

# FOCUS

... on the future



**Summer 2017**



## ***Enabled & Inspired***

**A workshop for all members,  
enabling and inspiring them to:**

- ◆ Speak up about Mothers' Union
- ◆ Engage with and enthuse non-members to support Mothers' Union
- ◆ Recognise needs in their own areas and be empowered to help where they can
- ◆ ... and much more!!

**Thursday 21st September 2017  
Moulsoe Millennium Hall  
Cranfield Rd, Moulsoe MK16 0HB  
10 for 10.30am until 3pm**

Please bring a packed lunch, drinks  
provided

***Mothers' Union Enterprises Stall***

Registered Charity: 249723

*Front cover: Six new members of St Edburg's were enrolled by Rev. Verena Breed on Sunday 22nd January. From left to right the names are Doreen Douglas, Daphne Thompson, Ray Nash, Penny Massingham, Peggy Adamson and Caroline Douglas. Judith Inder (far right) was welcomed from another branch. Christine Styles was also enrolled.*

Dear Friends

I am writing to you in the aftermath of the terrible incidents in London and Manchester. Events like this can make us very fearful – maybe not for ourselves, but for those we hold most dear. We know that the impact of this tragedy has spread far across our country and you might well know a family that has been affected. It can also bring back bad memories for ourselves and others so we need to be sensitive when talking about these matters. The determination for good to prevail is paramount in all our minds and the wonderful movement 'Thy Kingdom Come' could not have been timed better. It was inspiring to know that we were joining in prayers all around the globe for the very essence of what we work for in Mothers' Union to be a reality: the day when the whole world comes to know Jesus. I hope that you found the Global Moment that we took part in on 31st May (broadcast from Hull) as uplifting as I did. It was interesting to hear and learn from two members who live there.



The project work that we do reaches out to so many people around our diocese; sometimes we underestimate the value of the positive difference we make to their lives. Setting you all a challenge to think of new ways to reach out in Jesus' name might sound daunting but it is not impossible! Simple ideas like smiling (some of you did work on this at our Spring meeting) and engaging positively with all those we meet will always be a force for good. Wearing your badge at all times is essential – how else will others know what you stand for? We get to know the needs of our communities in many ways – the important factor is to be watching and listening at all times. The meeting in North Bucks in September will help you with this – it is open to all members!

Next year Mothers' Union in this diocese will celebrate its 130th Birthday and we are planning events around the diocese to mark this. You will find an article about this elsewhere in *Focus*.

Finally, I have to report that of all the vacancies that we have on our Trustee Board and elsewhere, only one has been filled: Rosie Kilham-Jackson (read all about her on page 10) has been our first answer to prayer

and she is now looking after our Indoor Members. I find it very hard to believe that no one is willing to be our Treasurer or look after our Faith & Policy Unit. Please continue to pray that these vacancies will be filled – but you need to do some work for God and actually ask people to take on these roles!

With my love and prayers Alisonx

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## From our Diocesan chaplain

Dear Friends,

As I hope you all know, our national theme for this year is 'Faith in Action'. That is the theme we are using during all our diocesan services and some of our speakers are taking Faith in Action as their theme too, including me!

The bible readings which Mary Sumner House have suggested we use are 1 John 3:16–18 and Matthew 25:35–40, which if you look them up, speak about showing love through actions as well as words and reaching out to offer help to those around us who are in any kind of need. In so doing we are reaching out to Christ himself and contributing to building His Kingdom on earth, the theme of Thy Kingdom Come, which our archbishops have invited us to engage with particularly during the post Easter season. In fact, the long season of Trinity, which we have just begun, is the perfect time to go forth into our world, both near and far, as we are able. Inspired and energised by His Holy Spirit, we are called to be active in bringing in God's Kingdom. This is our challenge and invitation.

And no-one is too old or frail to take part. Everyone is capable of praying for those in need, those we know and those further away. In fact, a precious gift as we become less able to be physically active, is more time to use in prayer! Our Mothers' Union news brings before us the prayer needs of Mothers' Union members in other parts of the world. Use your Families Worldwide to inform your prayer. Pray at home and when you are gathered in your branches and in church. Pray for your fellow members too.



