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Dear Fellow Members,

Isn't it great that we belong to such a big family?
We have sisters (and some brothers) in our branches, Deaneries, in the Diocese and of course all around Wales, the UK and around the world. Wherever the map was once pink, the MU has planted a flag.
Her Majesty The Queen is our patron as she has been for many years and we have a place in her Birthday Celebrations as she celebrates 90 years, the MU celebrates 140 and some of our members will be in the procession down The Mall.

I was impressed to read our World-wide President's article in Families First recently where her travels had taken her to some of the most troubled places on earth like the Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan where MU members work in very difficult circumstances to help others with even less than they have themselves. The Literacy and Development programme is particularly effective in giving women a voice and a place in their communities, remember that we receive funding from Comic Relief, which is only given to really worthwhile causes.

In our own Diocese, our flagship project is our caravan at Trecco Bay. ‘The Llandaff Breakaway’ as it is called, continues to offer holidays to families in need, supported by our members. We should be very proud to belong to such an effective organization. Above all we do, the reason behind our existence and effectiveness is our faith and reliance on prayer.

As we commemorate our 140th Anniversary, remember our theme for this year is **A Celebration of Faith** and that is our USP (Unique Selling Point)

With every blessing,

Tyann

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**A prayer for our ‘Celebration of Faith’**

Lord of all, unite us in our shared vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful, and flourishing relationships.

God of history and eternity, flood the eyes of our hearts with light to see your plans for our future.

Help us to work together as one, united in vision and commitment to your will.

Together let us fix our eyes on Jesus, on whom our faith depends for all that lies ahead.

Amen
A Letter From The Diocesan President

What a very special day Sunday, 28th February was for me, one of those occasions in life that we always remember and treasure. When Archbishop Barry arranged for my commissioning to take place during Evensong at the Cathedral he couldn't have known how delighted I would be. Traditional Evensong has very sadly been lost in many Churches today but it is definitely my favourite service. The words of the Magnificat, Nunc Dimissi, Psalms, Apostles’ Creed and prayers cannot be bettered and takes me back to Sundays growing up in the Parish of Aberdare and singing evensong every Sunday evening in the choir of St Elvan’s Church (there was a certain Diocesan Secretary in the same choir!!).

I was fortunate my family, who have always fully supported me, were able to share the occasion with me, husband Roger, children Ami-Jayne and Andrew and their partners, and our two precious little grandchildren Branwen and Iwan, who were impeccably behaved throughout the service. I really appreciated so many of you coming to the service to show your support, thank you so much I was very touched. I was particularly delighted that joining Archbishop Barry and Bishop David was Bishop Huw Jones and his wife Gwyneth they have been friends of ours and our families from way back when Bishop Huw came as a young curate to Aberdare.

One hundred and forty years ago Mary Sumner founded this wonderful Christian organisation, which has spread throughout the world. Family life has changed drastically in that time but what hasn't changed is the Mothers’ Union Christian commitment to support and work with families of all faiths or none. We can be very proud in this Diocese of all we have achieved in the past and will continue to achieve in the future with the many projects we support. As you know our main project is the caravan at Porthcawl and I cannot thank you enough that this support continues year on year. If you have visited the caravan during our open days and read the comments in the Visitors Book, you will know the difference a week’s holiday can make to a family.

There are many challenges ahead, Mary Sumner House are marking this anniversary year with a number of events and many of you will be holding events in your own branches to celebrate.

It is important that we spread the news about all we do and to let everyone know who we are and what we do. The Trustees have discussed ways of how we can achieve this and how we can celebrate this special year. As a Diocese we have two events planned both of them happen to be in October. On the 2nd October we have someone running for Mothers’ Union in the Cardiff Half Marathon and towards the end of October we are organising a celebration concert where all the entertainment will come from the talented young people we have in our Church Schools and Parishes. Each Deanery is being asked to find at least one ‘act’, it is hoped to have a good varied programme of entertainment, so if you know of a talented young person do get in touch with your Deanery Leader. More details will be sent to Deanery Leaders shortly on how we can all support these two events.

