

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

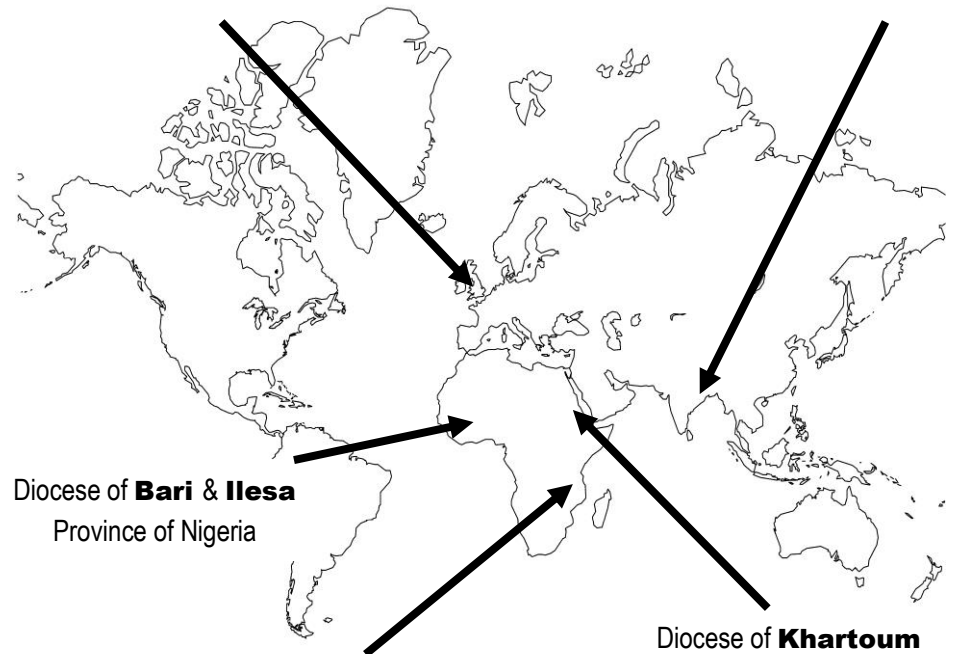
Diocese of Gloucester

## ~ ~ ~ Wave of Prayer ~ ~ ~

3—5 September 2018

Diocese of **Gloucester**  
Province of Canterbury

Diocese of **Durgapur**  
Church of North India



Diocese of **Bari & Ilesa**  
Province of Nigeria

Diocese of **Dar es Salaam**  
Province of Tanzania

Diocese of **Khartoum**  
Province of Sudan & South Sudan

The map on the front cover shows our **'Wave of Prayer'** links across the world  
A candle may be lit for each linked Diocese as these prayers are offered



Following in the footsteps of Mary Sumner, may God's Word inspire us  
to listen afresh to his plans and purposes  
and to envision us with faith for the future.

For us to observe that prayer is always at the heart of our work as Mothers' Union  
and how each day, our members take time to pause to pray.  
This Wave of Prayer provides a continuous expression  
of our commitment to listen to one another,  
and to encompass all the places in which we are represented.

**Lord God our Father,**  
**help us to act as we rejoice in our mission to share your love**  
**through promoting ways for families to nurture faith together.**  
**As we are commissioned to go out in the name of Jesus Christ,**  
**may we always be his faithful and fruitful disciples. Amen.**



Lord Jesus, prompt us and other members across the world  
to listen and be inspired and energised in our relationships  
with God, as our Father in heaven and with one another.  
Through the power of your Holy Spirit  
help us to observe and then enable us to act more effectively  
to make a difference in our churches  
and in partnership with our local communities. **Amen.**

**Loving Lord, help us to fully appreciate the blessings**  
**to be of 'one heart and mind' in the midst of the family of God.**  
**Let us be ever ready to intercede for one another**  
**for God's assistance and protection.**  
**May God encourage each one of us to be bold in heart and united in love.**  
**We offer this prayer on behalf of all our members, especially**  
**those in partnership with their church and local community projects.**  
**May God be with us all in every part of our lives,**  
**encouraging us and leading us, sheltering and strengthening us**  
**so we may always work to your praise and glory. Amen.**

A Prayer for the Diocese of **Durgapur**:

**Father in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise**  
**that members of the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service**  
**in the Diocese of Durgapur can declare like the Psalmist:** [Psalm 72: 18-19]  
**Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel, who alone does wondrous things.**  
**Blessed be his glorious name for ever; may his glory fill the whole earth.**  
**Amen.**



As members of the Mothers' Union **'united in prayer and worship'**  
we pray:  
**Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.**  
**We pray for families around the world.**  
**Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love**  
**through the encouragement, strengthening**  
**and support of marriage and family life.**  
**Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship,**  
**and in love and service reach out as your hands across the world.**  
**In Jesus' name. Amen.**

