

Rebuilding hope and confidence: MU elections
With thanks to Chelmsford Diocese for the original reflection

In 2021 we will be holding Triennial elections at all levels of Mothers' Union. This reflection helps us to prepare and listen to God as we consider our own role in this process. It can be used by individuals or groups, either virtually or adhering to current guidelines on gathering together.

Jesus put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make their nests in its branches.' *Matthew 13: 31 - 32 (NRSV)*

The pandemic we are living through has highlighted the devastating and often deadly effects of a microscopic virus, a small organism which has brought disruption on a global scale. After all we have experienced it may be difficult to agree with the saying: 'good things come in small packages' but in this reading Jesus says that the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed - a small seed which grows into a huge tree.

In a similar way Mothers' Union began with the small seed of Mary Sumner's vision and obedience to God; nearly one hundred and fifty years later we've grown into the huge international organisation that is MU today.

Our own faith and role in building the kingdom of God may start small, but God makes it grow and invites us to work with him for his kingdom. What a privilege this is... but it's too easy to say 'I don't have enough faith so God can't use me'.

Yet, if we allow God to use the faith we do have, what great things can be achieved!

In these difficult times let's pray about how we, in the name of Mothers' Union, can reach out further into our communities with God's love, and see his kingdom grow.

Our initiatives may start small, but with God's blessing will develop and make a difference, helping to build his kingdom on earth.

And in this election year in preparation for the new Triennium in 2022 let's each ask ourselves - as a member of Mothers' Union:

- What value do I put on my relationship with God and on his kingdom?
- Where does my relationship with God come in my order of priorities?

- What is God asking me to do, as a member of Mothers' Union, for the sake of his kingdom?

**All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen**