sacrifices made by young service personnel to this day.

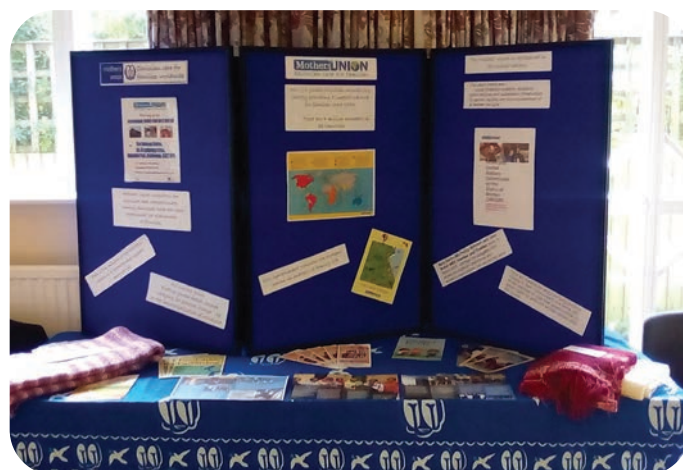
Scilla Page



United Nations Day

In October 2019 St. Peter's and St. Michael's Branch, Bexhill-on-Sea, were invited to have a stand at the local United Nations Association Celebration of One World Week. It drew a lot of attention to the Mothers' Union; some had never heard of it! All the local organisations represented were asked to give a short five-minute talk on how we contributed to Justice and Peace. The main speaker was Dr. Bruce Kent whom some of you will remember from The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) days. I was pleased to find material on the net about the Mothers' Union representation in the United Nations. So much of what we do tries to help the world to become a more peaceful and just place.

Elizabeth Ewen



A First for Willingdon Branch

Willingdon Branch took part in a Christmas Tree Festival organised by the Deacon and we were very pleased with the result of the efforts of some of our artistic members. Information about the Mothers' Union and our projects were part of the decoration and the whole event was very successful. It was the first time we had done this, and we hope it will be repeated!

Hazel Thorn



Christmas Tree Festival

Heather Hyde was photographed putting the finishing touches to the St Paul's & City of Chichester Branch Mothers' Union tree. This was part of the 2019 Christmas Tree Festival at St Paul's Church in Chichester.

Sheila Hoy



Happy Memories at Littlehampton



1966 Mothers' Union Outing, to Wannock Gardens, to visit the Vicar and his wife in their new parish. Note the hats!

When St James, Littlehampton Mothers' Union closed in December 2019, it was a sad day. Opened in 1937 when ladies wore a hat and did not go out to work and the Vicar's wife was the Enrolling Member. Margaret Baker is aged 95 years and has been a member for 66 years during which time she has been Secretary, Deanery Treasurer, and Acting Leader. She had been encouraged by her mother in law to join, when pre-school children sat on the floor beside their mothers at the meeting. They used to have outings with the Men's Fellowship, and Teas for the Housebound. They did this until the members were older than those they waited on!

They attended Deanery Festival Services, visited other branches, ran coffee mornings, mini markets etc., and undertook church cleaning and sewing. At one time they met every Tuesday at 3pm, starting with Holy Communion, and they also had an evening meeting once a month. On Summer evenings they would have a walk along the beach and enjoy supper on the way back. They have supported many Mothers' Union projects including socks for the Gatwick Detainees and children's stationery for the Crèche at Ford Prison.

Sadly, in January 2018 St James' Church closed and the Branch moved to St Mary's Church. It has been a very difficult time since then as 5 members have died, one of whom was 105. The few members now left are to become Diocesan Members, supporting events whenever they can.

From the early 1980s the members of St James' sang this song at the Church Social Evensong.

We are the Mothers' Union,
Resident at St James.
We are here to help or amuse you,
Share your troubles or confuse you.
Would you like a film or speaker?
Will you share our joys?
At the Black Horse Inn, you may be seen,
Or rubbing the brass to make it clean,
Arranging flowers to set the scene,
We're happy at St James.

I love to go on Thursday nights
To St James' Church,
Where ladies young and ladies old
Meet for a friendly chat.
On the third Thursday of the month,
There's Holy Communion first.
Then Lisle goes up to home,
And Olivia dashes back.

There's Sheila selling raffles,
And Freda collecting fees,
Edna taking for the cuppa,
And Hilda for Overseas.

There's Elsie and Miss Brabrook,
Mrs Creese and Mrs Plumb,
The Greaves, Gibbons and Millington,
To join the merry throng.

There's Gwendoline and Elizabeth
In her little car,
Floss, Sylvia, Wendy and Chris
Who always make us laugh?

Then there's Irene and Margaret T,
Margaret B and Gladys, late.
Sometimes we have visitors
To keep us up to date.

After all the babies
Are fast asleep;
There's Janet, Andrea, Sandra,
And Linda, in they creep.

There's Cherry who runs the Toddler Group,
Julie, the Sunday School.
There's Caroline and Pauline,
And also, little Sue.

Sometimes we have talks,
Then there are always slides.
In the Summer we go for walks,
And have a drink besides.

Before we break for the holidays,
We have a barbecue,
So, there's always something interesting
At St James' Mothers' U.

So old and young, if you want to come,
A welcome you will find,
First and third Thursdays of the month,
Seven-thirty is the time!!!

Rainbow Play Mats

On the 2nd Sunday of each month St. Richard's Church at Heathfield have a Families@4 Service, where parents regularly enjoy a variety of activities with their children. Members of St. Richard's Heathfield Branch play an active part in each service, and in order to further enhance the enjoyment of all those attending we decided to donate two beautiful 'rainbow' mats.

It is lovely to observe the children joining in enthusiastically, and at the end of the afternoon 'tucking into' the food which is prepared by Mothers' Union members. We are all delighted that this family service has been growing in numbers and on the 8 December 2019, we all celebrated its 1st Anniversary.

Nora Millward



PRAYER SQUARES

MANY OF US KNIT PRAYER SHAWLS BUT ARE YOU AWARE THAT THERE IS A PATTERN ON THE [MOTHERSUNION.ORG](https://mothersunion.org) WEBSITE FOR PRAYER SQUARES? THESE SMALL KNITTED SQUARES, WITH A CROSS INCORPORATED INTO THE PATTERN, ARE DESIGNED TO GIVE TO THOSE WHO MAY WELCOME THE KNOWLEDGE THAT SOMEONE IS PRAYING FOR THEM, AND TO HELP THEM TO PRAY.

Travelling Crib

Promoted by St. Richard's Mothers' Union Group, the original idea for the travelling crib came from Mexico. Called Posada, people dress up as Mary and Joseph, going from house to house telling people about Jesus and asking for a room. As part of our Advent preparation here in Heathfield, we don't dress up and go from house to house but instead pass the crib set round the benefice. Anyone is welcome to take part. Our crib travels across the benefice during Advent spending a night with different families.

