

Make a circle of chairs, if possible. Place a table in the middle of the circle. Have a large map and place candles on the map for the dioceses you pray for. Quiet music may be played before the service if it helps to focus the mind. Ask different people to pray for each diocese and do the readings. This year we are going to use the Psalms for the readings and they more or less follow on each other so make sure you have copies of the Psalms available for the readers..

Leader:

We bring before God our prayers for the world and for ourselves.

Silence whilst the candles are lit,

**Leader: As these candles are lit, we lay ourselves before you, kindle
in our hearts a flame of love,
Love to give warmth to our lives and to lighten our way.**

All: The light and peace of Christ be with us all.

At this part of the service maybe a hymn could be sung.

Leader

**Take Jesus in your hearts to offer love to the loveless;
Take God in your mind to speak his peace to the restless.
Take the Holy Spirit in your lives to live in his power. Amen**

Reading: Psalm 105 V 1 – 7 Begins O give thanks to the Lord.

**Leader O God, the source of all life, you fill the earth with beauty.
Open our eyes to see your gracious hand in all your works,
that, rejoicing in your whole creation, we may learn to serve
you with gladness, for the sake of him through whom all
things are made, Your Son, our Saviour and Lord, Jesus
Christ. Amen.**

Leader A prayer for Mothers' Union worldwide:

**O God, our Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless the work
of the Mothers' Union throughout the world, and especially
for our link dioceses of Botswana, Port Moresby, Mount
Kilimanjaro, Central Buganda, Kitale, Western Ison and
Chichester. Bless our members in their lives and in their
homes that they, being strengthened in love to you and to
each other, may serve you faithfully, to your glory, through
Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

BOTSWANA

President: Mrs Colleen Segokgo

MU Worker: Mrs Phibenyana Keokilwe

Botswana is a peaceful landlocked country which welcomes visitors and refugees. The Mothers' Union has contributed its efforts to combating HIV and Aids. Their activities include prayer, being with the dying and bereaved, the care of orphans, home based care for the sick, care for people with disabilities, all those affected by HIV and Aids, and visiting prisons to give spiritual therapy to the inmates. Their diocesan project is a day care centre for orphans.

In their handiwork classes they covering the subjects on how to learn a formula for some form of detergent, a cough mixture and rubbing stuff for relief of pain. They are also learning how to make Altar linen and priest vestments as well as baking

Reading: Psalm 106 v 1 to 6 Begins Praise the Lord

SILENCE

We pray

- **For Colleen Segokgo, the Diocesan President, that God will guide her in her work and enable the province to work well.**
- **That they are able to have another project in the southern part of the country if resources can be found.**
- **For St John branch in Gabane who built a three roomed house to help a destitute family.**
- **For the member who has gathered at her home street children and orphans and does everything she can for them and with other members has helped rehabilitated them.**
- **That a plan be developed to train men on gender based violence.**
- **To build capacity and increase awareness of gender issues in HIV/AIDS**
- **To encourage more members to join the Mothers Union.**
- **That the Botswana government continues with initiatives to empower women and that there is an equal distribution of resources including equal opportunities in the work place ideally by 2016.**
- **To encourage more members to go in for horticultural projects and poultry farming.**
- **That the members, especially in remote areas, enrol in distant learning programmes.**
- **We pray that mothers are encouraged to form Bible Study groups.**

ALL LORD, HEAR OUR PRAYER.

Reading: Psalm 107 verses 1 to 7 Begins O give thanks to the Lord

KITALE, KENYA

President: Mrs Rael Kewasis

MU Workers: Mrs Evalyne Okal and Mrs Joyce Siwatum

The diocese of Kitale was formed in July 1997 after the sub-division of the diocese of Eldoret. The diocese covers five districts; Mount Elgon, Trans Nzola, West Pokot, Marakwet and Turkana District with its headquarters in Kitale.

It is mainly a rural area where the main occupation of the community are as pastoralists. The area is characterized by a warm and hot climate with a mean temperature of 30 degrees centigrade. The area experiences erratic and unreliable rainfall between April to July for long rains and between October and November for short rains.

The main Mothers' Union activities are teaching the MU aims and objects, organising rallies, seminars and conferences, visiting parishes to meet with MU members and non members. They have few projects but at diocesan level are involved in farming and small-scale businesses.

