

# A Mothers Union QUIZ, for branch meetings. ANSWERS & Notes

## 1. Which bishop of Newcastle introduced MU as a Diocesan Organisation?

Bp Ronald Bowlby / **Bp Ernest Wilberforce** / Bp Herbert Wilde / Bp Hugh Ashdown

*Bp Wilberforce was the first bishop of Newcastle when it was founded in 1882 out of Durham Diocese. He was a grandson of William Wilberforce. Newcastle Diocese was one of the first dioceses in the country to adopt Mothers Union, after Winchester Diocese. Mrs Wilberforce was Newcastle MU's first president. A century later Newcastle was linked with Winchester as a result of the 'Faith in the City' report. Newcastle became the beneficiary of generous grants. Our roots are intertwined.*

## 2. Who persuaded Mary Sumner to speak at a Conference in Portsmouth in 1885?

Bishop of Winchester / **Bishop of Newcastle** / Revd George Sumner /  
Bishop of London / Archbishop of Canterbury

*Mary Sumner was extremely shy. Ernest Wilberforce, Bishop of Newcastle, was the one who first persuaded her to speak to women at the Portsmouth Church Congress in 1885. He had been invited to speak but felt that Mary Sumner would be better able to connect with the women. She gave an extempore and passionate address about national morality and the importance of women's vocation as mothers to change the nation for the better. "Those who rock the cradle rule the world." A number of the women present went back to their parishes to found mothers' meetings on Sumner's pattern. (Draw courage all ye who are fearful of speaking in public.)*

## 3. Who was the first patron of MU?

King Edward V11 / King George V / **Queen Victoria** / Queen Alexandra / Queen Mary

*Queen Victoria became the first Patron in her Diamond Jubilee Year in 1897. HM Queen Elizabeth II, our current patron, granted Royal Patronage to MU in 1952.*

## 4. Where was Mary's first meeting of mothers held?

Winchester / **Old Arlesford** / Portsmouth / Salford / Ledbury / Hereford

*Old Arlesford was the parish where Mary's husband was the vicar. It is in Winchester Diocese; so was Portsmouth at the time. Salford in Lancashire and Ledbury in Herefordshire were places where Mary grew up. Mary first issued membership cards to those who attended her parish mothers' meetings in 1876. MU marks this as its year of origin.*

## 5. What inspired Mary Sumner to call mothers together for mutual support?

Her mother's work with women / the death of her brother in infancy / the birth of her grandchild / the challenges facing mothers generally

*All these were influential, but it was when her daughter, Margaret, gave birth that Mary herself recalled how challenging she had found the burden of motherhood, so she quickly set up the first meeting of mothers in her parish. Mary was also influenced by her mother's strong faith and her local women's meetings. Mary's brother died at six weeks old. She was aware of the additional difficulties for mothers in poor living conditions. Mary's plan was radical in its day for it called upon women of all social classes to support one another and to see motherhood as a profession as important as those of men.*

## 6. Mary Sumner's son, George Heywood Sumner, became a well celebrated

Barrister / Artist / Vicar / Banker / Politician / Diplomat ?

*Heywood Sumner trained as a barrister at Lincoln's Inn: but he became well known as an artist in the arts and crafts movement. He was a friend of William Morris. He designed and built his ideal family house in 1904 in Cuckoo Hill, Hampshire, which is now a care home and named Heywood Sumner House. His father was a vicar, his maternal grandfather was a banker, his paternal grandfather was a bishop.*

## 7. By 1900 how many Mothers Union members were there?

12,000 / 60,000 / 169,000 / 285,000 / 400,000 / 4 million

*In 1892 there were 60,000 Mothers Union members in the UK in 28 dioceses. By the turn of the century the MU had grown to 169,000 members. In 1921 there were over 400,000 world-wide. In 2017 MU membership was over 4 million across 83 countries.*

## 8. Which of these Dioceses were the first six to adopt Mothers Union?

Ely / Portsmouth / Winchester / Newcastle / York / Hereford / Canterbury / Lichfield / Exeter / Guildford

*Winchester was the first in 1885 under Bishop Edward Browne, followed by Newcastle in 1886. The Bishop of Newcastle, Ernest Wilberforce was related to Mary Sumner's father-in-law, a former bishop of Winchester. The link between the two dioceses was rekindled 100 years later following the 'Faith in the City' report. Portsmouth and Guildford Dioceses did not exist then – they were formed in 1926/7. Mary's husband, George Sumner, became a suffragan bishop of Guildford in Winchester diocese in 1888. His uncle, John Bird Sumner, was Archbishop of Canterbury.*

**9. The first overseas Mothers Union branch was in**

Canada / South Africa / New Zealand / India / Nigeria / Australia ?

*The inaugural meeting of MU in New Zealand was in 1893; followed by Canada then India and subsequently across all the nations of the then British Empire.*

**10. The first Mothers Union Conference of Overseas Workers was in which year?**

1889 / 1900 / 1915 / 1920 / 1943

*The Mothers Union was pro-active in rebuilding the heart of Britain after WW1 and its work grew in strength internationally. (Conferences were not held during war times.)*

**11. When was Mary Sumner House opened?**

1900 / 1920 / 1925 / 1940 / 1950

*The Princess Royal, HRH Princess Mary, Viscountess Lascelles, opened Mary Sumner House on 21st July 1925. It was built from donations of members and friends of MU throughout the world. It is adjacent to Westminster Abbey and remains as the MU central administrative offices and conference centre and shop.*

**12. Where is Mary Sumner buried?**

Winchester Cathedral / Old Arlesford / Swinton, Salford / Colwall, Ledbury

*Mary died on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1921 aged 92 and is buried with her husband, who had died 12 years previously, in the grounds of Winchester Cathedral. The inscription on their tomb is from Revelation 14:13 .....*

*'I heard a voice from Heaven saying unto me - Write Blessed are the dead which died in the Lord from henceforth. Here, saith the Spirit, they may rest from their labours, And their works do follow them.'*

*Mary is remembered on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, due to a mistaken recorded date of death. The 11<sup>th</sup> August is also the liturgical feast day St Clare of Assisi. It may be considered appropriate that these two distinguished women be honoured on the same day.*

**13. When was AFIA (Away From It All) launched?**

1950 / 1965 / 1982 / 2006 / 2015

*AFIA was founded in 1965 as a holiday scheme for disadvantaged families. Newcastle Co-ordinator for AFIA is Margaret Crawforth.*

**14. In the year 2000, which major group gave MU consultative status?**

EU /Home office /Commonwealth Foundation / United Nations / NATO

*In 2000 MU was given consultative status within the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations on issues such as poverty, gender equality, HIV and AIDS.*

**15. Who are the current Newcastle MU President and Vice-Presidents?**

Barbara Packer / Margy Tasker-Brown / Sheila Walker / Anne Blight / Anne Cairns / Jennifer Snowden / Pat Johnson / Sylvia Hickey.

*In 2002 Margy was commissioned as President, Anne B as VP for Newcastle Archdeaconry and Anne C as VP for Northumberland Archdeaconry. They succeeded Barbara (President) and Sheila W and Sylvia H (VPs) 2016-2021. Barbara is now the Editor of the Newcastle MU Journal, Sheila is now Safeguarding Officer and Sylvia is co-ordinator for Diocesan Members. Jennifer Snowden and Pat Johnson were Presidents before Barbara P.*