The crib leaves St. Richard's on Advent Sunday, with a prayer and a blessing for the family receiving it first. It is then passed on daily, with each family passing it on with a prayer and a blessing to the next. It returns to church on Christmas Eve.

In 2019, we included a gift for each family, of a handcrafted star, to hang on their Christmas tree. Taking part in this journey can be a really helpful way, amidst the other demands on our lives at this time of

year, of reminding ourselves what Christmas is really all about - making a space to welcome our Lord into our homes and hearts, not just as individuals and families but together as a Christian community.

Angela Nichols



Farewell to Bishop Richard, Suffragan Bishop of Lewes

On Saturday 18 January clergy and friends from around the diocese gathered at All Saints' Church, Eastbourne, for a Farewell Service to Bishop Richard and his wife Deborah, after 25 years in our diocese. Bishop Richard is leaving to become the Bishop of Hereford. There were some lovely hymns: Crown him with many crowns; Bless the Lord O my soul; I love you, Lord, for your mercy never fails; The Lord's my Shepherd; Our Father everlasting and The Church's one foundation. The gospel readings were read by Archdeacon of Chichester, Luke Irvin Capel, from Deuteronomy 30 v 11-20 and Archdeacon of Hastings, Edward Dowler, from Hebrews 10 v 19-25. Bishop Richard spoke about our confidence in Jesus Christ giving us joy and peace.

Archdeacon of Brighton and Lewes, Martin Lloyd-Williams and his wife Jacqui led the intercessions. David Churchyard, who was on the piano leading the band of musicians, sang a solo he had written called 'For me to live is Christ'. At the end of the service Bishop Martin gave a dedication and blessing to Richard and his wife and presented them with a gift from the diocese and a bouquet of flowers.

A delicious cream tea was served afterwards in the All Saints' Centre. On behalf of all the Mothers' Union members I had the opportunity to say a few words and present Bishop Richard with a Mothers' Union engraved pen and Deborah with a knitted prayer shawl. The shawl had been made by members in Selsey and the card, that

was given to them both, was signed by the Trustees and representatives of all the branches. Deborah, a Diocesan member, had been a volunteer at Lewes Prison. I thanked them both for their support for Mothers' Union.

Kathryn Anderson



Sharing the Journey

At the end of last year, I had the wonderful opportunity, along with 5 other members of the team from Crowhurst Christian Healing Centre near Battle, to join a Mission with The Nazareth Christian Hospital. This was the third time we had been invited and the mission this year was given the title 'Sharing the Journey'. The Nazareth Christian Hospital, which is a Charitable Trust, dates back to the 1800's when a Dr. Varten from Scotland set up a 4-bed clinic in Nazareth. It is now a first-rate hospital with 130 beds providing excellent care and a wide range of medical services. It is available for all that require treatment and is not directly Government funded.

The Executive Team and Trustees are aiming to develop a Christian Pastoral team of volunteers 24/7 to be available for patients, their families and staff. Once upon a time a Christian presence was provided by Christian nurses coming from the UK, however of course that is now not acceptable. Therefore, another way has been found to provide that ongoing Christian presence.

We prayed with people of all creeds and cultures, which of course is always a great privilege. We had some lovely encounters where we too were blessed and often prayed for, such as when we gave the beautiful Prayer Shawl, made by a Mothers' Union member, to a young student of The Nursing School who had just given birth to triplets. We also had the opportunity to pray for the young mum in the photograph who had just given birth to her first baby - her own mother was present, and I was delighted to be invited to share in their joy.

We prayed throughout the maternity unit and post-natal wards for babies in their cots or incubators and of course for their mums. Our team was available for 3 evenings in their A & E Department offering coffee and water for all those waiting to be seen or admitted or awaiting tests. We offered prayer picture cards and prayer for those that indicated they would like it. One



such couple were being admitted to give birth to their first child, so a prayer was prayed for them and for their unborn baby. The following evening the dad came in all smiles with a blue balloon for his new baby son! Whilst it would be wonderful to be able to speak the languages and a definite advantage, it was amazing how we could mime and find a word that meant something to them. The language of God's love crosses all boundaries, and brings peace, comfort and hope.

Penny Button

Penny is a member of St Richard's Heathfield Branch and they were delighted that she gave members a very insightful talk about her visit when she returned from Nazareth.

Donations from The Entertainer!

Christine Bright AFIA Coordinator, together with Win Fruin Horsham Branch secretary, were photographed receiving toys generously donated by The Entertainer toy store in Horsham. These were kindly given for the caravans in both Selsey and Winchelsea and also for the Eastbourne Family Contact Centre. The very helpful store staff were pictured with them.

Christine Bright



Coffee Morning Raises Funds

When a child is baptised at St Mary's Church in Ringmer, they are given a decorated candle with their name on and a Bible. After the service there is coffee in the church room and a cake with the name of the child on it for all to share.

To help to cover the cost of these items Ringmer Branch held a coffee morning and sale of photographs. These lovely mounted photographs had been given to the church by professional photographer Anthony Sherwin (husband of Reverend Jane Sherwin). The amount raised was the wonderful sum of £336.

Shirley Squires



Filming for Songs of Praise



It was at the end of 2019 that Kathryn, our then Diocesan President, contacted me and asked for full details on the Hospital Projects that the Worthing Branches were involved in. I sent off an up to date report and Kathryn came back and said that Mary Sumner House staff and the BBC were interested in our project. In truth, I didn't take it very seriously; after all I know how stiff the project competition is amongst our dioceses. I'd heard about fabulous projects at our Annual Members Meeting in Portsmouth. Christmas came and went, and in January Kathryn got in touch and said we had made it to the last three and how excited my branch must be. I didn't have the nerve to tell her that I hadn't bothered to mention it to anyone as I didn't think we stood a chance. Well, that will teach me!!

Adam Sach, the Head of Fundraising and Communications from Mary Sumner House, got in touch and we organised meetings with Worthing Hospital, Songs of Praise, our parish priest and my branch. I then had to break the news to the branch that not all 57 members could be involved. Can you believe it? We were too many Mothers' Union members!!



