

MSH Update – January 2024 edition

Dear Members,

Welcome to this January edition of Mary Sumner's House Members' update.

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MU at the General Synod!

MU is holding a fringe event at the General Synod in London on 26th February. This lunchtime session will focus on “**Mothers' Union (MU) – here for you!**” and will speak to the impact of MU in the Community highlighting our RISE UP campaign and how we are here to support clergy and the Church in the delivery of their mission. An exciting opportunity for MU to showcase the importance of our work and our value as an integral part of the Anglican church.

Mothering Sunday – 10th March

Our **Make a Mother's Day campaign** will once again focus on supporting more women to grow their independence, take on leadership roles, and build a better future for their children. The appeal will have started landing on your doormats. This year our appeal letter focuses on the work of the **Mothers' Union in Uganda** and the difference they are making through community led Gender Based Violence work. By choosing to give a **Gift of Dignity**, an ethical gift from our dedicated page www.makeamothersday.org, you will be making a difference for mothers and their families around the world. We have continued to have a choice of cards, and you may want to buy directly for a mother, choose to dedicate your gift in memory of a loved one or help the grandchildren to surprise mum with a different type of gift this year.

Also, why not consider the **Gift of MU** for wonderful mothers you know and introduce them to Mothers' Union. A fantastic way to get families and friends engaged with our work and at the end of their gift year, they will want to actively become members – a wonderful way to grow the movement in Britain & Ireland!

In addition, we are delighted that this year all members will receive a hard copy of our **Easter and Spring/Summer catalogue 2024**.

Make a Mother's Day – www.makeamothersday.org

Gifts of MU - www.mothersunion.org/news/new-supporter-gifts-mu

Mothering Sunday Resources - www.mothersunion.org/mothering-sunday-resources

History of Mothering Sunday - www.mothersunion.org/news/why-mothering-sunday-more-relevant-ever-brief-history

Story from MU Live – spotlight on the Democratic Republic of Congo

Story of Change from the Mothers Union Literacy & Agriculture Programme in Democratic Republic of Congo



Katungu Zawadi, 22 years old, married to Kefa Tumusime, they have one child David. I joined Mothers Union as a member and shortly after they introduced this savings programme in my parish. It has been a real blessing to me, and I've become empowered through being part of this savings group called *Baraka* meaning "Blessings". I am so thankful to God and to Mothers' Union.

I have so much joy because this savings group has been a real blessing to me. It has allowed me to save with hope. We are in our first cycle of savings and I'm looking forward to getting all the money I've saved and starting a new cycle in the coming months. I've used a loan from the group to help with my business of making and selling mandazi, (small doughnuts). I also sell peanuts and female shoes. With my businesses I can now pay for my household needs and food, buy new clothes and now I'm working towards setting up a tailoring business too where I'll have more than one machine and have enough for buying materials and equipping my tailoring workshop. My prayer is that soon my tailoring workshop will be well equipped and one day I will be able to have my own enterprise and help other women to be independent.

My life has not been easy up to this point. I was born in a big family. When I was seven years old, my older brother took me from my parents to take care of me. He paid school fees from primary three up to secondary school. He is an Anglican pastor. He supported me yes, but not for all needs, his wife loved me too. However, in my life I never had a hug from my mother or father, only my family in law where I got married, they showed me the good way of love and to have joy and hope. Also, through my savings group my relationship with other members has been improved. We now study the Bible together, we share our lives together and we pray together, this has changed my life.



Canon Bev Jullien



Bev Jullien, Mothers' Union's CEO, was recently installed as an Honorary Lay Canon by Bishop Alan at St Albans Cathedral, in recognition of all her work and ministry for Mothers' Union and in her local parish.

Bishop Alan paid tribute to the new Canons' leadership and service in a wide variety of ways in the Church and the wider community.

"It is an enormous privilege to receive this honour in my home diocese, and it is a tribute to the work of Mothers' Union members locally, and around the world."

Huge congratulations to Bev from everyone at Mothers' Union for her very well-deserved achievement!

With very best wishes for 2024,

Mothers' Union Membership Team

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