Reading: Psalm 107 verses 33 to 38 Begins He turns the rivers into desert:

WE PRAY

- **That the women can be better educated as illiteracy makes it difficult for them to accept new ideas.**
- **For projects to teach and train mothers on basketry and chicken rearing.**
- **For people living with HIV/AIDS, as well as orphans and widows.**
- **For an end to the high level poverty in this diocese.**
- **That the members continue to visit widows, widowers, orphans, street children, the elderly and the disabled.**
- **That money can be found to pay school fees for children and that money is found to buy fertilizers to enable families to do better farming.**
- **To introduce Adult education.**
- **To strengthen the spiritual growth of mothers by teaching and training them on their roles at homes and in the church via inductions of seminars and rallies at parish level.**
- **We pray that the members of Lodwar and Lokichoggio are able to renovate and construct rental houses.**
- **To continue to advocate for the girl child.**
- **And finally that they are able to pay the loan they have taken out for the Diocesan Bishop's car.**

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

President: Lady Louisa Pohai

The diocese of Papua New Guinea is situated in the southern region of the country. Port Moresby has the smallest membership out of all the five dioceses and is an urban diocese. Most of their members are dependent on the income that their spouses or their children. Some members use the informal sector to sell their goods to earn a bit of income themselves. Young members are always keen on the work of the Mothers Union and their activities and are growing from strength to strength in all the Anglican communities. The work of the diocese is vast and varied; teaching skills in communication and administration and financial management, leadership, the structure of the MU and programme planning, as well as dealing with issues surrounding health including HIV/Aids. Travel is by boat and plane which is dangerous and costly.

Reading: Psalm 111 v 1 – 10 Begins O praise the Lord

LEADER

Blessings from God who creates and carries life, who loves and struggles, who renews and gives life. May God surround us with rest and comfort and challenge our greatness and ability. In the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen

SILENCE

LET US PRAY

- **For the members who visit the needy and sick at branch level.**
- **That the Overseas Projects Officer at MSH will continue to assist with help organising literacy programmes.**
- **That with a literacy programme, women will learn to read and write which empowers them to improve their living conditions and life styles as about one third of members are illiterate.**
- **That branch projects continue to help all members in their daily life**
- **That their major project to build a Mothers' Union office comes to fruition in the not too distant future**

Reading: Psalm 113 verses 1 – 9 Begins Praise the Lord

SILENCE

CENTRAL BUGANDA (UGANDA)

**Diocesan President: Sarah Mayanja
MU Family Life Worker: Mrs Persis Mulondo
MU Family Life Trainer: Mrs Olivia Lutaya**

Central Buganda covers a land area of 5800 kilometres and made up of 32 parishes and 218 churches. The MU was started in 1908 but was banned in 1972 by President Amin but later reinstated. The country was ravaged by the Civil War and many lost their property especially as the coffee industry collapsed. It is a rural diocese where most people are peasants who keep sheep, cattle, goats and pigs. They have carried out counselling programmes in schools and homes on HIV/AIDS as this diocese has the highest level of sufferers in the country. Members are involved in crafts, farming of poultry, farming of goats and banana and grain cultivation, all of which has raised the standard of living.

Reading: Psalm 117 verses 1 and 2

SILENCE

We pray today that:

**Members continue with their school visits and that members can attend seminars on income generating activities as many live in poverty.
For the family life project which is going so well in Buganda.
Members continue to help and organise weddings.
For the members that help young couples who have just married.
We pray for the Kasaka Parish girl's hostel and children's nursery which was stopped due to lack of facilities.
For members who help single women grow in their faith.
The Mothers' Union are planning to provide counselling services to boys and girls in schools and churches.
For the branches that do not have projects and that they are encouraged to do so.
We pray that the piggeries project which failed will begin again and this time succeed.**

Silence

MOUNT KILIMANJARO (TANZANIA)

MU Worker: Mrs Violet Kamtwela

The Anglican Diocese of Mount Kilimanjaro encompasses more than 95,000 square kilometres of the Kilimanjaro, Arusha and Manyara regions. There is a population of over 2.5 million people of which there are 25,000 Anglicans.

The main Mothers' Union activities are Bible Study groups, seminars on issues affecting our society, caring for the needy, simple projects, visiting people for evangelism, and singing in choirs in their churches. Project work includes a grinding machine, sewing machines, nursery schools, houses to rent, fundraising and crafts.

Reading: Psalm 121 verse 1 to 8 Begins I lift up my eyes

SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

Let us pray that:

The members continue with their training activities, seminars about entrepreneurship, HIV/AIDS, Marriage issues, savings credit, loans and small business.