Just before these meetings started, we were messaged by a lovely young woman, Kylea Reynolds who had used our emergency wash bags when she had been pregnant with her son, Logan. He had sadly died after being born too early. In his memory she enquired as to whether she could do some fundraising for us. For over 24 years we have been making those emergency wash bags and Kylea was the first person to get in touch and say thank you. She came to the meeting to meet with the BBC, Adam our priest, and members of our branch. I asked if she felt able to tell the world about her little boy and she agreed to be interviewed in the Chapel at Worthing Hospital by the host of the programme, Katherine Jenkins. Kylea's story brought all of us to tears and is a poignant reminder that Mothering Sunday holds both happy and sad memories for many. It suddenly put into perspective that the labels inside the bags saying, 'with love Mothers' Union', really were little acts of love. As Kylea said of the emergency wash bag, "It was what my mum would have brought me if she hadn't been away. It felt like a little piece of home. Never underestimate the feeling of comfort and hope that small gestures like this make."



volunteer for 'Ministry of Cake', on Bluefin Children's Ward and Bramber Ward (The Special Baby Unit), offering tea and homemade cake to parents and staff. Often parents and staff want just to talk, and members are able to give them the time – they listen. People might think that tea and cake is a very Mothers' Union thing to do. What they might not realise is it really breaks down barriers, shows people they are loved and cared for, provides respite or a distraction to a parent that is dealing with more than they can really process and gives a staff member that has had a difficult shift a real lift. It can provide the 'ordinary' when what is happening in their family life is far from that. It feels so good to know that this year Songs of Praise took the unusual step of devoting half their Mothering Sunday programme to a snapshot of the wonderful work of the Mothers' Union.

Karen Hill

The BBC filming was to take place on Ash Wednesday, 26th February 2020, at Worthing Hospital and St. Andrew's Church West Tarring. Covid-19 was starting to appear and once again I didn't think the filming would happen. However, as time got nearer it all became more real and, on the day, we were ready for filming by 6.45am, although Katherine Jenkins didn't arrive until later! She met some of the 57 members of the branch in St. Andrews Church and helped put some bags together while interviewing myself and other members. These bags were then taken by Katherine and three of the members to Worthing Hospital, where they were filmed distributing them to mothers.

West Tarring, Worthing Branch has been working alongside staff at Worthing Hospital since the beginning of May 2017. On a Monday afternoon branch members

Shriving Service (and pancakes!)

The Crawley District Shriving service was hosted by Horsham Branch this year. It was held on 25 February in the Church Centre of St Mary's and the service was led by Reverend Rebecca Tuck. The theme was, 'Who is a sinner? Who is righteous?' based on the reading of Mark 2 v13-17 (Jesus calls Levi and eats with sinners). It reminds us of everyone's need for confession and God's forgiveness.

After the service, which was attended by approximately 40 people, the Horsham Branch committee served tea and coffee, and pancakes with lemon and sugar. It was a lovely morning.

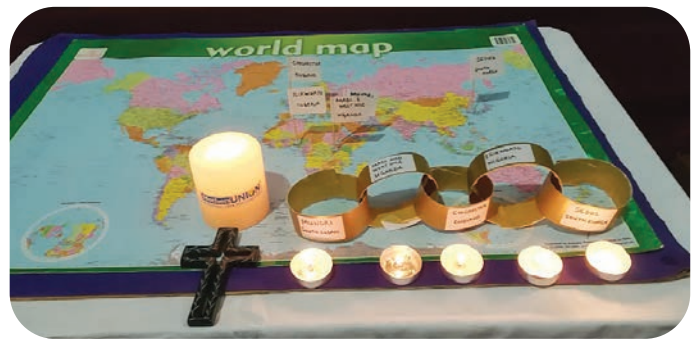
Fiona Prentice



Wave of Prayer

On 27 February 2020, members from East Grinstead Branch gathered in St Swithun's Church for the Wave of Prayer. We heard a little about each link diocese before lighting candles and offering prayers for their work. Afterwards we enjoyed a meal together in a local pub.

Deborah Matthews



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NOT EVEN A PANDEMIC COULD STOP MOTHERS' UNION
DOING WHAT THEY DO BEST!!

A Very Warm Welcome to Karen Hill – our new Diocesan President



As we said our heartfelt congratulations to Kathryn in her new role as Provincial President, we waited to see who would become our new Diocesan President. Thankfully it was not too long before we learnt that Karen Hill had been nominated. We wish

her much joy and fulfilment in her new role and for those of you who have not yet met Karen I will let her introduce herself.

Dear Members,

In these very difficult times, I just wanted to introduce myself as your Diocesan President. At 3.30pm on the 17 June 2020 I was commissioned by the Bishop, (virtually), via Zoom as we were unable to have the service in person. This must make me the first virtually commissioned Chichester Diocesan President! (A little piece of history!)

I already know some of you and in normal times I would have been planning ahead and contacting you individually with a visit. To tell you something about myself, I have been a member of Mothers' Union since 1992. Since joining I have sat as a National Trustee, as a Diocesan Trustee for 9 years, including 6 years as Action and Outreach and for the last 4 years as Branch Leader. I'm also a mum with 2 grown up children and 3 stepchildren.

Whilst the country has been in lockdown Mothers' Union, at a local level, has had a key role to play in making sure all of our members have felt supported. I know that you have all been doing this and more. It was lovely to have Deacon Emma leading daily mid-day prayers, and this has been so popular and enjoyed by so many members, both nationally and further afield. There was a wonderful Diocesan response to the appeal from Mary Sumner House and in addition to that I know that fundraising and acts of kindness have continued around the diocese despite not being able to meet in person.

"Together in our worship and fellowship even when apart." I have used these words before, but let me leave you with this thought again, as it would appear to be a good message for us all going forward. Taken from a poem called 'God Knows' – more popularly known as 'The Gate of the Year' - by Minnie Louise Haskins; words widely acclaimed when used by King George VI

as the closing lines of his Christmas message in 1939 as the dark clouds of war were forming:

'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown." And he replied: "Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way."'

I pray that His Almighty hand will indeed guide and uphold us all as we move forward into our uncertain but ultimately victorious future. Mothers' Union will come out the other side of this, and whilst we will be unable to do everything we would want, I believe we can come out stronger. I know that I will continue to have all your support in keeping our wonderful movement going forward.

Love and God Bless,

Karen Hill

Midday Prayer



At the Ordination of Deacons, the Bishop addresses the congregation, and declares the role of a Deacon. Amongst other things, he tells them that Deacons 'are to serve the community in which they are set, bringing to the Church the needs and hopes of all the people ...' They are to make visible the love of God.

Deacons also 'bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession.'

In March 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, public worship was suspended and church buildings were closed, along with many more restrictions on daily life. As a Deacon, the challenge for me was how to fulfil this ministry that the Bishop had charged me with at my Ordination? How could I serve the community in which I am set? How could I bring to the church the needs and hopes of all the people? How could I make visible the love of God? How could I bring the needs of the world before the Church in intercession?

The answer came, in part, from the same Bishop who had ordained me Deacon. The Rt. Reverend Dr Martin Warner, the Bishop of Chichester, had ended a letter to all clergy with these words:

'... [prayer] is not all, but it is the best we can do for each other.' A wonderful reminder to keep praying! An integral part of the role of a Deacon. As I prayed and reflected some more, I realised that Jesus served his community by going to them, not waiting for them to come to him. How then to go to my community, when I was more or less confined to home, along with everyone else? How to reach people in their homes? Through the wonders of technology!