Uniting our prayers with the whole company of heaven, we pray:  
**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,**  
**thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**  
**Give us this day our daily bread.**  
**And forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us.**  
**And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil.**  
**For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory for ever and ever. Amen.**

And closing this **'Wave of Prayer'** act of worship we express our gratitude  
for all the work undertaken in our Diocese, Deaneries and Branches:  
**Heavenly Father, as Diocesan, Deanery, Branch and Indoor Members**  
**we commit our lives to you, we seek your blessing in all we do;**  
**your presence in our fellowship; your inspiration in our activities;**  
**your strength in our service to the Church and to the community;**  
**help us to be faithful in prayer and worship**  
**and outgoing in our witness to the gospel,**  
**that we may advance your kingdom, and glorify your name,**  
**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

President of Diocesan Women's Fellowship for Christian Service [DWFCS]  
and Diocesan Mothers' Union contact: Mrs Rita Dutta [who is the Bishop's wife]

*As we light a candle and give thanks for the Christian witness by the  
members of the Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in Durgapur,  
please read and take time to reflect on the information*

*received from the Mary Sumner House:*

The Diocese of Durgapur is a diocese in the Church of North India [CNI], located within the West Bengal State of India. The Church of North India was inaugurated in September 1970 and is an ecumenical Church uniting the Anglican, Methodist, Congregational, Presbyterian, and Reformed churches. The Women's Fellowship for Christian Service in the Church of North India are affiliated to the global Mothers' Union.

The Women's Fellowship run projects to help address the issues faced in the area, and is very passionate about ministry to the sick, broken families, the elderly, and raising children in Christian teaching.

Members of the Women's Fellowship in Durgapur have been particularly involved in various development initiatives aimed at supporting members of the community who have traditionally been neglected or marginalised, seeking to provide them with lives of dignity and sustainability. For example, the Diocesan Women's Fellowship has extended its ministry to serving children from slum areas who are otherwise neglected and prone to abuse. They are providing training in the empowerment of women to help the women earn an income to support their family, and new schools have been opened giving the children a chance to receive an education.

Through their programmes and activities, the Women's Fellowship is also committed to working to address gender inequality in India.

The Bible verse selected by Mary Sumner House for this diocese:

***We must go a three days' journey into the wilderness  
and sacrifice to the LORD our God as he commands us.*** Exodus 8: 27

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.  
Declare his glory among the nations, his marvellous works among all the  
peoples. Psalm 96: 2-3



Help us '**to reach out in love and service**' to our link  
partnership with the Diocese of **Khartoum** in the Province of Sudan.

Latest information via their Web Site: June 2018

Archbishop of Sudan and Bishop of Khartoum: the Most Revd Ezekiel Kondo

Mothers' Union Diocesan President: Mama Suria Elrmala [who is his wife]

Mothers' Union Diocesan Leader: Elizabeth Aya

Mothers' Union Community Development Coordinator: Reidia

Mothers' Union Trainers: Hassina Boulus Agrouf and Hewaya Abdelrman

*As we light a candle and give thanks for the Christian witness*

*by Mothers' Union members from Khartoum,  
please read and take time to reflect on the information*

*received from the Mary Sumner House:*

Following the independence of South Sudan from Sudan in 2011, the Province of the Episcopal Church of Sudan decided in 2013 that it wanted to remain as one Church despite the split into two separate countries; and created an internal province for the dioceses in Sudan. At All Saints Cathedral in Khartoum up to 10,000 worshipers saw the Most Revd Ezekiel Kumir Kondo, Bishop of Khartoum, enthroned as the first Archbishop of the new internal province of Sudan.

The key focus of the Mothers' Union today is prayer, and working for peace and unity, praying for all in an interfaith environment. Mothers' Union has its own provincial days of prayer, diocesan days of prayer, home fellowships, peace prayers and inter-faith prayers. In the annual House of Bishop's Meeting in 2015 there was agreement that all the people spoke with one voice about peace, committing themselves to encouraging those at grass-roots level to become peace-builders and peace makers.

Archdeacon of Coventry and their Chair of the Sudan Church Association Michael Paget Wilkes, travelled to take a cross of nails from Coventry to All Saints Cathedral, Khartoum. Michael said: *I am hoping that once the connection has been made then contacts of prayer will automatically spring up between Khartoum and other praying groups.*

Mothers Union members reach out into the community to women of all faiths and none using the tools of the Mothers' Union Literacy and Financial Education Programme to visibly show their love to all, empowering women and often men to find support and love in their groups together.

Reida, Mothers' Union Community Development Coordinator in Khartoum, said "we have [literacy] centres that have both Muslims and Christians working together as one. They now share their ideas together, solve their problems together, as in previous contact this close working relationship was not evident. This unity has happened after a long struggle and now they are happily working together".

