

**Reflection May 2023**

My dear friends, what a joy it is to share with you particularly as after such a cold wet winter and early spring it seems that summer is coming and with it some warmer weather for us all to enjoy. Mind you the spring plants in my garden have been a joy to behold and now the blossom on my fruit trees is giving me hope for a good harvest this year. Now it is time for us to blossom also to grow into the people God wants us to be. We have come through Easter and are now looking to Pentecost and beyond. Let us ask God to fill us again with His Holy Spirit so that we may share with others the wonderful things he has done in our lives. This May also sees the celebration of a Coronation, when after many years of serving as Prince of Wales and heir to the throne, Price Charles is crowned King and will go forward to serve his country and the commonwealth as others have before him. I am sure like me you remember the Coronation of that wonderful lady Elizabeth 2nd when as school children we were not only given a day off school but were presented with a coronation mug, beaker or similar as a memento of the day. I still have mine and my husbands, popped away at the back of a cupboard. They are just like those in the picture. Maybe I should bring them out and use them to raise a toast to our new King. This is a new area in all our lives, a moving forward, and we must move forward too and think of new ways to serve both in our personal life and our life in Mothers’ Union life. Mothers’ Union is for ever moving forward, looking to the future with our continuing theme of Transformation. This theme helps us to grow, to change, to learn from past mistakes and be transformed so that the way we run the organisation is more streamlined whilst at the same time still fulfilling all the necessary activities needed to help not only our members but those they serve, to lead fulfilling and healthy lives.

 

As summer comes, we will be looking to provide holidays or days out for those who need a much appreciated break from daily life, we will continue to provide much needed food for needy families by supporting our local food banks. We will be educating parents in the best way to look after their families, we will help young people living away from home to understand the best way to manage their money. We will continue with our work on gender justice and our work in prisons and child contact centres, As June comes in, we will once again be looking to support the ‘Summer of Hope’ campaign, which helps members in countries where poverty is a way of life, to bring hope to their communities because of our generosity. But we must look at new ways to serve, new ways to be Christ to those we meet in our daily lives, whether that is those who come to visit us if we are unable to go out, or those we meet on our travels even if that is only to the local shops. But you know none of this would be so effective without the addition of prayer, prayer brings strength to all our work and I know that is something you are just so good at, so please continue to pray both privately and with others so that our service to one another will be God given in love.

Love & Prayers

Jenny

**Let us Pray** 

From the Mothers’ Union Prayer Diary—May 2023

We come before God in faith, with thankfulness for Christ who taught us to pray; Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. The kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and for ever. Amen

**We also pray**

Father, we give you thanks for the opportunity to serve you in which ever way we can. We ask you to bless our members and the staff at Mary Sumner House as we all work together for the good of those around us. We ask you to bless our new king, Charles, as he seeks your will. Guide him as he begins his new journey of service and give him your peace and strength to fully blossom into the person you would have him to be. These and all our prayers we ask in the name of Jesus our Saviour. AMEN