In our Mothers' Union prayer, we pray that we may 'be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.' Mary Sumner founded Mothers' Union in response to the needs of her community. Technology, more specifically Facebook Live, gave me the opportunity to respond to the needs of my community at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. It offered a perfect way to unite Mothers' Union members in prayer and worship, as well as to reach out across the world.

Midday Prayer via Mothers' Union Diocese of Chichester's Facebook Live began on Mothering Sunday, and suddenly the community I serve as a Deacon expanded beyond my Parish here in East Preston with Kingston, across the Diocese and even further afield. A week later, Midday Prayers moved to a new home on the main Mothers' Union Facebook Live. It has been my pleasure and my privilege to be asked to say Midday Prayers from there too, to unite in prayer and worship with members from across the world.

Reverend Emma Ham-Riche

'If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat!'



I trained as a nurse before getting married in 1985. My son, George, was born in November 1987 and my daughter, Elizabeth, in June 1990. Expecting to return to nursing once the children started school, God led me to train as a primary school teacher. We were living in Dorking and attended the local Anglican Church. My mum invited me to join Mothers' Union while the children were young. I knew she and my Granma, her mum, were members but knew nothing about it! A group of us young mums were enrolled on 7 July 1996. I have always loved Psalm 139 and v16 states: 'All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be'.

We had no Branch at our church but my Prayer Partner, Jane, an older lady, who belonged to the Mothers' Union Branch in the Parish Church, organised evening meetings for us younger working mums, to look at the Social Policy Papers from Mothers' Union. I really enjoyed the fellowship and the opportunity to look at issues of the day.

Andy and I moved to Eastbourne in July 2009 and only working part-time I was keen to find a Branch to join as the Anglican Church we were members of had no Branch - (although this changed, as we opened a Branch in September 2017 because my vicar, Revd Robert Lovatt, had come to my Commissioning in January 2016

and became really interested in Mothers' Union). I was introduced to Daphne Burton, a local Trustee, who shared with me about Mothers' Union in Chichester Diocese and mentioned the Eastbourne Family Contact Centre, which was a main Mothers' Union Diocesan Project. I was keen to get involved practically so I became a volunteer on the 3rd Saturday of the month in Old Town, Eastbourne. Although I did not realise it, God was preparing me to become the Coordinator. I joined the Branch in Old Town, at St Mary's Church. It was one of the largest Branches in the Diocese with over 80 members. My first visit was their Christmas lunch in December 2009. In September 2011, the Coordinator's position became available at the Contact Centre and this became my main employment. Colossians 4 v 2-6 became particularly relevant and helpful - a challenge not only in the context of the Contact Centre but in my Christian life too!

I was made to feel welcome at St Mary's and at the AGM in January 2013 I became the new Branch Leader. In January 2014 I was pleased to accompany the Diocesan President, Chris Emson, and other Mothers' Union members on a trip to Kenya. This was inspiring and exciting to see how important the members' faith and families were to them and how passionate they were about being members of Mothers' Union! It was a life changing experience that I will never forget.

At the beginning of 2015 Chris asked me to consider becoming the next Diocesan President. In my quiet times I had confirmation that I was being called to take on this huge privilege and challenge and that God would provide all the resources I needed to do all He was going to be asking of me. I Thessalonians 1 v 24: 'The one who calls you is faithful, and He will do it'. God also confirmed that this call would fit in with Andy's calling - we have been a double act since because Andy became a member and later Diocesan Treasurer! God also reminded me to hold on to courage and hope in order to persevere in this ministry: Hebrews 3 v 14 'We have come to share in Christ if we hold firmly till the end the confidence, we had at first'.

In October 2017 at a Provincial Meeting, Lynne, the then Worldwide President, said, 'If you want to walk on water you have to get out of the boat!' This is so true, and this is my challenge. I am finding out that faith is about taking risks hand in hand with our Father. I am so grateful for the prayers and love of my family, Church family and fellow Mothers' Union members. 2 Thessalonians 1 v 11: 'To this end we always pray for you, that our God may

make you worthy of His calling and may fulfil every resolve for good and every work of faith by His power'.

My faith in God has been tried and tested on my life journey. Looking back over my life, God has been guiding me on my journey of preparation to become a Leader through supportive parents – Mum is there to listen and pray - Nursing, Motherhood, Teaching, Contact Centre Coordinator and roles in Mothers' Union and an amazingly supportive husband. I have thoroughly enjoyed being Diocesan President for Chichester Diocese and am so grateful to the loyal and prayerful support of the Trustees and members - and trust that God will continue to work through Karen Hill, the new Diocesan President.

After 4 years as Diocesan President it is a privilege to now have become Provincial President for Canterbury Province for 2020-1. I know God is continuing to guide and equip me. I acknowledge there is a lot to learn but I am well motivated, organised and a diligent administrator. I am willing to learn from my mistakes and look forward to the challenges and the joys of being Provincial President. A super verse to end with is from Proverbs 16 verse 3: 'Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and your plans will succeed'.

Mary Sumner's Prayer:

'All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen'.

Kathryn Anderson

Remembering the Love and Laughter



As members of St Richard's Church, Heathfield Branch we were very sad to have to say goodbye to our dear friend Paddy Tallant, who died shortly after her 94th birthday in April. Many of us remember the love and laughter we shared with Paddy over the years and for her unstinting support, as a Mothers' Union member for nearly 60 years, working both at Branch and Deanery level.

Being the same age as our Patron, The Queen, this photograph was sent to Mary Sumner House to be included on the Queen's special 90th birthday card from Mothers' Union.

Heather Bruce

Mini Mothers' Union

Like many members of Mothers' Union, my mother was also a member. Many of you will have seen the article titled 'A Lasting Legacy' in the 'Give a gift that grows' leaflet that was sent out from Mary Sumner House for Mothering Sunday this year. The article has stuck in my mind as it is such a lovely way to engage the next generation from a younger age. It was wonderful to read that Rosa (age 12) and Ella (age 11) are following in their mother Dianne's footsteps and, together with other children in their church, have formed the first Mini Mothers' Union in the UK. They are already

making an impact in their community and they have big plans to help nurture the environment and the world they are growing up in.

The article reaffirmed that at Mothers' Union we believe children are central to community life. Continuing the legacy of our founder through the next generation at that young age is so refreshing to see and hopefully there will be many more Mini Mothers' Union groups in the UK.

Corinne English

Freeman of Chester City



Since we were unable to hold our meetings in church due to Covid 19, Nora Millward and Heather Bruce organised virtual weekly meetings for St. Richard's Heathfield Branch to meet up via the Zoom platform.

