



# **WAVE OF PRAYER 2017**

**MOTHERS' UNION, LEICESTER DIOCESE**

**29 JUNE – 1 JULY 2017**

**for the Dioceses of:**

**EASTERN ZAMBIA**

**MOMBASA (Kenya)**

**GWAGWALADA (Nigeria)**

**LEICESTER**

**TEMOTU (Solomon Islands)**

**EKITI-WEST (Nigeria)**

*We suggest you make a circle of chairs with a table in the centre and a map of the world on it with the Diocese we are praying for marked with either a candle or a flower. Perhaps ask a different member to pray for each Diocese.*

We begin our Service with Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer:

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.

Together with our brothers and sisters in Leicester Diocese let us join together in prayer and praise for our Link Dioceses and members around the world.

1. Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

2. We are pilgrims on a journey,  
and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other  
walk the mile and bear the load.

3. I will hold the Christ-light for you  
in the night time of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you,  
speak the peace you long to hear.

4. I will weep when you are weeping;  
when you laugh I'll laugh with you;  
I will share your joy and sorrow,  
till we've seen this journey through.

5. When we sing to God in heaven,  
we shall find such harmony,  
born of all we've known together  
of Christ's love and agony.

6. Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

READING: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-5

Paul is speaking to the Thessalonians and this applies to us in our worldwide fellowship.

## **EASTERN ZAMBIA**

In our Wave of Prayer we pray for all in leadership roles in Eastern Zambia and for Jeannie Brightwell our link with Eastern Zambia.

In 2010, Mothers' Union Zambia focussed on how to reduce the instance of malaria in pregnant women in order to reduce the rate of maternal and infant mortality. Members interacted with women in the community to raise awareness and encouraged them to work with local authorities to clear places that bred mosquitoes.

Members also encouraged people to get tested for malaria and advised them about medication and the importance of finishing their full course of treatment. Mothers' Union Zambia partnered with World Vision to carry out joint training and distribution of mosquito nets to communities. Work was simultaneously done advising mothers about mother-to-child transmission of HIV.

In 2011, the project was extended and the Mothers' Union Community-based Malaria Initiative was created. Its aim is to contribute to the reduction of malaria in ten districts with a population of 300,000.

Mothers' Union members in Lusaka organise a feeding programme in one of the capital's poorest communities. Twice a day they feed over 100 children, most of whom are AIDS orphans. The women fundraise to buy food supplies which they prepare in the church.

Mothers' Union in Luapula and in Lusaka run a project where over 100 people have been trained as caregivers to support those living with HIV/AIDS and their families.

Other Mothers' Union projects in Zambia include a mushroom farm used as a means of increasing nutrition levels in rural communities and also providing an income to families. Members are also very active in training community birth attendants to equip women, particularly in rural areas far from hospitals and medical centres, with the necessary skills and knowledge to carry out safe home births and to pass on knowledge about HIV/AIDS, health and hygiene. (*From MU website*)

#### LET US PRAY

We give thanks for our members in Eastern Zambia and pray that God will use them as good and influential role models as they look to engage with new members and encourage their existing ones.

READING: Jeremiah 29:11

#### SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

#### **MOMBASA** (Kenya)

In our Wave of Prayer we pray for all who have leadership roles especially Rose Kalu, the Bishop's wife, and Margaret Watts our link member.

The Mothers' Union is a worldwide Anglican organisation whose purpose is to be concerned with all aspects of Christian family life.

The Mothers' Union was founded in 1876 by Mary Summer. When her first child was born she was overwhelmed by what she saw as the awesome responsibility of parents, not only in caring for their children's physical well-being, but also for their spiritual nurture and growth.

**As a Voluntary Organisation**, the Mothers Union offers friendship care and unconditional love to thousands of women and their families throughout the world. It is a lifeline for

many families. It is a praying, teaching and caring society. As one Bishop said, "A church without Mothers Union is not alive."

Our Aims & Objectives (*from the Mombasa Cathedral website*)

The aim is the advancement of Christian religion in the sphere of marriage and family life. In order to carry this out, there are five objectives:

**1. To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and to promote its wider understanding**

MU hold conferences and training sessions, including marriage preparation, and also hold retreats to develop spiritual support and development for all.

**2. To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and love of the church**

In many ways the members give practical support to young families both within the church and the wider community e.g. running nursery schools, counselling and visitations.