No-one is too old or frail to share fellowship, to smile and listen. In all the visits to branches that the trustees made during the early part of this year, when members were asked what they most valued about their membership, the most frequent and first answer was fellowship – knowing that you are among friends. Loneliness and isolation are two aspects of life that weigh heavily in our modern world, where families move around and no longer live close by, where workers commute long distances to their jobs, where public transport, especially in the more rural parts of the country, can be almost non-existent. Let us treasure the fellowship that we build in Mothers' Union and find ways to extend it to others.

Of course there are larger projects which we continue to carry forward as Faith in Action – AFIA, Supporting the families of sick children, providing greetings cards for prisoners to use are just a few. But don't be discouraged if you can't contribute to them. Start with yourself – pray and be kind.

Blessings, Denise

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## General Meeting

This year's Mothers' Union General Meeting is hosted by The Province of Scotland and will take place in Edinburgh.

The celebrations begin at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral & St John's Episcopal Church on 29th September at 5.30pm. Following this there will be "Taste of Scotland" and Ceilidh band later on in the evening which will be held at the Roxburgh Hotel. There will be a drinks reception, 3 course meal alongside some traditional music and optional dancing! The General Meeting will be at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre at 10.30am on Saturday 30th September.

Everyone is welcome – members, non-members, young and old. If you haven't been before you can be assured of a great time. The key note speaker will be the Archbishop of Canterbury's top advisor, Canon Sarah Snyder.

If you would like details of how to apply for tickets, please contact the office as soon as possible.



# Christmas Cards for Prisoners

It seems strange to be talking about Christmas when we are in the middle of summer but we need to be prepared to support this Outreach activity for the prisoners at Bullingdon.

We will need over 1,000 cards which means one from each member! They should be brought to the Autumn meeting at Benson on 13 October. Please will you write the following message in them, below any printed greeting that is in the card and not on a different page:

With Best Wishes from a Member of Mothers' Union in Oxford diocese

It is best if the cards just say 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year' or something similar – long flowery poems and greetings are not suitable. The ideal cards to give are Mothers' Union ones, which you will be able to buy on the day!

We've heard from the prison the impact the cards have:

'Last Christmas nearly all the men in HMP Bullingdon (over 1,000) were each offered by the Chaplains a personal Christmas card from members of the Mothers Union across the Diocese. The men were so appreciative – those of the Christian faith and those of other World Faiths, or of none at all. More than a few told the Chaplain Andrew Foran "This is the only card I will get this Christmas".

Andrew is very grateful to all the Mothers' Union branches who took part in this simple but rewarding project; it has been running for a good number of years now, as started under the guidance of the late Captain John Richards CA. The giving of a card this way at Christmas time means many things to the men in Bullingdon, not least that someone outside in the community cares for them personally.'

# Bicester and Deddington Deanery

## Quiet Afternoon

Bicester and Deddington Deanery held a Quiet Afternoon on Saturday 25 March at St John the Baptist Church, Bodicote. A very thoughtful programme for the afternoon had been put together by Rev Sarah Sharp and it was based on the five senses – Smell, Sight, Taste, Hearing and Touch. For each of the senses there was a 'station' set up in the church with material, prayers and ideas for us to use and reflect on. As it was a lovely spring day we were also able to go outside into the churchyard for private prayer and meditation.



At the end of the afternoon we came together for a short act of worship and this was followed by refreshments and time for a chat.

Our thanks to Rev Sarah Sharp for preparing and leading a very meaningful Quiet Afternoon.  
Claire Roberts, Bodicote Branch



*Tylehurst St George Mothers' Union branch raised £64.50 during May for AFIA with a small sales box aimed to interest the Toddler Group mums and the congregation. It was very well received and here is a photo of some supporters surrounding the goodies after a service.*

# Update from Kinshasa

The Diocese of Kinshasa is a vast diocese where we need a lot of resources to bring all the mothers together.

In each parish the mothers gather for prayer and exchange for the activities of the homes and family every Wednesday of the week. Moms pray for their families, also for the sick; And those who are in difficulties. They also pray for the people who send them requests.

