

## Central Charity's Monthly Update – April 2026 Edition

Dear Trustees, PPs, DPs and friends across Britain & Ireland,

Welcome to the April edition of your monthly Central Charity Update.

### **Contents**

1. A Special Reception at Lambeth Palace with Nigeria's First Lady
2. Share the Gift of Mothers' Union – Special Anniversary Product
3. New National Programmes flyer!
4. Supporting Members Through Accessible Faith Resources
5. Enriching Worship Through Music and Inclusion
6. Mothers' Union and Church-Based Toddler Groups
7. Supporting You Throughout Our 150th Year
8. Staying Connected On Facebook
9. Dates for your Diary

## Tickets for the 150<sup>th</sup> Celebratory Service at St Paul's Cathedral and the *Annual Gathering* are still available.



*Members are encouraged to promote these within their groups and particularly encourage newer members to attend and experience the wider movement.*

**Eventbrite**

*Tickets are available on Eventbrite and the **final** deadline for all ticket sales is **May 16<sup>th</sup>**, after which sales will officially **close**.*

## 1. A Special Reception at Lambeth Palace with Nigeria's First Lady

It was a great honour to represent the Mothers' Union at a special reception held at Lambeth Palace, where we had the privilege of meeting the First Lady of Nigeria, Her Excellency, Mrs Oluremi Tinubu.



During this memorable occasion, we were delighted to present her with a copy of the Mothers' Union Prayer Diary and the 150th Anniversary Prayer Book. She expressed genuine appreciation on learning that Mothers' Union members across the world regularly uphold dioceses in

Nigeria in prayer through the Wave of Prayer. This was a powerful reminder of the global fellowship that unites us in faith and purpose.

Mothers' Union was represented at the reception by our CEO, Canon Bev Julien, Sarah Newnham, Director of Global Programmes, Mrs. Comfort Idowu-Fearon, Provincial President for Canterbury, and Atim Abrams from the Membership team, as seen here in the photograph.

The visit also provided a valuable opportunity to share the impact and reach of the Mothers' Union, and we were pleased to be interviewed for Nigerian television, further strengthening these international connections. This was a significant and encouraging moment, affirming the importance of our prayer life and the strength of our worldwide fellowship.

The visit also provided a valuable opportunity to share the impact and reach of the Mothers' Union, and we were pleased to be interviewed for Nigerian television, further strengthening these international connections.

This was a significant and encouraging moment, affirming the importance of our prayer life and the strength of our worldwide fellowship.

## 2. Share the Gift of Mothers' Union – Special Anniversary Product

As we celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union, we are delighted to reintroduce the new and improved "Gift of Membership", back by popular demand.

Many of you have asked for this, sharing how meaningful it would be to invite others to experience Mothers' Union. Now, that opportunity is here.

The Gift of Membership allows you to give a year's membership to a friend, family member, or colleague, offering them the chance to connect with a

worldwide community committed to prayer, strengthening families, and transforming lives.

**Do you know someone who would be encouraged and inspired by being part of Mothers' Union? Perhaps a new mother, a loved one, or a friend, this is more than a gift ... it is an invitation to belong.**

As part of our anniversary celebrations and membership growth challenge, every new member counts. By sharing this gift, you are playing a vital role in strengthening and growing our movement for the future.

Who could you invite to join Mothers' Union this year? Share the gift today and welcome someone into our 150th anniversary story.

Visit the MU Shop, [Gifts of Support](#) to make a purchase today.

### **3. New National Programmes flyer!**

Get ready for your **Sunday Takeovers** with our new National Programmes flyer! This tool is designed to **raise awareness** of our four key initiatives and highlight how people in your Diocese can take **faith-based action** on issues that align with their social values. Download the flyer from our **website** and share it widely. Our programmes are not only meaningful for people to support but also serve as a great conversation starter for encouraging new Mothers' Union members.

### **4. Supporting Members Through Accessible Faith Resources**

We are pleased to share that resources for Commissioning Services and Membership Service Orders of Service are now available on the Members only [Resource Hub](#). These materials have been developed to support branches and dioceses in planning meaningful and well-structured services, helping to mark important moments in the life of Mothers' Union with prayer and celebration.

Whether you are preparing for a commissioning service or welcoming new members, these resources offer practical guidance and inspiration to support your planning and worship.

## 5. Enriching Worship Through Music and Inclusion

We are delighted to share new resources that will help members engage more deeply with the faith and heritage of Mothers' Union. A selection of music settings of **Mary Sumner's personal prayer** is now available on our website, alongside a hymn written to a well-known tune, offering fresh and creative ways to incorporate this much-loved prayer into services and meetings.