**3. To maintain a wide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service**

Members not only give generously to the less fortunate, they are also involved in projects in the church and outside the church and also pray daily through a wave of prayer for fellow members around the world.

**4. To promote conditions in the society favourable to stable family life and the protection of the children**

Any issues affecting the family are discussed and comments passed to the provost and church parish for guidance.

**5. To help those whose family life has met with adversity**

MU is involved in offering practical support e.g. visiting prisoners, raising money for widows and children amongst us, counselling and supporting the HIV and AIDS affected amongst us and spending time together to build up one another.

**Membership**

Membership is open to women who are over 25 years of age as associate members and all who have had their marriages solemnised in church. Widowed women who have attained the age of 45 years can become full members. (*It is interesting how the Aims are translated*)

READING: Philippians 4:4-7

**LET US PRAY**

Lord we pray for all who have power to inspire people to follow their leading. May they use their gifts of leadership for good and not harm; for the good of the many, not their own self-glory.

**SILENCE FOR REFLECTION**

**GWADGWALADA (Nigeria)**

We remember all their workers, leaders and members, also Sue Wilson our link with the Diocese.

Gwadgwalada is a satellite town of Nigeria's capital, Abuja, in the centre of the country. The relocation of the capital from Lagos to Abuja in 1991 brought a huge influx of people to the area and Gwadgwalada is the fastest growing suburb. The rest of the diocese is mainly rural and the occupations are farming and trading. The biggest problems faced are illiteracy, poverty, unemployment, lack of clean water and poor health facilities. HIV/AIDS has resulted in a large number of widows and orphans. The Mothers' Union hold workshops in conjunction with the Diocesan Synod to raise awareness of HIV/AIDS. They are also setting up mobile clinics and workshops to meet community needs and encouraging young people in Bible study. The Bishop of Gwadgwalada, Moses Tabwaye, took office in 2015. He is one of the youngest bishops in Nigeria and, with his wife Rebecca, Bishop Moses has visited all the churches in the Diocese and during those visits he has enrolled new MU members. Unfortunately Sue has not yet been able to make contact with anyone in the Diocese. *(Taken from MUspaper)*

READING: Matthew 16:27-28

#### LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father we pray that we will soon hear from our link dioceses; we thank you for the opportunity to try to contact them. We thank you that we can be secure in the knowledge that the risen Lord is constantly by our sides and that he provides everything we need to do his will. Amen.

Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.  
May my will for ever be  
more and more your own.  
Never let my heart grow cold,  
Never let me go.  
Abba Father, let me be  
yours and yours alone.

#### SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

**LEICESTER** (Province of Canterbury, England)  
Diocesan President: Margaret Rouse

Leicestershire is a diverse county with different faiths and cultures. It is mainly agricultural with small pockets of industry and industrial warehouse estates. Members meet together for Branch, Deanery and Diocesan Events. We enjoy quiet days and an annual retreat. We have an Emergency Prayer Chain supporting those who have met with sudden adversity or illness.

We are able to send families on Away From It All holidays to the east coast funded by members. We knit and sew for various causes. At Easter time we donate Easter eggs to children in Special Need Units as well as to adults in hospitals. Children visiting Leicester Prison are supervised in a play area. Three times during the year we hold Cathedral Prayer Fellowship, short services taken in turn by different Deaneries. Last year we organised the Advent Carol Service where the Bishop preached. Later, at the spring council, Margaret was very pleased to enrol the Bishop and his wife as members.

Margaret undertook a Prayer Pilgrimage to every Branch in the Diocese, leaving a shell (symbol of pilgrimage) and also a wooden cross with coloured ribbons, representing different prayers. She was able to share everyone's worries and hopes for the future.

READING: Psalm 150:1-6

#### LET US PRAY

for the work of the Mothers' Union in Leicestershire, for Margaret our Diocesan President, for all who hold office, for all Branch, Indoor, Deanery and Diocesan members. We remember those on the Emergency Prayer Chain and Branch Leaders. Let us pray for Julie our Diocesan Administrator and Pam our Chaplain. Thank you for all the work done in God's name in this Diocese. Amen.

