

2026 MU 150th Anniversary celebration ideas

The National events organised by MSH are

- ❖ St Paul's Cathedral June 10th 5pm
- ❖ Annual Gathering: June 11th 10.30m- 4.30pm
The Emmanuel Centre next to MSH
- ❖ Global Gathering – Durban, South Africa, 30 Sep - 3 Oct 2026
- ❖ £150 challenge
- ❖ 150 new members/friends

Ticket sales opened on October 16th. Members are encouraged to buy their tickets early. Once we know how many of us are attending, we can look to arrange transport for those who wish to travel as a group.

Trustees are planning some diocesan wide activities, services and events to mark the 150th anniversary of MU.

Lady Day on March 25th at 2pm will be the main MU service to kick start our celebrations at Ipswich Minster. I have invited our new Bishop Joanne Grenfell to preach. The Park and Ride bus can transport us all to the minster and save the challenge of town traffic and finding a place to park.

There will also be a **Mary Sumner day service** on August 9th, the venue tbc in the new year.

A Big Family MU Quiz is planned with 50 questions that cover aspects of MU across 150 years. MU branches and MU groups will be invited to sell the quiz sheets for £1 each. Half the money from the sales of the quiz sheets will remain in your branch, the other half coming to the diocese to pay the cash prizes for the top three correct answers.

Big Knicker Night: Venue and date tbc

£150 challenge: This challenge is that MSH gives the diocese £150 and the idea is that we make this grow to possibly as much as £1,500 for MU projects. Your ideas please.

150 new members in 2026: This year so far, we have had 20 new Members and 3 new Friends so this really will be a challenge.

MU Branches, MU Groups and Diocesan members are invited to include in their programme and activities some of the following ideas.

MU Pillar Box Toppers: For those members who knit and crochet patterns for MU pillar box toppers a 150th anniversary will be shared at council. There is plenty of time for our MU knitters to make these in time for the 2026 summer months, when our village and town pillar boxes can be transformed.

Sunday Takeover: Members are encouraged to ask their clergy for one Sunday in the summer months to taken over by MU. A service outline will be provided for MU branches and MU groups to use or adapt for their parish church Sunday service.

Silent Knitting: members invite friends' round for a knit in in silence. You can decide how much the penalty is for talking.

An evening meeting with the theme: Prayer, Pizza and Prosecco; or Pasta, Pamper and Prayer

Hospitality: Lent Lunches, afternoon teas and harvest lunches or suppers are all great ways to invite new people to enjoy a time of MU fellowship, raise some MU funds and talk about our MU projects.

Jeanette Appleton
Diocesan President