The Bible verse selected by Mary Sumner House for this diocese:

***For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the LORD, plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.***

Jeremiah 29: 11

**Listen** to advice and accept instruction, that you may gain wisdom for the future. The human mind may devise many plans, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will be established.

Proverbs 19: 20–21

A Prayer for the Diocese of **Khartoum**:

**Father in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise that Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Khartoum can declare like the Psalmist:** [Psalm 145: 13, 15]

**Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures throughout all generations. The LORD is just in all his ways, and kind in all his doings. Amen.**



Help us '**to reach out in love and service**' to our link partnership with the Diocese of **Dar es Salaam** in the Province of Tanzania.

Latest information via their Web Site: June 2018

Bishop of Dar es Salaam: Rt Revd Jackson Sosthenes

Diocesan Mothers' Union President: Agness

Representative who has served on Mothers' Union Mary Sumner House 'Action & Outreach' Committee with Canon Margaret Edwards: Joyce Kibari

*As we light a candle and give thanks for the Christian witness by Mothers' Union members from Dar es Salaam in the Province of Tanzania, please read and take time to reflect on the information received from the Mary Sumner House:*

**Policy**: promoting the vision and mission of the Mothers' Union. We give thanks to God for the contribution by Canon Margaret Edwards, Canon Pat Harris and Kate Thompson – all who are involved nationally towards current policy decisions.

**Practical Action**: Our Bishop and Mothers' Union members, the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek also encourages Mothers' Union members to engage with the marginalised within our communities: sharing stories of inmates during her visits to HMP Eastwood; supporting the work of Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers [GARAS]; and supporting young people influenced by all forms of social media and internet advertising through 'LIEDENTITY'.

Gloucester Mothers' Union also provide Away From It All [AFIA] holidays and days out for families, and are very active in the local community with mother and toddler groups, and taking bibles into primary schools.

The Bible verse selected by Mary Sumner House for our diocese:

***<sup>4</sup>Come to him, a living stone, though rejected by mortals yet chosen and precious in God's sight, and <sup>5</sup>like living stones, let yourselves be built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.***

1 Peter 2: 4–5

As members of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of **Gloucester**, a prayer for our contribution to the coming of God's kingdom in our midst through prayer, policy and practical **action** – within the communities we have all been called to love and serve in the name of the risen Christ:

**Father in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise that Mothers' Union members here in the Diocese of Gloucester enjoy the political freedom to follow the call of Paul the Apostle** [ff Romans 12: 1] **to present our bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is our spiritual worship.**

**The call for us not be conformed to this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so that we may discern what is the will of God. Amen.**



Help us '**to reach out in love and service**' to our link partnership with the Diocese of **Durgapur** in the Church of North India

Latest information via their Web Site: June 2018

Bishop of Durgapur: the Rt Revd Dr Probal Dutta

A Prayer for the Diocese of **Ilesa**:

**Father in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise that Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Ilesa can declare like David the King of Israel:** [1 Chronicles 29: 11–13]

**<sup>11</sup>Yours, O LORD, are the greatness, the power, the glory, the victory, and the majesty; for all that is in the heavens and on the earth is yours; yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all. <sup>12</sup>Riches and honour come from you, and you rule over all. In your hand are power and might; and it is in your hand to make great and to give strength to all. <sup>13</sup>And now, our God, we give thanks to you and praise your glorious name. Amen.**



Within the 'Wave of Prayer' for us here in the Diocese of **Gloucester** in the Province of Canterbury in England we offer our prayers for all our links.

Bishop of Gloucester: the Rt Revd Rachel Treweek  
Bishop of Tewkesbury: the Rt Revd Robert Springett  
Diocesan Mothers' Union Diocesan Joint Presidents: Helen & Dorothy

*As we light a candle and give thanks for the Christian witness by Mothers' Union members here in the Diocese of Gloucester:*

Throughout Gloucestershire within our Deaneries many members belong to Branches which meet on a regular basis and bring a variety of practical help and support to their parish and community. Our membership to the Mothers' Union is also founded on prayer and fellowship, with fun being an important item on the agenda.

Here in the Diocese of Gloucester, through prayer, policy and practical action, our members engage at grassroots level to demonstrate our Christian faith – working towards transformation of our communities – both locally and globally to encourage the nurture of the family in its many forms and translating into daily life the three petitions contained within the Magnificat – working towards moral, social and economic justice for all.











Prayer: offering Rainbow Prayer Day resources – with opportunity to take time to reflect on the impact of domestic violence and other gender-based issues within society; and also holding monthly Midday Prayers in Gloucester Cathedral.

The Diocese of Dar es Salaam covers a large area, encompassing the whole of the Dar es Salaam region, the Coastal region, and parts of the Tanga, Morogoro and Lindi regions. The diocese also includes Mafia Island.