May in our Diocese is traditionally Deanery Festival month and I have already been able to attend two. Over the years I have had the privilege of visiting many festivals, in many churches and it always amazes me how each service differs. Unfortunately this year I shall not be able to be at every one as some are falling on the same day but I certainly hope that over the next three years I will be able to meet many of you at the Cathedral Deanery Eucharist and get around to visiting each branch.

Let us make this anniversary year special, may we continue to make prayer central to all that we do so we can ensure this wonderful organisation continues as Mary Sumner would have wished, supporting marriage and family life.

With my love and prayers
Lynne
News From The Branches

St John's Aberdare

This photo was taken of the Mothers' Union members helping out with the Lent Lunches at the Parish Hall in March 2016 in our black and white we all looked very smart and had many flattering compliments.

Radyr Branch

were delighted to hear that the Branch Leader Nicky Webber has been elected as a trustee for the Llandaff Archdeaconry. Nicky's Mother has been involved with Mothers' Union for many years in various roles and Nicky is obviously following in her footsteps!

Following a talk by the hospital Chaplain Rev Alan Tyler, members have been busy making up toiletry packs for use by patients admitted to the hospitals' emergency and accident departments.

Christmas presents were once again taken to the residents of the Hafen Flats.

Thanks to the generosity of friends, the magnificent sum of £530-00 was made at a coffee morning in February in aid of the Wheels Appeal and a further cake stall on Mothering Sunday raised money for Overseas Funds.

The Branch outing this year was to the Forest of Dean where we had a delicious lunch at Lindors Hotel followed by a guided tour and tea and cake at "The Cathedral of the Forest" All Saints' Church at Newlands.

Members also visited the Llangasty retreat house open day in August and spent a day enjoying the peace and tranquillity of the house and grounds.

Nicky led an inspiring Lady Day service in which several members took part and prayers were led by members from the oldest to the youngest in age. Four new members were enrolled bringing our total membership to 40. After the service much fun was had when members played a variation on" Beetle" but instead of making a beetle, an AFIA caravan was made!

Eglwysilan

We will be celebrating 100 years of MU Thursday September 8th at 7pm - Bishop David celebrating and preaching.

St Martin's Roath held a coffee morning during Marriage Week with the support of Revd. Irving Hamer, and raised over £200 for Branch Funds. We were pleased that so many members and friends joined us.
The Parish of Treharris, Trelewis, Bedlinog and Llanfabon are fortunate in having two thriving branches of the Mothers' Union in St. Matthias at Treharris and Llanfabon at Nelson. The picture shows members of Llanfabon.

On Shrove Tuesday St. Matthias hosted a Shrove Party in the church hall with a Quiz and Raffle.

The food was amazing and a great time was had by all before we entered the period of Lent on Ash Wednesday.

However the evening was tinged with sadness as Father Matthew Gibbon is leaving us. He has always supported the two busy Mothers' Unions in the Parish. We will miss him and our prayers and good wishes go with him in his new role as Priest in Charge of the Benefice of Aberaman and Cwmaman.

Treharris won the quiz!

Canton Benefice

In February we held a celebration afternoon where some of our members were presented with Long Service Awards by Mrs. Lynne Davies, our new Diocesan President. They spanned between 10 and 50 years, which we all felt was a fantastic achievement. In fact as Lynne said it added up to over 300 years membership in total. Mrs. Enid Evans our Deanery Leader also joined us.

As one 93 year old member stated “I love coming to Mothers' Union, it keeps me going” We think it keeps us all going.

Our annual coffee morning in aid of the caravan was held in April. I am sure the model of the caravan helped in raising £220, brilliant effort by everyone. It was a lovely social get together and one we hope to repeat next year.

St Luke’s Cilfynydd

Gwen Hammersly our indoor member, and her daughter Katherine, agreed to do the Wave of Prayer on Friday 28th January. Just as they started, the phone rang, it was Patti a Malaysian friend of 40yrs now wife of a Pastor in Maleny, Brisbane Australia. Gwen explained what she was about to do, Patti then got out her bible and read over the phone the bible reading MARK: 7 24-29 and joined Gwen and Katherine in the Wave of Prayer, a truly worldwide wave of prayer.
More Branch News

St Theodore’s Mothers Union
For our April Meeting had a lovely Easter Tea with an Easter Bonnet parade. All the ladies who entered the parade put on a wonderful show. The proud winner was Mrs Mair Leaker.