At the level of the Diocese we meet on the first Wednesday of each month, meeting in our various parishes by rotation. On Wednesday 7 June we will be in the Parish of Saint Mark of Mikondo in the Commune of Kimbanseke in the eastern part of Kinshasa.

Mums meet to pray together and talk about the goals of the Union of Mothers and how to put them into practice in family and church life. During these meetings the mothers pray for the different cases that concern their life in family.

The theme for this period is 'United in Faith in Christ'

Apart from the activities of all the mothers, the wives of the pastors meet once a month. They pray together and share experiences of life in the ministry of their husbands. In these meetings we also invite the mothers of other organizations to share experiences.

Apart from the activities, mothers make contributions which they keep in an account opened in a bank ProCredit for the Purchase of a (project) parcel to start some female works like the workshop of cutting and sewing for the supervision of mothers and young people Girls, the adult literacy centre, learning small trades such as the practice of small light technology: manufacture of soaps, perfumes, salting fish and others.

Two mothers are in formation in our Theological Institute. They are Mrs BILAKA BIBICHE and ETU MUJINGA ELONGA from the parish of Saint Jean.

Mothers, with the help of the National Secretary of the Union of Mothers, learn how to make bags with pearls.

I travel all the time in this vast Diocese, however transport is a problem, but by grace of God; We get to do what we can do.

Our current program provides for the organization of the General Assembly of the Mothers of our Diocese. For this we must bring the mothers

of Central Congo, Mai Ndombe and other corners of the City of Kinshasa in July if God helps us to find the means. The MU Secretary and I plan to go to Central Congo to prepare mothers for the upcoming membership of the New Members in the Union of Mothers.

As news of the country the problem in Kinshasa is that of the political climate, the escape of the prisoners of the CPRK creates an insecurity in Kinshasa. Also, on the economic front, high inflation makes it difficult for households to live. One meal a day, difficulty in schooling children, lack of employment for men etc.

We are together in prayer. Our great request for prayer is that God gives us the strength to work for this great Diocese, that it gives us maidservants who can help with spiritual growth.

Mme Gertrude

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## Update from Mwanza, Victoria Nyanza

I recently met someone whose sister is an enthusiastic member in Mwanza in the diocese of Victoria Nyanza. I was excited to receive an email from Ruth with some photos of her branch. This is what she said about her branch:

"We have many things we do in our church, we meet once in every week to pray for our families. We arrange a tour in hospitals to help poor children and women in the hospitals. We provide small things like soaps, drinking water, tooth paste, pads and other small things. We also visit the prisons to see women and give them soaps and sanitary pads."

I hope that our email correspondence continues; it's so lovely to be able to picture who you are praying for!



# Indoor Members Prayer Circle

The Indoor Members' Prayer Circle is for all Members who cannot get to meetings, whatever their age. They may be housebound, a carer and unable to get out, or might be living in a residential home. They remain members of their own branch and are kept in touch with the wider organisation. If there is no branch they come under the care of the Diocese. IMPC members continue to help the work of the Mothers' Union by doing things such as knitting, but above all, they are respected and valued for being the powerhouse of prayer, holding up the work of Mothers' Union for the Lord's blessing.

The IMPC Coordinator writes to these members several times a year and they continue to receive Focus and Families Worldwide and are still able to subscribe to Families First. There are also special Correspondents who also write to our IMPC members.

If you feel that you would like to transfer your Branch or Diocesan membership to IMPC, please speak with your branch leader or the office and we will organise that for you: there is no difference in the cost of this type of membership. If you would like to offer your services as a Correspondent for the IMPC members, please contact the office.

## Introducing our new IMPC Coordinator

My name is Rosie Jackson-Kilham and I am a member of the Mothers' Union CHURN group of villages near Didcot where I live and attend St Peter's Church there. I am a retired teacher, I worked with mostly special needs children. Although retired, I enjoy being busy and still keep in touch with many of my pupils and their parents. I am active in my church getting involved with the many activities that go on, and specifically being part of the group that organises and delivers the all age 'Family Service' every month, leading or giving the sermon.