Although most had never used Zoom before, nine members have managed to 'meet' and enjoy lively meetings each Wednesday.

We open with general discussion about what we have been doing during the week and mention anyone in need of our prayers. It was agreed that it would be good to have a theme for each meeting. Topics have included: 'Something positive that has come out of lock down' (most of us agreed life seemed more relaxed and less rushed!) 'A text or verse that has inspired us'. One week our meeting was a celebration for a member's 60th Birthday. However, we always conclude with the Mothers' Union Prayer, followed by The Grace. We all leave the meeting uplifted, encouraged and looking forward to seeing each other again the following week.

On one occasion we all brought along a piece of jewellery with a special memory. One brooch in particular had a very special meaning for Frances Jones – her Freedom of Chester City brooch. She told us how

her father, Bob Coleclough, had gone to Chester to trace his ancestors. Visiting the archives in the County Record Office he discovered to his amazement that his Great, Great Grandfather Samuel Coleclough, born in 1789, was a Freeman of Chester City and if he could prove he was descended down the male-line, he would be entitled to claim the Freedom given to Samuel.

Some months later Frances and her family attended a ceremony in Chester's Moot Hall, where her father and his brother were both admitted as Freemen of the City. After a good party they left, having discovered that the Freedom didn't even allow free parking! However, they are allowed to drive cattle across the bridge over the River Dee, which was probably very useful for Samuel in the 1800's, as he was a butcher and had married a farmer's daughter!

Years later following the death of her father, Frances received a letter from Chester Council informing her that Her Majesty the Queen had promulgated (passed) an Order in Council, that now allows Freedoms to be passed down to Ladies. Frances gratefully took up the offer and is now a 'Freeman of Chester City' with a brooch to show for it (which her daughters bought for her). She is hopeful that her daughters and grandchildren will carry on the tradition in due course.

Nora Millward

850 Miles Later - THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



As you will all know a local Sussex Charity, FSW (Family Support Work) put out a plea for food to help the families they work with across the county. They usually hand out 20-25 boxes of food to families every week. Each box provides one month's basic food needs. Due to lockdown FSW found they needed to support more families and the need increased to 40 boxes of food each week. The increased demand meant that they were rapidly running out of food.

As soon as I heard the plea, I thought: 'I know Mothers' Union members pray with their feet moving. This is a simple need and one I know we can help with. Whilst our work abroad continues, we cannot, at this moment, stop families abroad always going hungry, but we can help those on our own doorstep.' The weeks in lockdown have been hard and members relish the opportunity to do something, to help others. The four-week food project we ran across the diocese for Family

Support Work was an amazing tribute to all involved. I have been a member long enough to know if you ask Mothers' Union to do something, we will embrace it with a vengeance!! We did that!! Getting the word out was wonderful, by telephone, leafleting, parish newsletters, press, local Sussex Radio, social media and let's not forget just speaking to each other and having something to say other than, "How are you?"

I don't think I will ever forget walking into the storerooms of Family Support Work at Garton House Brighton. I should have photographed it. There was nothing there; the rooms had that hollow feel which you have in empty houses. All that I could see was a crate of pasta, 2 bottles of Heinz Salad cream and a blue Radox bubble bath. I turned to Martin Auton-Lloyd their CEO, and he said, "Well I did tell you we didn't have a tin of beans". He later commented: "The Mother's Union has always been a great friend to FSW and just as we thought we were going to hit problems with food supplies they stepped in and offered to help us keep our food bank running. Bringing our joint supporters together like this is a great way to show to the wider community the commitment, that we as Christians have, to serving those in need."

Turning Tides, a tiny Worthing charity, let us borrow the biggest transit van I've ever seen. My husband Graham drove the van as I couldn't reach the pedals! We started collecting on Friday 29th May from Horsham, who had collected so much food we couldn't get it all in the van. Well thanks to all of you at the end of that first weekend there was enough food to feed 50 families for a month. In my blogs I wrote: "Can't quite believe how wonderful the members have been yet again this week. We asked for tinned meat and pies and it came in their hundreds." In week three, someone arrived with spray bleach! She said, "When we first went into lockdown, I cleaned everything in sight - I found nooks and crannies I didn't know I had. Of course, they all need cleaning again, so I reluctantly bought more spray bleach. Then I read your post and thought what a brilliant way out!!!"

After Christine Bright and I spoke on Radio Sussex it was a little bit like the floodgates opening. For example, one lovely lady, who had gone online to do a shop for the first time, thought she was buying five packets of 1 kilo Quaker Oats and ended up with five boxes, each containing six packets of 1 kilo packets of Quaker Oats. She could have sent them back but decided to share the unexpected bounty with us!!

Some members sent prayers for the families in with their food donations; other members also sent money. We joined forces with Family Support Worker volunteers in collecting food. Over the four weeks I watched in awe at the way you all ran with this project



and spread the word. Churches and parishes across our diocese came on board. It reminded me of my mum coming into my room early on a school day years ago, shaking me and saying, "Come on it's time to wake up, the time for sleep is gone, there is a new day ready for you". Without doubt you all woke our Christian family up and by the fourth weekend we had travelled 850 miles and collected enough food to feed 180 families for a month. Mothers' Union Members and parishes have risen to the challenge of finding food for their neighbours. A huge thank you to you all.

As you know Family Support Work have the same core values as we do; as do Turning Tides. In these difficult times, and into the future, I pray that we will continue to work closely together for the benefit of families across our diocese. Mothers' Union Chief Executive, Bev Jullien's reaction was: "The response from our membership has been overwhelming but not surprising. The rallying call from the movement was, stay safe but wherever people need help, we're there for them. Mothers' Union has always responded to community needs, and our response to Covid-19 sums it up – we do whatever is needed by the communities we are a part of, in partnership with others, to ensure the most effective response. We always have and always will."

On a personal note I have never been so proud to be a member of such a phenomenal movement.

Karen Hill

Keeping in Touch with Afternoon Tea

In January this year, I was really looking forward to our first Mothers' Union meeting of 2020 when one of our members was giving us a talk about her trip to Morocco. Whilst there, she taught Berber girls to sew, and had some lovely quilts to show us. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend, owing to a hospital appointment. In February, I again had to miss our meeting (our AGM, so not quite so disappointing)! I was therefore really looking forward to March when another member had arranged for us all to visit Down Place. The weather leading up to the day was awful with heavy rain and winds. However, the day itself was lovely – sunny and warm, and would have been perfect for our outing. Sadly, a few days before this, the impact of COVID19 had really struck us all, and the visit had to be cancelled. Once again, I was unable to join all our friends, and we all missed out on a lovely afternoon.