St Michael’s Tongwynlais
On 3rd May 2016, Members of St Woolos Cathedral, Newport, visited our branch. We had a short service in the church, after which they joined us in the hall for coffee. They then visited Castle Coch, after which they rejoined us in the church hall for a most enjoyable lunch.

Mother Teresa said, 'Never worry about numbers. Help one person at a time, and always start with the person nearest you.'

New Members

Pyle and Kenfig
Three new members were enrolled at the service for the Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary held at St. James, Pyle. The Branch welcomed Millicent Joseph, Judith Morgan and Katherine Hier photographed with Branch Leader Euryl Brookes.

Cwmbach Mrs. Susan Jacubik

Christ Church Radyr
Glad Llewellyn, Jenny Ball, Annette Watkin, Ann Ogden, Mary Philips, Olwyn Craddock. (pictured)
Social Policy at work in the diocese

Our Diocesan President, Lynne Davies, and I met Father Jonathan to discuss the group and how we could help them. I sent out a plea for goods to all our Deaneries and the result is overwhelming. Last Monday Father Jonathan took a carful of bags from Kenfig Hill Branch, I took a carful from our Cwmavon Branch and Neath Deanery, and Gaynor from Baglan turned up in a big van! We unloaded everything into the hall which Constance - the lady in charge of the WSSAG - is allowed to use. Constance's face as she gazed around her office strewn with bags of clothes and toiletries was a sight to behold.

Louise Barham

We Have a Little Garden

We have a little garden,  
A garden of our own,  
And every day we water there  
The seeds that we have sown.

We love our little garden, 
And tend it with such care, 
You will not find a faded leaf 
Or blighted blossom there.

Beatrix Potter

If anyone wishes to publish their poems, pictures or artwork in future publications. Please get in touch.  
Telephone: 01446 794875  Email: tyann@theleonards.org.uk
Barbara Treharne was mentioned in the last issue as Unit coordinator for Finance
And here is her picture, taken in her natural habitat - the kitchen!

This is Lowrie Washington-Jones another of our new Trustees, she is the Action and Outreach Coordinator

She writes:
I am a proud wife of a Mothers Union member! I am also a proud Mam of two loving daughters and a proud Nain of two gorgeous granddaughters. I was brought up in the Vicarage in Aberdyfi, a beautiful seaside village and am a fluent Welsh speaker.

I taught music and Welsh in St Teilo’s Church in Wales High School for a couple of years, where I met my husband and then pursued my teaching career in Welsh medium education. I am now retired and busier I think than I have ever been!

I have been an active member of the Mothers Union for nearly 30 years being branch Leader of Eglwysilan for many of them, Deanery leader of Caerffili and later Merthyr and Caerffili Deanery, the Welsh Representative on the World Wide Council for the last three years and now Action and Outreach Coordinator.

My proudest possession is a Mothers Union brooch given me by my mother, it is one of the earliest brooches made. It is a bronze medallion with Madonna and child on it. It was given to my mother by Megan Williams wife of the ex Archbishop of Wales, Gwilym, who in turn had been given it by the wife of the late Bishop of St. Asaph. I wonder who will have it after my days! It is a real treasure. I look forward very much to my next three years with A & O, quite a challenge but I have an amazing team of advisors working with me. As we celebrate a 140 years of MU we have so much to thank Mary Sumner for her vision, her faith and her wisdom and I hope that I, in my small way, can continue to build on her vision.

Are you worrying about the future - your health, your job, your family or your finances?
Make a decision today not to worry. 'When we worry about tomorrow,' writes Joyce Meyer, 'we waste today.
Trust God and learn to live one day at a time.'
Long Service Awards

Llanishen
Marilyn Rooks Mabs Rogers and Barbara Evans all served for 25 years

In this photo (taken this February) from left to right, Marilyn Rooks, Mabs Rogers and Barbara Evans, and the Rev. Michael Witcombe who presented them with their Certificates.

