

MSH Member Update – April 2025 Edition

Dear Members,

Welcome to the April edition of MSH Member Update.

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1. The Commissioning Of Our New Leadership

Your new Worldwide Board of Trustees were commissioned at St Martins-in-the-Fields church Trafalgar Square, on Monday 24th March. The Archbishop of York presided over the service joined by our central chaplain, The Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Bishop of Kensington and Revd Emma Ham-Riche. Kathleen Snow became our new Worldwide President:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/commissioning-our-worldwide-president-kathleen-snow>

We also welcomed trustees from around the globe:

<https://www.mothersunion.org/our-story/our-governance/our-leadership/trustees>

A wonderful day for Mothers' Union, the sun shone, and we have an inspired leadership team focused on our new theme **Join Us, Join In!** A week of board meetings followed at Saint Columba's House in Working, Surrey.



L-R: Kathleen Snow, Archbishop of York, Bev Jullien



L-R: Joy Hla Gyaw, Judith Spencer-Jarrett, Dorothy G Siep, Revd Mercy Wanjiru, Maria van Staden, Revd Emma Ham-Riche, Kathleen Snow, Archbishop of York, Rt Revd Dr Emma Ineson, Estelle Dibo, Julia Jamieson, Deb Lee, June Butler, Revd Ann Wren and Lowrie Washington Jones

2. Key messages from the Worldwide Trustees Board Meeting

Worldwide Board of Mothers' Union Residential Meeting, 24th-28th March 2025

Key Messages:

- The whole week was enveloped in worship, with the theme of “New Beginnings”, as we begin the new Triennium with the theme “Join us, Join in!”
- The Commissioning Service was held in the church of St Martin-in-the-Fields in London, led by the Archbishop of York, with an address from our Central Chaplain, Bishop Emma Ineson. Over 250 attended this joyful occasion in person, with many more watching online via live stream.
- During the week, the Board received training on governance, finance, and safeguarding, and were briefed on all aspects of the work of the Central Charity.
- It was stressed that safeguarding is a responsibility for us all.
- Zonal Trustees presented on the work of Mothers' Union in each of their Zones across the world.
- They were briefed on MU Live, the way in which we capture and share stories of members' work. All were asked to encourage dioceses to share at least one story each year, so that we can celebrate and share the impact of members within their communities with members, supporters, and potential donors.
- Applications are encouraged for the Ignite process to fund community projects across MU – training and information can be provided, through contacting development@mothersunion.org
- The Board heard about the Core Global Programmes of Mothers' Union, especially Literacy, Savings and Credits, Gender-based violence and Parenting.
- The staff team are preparing short PowerPoint presentations about MU and projects, to be updated quarterly, to use in meetings both within and beyond the membership. The first set will be available by May.

- The importance of the membership within Britain & Ireland was stressed, as both the home of Mothers' Union and the main source of support financially for the movement. All committed to finding ways to share the load across Provinces, to ensure the sustainability of the movement.
- The Reimagining Programme within Britain & Ireland was highlighted, and the upcoming Leadership Conference in Liverpool in June. Key themes and successful approaches will be shared with the wider movement.
- The Board celebrated the fact that the new database is now operational, and early feedback is positive. There will be an ongoing programme of training, and in due course options to extend the scope will be assessed. They heard that the new website will also be in place before the end of 2025.
- The Board was briefed on the way in which options for the future of the building of Mary Sumner House were assessed, and the consultation which took place in 2024. The reasons for the most likely option being sale at some point within the next 5 years were explained, and it was stressed that further work would be undertaken before a final decision was taken.
- All are looking forward with excitement to the 150th Anniversary in 2026, which is an opportunity to generate funds and spread the message about MU and its work, as well as for celebration. All Zonal Trustees will be exploring during April interest within their Provinces for attendance at a Global Gathering in South Africa in October 2026.
- All Zonal Trustees have access to more detailed information about all areas covered and will be happy to share with their Provinces.
- The meeting closed with a Eucharist of Thanksgiving.

