

## **MSH Member Update – June 2025 Edition**

Dear Members,

Welcome to the June edition of your monthly MSH Update.

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### **1. June Leadership Conference. The Count Down Begins!**

This June, our leaders from across Britain and Ireland are heading to Liverpool for an exciting and empowering leadership conference focused on the future of Mothers' Union. It will be an inspiring time of creative thinking and collective action as we gather to strengthen the movement and prepare for our milestone celebration - 150th Anniversary of Mothers' Union!

Workshops and discussions at the conference will also tackle some of the real challenges we face in turning around our declining membership to one that is growing, with a focus on younger people, those aged 40–60, expanding the number of men, and welcoming people from the wider Christian community to our wonderful movement.

**Your voice matters.** If you have encountered barriers in reaching new audiences to invite into the movement, now is the time to share those challenges with your leaders so they can bring them to the table in Liverpool. Together, we can find real solutions.

Another major feature of the conference will be the launch of the 150<sup>th</sup> Year National Recruitment & National Fundraising Challenges.

**150<sup>th</sup> Year Recruitment** - Each diocese will be challenged to recruit 150 new members by December 2026. The prize? A prestigious trophy and the honour of having your diocese's name engraved on a plaque at Mary Sumner House! This is a bold initiative designed to celebrate our heritage while building our future.

These new members can be Branch/Group affiliated members or Diocesan Members; giving you the opportunity to look at your recruitment processes, and how your memberships are structured and supported in your diocese. Have a think about how and who to engage with and let us welcome new people to MU!

**150<sup>th</sup> Year Fundraising Challenge** - Alongside this, there will be a Fundraising Challenge where every participating group will receive £150 in seed money. The mission is to grow that into a brilliant £1,500! Rumours are already swirling of creative efforts underway; Make & Bake Month, Community Bazaars, Cake Sales, Homemade Jam Sales, Jumble Sales, Sponsored Walks, Bike Rides, and even Swimming Challenges. The energy is building, and the enthusiasm is contagious!

So, what is your diocese planning for 2026 and how will you meet these new national challenges? How will you ensure that your name shines among the top contributors to this landmark celebration?

Let us raise the profile of Mothers' Union, amplify our impact, welcome new people, and step boldly into the next chapter of our story.

Resources will be available to help you over the next few months, so look out!

## **2. Church-Based Membership**

This is launching! This new membership model that engages with 75% of churches who have no relationship with MU or where branches are unable to thrive. Resources will be available in July, so get busy identifying those churches in your area that will benefit from the wonderful support of MU in the delivery of their ministry. [Church Based Membership.](#)

### 3. Summer of Hope Appeal: Planting Faith, Growing Futures

In war-torn regions of the Democratic Republic of Congo, mothers and families are being forced to flee violence. In fear for their lives, they often leave everything familiar behind - except for their children and a handful of seeds.

These seeds are not just for survival. They are a **symbol of faith**, a sign that hope can still grow, even in the harshest conditions.

This summer, we invite you to take part in our **Summer of Hope appeal** — a season of giving, praying, planting and fundraising to support women like Julienne, who are rebuilding their lives through literacy, faith, and community.

#### How your support makes a difference

Thanks to donations from supporters and members like you, women in DRC are learning to read, gain an understanding of their rights, growing food near their homes, and joining Bible-based savings groups that offer dignity and stability.

Women like Julienne, once displaced and silenced, are now **leaders** in their communities - speaking out, supporting others, and sowing the seeds of change.

#### You can be part of this movement of hope

- **Give a gift today** to help fund literacy circles, savings groups, and life-changing training in conflict-affected regions.
- **Host a “Sow & Grow” fundraiser** - whether it is a sunflower competition, garden tea party, or bake sale at your church.
- **Spread the word** - share the appeal with friends and fellow members and encourage your community to get involved.

Every prayer, every penny, and every act of faith can help a woman like Julienne move from survival to strength.

#### Be part of the Summer of Hope

Help us grow something beautiful — in your community, and in the lives of women who need it most.

**Donate** or find **fundraising ideas** at: [mothersunion.org/summer-hope-25](https://mothersunion.org/summer-hope-25) Or call us on 020 7222 5533

#### **4. Dementia Awareness & Support Workshop**

In response to feedback from members of the **Membership Community of Interest**, we are delighted to partner with **Enrichment for the Elderly** to deliver the Dementia Star awards, a **popular and impactful workshop series on dementia care**.

The workshop will be three sessions of two hour per sessions held over three consecutive weeks and taking place on the same day and time each week, making it easy to fit into your schedule.

The sessions are divided into Bronze, Silver, and Gold, to offer a progressive learning journey, with each session being interactive and engaging with practical insights and tools to enhance understanding and response to dementia.

##### **Workshop Overview:**

##### **Bronze Dementia Star**

Gain a foundational understanding of how dementia affects the brain, communication, memory, and how small changes can significantly support those living with dementia.

##### **Silver Dementia Star**

Explore how dementia impacts the senses and behaviour and learn how to adjust your approach to provide compassionate support.

##### **Gold Dementia Star**

Build on your understanding by recognising different types of dementia, actively including those affected in decisions and applying your learning in real-life settings.