This photo is of the same recipients when they first joined the Branch and from left to right are: Mabs Rogers, Barbara Evans and Marilyn Rooks.

St Augustine's Penarth
Megan Martin was presented with a long service certificate having joined in 1969.
Also presented were the following:
Barbara Lambert-Browne 50 years
Daphne Harrison 50 years
Marion Rowlands 30 years.

Canton Benefice
Sarah Llewellyn 10 years
Hilary Evans 10 years
June Coulson 10 years
Jean Williams 10 years
Jean Senior 20 years

Betty Littlewood 50 years
Pam Rossiter 50 years
Jean Turner 50 years
Cynthia Fowler 50 years
Ruth Honey 50 years

Cilfynydd
Vera Edwards, Mary Fletcher and May Gulliford all celebrated this April.
60yrs as members of ST LUKE'S Cilfynydd Mothers Union.
Enrolling member at the time was Doreen Morgan wife of the Vicar WJ Morgan.

Congratulations to all our long-serving and hard-working members.
This all adds up to hundreds & thousands of hours of prayerful support.
At the beginning of January Kay Warrington the new Provincial President asked the six new Diocesan Presidents to meet for an informal meeting to get to know each other and discuss ideas and plans for the coming three years. Over lunch I began chatting to the President of St Asaph Diocese, a lady called Beryl and as usual we began by the usual questions of where do you live etc.

I told her a little of myself and then she said she lived in Ruthin but was originally from Dogellau in Gwynedd. “I know Dolgellau quite well” says I, continuing with, “my grandfather was from a little village a few miles outside Dolgellau called Bontddu (famous for its gold mine that supplied the gold for the Royal Family’s wedding rings) and we went there every year for holidays and to visit family”. Beryl replied, “Really, my grandmother was also from that village”. Realisation very quickly began to dawn as both of us had the same family name of Roberts. Beryl and her family were the cousins we visited each year in Dolgellau, we had lost touch when the older members of the family died and we hadn’t seen each other since young teenagers. What a coincidence, we were so shocked but delighted to discover that her grandmother and my grandfather were brother and sister and we had the same great grandmother!! It has been wonderful to meet up with her a couple of times since through Mothers’ Union and she has been able to put me in touch with some other cousins I had lost contact with. We have both wondered what our Nain would say if she knew two out of the six Diocesan Presidents in Wales were her great grand daughters!

Lynne

“it's A Small World"

Rather than initiating your own plans and asking God to bless them, try to see what God’s plans are and join in.
From Friday 1st to Sunday 3rd April 2016, the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Masvingo celebrated 140 years of service to families and communities. During the same celebration the Mothers' Union also observed belated Feast of The Annunciation To The Blessed Virgin Mary [Lady Day].

The Theme was 'Ebenezer' meaning 'stone of help' as a reminder of God's leading and guidance 'Thus far has the Lord helped us.' The Theme is based on 1 Samuel 7:3-12. The attendance was very good; all in all 1,000 members attended the celebration in Masvingo at the show ground.

The Mothers' Union produced T/Shirts and material bearing the words:  
**140 years Celebrating Faith in Action 1876-2016**

Throughout the celebration some members put on this special regalia to bring out the 140th Anniversary Celebratory mood. In her opening address in the evening on Friday 02 Friday, the Diocesan Mothers' Union President; Albertina Tawonezvi encouraged members to continue to reach out to families in the midst of many challenges that are prevalent in the day to day life of ordinary Zimbabweans.

On Saturday 03 April at 5.30 am members of the Mothers' Union marched from Masvingo Show Ground to the City Center. [Masvingo Show Ground is 2 Kilometers from the City Center]. During the march the Mothers' Union members were under Police escort singing, dancing holding their Mothers' Union Banners and another Banner specially made for this occasion with the 140th Anniversary Logo. At designated places the M.U. Members would stop and Preach to curious onlookers. The atmosphere was lively and the Members were indeed in a Celebratory mood.

(Makes our celebrations sound a bit staid doesn't it... 5.30am too! Ed.)