These resources provide an opportunity to experience Mary Sumner's words in new and meaningful ways, whether through singing together in worship or reflecting more personally in prayer. They are a valuable addition for branches and dioceses seeking to enrich their gatherings and celebrate our shared spiritual foundation.

[www.mothersunion.org/resources/?\\_resource\\_type\\_filter=music](http://www.mothersunion.org/resources/?_resource_type_filter=music)

We are also pleased to highlight a wonderful contribution from Revd Anne Marr of Newcastle Diocese, who has recorded a video of **Mary Sumner's personal prayer in sign language**. This initiative enables even more people to engage with the prayer, helping us to be more inclusive and ensuring that its message can be shared as widely as possible.

This video will be promoted on our social media channels, and we encourage members to look out for it, share it, and use it within their own communities. Together, these resources reflect our ongoing commitment to accessible, creative, and inclusive worship across Mothers' Union.

## 6. Mothers' Union and Church-Based Toddler Groups

This month we have re-connected with the 1277 Make Them Count movement, which is a network for church-based toddler groups and leaders. Did you know that in the UK on average a child has 1,277 days between birth and starting nursery school education? One of the initiatives of 1277 is the National Month of Prayer for Toddler Groups (NMOP) that takes place every June. The theme for 2026 is based on John 10:14-16 'Jesus the Good Shepherd' and we have been invited to the launch on 1 June in Parliament. Toddler groups are such an important outreach to families, and we know that many MU members either lead or volunteer at church-based toddler groups. We would love to hear how many groups our members are involved in, and

what they are planning for the NMOP this year, so do let Lucy know by emailing [faith@mothersunion.org](mailto:faith@mothersunion.org).

We may be able to offer places to the NMOP launch event for some of our MU members who lead church-based toddler groups.

We also know that there will be churches with toddler groups that have no MU connections; could the NMOP provide you with the opportunity to reach out to those groups and churches to share news about the fabulous work of Mothers' Union and encourage new members, either individual or church-based membership?

If you want to know more about the 1277 movement and the NMOP, do take a look at their website 1277 – National network of church-based toddler groups or their active Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1277makethemcount/>

This is a valuable opportunity to support families, strengthen relationships, and share the mission of Mothers' Union in new and meaningful ways.

## **7. Supporting You Throughout Our 150th Year.**

As we continue to celebrate our 150th year, we are pleased to remind members that a wide range of resources is available on our website and Resource Hub to support you in marking this special milestone, as well as other key moments in the life of your branch and diocese.

We offer a variety of materials, including prayers, service outlines, and themed content, designed to help you plan meaningful gatherings, celebrate our shared heritage, and deepen your engagement with Mothers' Union's mission. Whether you are organising a special anniversary service, a local event, or a time of reflection, these resources are there to support and inspire you.

We also know that so much of the richness of Mothers' Union life is found in the creativity and commitment of our members. We warmly encourage members to share their events, celebrations, and stories with us.

If you have a story, event, or photos to share, please do send them to [communications@mothersunion.org](mailto:communications@mothersunion.org) - we would love to hear from you.

As we mark this significant anniversary, let us continue to share, celebrate, and inspire one another in faith and action.

## **8. Staying Connected On Facebook**

We also encourage all members to stay connected through our Facebook page. This is a vibrant space where we share updates, resources, and stories from across our global fellowship. It is also where you can join our daily Midday Prayers and be part of a worldwide community united in prayer.

By following, liking, and sharing our posts, you help extend the reach of Mothers' Union and ensure that encouragement, news, and resources are shared widely <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion/>

## **9. Dates for Your Diary - 150th National Challenges & Activities Support Meeting**

We are pleased to invite members to a support meeting focused on the 150th National Challenges and Activities. This will take place on **23 April from 2:00–3:00pm** and will provide an opportunity to share ideas, offer guidance, and support one another in engaging fully with this special anniversary year.

We encourage all those involved in planning or participating in the 150th activities to attend.

A reminder of the key MU 150<sup>th</sup> National Challenges & Activities in Britain & Ireland

- [150<sup>th</sup> Membership Challenge](#)
- [150<sup>th</sup> Fundraising Challenge](#)
- [Sunday Takeover!](#)
- [MU Big Picnic](#)

Thank you for your continued support!

### **Membership Team**

Central Charity Staff, Mary Sumner House

[membership@mothersunion.org](mailto:membership@mothersunion.org)