However, we were not deterred, and were determined to keep in touch by phone, email, Skype etc. Then one of our members had another really good idea about how we could do this. She suggested that at a certain time each week, we should set up an afternoon tea table using our pretty china cups, saucers and plates, and enjoy a cuppa and special piece of cake, whilst thinking about and praying for each other. We would finish by saying the Mothers' Union and Mary Sumner prayers. We would then give whatever we would have paid to have this treat in a café or restaurant, towards our AFIA donation. The idea was warmly received, and one of the photos is of my husband enjoying afternoon tea and the other is one of our members on VE Day.

When the peak of the virus had passed, we stopped, and asked everyone to give in their donations to our treasurer. Once again, our wonderful members have supported this initiative very generously, and we have raised the amazing amount of £400.00. Not only that, but we have also kept in touch through our prayers

and thoughts for each other. Now we are feeling a little more confident and beginning to venture out a bit, we sometimes have the pleasure of seeing each other from a social distance and are able to have a chat! Like everyone, we don't know when our next proper meeting will be, but we look forward to it with eagerness and gratitude that we will be able to share our fellowship together once again.

Barbara Halfacree



Horsham Flower Festival

July 2020 should have been Horsham Flower Festival. Despite the event being cancelled Sue Lismer still made this wonderful flower arrangement (complete with a swallow flying off at the top off the photo!!) It was based on the theme of the children's book - Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome.



A Virtual Visit and Buckets & Spades!



(Our thanks to Nora Millward who kindly offered to set up our weekly Zoom meetings. She also took this screen shot, so is sadly not in the photo!)

At the beginning of July St Richard's Heathfield Branch were very privileged to have a virtual visit from our new Diocesan President, Karen Hill. She told us of the wonderful response, from all corners of the diocese, to the Family Support Work plea for food. She also informed us that the two AFIA holiday caravans, at Selsey and Winchelsea, would soon be available. Each would

need to be chemically sprayed between visits to make them Covid safe and everything washed thoroughly to get rid of the chemicals. Karen also mentioned that sadly, the children's toys had to be removed due to the restrictions. This news tugged at our heart strings and at our next Zoom meeting we discussed what we could do. As a Branch, we decided that we could provide the children on AFIA holidays with a bucket and spade set that they could take home with them if they so wished. One of our members recently raised sponsorship money and set some aside for a future project. She decided that this would be the perfect way to use the money. Branch members happily agreed to make up the difference in order to provide the required 23 bucket and spade sets each comprising of a bucket, spade, fork and sand moulds, as well as a little watering can!

Our sincere thanks go to Brenda in Winchelsea and Linda in Selsey, who so kindly agreed to accept the deliveries from John Lewis and distribute the sets. Such is the generosity of members that within 24 hours our branch treasurer was overwhelmed by the response and had considerably more money than was needed. It feels so good to know that this gesture has enabled children to have some extra fun on the beach!

Corinne English

Long Service Award



On Wednesday 1 July 2020 Margaret Baker MBE received her Long Service Award to celebrate 67 years as a Mothers' Union member. The award was presented to Margaret in her lovely garden. Keeping a social distance Margaret, Mary Nagel (District Treasurer) and I enjoyed an afternoon of tea and cake whilst reminiscing about her membership.

Margaret was enrolled by Father F.C. Walden-Aspy in December 1953 and served as secretary and committee member with the Littlehampton Branch. She later served as treasurer for the Arundel and Bognor Deanery.

She can remember her early afternoon meetings when her son would come with her and later when he was at school, she would pop out to pick him up and then they would return to the meeting. Summer evening meetings were often walks around the local countryside. One walk to Climping ended with them all paddling in the sea with their stockings on!

Margaret remembers many fundraising events such as coffee mornings and dressing up for 'tramps' suppers. She enjoyed entertaining the over 60's as an outreach mission for Mothers' Union. Always encouraging members to attend Members Meetings and District Festivals, organising minibuses to transport everyone. She has encouraged families with prayer and service in her local church of Saint James, Littlehampton and helped run the Sunday School for many years. She has certainly fulfilled the aim and purpose of Mothers' Union in demonstrating her Christian faith in action and outreach to families and communities.

I look forward to a time when we can come together at the District Festival Service, and celebrate with Margaret, and all of us can share memories with this very special lady.

Sharon Priest

Chichester MU District Chair

Away From It All



I am pleased to be able to say the AFIA caravans reopened in time for the school summer holidays after being in lockdown since Easter. There are restrictions but with careful preparations we have been able to offer holidays to our families, mostly referred through FSW. We are only able to offer 5-day breaks with 2 clear days between guests to allow for deep cleaning of the caravans by professionals which, of course, comes at a cost.



This has been a difficult year for AFIA, with fundraising through the branches at a standstill in most cases due to the pandemic. I know our members will rally to the cause! They always do! On hearing we had to remove all books and toys Heathfield Branch arranged funding for sets of buckets and spades. These were given to each family with children of an appropriate age when they arrived at the caravans.

As well as the existing indoor swimming complex, this season there is a brand new Lido at Selsey with outdoor pool and waterslides, sunbathing areas and bar with BBQ restaurant.

Don't forget that members and friends can stay at the caravans outside school holiday dates for a very reasonable rate of a donation of at least £20 per night. Winchelsea caravan sleeps 8 and Selsey sleeps 6. At the moment there is space at Selsey for the first three weeks of October.



My grateful thanks to all who are involved with this project in any way especially the teams at Rye and Selsey who do all the welcoming of our families and general cleaning of the caravans and making sure there is clean bedding etc. This season has certainly been a challenge!

Christine Bright
AFIA Coordinator

MOTHERS' UNION BELIEVES IN THE
IMPORTANCE OF FAMILIES AND IN
QUALITY TIME SPENT TOGETHER TO
BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS
THAT STRENGTHEN FAMILIES.

Mothers' Union Worldwide Representative for Chichester Diocese

I am relatively new to Mothers' Union and honoured to be in the role of Worldwide Representative for our diocese. It was an interesting challenge to start with but guided by Ann Swaine, my predecessor, I am finding my way and enjoying the contacts across the world.

We have 4 link dioceses which are: -

Isuikwato in Nigeria

Seoul in South Korea

Madi and West Nile in Uganda

Mundri in South Sudan

We have contact with all these except Nigeria which is an overall challenge within the Anglican community.

This July The Bishop of Seoul and The Bishop of Mundri were due to attend the Lambeth Conference. Along with the Bishops and their wives, who were to be attending Chichester's Hospitality Initiative, we hoped to be able to bless them with the gift of a Prayer Shawl knitted by our members.