More from Masvingo next time
Anniversaries

Treorchy
Mair and David Bowen celebrated their 65th Wedding anniversary in December.

St Margarets' Aberaman
30th Wedding Anniversary (Pearl) Leigh and Mel Morgan.

Cwmavon Branch:
Congratulations to Dorothy and Ron Southall (pictured) on celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary during April.

Pyle and Kenfig
Golden Wedding Anniversary Enid and Howard Evans

St Augustine's, Penarth
Judith & Tony Martin Jones Ruby (40 yrs)
Mal & Edward Pugsley 45 years
Revd. Richard & Tricia Griffiths 45 years
Tricia has been a member for many years & been Branch Leader, her mother Kathleen Youles was 104 when she died and received a long service certificate in 2009. Fr. Richard was enrolled as a MU member in April
Marguerite & Graham Lewis 55 years

St Tyfaelog Pontlottyn
Glynis and David Adams were married at St Tyfaelog's church in July 1966. (see picture) Glynis attended the church from a young age and has been a MU member for many years. She has served as our treasurer for 7 years

St Brides Major
Diamond Wedding Anniversary Gwyneth and David Lewis. Happily married for sixty years.
Golden Wedding Anniversary Ann and Rod Tanswell. Happily married for fifty years.
We send both couples our congratulations.

Llanfabon
Congratulations to Roy and Margaret Matthews who celebrated their 70th, Platinum Wedding Anniversary on 30th March. They were married at St John’s Church Nelson in 1946. (Pictured) Best wishes to you both.
Margaret has been a member of the Llanfabon Mothers Union for 55 years.

Cilybebyll
Congratulations to member Mrs Gill Richards and her husband Jeff on the occasion of their Golden Wedding anniversary last December.
Birthdays

Treorchy
Sheila Phelps and Mary Phillips both celebrated their 80th birthdays. Sheila was Treorchy branch leader. Mair Bowen celebrated her 85th birthday in December and Glenys Anderson her 94th in April, Glenys is our oldest member.

Rectorial Benefice of Whitchurch
Mrs Mary Walker was 80 on February 15th

St Tyfaelog Pontlottyn
Mildred Jones (see photo) was 90 in May. She has been a faithful member of our Branch and with her husband Idris, who sadly, died last year, attended church regularly while their health allowed.

Canton Benefice
Audrey Williams and Hilary Evans 80, Audrey Anderson 90

Dowlais and Pant at Christ Church Pant Merthyr Tydfil
Mrs Joan Lister 80th Birthday 4th May

Gelligaer
Birthday Greetings to Joan de la Taste on her 90th birthday on July 23rd. Joan is still an active member of our branch and knits "Angel Pockets" for Prince Charles hospital. We look forward to her birthday celebrations.

Christ Church Radyr
Three of our members Joyce Vickers, Eira John and Marjorie Patreane share a 90th birthday with the Queen this year

St Augustine’s Penarth
Dr Marjorie Collins was 90 in May. Shirley Edwards will be 90 in August

Cwmbach - Cynon Valley
80th Mrs. Margaret Daniel, 90th Mrs. Meriel Lewis

Pontypridd - Graig (St John) Temperance (Rance) Davies was 90 on 19th March and Mary Elizabeth (Maisie) Davidge was 90 on 9th May.

Skewen Mrs. Olwen Causier was 93 in March, indoor member Mrs. Edna Bradley celebrated her 90th birthday on April 3rd and Mrs. Valerie Potter celebrated her 90th on May 6th.

Pencoed Mrs Sylvia Mordecai an IM member was 90 on March 6th.

The Micah Challenge
How can we please God?
How can we avoid wasting our lives?
What does the Lord require of you?
Micah presents this challenge:
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. (6:8c)
This threefold challenge gives us the purpose and goal of our lives.
More Birthdays

Newton Nottage
Janet Gibbon, reached her century on the 10 March.
A wonderful achievement! (see picture)

St Martin’s Roath Cardiff
Mrs Dorothy David 86yrs, Mrs E Margaret Harries 86 yrs
Mrs Joy Bolt 84 yrs, Mrs Pat Fox 84yrs

St. Margaret’s Mountain Ash
Mrs. Margaret Brown 80th Birthday and
Mrs. Denise Price 80th Birthday.

