

DIARY DATES

Cathedral Prayers Winchester

A reminder that the MU have a regular monthly booking in the Epiphany Chapel from 10-11am for Prayers (although we choose to start at 10.30am) and we have been asked to ensure that we have finished our service by 11am in time for the Winchester Cathedral prayers which are said on the hour, every hour

- 3 June 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Southampton Deanery
- 1 July 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Odiham Deanery
- 5 Aug 10.30 Cathedral Prayers – led by Leadership Team

Other Events

- 10 June Wednesday 5pm 150th anniversary celebration (tickets only) at St. Paul's Cathedral
- 11 June Thursday – National Gathering (tickets only) at Emmanuel Centre, London

150th Celebrations

- 9 Aug 2.30pm Sunday – laying of flowers on Mary Sumner's grave
- 9 Aug 3.30pm Sunday – Evensong at Winchester Cathedral to celebrate Mary Sumner Day, followed by refreshments

On May 6th our Cathedral Prayers were led by Jane Horne and Sandra from the Romsey Abbey Branch. The theme was a thanksgiving – reflected in the hymns and in Jane's 'Thought for the Day' – Lord Jesus Christ; Thank you for every new good morning and Now Thank we all our God. We followed our prayers by joining in fellowship at the Refectory for coffee and cake.



Mothers' Union Refreshments at Winchester Cathedral

As is our custom, most members attending Cathedral Prayers go on to the Refectory where we "take over" a good deal of space, regarding it as acceptable as we, The Mothers' Union, were involved with providing Refreshments before the "Visitor Centre" was built.

There are a bundle of letters in our Archives in the Record Office referring to such arrangements. Teas were provided initially in the room above the Diocesan Offices in The Close and it was hoped that volunteers would continue in the new Refectory. A paragraph reads – *Thanks mostly of course to the incredible work of about 100 Parishes who consist primarily of Mothers; Union members and supporters, the parishes have been entirely responsible and committed about their promises and turned up cheerfully to do the work. We all pray they will be prepared to continue.*

I was also able to see a Rota for March 1990. MU members provided help from Monday to Saturday, with most Deaneries represented from Alresford, Alton and on to Winchester and Whitchurch.

Here are some photos from the Tea Room but I do not recognise any of the members.

Christine Clode



Celebration Service at St Paul's

on 10th June at 5pm will be available to view on Mothers' Union Facebook page for those who are not able to travel to London. However, you will have to watch it live as it will not be available after the service finishes.

Thank you Jo – welcome Katherine!

After 8 months as our excellent Diocesan Administrator, Jo Ayres-Proctor is giving up this role to focus on supporting work with children and families at Bitterne. However, we are not losing her as she has joined us as a member. Thank you, Jo, for all your hard work over the past 8 months sorting out all our membership records. She is handing over the reins to Katherine Cooper, also from Bitterne, who I'm sure will do a great job. Please use the email address office@muwinchester.org.uk to contact Katherine with any queries.

Sue Murphy, Diocesan President



News from Romsey Branch

At our last meeting we had a craft session making origami doves and Pentecost posters. Here is a photo of our results which were on show at all the services on Pentecost Sunday.

Jane Horne



News from Ringwood Branch

Ringwood Branch will be hosting a Deanery Songs of Praise to celebrate the 150 years of Mothers' Union, on Sunday 6th July at 6.00pm at St John's Church, Poulner, Ringwood.

Stella Roberts

News from our Chaplain

This from the Chaplains community of interest. Listen and Watch and watch and share with those colleagues and friends who are not Mothers' Union members. The podcast is really interesting and gives a great insight into the work of MU members around the world and the positive impact on communities. It was produced for International Women's Day on Sunday 8 March, but is very relevant.

In this week's United Christian Broadcasters Life Issues, Vicky Gibbens speaks to Canon Bev Jullien, Chief Executive of Mothers' Union, and MU's Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, as the organisation celebrates its 150th anniversary. Here is the link to YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cW4-1xTkTuo...>



News from Bitterne branch

On Wednesday 27th May 2026 Bitterne MU led the midweek communion service at Holy Saviour Church where we celebrated 150 years of Mothers' Union. Sue Murphy joined us and enrolled our newest member Jo Ayres-Proctor. Other branch members took part in the service preaching, reading, prayers and assisting with communion. Everyone agreed it was a special service and an opportunity to share the work of the MU with other members of our congregation.

Sue Seal, Bitterne Branch



Christian Care for Families through praying, enabling and campaigning

Sue Murphy – Diocesan President, & Treasurer president@muwinchester.org.uk