

August 2021 - Count your Blessings Calendar

As the year turns the corner from spring to a Summer of Hope, we see God's creations in all their beauty and feel the inspiration of our shared faith. To help you embrace this glorious season, here are 31 prompts of gratitude for you to use to count your blessings each day in August, in which this year we remember Mary Sumner, 100 years since her passing. Put aside a Blessings Jar to pop loose change into as you give thanks this month.



<p>1 Put your Blessings Jar somewhere special today. Every day as you give thanks this month put a £1 coin (or whatever you can afford) in the jar, to raise funds for Mothers' Union. Start today with your first £1 to celebrate Mary Sumner's life.</p>	<p>2 Pray today for the members and work of your link Dioceses. If possible, plan your prayer time for midday, and join your prayers to the global Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer.</p>	<p>3 "Mothers' Union campaigns excellently, it nurtures wonderfully, but above all and beneath all, it prays", says our Patron Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury. Today, give thanks for the Mothers' Union work in your local area.</p>	<p>4 Many of us were introduced to Mothers' Union through a friend. Today, put a little change in your Blessings Jar to say thank you, and invite someone you know to be part of the Mothers' Union family.</p>	<p>5 To celebrate this Summer of Hope, make a beautiful butterfly out of paper and stick it to your Blessings Jar, fridge or somewhere else you'll see it all month.</p>	<p>6 Read about how much Mothers' Union means to Jane in the letter that came with this calendar. Share what Mothers' Union means to you with your local group or online by tagging #SummerOfHope.</p>	<p>7 As we celebrate 145 years of Mothers' Union, think of what you might write to Mary Sumner to say thank you to her if she were alive today, and pop some loose change in your Blessings Jar.</p>
<p>8 Take a moment today to gift some items to a charity shop or your local Food Bank, to spread hope and love within your community.</p>	<p>9 Today, think of five people in your life who have helped you through various challenges. You can add to your Blessings Jar as you think of them.</p>	<p>10 As we reflect on Mary Sumner's legacy with gratitude, think about an action she would take to help establish a stable future for those yet to come in your community.</p>	<p>11 Rev. Can. Adakuru Alice Bayo, from Arua Diocese, Uganda prays: "Make Mothers' Union your instrument of change in the world of confusion, to bring hope, confidence and re-creation." You might like to add your own Amen to this today.</p>	<p>12 As people in the UK come together after so long apart, put some change in your Blessings Jar in thanks for the chance to reconnect at last. Call a friend today to arrange a get-together with some tea and cake.</p>	<p>13 There are many ways to celebrate the Summer of Hope today, from going for a walk to learning a new skill. Put 50p in your jar for every new skill you learnt during lockdown.</p>	<p>14 Take a moment today to think about what you are most grateful for in your life, and put £1 in your Blessings Jar to give thanks.</p>
<p>15 Every journey starts with a single step. Today, be inspired by Mary Sumner's work by connecting with someone in your local group and discussing a difference you want to make together.</p>	<p>16 Jane in Tanzania is growing her food business with support from Mothers' Union. Treat yourself to a favourite food today as you put £1 in your Blessings Jar.</p>	<p>17 Mary Sumner's vision was for women from all walks of life to support one another. Today, make a plait from three ribbons or strings and think of three people who have supported you in challenging times.</p>	<p>18 It says in Philippians 4:13: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Put some change in your Blessings Jar for the strength you find in your membership of Mothers' Union.</p>	<p>19 "The foundations on which we build our hope and confidence are rooted in the living God", says Linda Ginn MBE, Diocesan President of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich. Pot up a flower today and give it to someone who needs some summer hope.</p>	<p>20 Today, you might like to put some candles in your windows. Put 50p in your jar for each candle you light.</p>	<p>21 Make a paper heart today and write on it something or someone you are thankful for. You can glue or tape it to your jar as you put £1 in.</p>
<p>22 Think of an example of how Mothers' Union has helped you increase in wisdom. Give thanks with a contribution to your Blessings Jar, and share your example with your local group or online with the tag #SummerofHope.</p>	<p>23 Today, reflect on how you and Jane in Tanzania do what you can for the people around you and through Mothers' Union. Put £1 in your Blessings Jar as you feel the warmth that comes from giving, achievement and global teamwork.</p>	<p>24 Mary Sumner said: we can calm each other when we are afraid... and work together to raise our children to the glory of God. Give thanks for our unity together today.</p>	<p>25 Today, why not make a treat for someone you know to bring them joy and help them count their blessings too. They might also contribute to your Blessings Jar if you ask.</p>	<p>26 We are an international charity with over 4 million members in 84 countries. With a friend or two in person, online or on the phone, put 10p in the jar for every country you can write down together from memory.</p>	<p>27 Mary Sumner promoted family values. Put a coin in your Blessings Jar for each family value you treasure most.</p>	<p>28 Today put a big sunshine in your window for everyone to enjoy as they go about their day. Can you put another one on your Blessings Jar too?</p>
<p>29 Around the world, we see Mothers' Union members bringing church and community together to make a positive impact. Give thanks by putting a coin in your jar.</p>	<p>30 Today, try your hand at a puzzle while you give thanks for Mothers' Union's worldwide contributions to health, literacy and numeracy. Put £1 in your Blessings Jar and count how much you've saved.</p>	<p>31 Take your Blessings Jar and end the value of the money you've saved as a contribution to Mothers' Union's work worldwide. You can gift it online, safely and securely, at www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope</p>	<p>After completing your calendar, count your coins and you can send a cheque to your local MU or directly to: Mothers' Union, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London, SW1P 3RB.</p> <p>Or make your donation online at www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope</p> <p>Once you have finished with this calendar, you can use the other side as a poster in your church or living room window!</p>			



summer of
hope

To find out more about **Summer of Hope** please visit
www.mothersunion.org/summer-hope

**Together, we can
build a brighter
future for women.**

God of hope,
shine your rays of blessing
on women in all kinds of
leadership roles that this may
be a summer of hope
for those you call to serve
your world.

Help us to be a beacon of
hope as we follow in the
footsteps of others
that our vision and mission
may flourish
in the warmth of your love.

Amen