I am very proud to be part of 'Wednesday Church' which is for adults with learning difficulties; this allows me to use my skills of 'signing' and I will also lead the service or do the talk.

(Rosie also looks after our Oxford Mothers' Union Facebook page!)

# 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence



Every year Mothers' Union is involved in this global movement which happens between 25th November and 10th December. This may seem a long way away, but now is the time to be planning what you will do to mark it.

Following the General Election, many of you have a new MP – so please write to them to tell them what Mothers' Union is doing to try to stop this and ask them what they are doing in your constituency and in Parliament. They may not be aware that globally 1 in 3 women are the victims of Domestic Abuse, and it can take many forms: physical violence and abuse; 'honour based' violence; forced, early and child marriage; sexual violence; female genital mutilation; female infanticide and sex-selective abortion; forced prostitution; stalking and harassment; financial control; and mental, psychological and emotional abuse.

Could you hold a vigil in your church? Could you hand out prayer cards to your congregations? Could you put posters in the toilet cubicles in your church, halls and church schools so women can write down a phone number (in safety) of where to get help? Could you support your local women's refuge? The location of women's refuges are kept secret to keep them a place of safety, but your clergy should be able to ask them directly what help they need – new women's underwear is often asked for as women often leave everything behind when fleeing an abusive relationship.

If you would like a poster, please contact the office.

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## Find Mothers' Union online

**Diocesan website:** [www.muoxford.org.uk](http://www.muoxford.org.uk)

**Provincial website:** [www.mucanterburyprovince.onesuffolk.net](http://www.mucanterburyprovince.onesuffolk.net)

**Central MU website:** [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

**Facebook:** search for 'Mothersunion Oxford'

# Contact us

## Diocesan Office

**Membership secretary:** Eve Madeley-Wyatt  
Mothers' Union, CMS House, Watlington Road, Oxford OX4 6BZ  
01865 787587

membership.secretary@muoxford.org.uk

*Office hours are Tuesday and Thursday 10am–3pm.*

## Office holders

**President:** Alison Bennett, 01869 343760,  
president@muoxford.org.uk

**Chaplain:** Rev. Lady Denise Brown, denisefbrown@gmail.com

**Action and Outreach:** Maureen Weston,  
07762 015207, maureenpweston@gmail.com

**Fundraising and Communications:** Norma Clarke  
01494 563116, normaclarke99@gmail.com

**Faith and Policy:** *Please pray for this vacancy to be filled.*

**Finance and Administration:** Louise Butler,  
01235 851011, finance@muoxford.org.uk

**IMPC correspondent:** Rosie Kilham-Jackson  
contact through the diocesan office.

**Diocesan Treasurer and MU Enterprises:** Please pray for new holders to come forward to take on these important roles.

**Focus editor:** Ruth Sheppard, focus.editor@muoxford.org.uk

**Editorial assistant:** Valerie Rushton

Copy by post should be sent to  
106 Moreton Road, Buckingham, MK18 1PW

**Copy for next issue:** 6 October 2017

*We try to include all contributions sent, but may have to edit articles to fit. Please keep branch reports to a maximum of 350 words.*

**Webmaster:** Rachel Buckley, webmaster@muoxford.org.uk

## Dates for your diary

- 21 September Workshop, see page 2.
- 29–30 September Mothers' Union General Meeting to be held in Edinburgh. More details to follow
- Friday 13 October Autumn Meeting and AGM at Benson Village Hall, 10am for 10.30am. Our speaker will be Bev Jullien, the CEO of Mothers' Union.
- Please bring your Christmas cards for prisoners.**
- 25 November–  
10 December Sixteen Days of Activism
- 14 July 2018 Service at Dorchester Abbey to celebrate 130 years of Mothers' Union in Oxford diocese

*Everyone is welcome at area events.*

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## Families First

*Families First* is a magazine in which we share the trials and testimonies of families and individuals touched at every level of family life – from birth to death. We try and steer clear of “experts” and talk to people who have really been there, lived there and walked in those shoes. Then we ask them how they coped and we share those experiences with our readers and we believe that’s how we can build each other up. Testimonies are biblical. And we put God first. But there's a light-hearted side too! We also have regular pieces on wellbeing, teenagers, children's arts and crafts pages, film, book and music reviews, competitions and puzzles and prizes.