Mary Sumner Prayer 1876:

O Lord fill us with thy Holy Spirit, that we may firmly believe in Jesus Christ and love him with all our hearts. Wash our souls in his precious blood. Make us to hate sin and to be holy in thought, word and deed. Help us to be faithful wives and mothers. Bless us and all who belong to the Mothers' Union: unite us in love and prayer and teach us to train our children for heaven. Pour out your Holy Spirit on our husbands and children. Make our homes, homes of peace and love and may we so live with thee for ever in heaven; for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

#### SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

#### **TEMOTU** (Solomon Islands)

We remember all leaders and members in Temotu in the Province of the Solomon Islands, and RoseMarie Manning who is our link with them.

#### Solomon Islands

Mothers' Union is very active in the Solomon Islands, with many members taking an active part in the provision of services within communities which strengthen family life, and in promoting Christian values. The Parenting Programme has been run by members here for four years. Working across scattered communities presents enormous challenges, yet over 448 parents have now benefited from attending groups and report improved relationships and a reduction in aggressive behaviour from children as a result. Over the next four years the programme will extend to new areas.

High illiteracy rates hamper the efforts of families to earn a wage. This is particularly true for women. Mothers' Union run over 80 adult literacy classes across the country, often in conjunction with the local authorities or with the local church. The programme has been particularly effective in improving the lives of women and young people in rural communities.

Solomon Islands plays a very active role in the Girls Friendly Society, which was restarted in the Solomon Islands by Mothers' Union in 2005. Mothers' Union members regularly hold workshops and seminars for the girls on adolescence, personal development and sexual reproductive health as well as offering skills training.

Mothers' Union Diocesan President for Ysabel Province (there are nine government provinces in Solomon Islands – these are the administrative areas of local government rather than those of the Anglican Communion) Moira Dasipio has made it her mission to help her local community in the Solomon Islands. Without literacy or materials in their own language they often struggle to make informed decisions about their future and the use of the resources God has blessed their islands with. In the past the rights to environmental

resources: tropical forest woods, gold, nickel etc. have been given away by the local people to huge companies simply through a lack of knowledge about their value. Moira is determined to ensure that the resources are managed and the environment preserved for future generations. She and Mothers' Union have raised awareness in communities about the detrimental effects of mining and logging on their land, and how they can ensure future generations keep the land and are able to make the best of their resources. Over 3,000 people have been made aware of the potential impact of heavy mining and de-forestation and of signing away their land rights. For her work Moira was awarded the Coral Triangle Initiative Award for 2014. (*Taken from MU website*)

READING: Psalm 107:8-9

LET US PRAY

Heavenly Father, we thank you for members across the world who faithfully carry out the mission of the Mothers' Union in their own contexts and countries. May we be blessed as we all live out Christ's command to love God and our neighbours with all our hearts.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

**EKITI-WEST** (Nigeria)

We remember all leaders and members and Gwynneth Roy who is our communicator, with the Oadby Branch.

Ekiti-West is situated in the Province of Ondo and was inaugurated in November 1999. There are many rural settlements, with farming as the occupation of the people. There are no major rivers which means that the area serves as the watershed and source region for three major rivers that flow into the Atlantic Ocean. The main revenue-yielding tree crops and cocoa, palm oil and timber. Mothers' Union activities include Bible study, prayer, quiz competitions, talks and training seminars. They produce a calendar and magazine jointly with the women's guild and they cultivate maize, cassava and cocoyams. They provide not only spiritual support through daily prayer, but also practical protection for families and communities. For example, they reach out in rural areas and are able to access basic health care. This comes through branches and members using doctors and nurses that are members of their church and MU. Using local radio and local multimedia to reach out beyond MU to include the youth, it hopes to bring the message of God and the Bible, heal relationships and bring hope and a future for all.

READING: Philippians 2:1-5

LET US PRAY

As we thank you, Father, for our homes and safe shelter, make us mindful of the needs of those around us who are less fortunate, and compassionate in our witness to them of your unconditional love. Amen.

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

LET US PRAY

Loving God, we give you thanks for Mothers' Union workers throughout the world; for their skills and dedication to the task, for their forbearance in times of difficulty and for their commitment to you and your church. We pray for all those who travel long distances to undertake their work and especially for those in areas of conflict and danger. Help us to

pray regularly for all our workers and give generously so that the work may continue. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Brother, sister, let me serve you;  
let me be as Christ to you;  
pray that I may have the grace to  
let you be my servant too.

The Grace