St Catherine’s Baglan
Mrs Joan Jones (nee Armstrong) will be 80 in January 2017
Joan has been a lifelong member of this church and a MU member for 40 years.

St Bride’s Major
We offer our congratulations to Joan Kinsbrook, a loyal and dedicated member for 53 years. Ever young at 96,
she regularly attends monthly coffee mornings, meetings and corporate communion services.
Thank you Joan for your lifetime contribution to the St. Brides Branch.

St Theodore’s
Mrs Ann Daniels was 80 in May.
Happy Birthday Ann from all your friends in Mothers Union.

St Leurwg, Hirwaun
80th Birthdays:
Sheila Brockway
Marion Richards

Llanishen
7th May - Mrs. Sylvia Fisk 80

There is great power in authenticity. Oscar Wilde said;
“Be yourself, everyone else is already taken!
You are at your most effective when you are being yourself.”
As St Catherine of Siena put it:
“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.”
Obituaries

Treorchy: Sadly we lost one of our Indoor Members in April, Stella Grist. Stella formerly from Blaenrhondda moved to Islington to be near her daughters and grandchildren. She wanted to keep in contact with MU and the Treorchy branch so she became an IM and kept in touch via letters, parish magazines and of course In Touch. She died peacefully after a spell of ill health. We will miss her. She served as Deputy Branch leader for Treorchy Branch.

Pyle with Kenfig: Auriol Preece Indoor member and Barbara Ham Indoor member

Rectorial Benefice of Whitchurch: We are sad to announce the death of Phyllis Roberts, aged 97 years, a long-standing and latterly Indoor member of our Branch.

Ystrad Mynach: Barbara Lloyd a faithful member for 28 years

Barry All Saints: We have sadly lost two members Mrs Anne Thomas and Mrs Norma Hall an Indoor Member in recent months. They will be greatly missed.

St John's Aberdare: Mrs. Betty Hall passed away on the 9th March 2016 aged 96 years

Pontypridd Graig St John: Dilys Armstrong died on 16th March 2016 aged 95. She was a loyal and hard working member of St John's The Graig for many years and touched and influenced numerous lives during that time. This was particularly apparent from the tributes on Social Media given by former members of the St John's branch of the Girls Friendly Society, "her girls", now mothers and grandmothers themselves. Her optimistic outlook on life will be sorely missed.

Tongwynlais: Mrs Joan Dean, Died 2nd April 2016 of St Michael's. A long serving loyal member of the branch.

St Brides Major: Elizabeth (Betty) Jenkins. Betty was a true and loyal supporter of the MU, a long term member and treasurer of the branch for many years. Sadly for the past twelve years she has been unable to attend branch meetings because of ill health but has been an indoor member during that time. We send our sincere condolences to Bruce and all the family.

Llanishen Branch: Mrs Mary Venning an Indoor Member and long serving member of this Branch, sadly passed away in January 2016 and will be greatly missed.

Hopkinstown: We are very sad to report the death of our long-standing member, Kitty Hopkins, at the age of 96. Due to ill health, she had been an in-house Member for the last few years. She will be remembered fondly for her quiet devotion to the Mother's Union and our Church of St. David.


St Margarets, Aberaman, Aberdare: We are sad to report the death of Mrs Audrey Griffths a loyal member of Mothers' Union and although for the last few years as been living in North America. Audrey still kept up her membership and loved to be kept up to date with all our news through this magazine. She was a lovely lady who will be sadly missed by all who knew her.
Prayer of Mary Sumner

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many
lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch,
do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.

Amen

A Celebration of Faith:

Loving Lord,
We give you thanks for the far-reaching vision
of our founder, Mary Sumner.
We look back with gratitude and praise for her witness,
and for all that has been achieved thus far
in the name of Mothers’ Union worldwide.

As we look forward with faith for all that is to come
help us to build a future together
which will enable our work to flourish;
through far-reaching vision
and commitment to your will.