Profits from sales of *Families First* support the work of Mothers' Union. If you would like to subscribe (£10.50 per year for 6 issues), **please contact your branch leader or the office as soon as possible.**

You can download the FREE Families First magazine app from the Apple App Store, Google Play, or Amazon Appstore. Whilst not every article published in the magazine can be found on the App, it gives a good taster of what to expect.

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# Grenfell Tower Fire

On 16th June I found myself free for the day and able to help the efforts in aid of the residents of Grenfell Tower, North Kensington. I got myself to Latimer Road tube station with a couple of bags and walked to St Clements' Church. They had enough helpers there so I just handed over my bags, talked to Rev. Mary on the gate, and gave her 10 holding crosses for their quiet area and said I may be needed in the afternoon. I wandered around and happened on the Residents Club Room at Henry Dickens Court where there were masses of bags, boxes, crates of water, food and people milling about. We were asked to sort clothes into new boxes and try to group new children's clothes by age and sex, adults by sex and type, and toiletries into useful groups, making sure all were labelled. There were masses and most was of good quality. Volunteers had come from all over, mostly young people, and they just got busy. A local lady was coordinating with other volunteers who came with small pick-ups to take boxes onto storage. She had young children at a local school who had realised that friends were no longer in school, so she was also coping with that at home.

Around lunchtime there was an influx of new helpers so I took myself off to see if I could help elsewhere. I joined a "human chain" to move boxes to a nearby storage unit, then went down to the Westway Sports Centre. The Red Cross and other charities were working there so no need at that time. Response Pastors with blue jackets were around and on my way back to St Clements' Church I met a couple of people from a neighbouring evangelical church who stopped to talk. They were so encouraging and talked of the work of the Holy Spirit in the area. As I'd moved around the streets it was true that everyone was friendly and working together towards

a common goal. The only dissent seemed to be where journalists were talking to residents. I made my way back to Henry Dickens Court, where they were loading boxes so that the centre could be closed and be available to the residents for the weekend. As I was leaving I came across a bag with a weird collection of sporrans and a tam o'shanter, which I couldn't



think would be immediately useful! So I took them in the hope a friend can sell them and donate the proceeds, if you need one do get in touch!

As I came back through Hammersmith Station there was a Thought for the Day:

Remembering “all” from the Grenfell Tower Fire – such a tragedy. We came together as one. It was one of the worst nights/days we have seen! But it brought out the best in all  
Community

Jean Vaughan AVP East Berks

## **Mothers’ Union Response**

Following the Grenfell Tower Disaster on 14th June 2017, members have been looking at ways to help. The local Area is in touch with the Bishop’s Office, to see how Mothers’ Union can best support a co-ordinated response. At Mary Sumner House, we have been praying for all affected – and have posted prayers on the website (there is a link from [www.muoxford.org.uk](http://www.muoxford.org.uk) to those prayers too).

It is clear that the consequences of the disaster will go well beyond the immediate relief needs, and it has been proposed that we offer Away From it All (AFIA) Holidays to the survivors. London Diocese could not be expected to pay for all the holidays that will be needed but if each UK Diocese offered a break to one family, either later this year or next, this would be achievable.

Your Trustees have agreed to help fund whatever is appropriate using money that you have donated to AFIA: Thank you for all your hard work during ‘Making May Matter’ – I don’t think any of us could have envisioned this initiative supporting families in this particular way but it is wonderful that we will be able to bring a little light into the lives of people who have been so badly affected.

# **“To live is to change, and to be perfect is to have changed often”**

*John Henry Newman*

This is an occasional page featuring some topical prayers, if you would like to contribute please contact the editor.

Lord, we want to meet with you and be changed by you so that we can bring your transformation to the world around us. Bless our work as we seek to show your love in our own families, the communities where we live and our family in Christ across the world.

**“If I rise on the wings of the dawn, if I settle on the far side of the sea, even there your hand will guide me, your right hand will hold me fast.”**

Psalm 139:9–10 New International Version (NIV)

Here are some prayers for the coming summer months, to say as we relax on holiday with family and friends or as we travel overseas. Then others help us to think about those who will face changes at the beginning of a new school/ university year.