This training will equip members with deeper understanding and practical skills to support and care for those living with dementia, both personally and within our churches and communities.

We have successfully negotiated the cost of this enrichment package to £45 per diocese, covering up to two attendees per diocese.

**If you are interested in taking part, please send your name, role, and diocese to [membership@mothersunion.org](mailto:membership@mothersunion.org)**

##### **Dates:**

Friday 12th September 10-12 Bronze

Friday 19th September 10-12 Silver

Friday 26th September 10-12 Gold

## 5. Celebrating The Incredible RISE UP! Campaign Milestones!

We are sending a huge shout-out to you! Since launching the RISE UP! Campaign in September 2023, the dedication and compassion shown by members has been truly inspiring. We are absolutely thrilled to share some incredible milestones that reflect the amazing work you are all doing.

Since the campaign began, we have seen:

- **195 branches** achieve the **Bronze award!**
- **16 branches** reach the **Silver award!**
- And a fantastic **8 branches** earn the prestigious **Gold award!**

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to the RISE UP! Campaign. Your hard work ensures that those affected by domestic violence know that Mothers' Union cares, that they are seen, and that support is available.

### **Come Celebrate With Us!**

Remember to join us on Wednesday 11th June at 1pm at the Chapel at Mary Sumner House for a RISE UP! service of celebration and thanksgiving.

If you would like to join us, please let Emily know by emailing [emily.brailsford@mothersunion.org](mailto:emily.brailsford@mothersunion.org) to reserve your seat.

## 6. Father's Day Resources

Sunday 15 June is Father's Day.

We have produced a selection of resources to help you make the most of this opportunity to strengthen families and connect with your local community.

Download the resources here: <https://www.mothersunion.org/resources>

## **7. Introducing the Membership Team's New Webinar Series**

At your central charity, we are committed to walking alongside our members as they serve each other and the communities. In response to the evolving needs and valuable feedback from members, we are delighted to launch a new webinar series designed to support, equip, and inspire you.

This series will cover a wide range of topics and will be accessible through our Resources page. Below is the current line-up of topics for this year.

### **❖ National Programmes overview – June**

This session will look at what our main programmes are, how they link to each other and our aims and objectives and how to get involved.

### **❖ Prison work programme – July**

This will provide a more in depth look at our upcoming Prison programme and how you can get involved. If you are a new group looking to start prison engagement, this session would be useful for you.

### **❖ Safeguarding key information – August**

Introduction to Britain and Ireland Safeguarding structure, policy, training and responsibilities.

### **❖ Domestic abuse facts and fiction - September**

A deeper dive into domestic abuse.

### **❖ Leading with purpose – October**

In this webinar, we will explore leadership from a position of calling, the “Why” in taking on a leadership role.

### **❖ Modern slavery (ready for launch in New Year) - November**

The new Modern Slavery programme and our work with Clewer.

### **❖ Goal Setting and Personal Vision Planning - December**

The focus is on equipping leaders to set meaningful goals for their purpose driven role and builds on the workshops at the June Leadership Conference where attendees will be leaving with the tools to identify and support upcoming leaders in MU. Effective

leadership starts with clarity of purpose, knowing where you are going and working with your team to collaboratively develop the plan on how to get there.

## **8. In Case You Missed It (News Highlights for the Month):**

### **I. Mothers' Union Reflects on the Inauguration of Pope Leo XIV**

On Sunday, 18 May 2025, Kathleen Snow, Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, attended the inauguration of Pope Leo XIV as part of the Anglican delegation. In her reflections, she highlighted the Pope's emphasis on unity, peace, and mission—core values that resonate deeply with the work of Mothers' Union in communities worldwide. The event served as a poignant reminder of the shared hope and mission that unite us across traditions.

Read Kathleen Snow's full reflections on this historic occasion here. [Kathleen Snow's Reflection](#)

### **II. Welsh Provincial President Meets Royal Patron at Buckingham Palace**

Earlier this month, Welsh Provincial President Sue Rivers represented Mothers' Union at a Buckingham Palace Garden party, where she had the honour of meeting our new royal patron, HRH The Duchess of Edinburgh. Sue shared insights into her leadership of the AFIA (Away From It All) initiative and the development of a Domestic Abuse campaign in Wales. The Duchess expressed genuine interest in Sue's longstanding commitment to Mothers' Union and was pleasantly surprised to learn that men can also be members.

To read the full story, visit: [Sue Rivers at Buckingham Palace](#)

### **III. Supporting Parents on the Global Stage**

In recognition of the United Nations' Global Day of Parents on 1 June, Mothers' Union highlighted its commitment to supporting families through the Worldwide Parenting Programme (WWP). This initiative trains local facilitators to lead 8–12 week courses, enabling community groups to explore topics such as parent-child relationships, discipline, and sex education. The programme fosters supportive networks that continue beyond the course, empowering parents and strengthening communities.

To read the full story , click here: [Supporting Parents on Global Stage](#)

#### **IV. Celebrating Families Through the AFIA Scheme**

In honour of the International Day of Families on 15 May, we spotlighted the transformative impact of the Away From It All (AFIA) scheme.

Read the full story here on how this long-standing initiative has impacted lives across Britain & Ireland here: [AFIA Schemes](#)

#### **Membership Team**

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