

Join Us, Join In

MU Service of Healing: If you were unable to attend the MU service of Healing on October 18th in person, you can still view the service on the St Felix, Rendlesham's YouTube page. We thank Rev Mandy Reynolds and her team for a very special service followed by wonderful fellowship.

Diocesan Treasurer vacancy: We thank Amanda Langan and Rob Shackleton, who have shared this role of Diocesan treasurer for the past 12 months and are now stepping down at the end of the year. They have done a fantastic job and we are so grateful for their professionalism and dedication which has been such a blessing to MU.

We are now seeking someone new to be our Diocesan Treasurer, an advert with the role description has been sent to all diocesan officers, branch leaders and MU groups so that we can publicise this vacancy as widely as possible.

Subscriptions for 2026 are £29 for both MU members and MU Friends. This works out at £2.41 per month. This funds the administrative costs of our diocese and Mary Sumner House. This in turn enables our members to run a wide range of projects across our diocese and for MSH to support a vast range of projects across over 83 countries worldwide. All for less than the price of one cup of coffee each month. Just to clarify the situation regarding members of the clergy who want to be MU members. Clergy do still need to pay their subscriptions like everyone else. In the past there was a thinking that the clergy were exempt from paying subscription. Paying by direct debit makes your branch treasurers' life so much easier. Some members do pay the subscription for people who cannot afford the £29. In these situations, you can't claim Gift Aid on another person's subscription. Please contact Clare Thomas our Membership Secretary with details of members moving out of the diocese, new members, changes of addresses or deaths. Her contact details are Clare.Thomas@mothersunion.org or tel. 01473 832808. This is very important as we need accurate information so that members receive the Prayer Diary and Connected magazine.

HMP Warren Hill Sewing room team send their thanks for the recent donation of cotton reels and material. So much fabric has been donated that they now just need the cotton threads. Thank you to Sue Norrington and Jean Cobb and her members at Woodbridge for managing when literally a van load of material arrived.

Afternoon Tea at Coddendam Village Hall: There was a lovely gathering of MU members and friends at Coddendam Village Hall on Saturday 11th October 2025 when Val, Sandra, Christine, Jane and Beryl arranged an afternoon of Tea and Homemade Cake. There was a good feeling of fellowship and friendship throughout the afternoon as folk chatted to other members and friends they had not seen for a while. There were 3 stalls, a raffle, surprise tombola and grocery with Clare

and the MUE goods, here was a lovely selection of items available to purchase, particularly with Christmas in mind. We raised a good amount, a total of £403.31 that will buy vouchers for the Women's Refuge families in Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds. The MUE stall had sales of £462.46 making it one of its best events ever.

Thankyou to all that supported the event, we hope to hold another, possibly in the spring of 2026.

2026 is our 150th Anniversary: In case you had not noticed 2026 marks 150 years of MU. Since that first meeting in the vicarage of Old Alresford church MU has grown and spread to over 83 countries and with over 4 million members.

Ideas of ways in which we can celebrate this milestone, whether as individual members, MU branches and MU groups or as a diocese were discussed at council on October 28th and will be shared via the council minutes. To start with, please put 25th March in your diaries for our Lady Day service at Ipswich Minster.

You can also now book tickets for the 150th anniversary service at St Paul's on June 10th. Tickets price £16.96 are available from: www.mothersunion.org/event/150-celebratory-service/.

Why not add this ticket, your train or coach ticket and an Afternoon Tea near St Paul's to your Christmas present list. This is a present that does not need dusting.

Tickets have been allocated to each province according to the number of its members. The first release of tickets is now live with further releases on 16th December and 16th February. Take care to order your ticket to where it has CAN for Canterbury province indicated. Just scroll down to find this at the bottom of this section on the Eventbrite page. The ticket price pays for the commemorative booklet for this service. Block booking is not possible with this system, so the advice is to buy your ticket early.

Tickets for the Annual Gathering will be released from 16th November. In the new year we can explore if members would like to travel together, by train or coach to these events.

Big Knicker Night: In the October newsletter the Big Knicker night, that will be part of our 150th anniversary events, was mistakenly advertised as taking place in four locations. To clarify there will be one main Big Knicker Night event. More information about the date and venue for this event will be forthcoming.

Prayer points:

- We pray for a new Diocesan Treasurer.
- We pray for the literacy and numeracy groups enabled by MU, that all who attend may be enabled and grow.
- As we look towards the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence which begin on November 25th, we pray for all victims and survivors and all who work to support them.
- We pray for our new Archbishop Dame Sarah Mullally.

If you have an item for the newsletter, please send it to Jeanette.Appleton@mothersunion.org.