Lord God,

We pray that you will bless us and our families during these special months of summer.

May our homes be places of relaxation, joy, love and peace.

Help us to be considerate and kind, thinking about others and helping everyone enjoy the blessings that come from you in summertime.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen



Dear Lord,

We pray for all children as they prepare for a new season in their lives.  
As they start nursery or school for the first time – give them joy in new experiences.

As they move to new classes – give them confidence in growing friendships.  
As they move to new schools – give them strength in their growing independence.

As they move on to college or university – give them wisdom in their maturity.  
And for all the teachers, assistants, helpers, carers and volunteers who teach and nurture our children and young people, we ask for your blessing, your joy, your wisdom and your patience.

Amen

*(Parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath, [www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk](http://www.edgeleyandcheadleheath.org.uk))*

**"You'll travel safely; you'll neither tire nor trip. You'll take afternoon naps without a worry; you'll enjoy a good night's sleep."**

*(Proverbs 3:23–24, MSG)*

### **Prayer for a safe flight**

Dear God,

I trust in you, and will not be afraid.

May I take time to look out over  
the beautiful world that you have created.

Safe in the knowledge that I travel with you  
and that we journey together to my destination

Amen.

Dear Lord,

In your goodness grant that your Holy Spirit may be my constant strength and guide as I walk in your love each day of my life.

Keep me tightly bound to you until that time when my journey is over and we meet face to face.

Amen.

Katy Kerr

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## Mothers' Union Acrostic

At the Spring Meeting, members (in groups) took part in several activities designed to help them engage with those who don't know anything about Mothers' Union. Several people also took the ideas back to their branch and our editor has chosen this ACROSTIC contribution as the best! Well done Val!

**M**othering of

**O**ur offspring

**T**reats us to

**H**ugs and Heartstrings tugs and an

**E**ver

**R**eadiness to

**S**ing their praises when due

**U**nity and love in families is

**N**urtured by faith

**I**n

**O**ne

**N**ame only – Jesus

Val Royal, St Mary's, Chesham

# SSNAP

SSNAP (support for the sick new-borns and their parents) is based at the New-born Intensive Care Unit (situated in the Women's Centre) at the JR Hospital in Oxford. Their main aim is to fundraise to buy extra equipment for the sick babies. Members from several branches knit blankets and garments for the babies on the three wards there (Intensive Care; High Dependency and Low Dependency) – which can care for up to 53 babies, so demand is high. The Unit is a Centre of Excellence in Neonatal care.

If you are interested in knitting for the hospital, please get in touch with Maureen, our A & O Coordinator. We have also learned that knitted Angel pockets for babies who are stillborn would be welcome too.

Recently three members of Witney branch, Margaret, Lorna, and Ann, visited the special care baby unit at the John Radcliffe hospital with SSNAP volunteer Jo. They saw a couple of the quilts made by Mothers' Union members, which are used for particularly special babies, especially the ones who have to be transferred between hospitals.



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## Knitted toys for children

Mothers' Union members and friends make knitted teddies (and other things) with love and care for children facing all sorts of difficulties.

If anyone in this diocese wishes to make these and you have an outlet



where they will be used, please contact the office as soon as possible. You will need to use an approved knitting pattern and instructions so that your handmade toys will meet the high safety standards required for a CE label to be attached (which would be supplied).

# Safeguarding Bulletin

We all hope that the children and young people we meet and support through Mothers' Union are safe and happy and that they benefit from the programs we are involved in through our branch work and in our churches. Most of the time this is true but sometimes we may have a concern and then it is good to know what to do.

Every local authority has a Safeguarding Children Board with contact information on how to raise a concern with them. It is part of our duty to do so, either directly ourselves or through the designated safeguarding officer for your church. Also, the Oxford Diocese has a newly appointed Safeguarding Advisor, John Nixon, [john.nixson@oxford.anglican.org](mailto:john.nixson@oxford.anglican.org) or 01865 208290.