Having previously worked as a trauma counsellor, both face to face and via email and text, the role has been particularly interesting and relevant to me. The people of South Sudan have been through so much and it gladdens my heart that Mothers' Union at Mary Sumner House seem to have them so firmly on their radar. There are wonderful Healing from Trauma workshops being supported and organised by our Regional Development Lead Naomi Herbert. The Christmas Raffle raised funds for South Sudan and my own Mothers' Union group, at St Mary's in Walberton, also put on a small Christmas craft event to add to the funds raised from raffle ticket sales.

The trauma that the people of South Sudan have lived through was brought home to me through a report of a trip from the +Monday, our link Bishop there. He had been out on a journey to confirm people in areas within the diocese that he had not been able to reach since gunmen attacked in February 2014 and most were displaced. His journey was gruelling, at times having to literally cut away the overgrown jungle to clear the way for their vehicle to get through. He described a resilient people who were starting to rebuild but are hampered by lack of basic services such as health and education, made worse by the difficulty of being reached by NGO's and government officials.



Here is a short of extract from his report of this trip. Being received on arrival at Medewu (Garia) Parish. Our Deacon at this parish was shot dead in July 2016 as Dr. Riek Machar passed through this area in his escape to DR Congo! At the time our Diocesan Mission and Evangelism (ME) Coordinator was taking refuge from the war at his home. Unfortunately, when a huge army came in pursuit of Dr Machar, everyone had to run for his/her life. And in the process Deacon Lino was shot dead, reportedly when he was in hiding and reading his Bible! His body was left rotting, but the ME Coordinator took courage, returned home, dug the grave and with the help of the wife buried him!



Bari Parish used to have 170 plastic chairs in this church including at the altar. But during the conflict all these chairs were looted, probably by the gunmen, as the Christians took to the bush for their lives.

Feature continued overleaf...

My Mothers' Union contact Victoria in Madi and West Nile, Uganda (pictured below) tells me of the teaching, mobilisation of resources, bible study and parenting that is done across the archdeaconry by Mothers' Union women leaders. They also focus on prison ministry, school's ministry and ministry to refugee women. Last year they hosted a MULOA fortnight of workshops for refugees from South Sudan. Victoria writes informative and personal emails about the challenges of her life having young children.

In Seoul, South Korea, my contact is with Margaret who has been sharing their fears about coronavirus. I will endeavour to get some latest information to share about this but, at the time of writing, am thankful to hear that things are steady there with the virus. Margaret says that Seoul Diocese too is involved in much the same work as us and is grateful for our prayers. It was particularly wonderful to have a Christmas card from them last year to all of us.

Indoor Branch Members

Indoor Branch Members are those who can no longer attend branch meetings on a regular basis and have paid their IBM subscription. They are still a very important and valued part of Mothers' Union. Each of them receives communications from me 3 times a year, consisting of a covering letter from me, the Indoor Members Prayer, a special prayer for each month, and a weekly prayer plan so that all Indoor members are prayed for throughout the year.

In addition to this Jenny Barton, a Central Trustee, sends a monthly letter to them, and World-wide President Sheran Harper sent letters at Christmas and Easter. Normally all of this goes via the branches so that contact can be maintained with Indoor Members. As we are now having to avoid contact with others, we may have to rely on the postal system for the time being, but hopefully normal service will be resumed before too long.

In response to the suggestion that Indoor Members may like to submit prayers for future use, I am delighted that Lorna Tippet has sent several which will be used at a later date. Although I have not met most of these members personally, I feel a strong bond towards them, and have had several lovely messages and letters from them. It has been a privilege and a joy to serve the Indoor Members in this way, and I pray God's Blessing on them all.

Jean Hunt

Indoor Branch Member Co-ordinator

Please remember all our links in your prayers - especially for their protection as coronavirus has now spread to Africa.

Caroline Sewell



Reverend Victoria Adiru shares hearty laughter with students.

Photo by Rimiliah Amandu

Parents' Groups

Our Mothers' Union Parents' Group facilitators continue to support family life in a variety of ways. During the last twelve months, Parents' Groups have run in Horsham, Midhurst (for the parents of teenagers) and in Littlehampton (for the parents of nought to six year olds). One of our facilitators is using her facilitation skills for the 'Loving for Life' marriage preparation programme. Another facilitator is organising craft activities and providing refreshments at the monthly family service. In two areas of the Diocese, thriving church toddler groups are providing opportunities for sharing parenting ideas. Mothers' Union parenting material is also being used at a Refuge Centre.

Mothers' Union is currently reviewing the Passionate about Parenting Facilitation Training and, as Diocesan Parenting Coordinator I am a member of the advisory team.

Watch this space!

Diane Clack

PARENTING IS ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT JOBS IN THE WORLD AND
WHAT MOTIVATES MOST PEOPLE TO GET
INVOLVED IS A DESIRE TO SUPPORT
AND ENCOURAGE PARENTS IN THIS
UNACKNOWLEDGED BUT VITAL ROLE.

A Busy time during Lockdown

Although unable to meet in the normal way St Alban's Gossops Green and Bewbush, Crawley has been busy during lockdown. As Branch leader, I have kept in touch with members by monthly emails (or letters for those not on the internet) and made sure that Karen Hill's monthly letter has been circulated. I have also included quizzes in the mailing most months. Branch members have been marvellous about ringing round with each other to keep in touch, and now some are meeting in socially distanced groups.

In May we joined in the Diocese food collection for Family Support Work. In our parish this was organised by myself, and our treasurer, who kindly had a collection point at her house. The donations were then delivered to Horsham, which was our nearest pick up point. This was well supported by our whole parish, not just Mother's Union members, and was given a high profile.



Every summer we normally organise a big fundraiser event for Summer of Hope, but as that was not possible this year, we launched a project to raise money for the AFIA Caravans. We did this by individuals holding Tea & Cake afternoons and inviting up to 6 people. We held 5 events altogether, between 6 July and the 9 August - the last being a celebration of Mary Sumner Day. All members who were not shielding, or unwell, managed to attend at least one Tea & Cake afternoon, and we were pleased to also welcome some non-members. So far, we have raised £358 with possibly a few more donations to come.

We had been due to admit four new members on Mothering Sunday this year, but sadly due to the pandemic that had to be cancelled. Most people said they would wait until it was feasible to get together, however one person was keen to go ahead immediately and was admitted over the telephone, and by signing up to pay her subscriptions online. We are delighted to welcome Tsistsi Chikukwa as our newest branch member.



We look forward to hopefully salvaging some of our 2020 programme.... but if all else fails we will run it in 2021 instead. Although we haven't had any monthly meetings our group still feels like a strong, together, and growing unit!

Sarah Magrath



An Update from our Provincial President

– Kathryn Anderson

On the 2 March 2020 Bev Jullien, CEO of Mothers' Union, confirmed my appointment as Provincial President (PP) for Canterbury Province. My first practical assignment was assisting Adam Sach from Mary Sumner House with 'Songs of Praise', finding the Project - which happened to be our Ministry of Cake in Worthing Hospital. I enjoyed being behind the scenes at the filming afternoon with Karen Hill and her Branch Members.

