

We pray for all members in **Kericho, Kenya**. (A candle is lit).

Kericho is located within the highlands west of the Kenyan Rift Valley, about 30 miles from Africa's largest lake, Lake Victoria, 123 miles north-west of the capital, Nairobi.

It is home to Kenya's biggest water catchment area, the Mau Forest. With a high altitude and virtually daily rains, Kericho is beautifully verdant and green.

Kenya is a major tea producer and Kenyan tea is known for the texture of the fragrant leaves, its brightness, attractive colour and flavour. Much of the tea is exported, with the UK being the largest market. Kericho is at the centre of Kenya's large tea industry and includes producers such as Unilever. Tea is very important in the local economy, so much so that the town square is known as Chai Square.

People in Kericho are mainly Christians. In many dioceses in Kenya, there is an emphasis on helping those whose life has faced adversity. In Kericho, frequent visits are organised to community members where food and other household items are taken and shared.

Kenya has over 117,000 Mothers' Union members. The Mothers' Union in Kericho is very active in promoting family life and in particular the spiritual life of women. They have a vision that the Church in the 21st century needs both young and old to work together for social transformation. Members are active in projects that support the economic empowerment of women; environmental protection; fighting crime, alcoholism and drug abuse; feeding the hungry; visiting the sick in hospital; visiting those in prison; and outreach to single mothers and widows.

Key needs and issues in Kenya include gender based violence, child marriage and economic empowerment, all of which members are working to improve.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for the members in Kericho and for members across the world who faithfully carry out the mission of the Mothers' Union, often in challenging situations. Bless them and bless us all as we seek to love you and our neighbours, with all our heart.

Amen