Make sure you know who to speak to and how to contact them. All local authorities have that information on their websites and your church should publicise the contact details of their designated officer on their noticeboards. In a real emergency, you must dial 999 and call the police.

If you are worried about a child and unsure whether your concern constitutes abuse and should be taken further, you can contact the Diocesan Safeguarding advisor, details above, or the NSPCC has a helpline to ask: [help@nspcc.org.uk](mailto:help@nspcc.org.uk) or tel 0808 800 5000.

Sadly, abuse is not only confined to children and young people, vulnerable adults can also be victims. Local authorities have people who deal with these cases too. And don't forget that if you or your team are running activities for children and young people where parents or guardians are not present, then they must have a current DBS check. The Oxford Diocese also offers general Safeguarding training, handbooks and model policies.

Rev. Lady Brown, MU Diocesan Safeguarding Officer

## **Bucks County Show**

Once again we are providing craft activities for children in a marquee at Bucks County Show on Thursday, August 31st at Weedon just north of Aylesbury. We provide free refreshments for weary visitors and something to occupy their children.

We would be grateful for some more MU members to help us. So if you enjoy craft and working with children please contact Valerie Rushton for more information:

01280 824942 or [valerie\\_rushton@hotmail.com](mailto:valerie_rushton@hotmail.com)

# 130th Anniversary of Mothers' Union in Oxford diocese

In 2018 Mothers' Union in Oxford will celebrate our 130th Anniversary. We are planning several events around the diocese but the main focus will be a Celebratory Service in Dorchester Abbey on 14th July.

We are also asking you to do some research within your branch records to see if you have any photos that you could share with us. Some of you will have belonged to branches that have closed and your records may have been lodged with the local Archive and we know that others have used this facility too. It would be very helpful if you could look them up and find things that might be useful for a display and a Commemorative edition of this magazine which will be sent to every member. You have plenty of time to do this, but please don't leave it until next year! It would be good to have something from every branch both past and present. Please send your items (electronically would save postage and postal glitches) to the office as soon as possible.

We have a small dedicated team of members who are masterminding this and if you would like them to consider ideas that you have, please contact the office.

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*On May 23rd St James Fledgelings Toddler Group did a sponsored toddle around the church. We thank them very much for raising £80 & gift aid for our "Away From It All" charity. (This will go towards a disadvantaged family having a much needed holiday.)*



# Celebrations

John Elliott celebrated his 100th birthday on 9th February. He has been a member of Boyne Hill MU for many years and regularly attends meetings.

Jo Eden, branch leader of Hitcham and Taplow, celebrated her 80th birthday in March.

Ann Cottrell, Crowthorne, celebrated her 80th birthday on 14th March.

Maureen Raybould, Crowthorne, celebrated her 80th birthday on 17th March.

Mrs Edna Parrett, Diocesan Member who attends branch meetings at Hitcham and Taplow, celebrated her 90th birthday in April. Edna was formerly branch leader of St. Peters, Burnham MU for many years.

Mrs Betty Cooke, Wash Common, Newbury, celebrated her 90th birthday on 10th April. She was formerly Branch Leader.

Pat and Ray Townsend, St Bartholomew and St Luke, Reading, celebrates their 65th Wedding Anniversary on 12th April 2017. Pat has been a member of the branch for over 30 years, and was Branch leader for a great number of years.

Mrs Irene Mills, Wash Common, celebrated her 100th birthday on 13th May. She has been an MU member for 34 years.

Hazel and David Warren, Chesham, celebrate their Golden Wedding on 5th August.

Faust and Carl Oden, Chesham, celebrate their Golden Wedding on 27th August.

Marion and Neville Thorneycroft, Chesham, celebrate their Diamond Wedding on 31st August.

Recognition of service: Mildred Jones for over 60 years as a Member of Waddesdon MU, serving as Branch Leader and Deanery Leader during that time.



*John Elliott, Boyne Hill, celebrating his 100th birthday.*



*Edna Parrett, Diocesan Member, celebrating her 90th birthday.*



*Janet Cook, Hughenden, celebrating her 90th birthday.*



*Members busy at the Spring meeting.*



*Provincial delegates met in Dublin in March.*