To continue to give help to orphans who need school fees and uniforms. To be able to open more nursery schools and educate more children as some parents cannot afford to pay for school fees and this results that few nursery schools do well.

The MU is hoping for more openness and freedom to speak on all health and medical matters in public.

The members hope to meet more poor widows and help them create sustainable projects to generate an income for their families.

Transport is a problem travelling from one place to another.

We pray that they can open new branches of the MU in areas where there are none.

That the members may be able to use their talents locally to raise funds for Mothers Union activities.

We pray also that parishes and deaneries continue to recognize the contribution of the Mothers' Union due to their activities visiting the sick and needy and taking care of Sunday Schools for children and youth departments which are in their care.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayers

Silence

Reading: Psalm 135 verse 1 to 4 Begins Praise the Lord

Diocese of Western Izon

This is a new diocese in the Niger Delta split from the diocese of Warri. We know very little about this new diocese other than the leader is the Bishops's wife Mrs Ajiri Emamezi. When they were part of another diocese, the members were very involved in visiting the sick, taking care of the needy and visiting members. The Niger Delta has been very much in the news lately due the kidnapping problem that occurs in this area. The members give talks to the youth occasionally and couples who are on the verge of divorce are immensely helped due to the high rise of marriage breakdowns. The Mothers Union has set up marriage counselling committees in every district. They also visit prisons on a Sunday.

Please pray for Christians in this area as they are oppressed and persecuted for their faith.

READING PSALM 139 verses 1 to 6 Begins O Lord you have searched me out.

CHICHESTER

Diocesan President : Mrs Mary Smith

Vice President: Mrs Audrey Thomas

Chichester has been our link United Kingdom diocese for many years. The diocese was created in 1891 and there are 79 branches throughout East and West Sussex. In January 2007 it was split into 5 districts.

Their Faith and Policy Unit works very much like us as a strong prayer life is maintained by their members and underlines all their work. Action and Outreach unit support Parenting, Prison Play areas, Away from it all Holidays, Contact Centres and other small projects. They send Christmas cards to the inmates of Lewes and Ford prison and Christmas gift bags to the detainees at Gatwick Detention Centre. Like one of our branches they supply toiletry bags for emergency admissions to hospital. For the past 7 years their Parenting Course has been their special project.

Reading: Psalm 149 verse 1 to 5 Begins O praise the Lord.

LEICESTER (CANTERBURY)

Diocesan President: Mrs RoseMarie Manning
Diocesan Secretary: Mary Clarkson

Leicestershire is mainly an agricultural diocese. Leicester has large communities of many ethnic minorities and faiths are represented. The Mothers Union has about 1700 members and 72 branches. Members meet together for branch, deanery and diocesan events. Quiet Days, an annual Retreat and an Emergency Prayer/E mail Chain support those who meet with sudden adversity, illness and Diocesan events. Every year, 25 needy families are given a seaside holiday, last year it was 29 families. Other projects include knitting jackets and blankets for hospital neo-natal units, providing starter packs for the homeless. and supporting prison visitors. Chocolate eggs and chocolate bars are donated by members to be given to children and those in special units at Easter tide and Christmas. Our Mothers Union links with other dioceses have been strengthened by personal visits in both directions and we now pray for a new diocese Western Ison.

Reading: Psalm 150 verse 1 to 6

SILENCE

PRAY FOR

- Parenting Courses continue to grow in this diocese.
- For the work at the Leicester prisons
- Family life
- For Chalet Holidays
- For branches who are about to close
- For new leaders to come forward.
- For God's blessing on our new Diocesan President, Rose Marie Manning, Trustees, Secretary Mary Clarkson, those who hold office in the diocese, for Diocesan Members, Individual Members and Branch Members and our Emergency and E Mail Prayer Chains.
- For our Bishop and clergy and that they may see us as partners in furthering God's Kingdom in this diocese.
- For the work of the MU members in Western Ison

All: HEAR OUR PRAYER

Leader: Lord, be a bright flame for our World wide President Rosemary Kempshall, the Trustees and all who work at Mary

Sumner House. Guide them in all that they do and grant them your continual help that, through their endeavours, your holy name be glorified. Amen

Lord's Prayer

The Mothers Union Prayer

Loving Lord

We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' Name. Amen

O God our heavenly Father, we ask you to bless the work of the Mothers Union throughout the world, and especially in the dioceses of Botswana, Central Buganda, Kitale, Port Moresby, Mount Kilimanjaro, Western Ison, Chichester and Leicester.

AMEN

