

Thoughts from your President, Maxine Paul

What a busy time we are having at the moment! It only seems like yesterday that I was writing an Easter message and now we've already almost reached Ascension Day. I do want to encourage you to take part in "Thy Kingdom Come" from Ascension Day to Pentecost (see below) and pray for five friends or family members to find God, but also invite one person to come to an MU meeting and find out about us. There are some wonderful resources on the website you can use – I've just been looking at the amazingly simple, but powerful prayer stations to pray the Lord's Prayer; from writing something we are sorry for on a piece of paper and throwing it in the bin (*Forgive us our trespasses*) to walking a path through a labyrinth (*Lead us not into temptation*). If all you do during the nine days is to ask "Come Holy Spirit" for your five friends, they will be blessed.



There's lots of other exciting things coming up. Our beloved Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, will be visiting Mary Sumner House in London in the week starting April 29th. MSH will also host five of our past Worldwide Presidents at the historic office. This special reunion holds deep significance for the charity, fostering connections across generations of leadership. Their visit will not just be social, they will actively participate in MU life by leading Midday Prayers from the MSH chapel. This act underscores the enduring significance of faith and prayer in our mission and highlights the enduring unity and continuity within MU to serve as a source of inspiration for current staff and members. As we move forward, we carry with us the spirit and dedication of our remarkable leaders. **Watch Sheran delivering Midday Prayers on 2nd May at 12pm on Facebook**



Well done to those branches who have already achieved their Bronze RISE UP awards. As a diocese, we are apparently in the vanguard, so, on Thursday 22nd May, we have been invited to take some of our members to the RISE UP Celebration Service at Mary Sumner House when our very own Rev Rod Reid is going to be preaching. It is going to be broadcast live on Facebook, so do join in. This will be followed up at our Members meeting in June with Emily Brailsford, MU Domestic Abuse Manager, as our keynote speaker. There are awards for dioceses as well as branches, so let's see if we can, at the very least, get a bronze award for CDMU.

Then there is the Provincial Gathering on 22nd June when, as part of the SE Cluster presentation, I will be speaking about *English for Women* – do come and cheer me on!



Our Father, as we are using the very special prayer Jesus gave us to encourage those we know into a closer relationship with you, we also pray that it will bring us closer within our worldwide family of Mothers' Union so that "Thy Kingdom Come" resounds around the world. Amen

With love Maxine x



Thy Kingdom Come, **9 -19 May**, is our annual invitation and encouragement to Christians and churches to seek the indwelling of the Holy Spirit that we might live out and share the Kingdom of God.

At the heart of Thy Kingdom Come is our **focus to 'Pray for Five.'** It is an invitation to bring five people before God – family, friends, neighbours, or colleagues who are not yet following the Jesus.

Mothers' Union are asking members to 'Pray for Five, Invite One.' So, as well as an encouragement to pray, we are using this as an opportunity to invite one individual each to a Mothers' Union event.

For more information: <https://www.mothersunion.org/ThyKingdomCome>

Members meeting – 5th June

Our next Members meeting will take place from 7pm on 5th June at the Chapter House. The meeting will have a special focus on the RISE UP campaign and RISE UP awards and we will be joined on Zoom for part of the meeting by [Emily Brailsford](#), the MSH domestic abuse lead. Please contact [Lynda Booth](#) in advance of the meeting if you require any certificates or badges. There will also be a selection of MUE stock on sale.

RISE UP Bystander Webinar

Branches who are working at bronze level of the RISE UP awards or above will be attending a Bystander webinar on 8th May run by Mary Sumner House. Please contact the diocesan secretary if you would like to attend.

Wave of Prayer – 18th – 20th June

As usual we will be marking our time in the Wave of Prayer with a special feature in *Roundabout*. This will also be circulated to branch leaders in advance of our next Members meeting. Our diocesan Facebook page will have a post for each day. This will include a pre-recorded service from Barkingside branch and our faith lead Lucy Bubb leading midday prayers on the central MU Facebook page.

Prayer diary 2025

Chelmsford diocese has been given the honour of writing the 2025 Prayer Diary prayers for the month of May with the theme of 'Thy Kingdom Come'. Lucy Bubb is coordinating the prayers to send to Mary Sumner House by 10th May. Please make sure to get any prayers you are submitting to Lucy in the next few days so we can meet this deadline.

Provincial Gathering – 22nd June

The Provincial Gathering is due to take place at the King's Centre Oxford on 22nd June. The event information pack has been circulated to all branches. Tickets at £20 each are now on sale through the following link www.ticketsource.co.uk/mothers-union If you are planning to attend and would like to coordinate on travel arrangements, please let secretary Kathryn know.

News from Mary Sumner House

The new MU Safeguarding Policy for Britain & Ireland has been adopted by British Provinces and is available to view through the following link www.mothersunion.org/safeguarding. We will be forwarding guidance to branch leaders and contacts on these updated safeguarding procedures following the members meeting in June.

For regular updates on central MU work, sign up to the central e-newsletter on this link: <https://mothersuniononline.org/p/1I8Y-G0K/sign-up-to-the-mothers-union-mailing-list>

Sad farewells

It is with great sadness that we learned of the passing of a number of long-serving members of CDMU earlier this year: former diocesan secretary Brenda Russell, Di Bubb who had served in a number of diocesan roles over the years, and branch leader Barbara Moore. It was good that so many MU members were able to attend their funerals and mark their amazing contribution to MU. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and friends of Brenda, Di, and Barbara and of all MU members who have passed over the last year. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Dates for the diary

- 8th May – RISE UP Bystander webinar
- Thy Kingdom Come – 9th -19th May <https://www.mothersunion.org/ThyKingdomCome>
- 22nd May – RISE UP service at Mary Sumner House livestreamed on Facebook
- 5th June (evening) - Spring Members Meeting, Chapter House
- 18th-20th June – Chelmsford's time in the Wave of Prayer
- 22nd June - Canterbury Provincial Gathering
- 18th November - Provisional AGM and Annual Thanksgiving Service, Cathedral