Dar es Salaam city is the hub of the country's economy, and attracts many people from different part of Tanzania and abroad to settle here. This brings a wealth of different cultures, traditions, languages and income to the area.

There are more than 7,900 Mothers' Union members in Dar es Salaam and this number continues to grow each year.

Mothers' Union activities in **Dar es Salaam** include:

-  Visits to children and adults in hospital to offer food and toiletries
-  Visits to orphans and widows to offer food, clothes, soap and mosquito nets
-  Visits to Nursery Schools to offer food and stationery supplies
-  Seminars/workshops on different topics including entrepreneurship, gender equality, Christendom, leadership and health education on HIV/AIDS
-  Contributing to building new Churches, and purchasing of benches and chairs for these Churches.
-  Formation of savings and credit unions
-  Drilling water wells to enable families to have access to clean water
-  Encouraging the Community to apprehend and know the rights of children.
-  Members have started building a Girls Hostel
-  Working with the youth within the Church and in the wider community

The Bible verses selected by Mary Sumner House for this diocese:

***<sup>1</sup>After Jesus had spoken these words, he looked up to heaven and said, 'Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son so that the Son may glorify you, <sup>2</sup>since you have given him authority over all people, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him'.***

John 17: 1–2

Therefore be very steadfast to **observe** and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses ..... To hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have done to this day.

Joshua 23: 6, 8

A prayer for the diocese of **Dar es Salaam**:

**Father in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise that Mothers' Union members in the Diocese of Dar es Salaam can declare like the Prophet Daniel: The kingship and dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the holy ones of the Most High;**

their kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom,  
and all dominions shall serve and obey them. <sup>[Daniel 7: 27]</sup> Amen.



Help us '**to reach out in love and service**' to our link partnership  
with the Diocese of **Bari** in the Province of Nigeria

Latest information via their Web Site: June 2018

Bishop of Bari: the Rt Revd Idris Zubairu

Diocesan Mothers' Union President: Mrs Saratu Zubairu [who is the Bishop's wife]

*As we light a candle and give thanks for the Christian witness  
by Mothers' Union members from Bari in the Province of Nigeria,  
please read and take time to reflect on the information  
received from the Mary Sumner House:*

The Diocese of Bari is located in northern Nigeria. It was officially inaugurated in May 2008 as a missionary diocese within the Church of Nigeria. The Anglican Cathedral Church of St Paul is in Gidan Mato, Bari.

Mothers' Union members in Nigeria support families in a variety of different ways including vocational training, marriage counselling and parenting skills support.

Activities in Niger West include Bible study, prayer and fellowship meetings, evangelism, income generating activities, skills development and outreach to the vulnerable and needy.

Mothers' Union in Bari also work very closely with the Women's Guild and Girls' Guild.

The Bible verses selected by Mary Sumner House for this diocese:

**<sup>30</sup>I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, <sup>31</sup>that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, <sup>32</sup>so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company. <sup>33</sup>The God of peace be with all of you. Amen.** Romans 15: 30–33

Whatever you do, in word or **action**, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. Colossians 3: 17

A prayer for the diocese of **Bari**:

**Father in heaven, we express our gratitude and praise that Mothers' Union**

members in the Diocese of Bari can declare like the Psalmist: <sup>[Psalm 27: 1]</sup>

**The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?**

**The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid? Amen.**



Our other link in the Province of Nigeria is with the Diocese of **Ilesa**

Latest information via their Web Site: June 2018

Bible Verse in English on their Web Site:

*I can do all things through him who strengthens me.* Philippians 4: 13

Bishop of Ilesa: the Rt Revd Dr Olubayo Sowale

Diocesan Mothers' Union President: Mrs Morenike Sowale [who is the Bishop's wife]









*As we light a candle and give thanks for the Christian witness  
by Mothers' Union members from Ilesa in the Province of Nigeria,  
please read and take time to reflect on the information  
received from the Mary Sumner House:*

The Diocese of Ilesa is located in the Osun State of Nigeria. It was officially inaugurated in November 1975 as a diocese within the Church of Nigeria.

The Cathedral Church of the diocese is St John at Iloro, Ilesa.

Mothers' Union is very active in this diocese and members work hard  
to help promote family life and education.

Mothers' Union's regular activities and projects include:

-  Assisting widows and the less privileged
-  Organising workshops and empowerment programmes
-  Income generating activities
-  Annual Mothers' Union Conference
-  Prayer and fellowship
-  Working closely with the Women's Guild and the youth
-  Community health education
-  Mothering Sunday is celebrated,  
as well as other special days throughout the year

The Bible verses selected by Mary Sumner House for this diocese:

***But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness,  
and all these things will be given to you as well.***

Matthew 6: 33