

Central Charity's Monthly Update – July 2026 Edition

Dear Members,

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

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1. Farewell from Canon Bev Jullien



As I retire from Mothers' Union, I look back with deep gratitude for the journey walked together. Yes, there have been lows, such as the challenges of the pandemic, but also amazing highs, including the wonderful celebrations at St Paul's, the excellent exhibition of our history, and hearing of fantastic work across Britain and Ireland at the Gathering!

What I have valued most are the conversations and stories as I have met with so many here in B and I and across the world, and the quiet humility with which members share work which is quite remarkable – “ordinary” people doing extraordinary things! There have been so

many moments of shared joy, laughter, and fellowship, which I will treasure for ever.

I would like to thank you all for your warmth, love, and friendship, and especially, as I am leaving, for the gifts, cards, and goodwill messages, which were unexpected, but so heartwarming!

You will stay in my heart for ever. Be Blessed!

Canon Bev Jullien
CEO

2. 150th Celebrations – St Paul’s and the Annual Gathering

1650 members, senior church leaders and partners from within the



Anglican Communion, attended a glorious celebration at St Paul’s Cathedral on 10th June, and others were able to join in watching the live stream. Kathleen, your WWP gave an inspiring testimonial about our history, our present and our future work and

impact. Our Patron, The Most Reverend and Right Honourable the Lord Archbishop of Canterbury, Sarah Mullally, presided and praised the Mothers’ Union in her homily. See more - [150th Celebratory Service](#)



The Annual Gathering on 11th June at the Emmanuel Centre, next door to Mary Sumner House was the venue for 650 members to enjoy a programme of former presidents, members and partners celebrating

Mothers’ Union! A brilliant Exhibition of the achievements of the movement was available to members to attend that week in the conference hall at Mary Sumner House, the pride felt by members at our achievements and impact was palpable. See more - [Annual Gathering - 150 years](#) and - [Annual Gathering Video](#)

Look out for post event materials, they will be available to members shortly.

3. Inspired Together: 150th Anniversary National Challenge Support Group

The last 150th Anniversary National Challenge Support Group meeting was filled with inspiration, encouragement, and celebration as members from various diocese came together to share the ways, they are embracing the 150th anniversary national challenges.

Creativity has been at the heart of fundraising efforts. The ideas shared demonstrated just how much can be achieved when we work together towards our three shared goals for the year: **raising the profile of Mothers' Union, welcoming new members into the movement, and fundraising to support our mission.**

Members shared exciting ways they are capturing the attention of their communities while making a real difference. The stories were both inspiring and wonderfully creative.

Among the ideas shared was the memorable **Big Knickers Night**, hosted by the Diocese of St Edmundsbury and Ipswich (St Eds & Ips), where 146 packs of knickers were donated to support those experiencing domestic abuse. Jeanette Appleton, DP for St Eds & Ips explained that using a catchy, slightly "risqué" title such as **"Drop your knickers here"** attracted attention where a more conventional event name might have gone unnoticed. She stated that this eye-catching signage sparked conversations, encouraged people to stop, take photos, and share them on social media, thereby helping to spread the message wider and raising awareness of the important issues alongside the work of Mothers' Union. A branch in London Diocese is also collecting bras for a similar initiative.

Jaenette has kindly offered to share the resources and templates with any dioceses interested in running their own Knickers Night.

Here are some of the other inspiring ways that members are taking on the 150th Anniversary Challenges:

- **St Eds & Ips Diocese:** Branches are taking part in a "£5 to £50" fundraising challenge. One creative initiative, Blind Date with a Book, involved wrapping 150 favourite books so that the titles remained a mystery, adding a short synopsis to each package and selling them for £3 each.

- **Manchester Diocese:** Twelve members, all in their seventies, successfully completed the Infinity Walk in Keswick (the longest high wire bridge in Europe at 190m, suspended 1,000 feet above sea level) raising a total of £1,962 at the time of writing.
- **Portsmouth Diocese:** A team of MU members will be abseiling down the Spinnaker Tower, which stands at 170 metres tall, on 8 August as part of the Anniversary Challenge.
- **Chester Diocese:** The Diocesan Secretary has committed to walking 250 miles in 25 weeks to raise funds for the Anniversary Challenge. The diocese is also continuing its popular 20p collection using durable pill boxes to raise money for toys for local refugees.
- **Chelmsford Diocese:** The Diocesan President has already raised around £1,300 through a sponsored Wave of Prayer challenge. Trustees are also exploring ways to strengthen relationships with local clergy by inviting them to diocesan events as a means of promoting church-based membership. Although this has not yet led to new partnerships, they remain committed to building these connections.
- **St Andrew's Diocese:** A delicious Strawberry Tea raised an impressive £300 towards the 150th Anniversary Challenge. A huge thank you to everyone who baked, volunteered, and supported the event.
- **Gloucester Diocese:** A local church hosted a Sunday Takeover Service and generously donated the entire Sunday collection to the 150th Anniversary Fund.
- **Sheffield Diocese:** DP Jo, with support from other members, has handcrafted 150 commemorative brooches, raising funds for Mothers' Union central charity, Sheffield Diocese, and the Alzheimer's Society. The Diocesan President also shared that the visit of Deb Lee during her cycling challenge resulted in two new members joining Mothers' Union.

Thank you to everyone who joined the meeting and shared their ideas so generously. What united every story was a determination to show that Mothers' Union is vibrant, relevant, and making a positive impact in communities today as it did 150 years ago. They help to challenge outdated perceptions, raising our profile, attracting new supporters, and generating vital funds for the future of the movement.

We hope these ideas encourage even more members and branches to get involved in the national challenges and share their own creative ways of achieving the three shared goals for the year.

4. Dates For Your Diary – July 2026

Community of Interest	Meeting date
Safeguarding	6th July @ 11am to 12pm
Membership COI	22nd July @ 6:30 – 7:30PM

The Zoom links for the meetings will be shared by a designated COI lead.

5. Summer of Hope Appeal

A huge “thank you” to everyone who has been fundraising as part of our 150th Challenge. Your enthusiasm, creativity and commitment are helping to make this special anniversary year one to remember, and we are so grateful for everything you are doing to support Mothers' Union.

This year, instead of our usual **Summer of Hope** appeal, we will be sending a special mailout early August to coincide with Mary Sumner Day to encourage even more members to get involved in the 150th Challenge and to donate in support of the fantastic fundraising activities already taking place through our JustGiving page.

If you are planning a fundraising event and would like ideas, resources, or support, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Jonnie at fundraising@mothersunion.org.

We are also always looking for inspiring stories from around the provinces. If your branch or diocese has been fundraising, celebrating, or making a difference through the 150th National Challenges, please share your story with us. We would love to feature it on our various communication channels to inspire even more members to get involved.

6. 150th Service at St Paul's Cathedral – Order of Service

The Word version of the Order of Service from the 150th Anniversary Service at St Paul's Cathedral is available, so that elements can be adapted for use in branch and diocesan services.

Please access it on the Resource Hub in the 150th Anniversary Year Assets folder. The link is:

<https://mothersunionresourcehub.com/shared/96f0n946>

We hope it will be a helpful resource, together with those already provided, as you plan and celebrate services throughout our anniversary year.

7. MU Live - Your Stories bring Mothers' Union to life!

We encourage you to continue submitting updates through MU Live. Every story shared helps to celebrate the amazing work happening across our movement from small acts of kindness to large community initiatives. These stories inspire others, strengthen our connections, and show the ways faith in action is transforming lives every day.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the system, please contact us at Development@mothersunion.org

Thank you for your continued support!

Membership Team

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