I had met the 4 other Provincial Presidents and the Zonal Trustees in Britain and Ireland in the first meeting of the year at Mary Sumner House. Since we went into lockdown, from 18 March, all our meetings have been by Zoom - what a lot of travelling I have saved - and what a lot of meetings I have had!

I have catch-ups with Nikki, the Zonal Trustee for Canterbury Province, who sits on the Central Trustee Board; regular Zooms and contact via Whats App with the other Provincial Presidents who are my amazing support network. We are all involved in overseeing projects with Central Staff such as MU Live! Parenting Review and Metamorphosis.

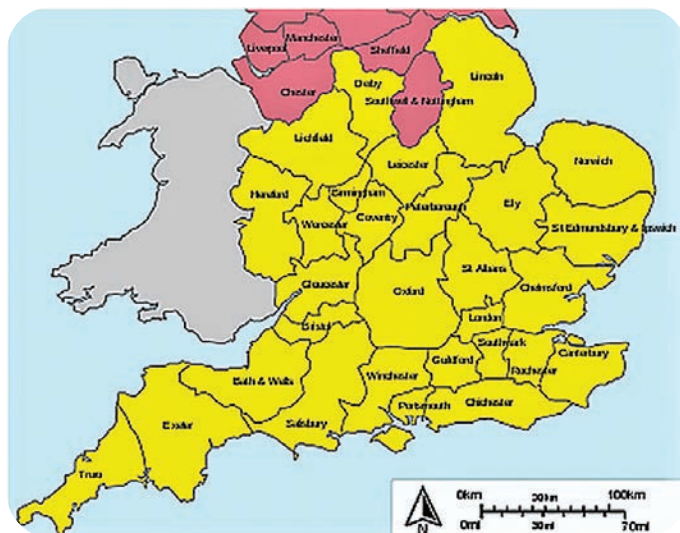
I am now looking after 30 Dioceses from Derby in the North, across to Norwich in the East and down to Truro in the far south-west and across the channel to Europe!

The Province is divided into 4 Clusters - Midlands, Anglia, South East and South West and we have been meeting monthly by Zoom. There are 4 representatives from each of the Clusters who form the Provincial Strategy Group along with Nikki and the Provincial Chaplain, which I chair.

The role is very varied. Prayer and pastoral support, along with the Provincial Chaplain Revd. Mike Banyard, is very important for the Diocesan President who has been widowed, a Diocesan President who has had an operation for cancer, Diocesan Presidents with poorly husbands, members who have died, to a Branch celebrating their Centenary.

I am asked questions about governance; I oversee the finances and am a signatory to the Provincial Bank account and I keep all the Diocesan Presidents in touch with what is going on in Mothers' Union centrally and keep encouraging them all. I am networking with Clewer and keeping up with the Modern-Day Slavery leads in the dioceses hand in hand with York Province. This is an important networking role.

It was lovely to be invited to Karen's Commissioning by Zoom and I am so pleased that she has become the next Chichester Diocesan President.



THE PROVINCE IS A LINK BETWEEN
CENTRAL MOTHERS' UNION AND THE
INDIVIDUAL DIOCESES.

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www.chichestermu.org

Further information about Mothers' Union Chichester Diocese is also on the website:

www.chichestermu.org

News and photographs for the website are always welcome and events can be advertised by submitting details to: **webmaster@chichestermu.org**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ONGOING
SUPPORT OF THE MOTHERS' UNION

COLLECTION OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS BY DIRECT DEBIT

At their meeting in September 2019, the Trustees were joined by Richard Miller, the Mothers' Union Director of Finance, to discuss whether Chichester Diocese would partner with Mary Sumner House (MSH) in the roll out of Direct Debits (DD) to collect the 2020 Subscriptions.

At the end of a long, detailed, open and frank discussion, the Trustees agreed to adopt direct debits, and the process started. Districts, Branches and Diocesan Members were written to, and invited to consider signing up for DD collection either by an online application or by completing and returning the form enclosed with the letter to MSH. The deadline for signing up was 31st January 2020. That deadline was subsequently extended to the end of February due to the increased workload at MSH, and to cope with a few stragglers.

The collection date was 9th March 2020, and I'm pleased to report that 302 subscriptions were successfully collected, representing about 27% of the membership. However, 14 mandates failed due to invalid bank details, and a further 7 arrived after the collection date and were not collected.

May I thank all of you who signed up and encourage those who haven't to please consider doing so.

Andy Anderson
Diocesan Treasurer

Diary Dates

2021

Members' Celebration Day

Haywards Heath

Saturday 15 May 2021

10am - 3pm

Autumn Members' Meeting

Haywards Heath

Saturday 9 October 2021

Trustee/unit meetings

Church House, Hove.

Thursday 11 February 2021

10am to 4pm

Thursday 8 July 2021

10am to 4pm

Thursday 2 December 2021

10am to 4pm

All of these dates are
subject to change due
to Covid-19.

DAILY HOPELINE

On Sunday 26 April the 'Daily Hopeline' was launched on freephone number: **0800 804 8044**. Archbishop Justin Welby answers with a short message followed by a choice of 7 options. This is a wonderful service offering hymns, prayers, services and Government advice on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Please share this information widely – particularly to those who do not use the internet. Thank you.

AUDIO VERSION OF LINK

An audio version of Link is now available as a CD or USB stick. Marjorie Crispin, from St Peter and St Michael's Branch, Bexhill, is the first member to have benefited from this service and sends a big thank you. She was 'absolutely delighted' with Link on a USB stick. Branch contact Jacquie Watson writes that 'It's easier for her to use in her iPad and who ever read it had a wonderful clear voice.'

If you, or someone you know, would like to receive an audio version of Link, please contact Emma Ham-Riche: ehamriche@gmail.com or 01903 783958.

FROM THE EDITOR

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to this latest edition of the Link. It would be lovely to always ensure that every District is represented. If you have any advertisements or branch news that you would like to share for the May 2021 edition, I will be very pleased to receive your articles/photos as soon as you are able to send them to me at: linkeditor@chichestermu.org. It is often easier to send in material immediately after an event so that it does not get forgotten. Please remember that the higher the quality of a photograph, the better it will look in print. However, unfortunately it is not possible to use all the photographs that are sent in.

The final deadline for submitting articles for the next edition is Friday 2 April 2021.

Very many thanks
Corinne English

Find Mothers' Union Chichester Diocese on Facebook and Twitter!



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www.twitter.com/muchichester

THANK YOU MOOMAR DESIGN & BRANDING

We'd like to thank Jon at Moomar for designing the Chichester Link.

www.moomar.co.uk