3. April: A Month of Solemn Remembrance and Joyful Celebration

The season of Lent is upon us, a period of reflection on Christ's sacrifice and triumph, renewing our faith in the promise of eternal life. This year, April holds special importance as we remember the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, the very foundation of our Christian faith.

We continue our Lenten journey with this year's theme, Living Hope, a reminder that through Christ's resurrection, we have hope even in difficult times.

To support you on this Lenten journey, we have prepared a range of resources to guide and inspire you. These materials are designed to deepen your connection with God, the Living Hope who sustains us throughout this season and beyond. You can find them here. <https://www.mothersunion.org/news/welcome-lent>

Earth Day

Alongside this period of new beginnings, we also acknowledge Earth Day, sometimes referred to as Creation Day, which similarly embodies the theme of new life. The connection between Easter and Earth Day is profound, as both point to God's divine work of renewal and liberation.

Easter coincides with the release of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. The Passover, in which the blood of a lamb spared God's people, symbolises how Jesus Christ sacrifice frees us from the bondage of sin and death.

Spring, a season of transformation with plants blooming and nature awakening, reminds us of God's ever-renewing creation. Much like the Easter egg, a beloved symbol of the season reflects this truth.

We observe Earth Day on 22nd April. To discover how faith is at the heart of creation care, and how you can play your part, do check out this link

<https://www.mothersunion.org/news/hopes-and-fears>

Join Us for Midday Prayers

We warmly invite you to join our community for daily prayer from Monday to Saturday. These gatherings provide a sacred moment of spiritual reflection amid the busyness of daily life. You can access them on our Facebook page at facebook.com/MothersUnion

Join Us, Join In!

As we press into our new triennium, let us use this time of renewal and transformation to reflect on the power of community and the difference we can make together. Please share the joy and purpose of our movement and invite others to join our mission of faith, fellowship, and support. Each new member strengthens our movement and helps spread the message of love, hope, and community support.

Please refer to this link for resources to help you make the most of this theme.
<https://www.mothersunion.org/2025-theme>

4. Make a Mother's Day 2025 – Thank You for Your Incredible Support

We are delighted by the incredible response to this year's Make a Mother's Day Appeal, thank you so much to everyone who has taken part so far!

We have seen a huge outpouring of generosity, with many of our most popular Gifts of Peace selling out. It has been heartwarming to witness so many supporters choosing to honour loved ones while helping families around the world create homes filled with love, peace, and understanding.

We have also been moved by the number of dedication cards and prayer requests sent in. These heartfelt messages are now being lovingly displayed in the chapel at Mary Sumner House, where they will remain throughout March and April, a powerful reminder of the love and faith that connects us all.

There is still time to support the appeal!

If you have not yet donated or if you would like to do more, there is still time to contribute. Your gift will help parents access the support they need through our Worldwide Parenting Programme, bringing lasting change to families and communities.

Donate today at www.makeamothersday.org

Together, we are helping families around the world grow in peace, dignity, and love.

With heartfelt thanks,

The Mothers' Union Fundraising Team

5. RISE UP! 2025

We are pleased to announce that entries for Rise Up, the Mothers Union programme, have now closed. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the centres that have been running this important project in their communities.

The response to this year's programme has been overwhelming with over 100 new registrations. Thank you for your incredible support, which has made this possible. We are now in the process of reviewing all submissions to collate the information and send out the certificates to the Diocesan Presidents.

Please inform members that they can still register and provide updated information after this date; however, they will receive their certificates at the next Pentecost.

If your diocese would like to participate, please contact Emily.Brailsford@mothersunion.org to register your interest for the next cycle of registrations.

The RISE UP! celebration service will be held in the **Chapel at MSH on 11th June from 1pm until 2pm**. There are only 30 spaces available due to the size of the Chapel spaces will be allocated on a first come first serve so please email Emily at riseup@mothersunion.org to reserve your space.

6. MU Live Submissions

A huge thank you to those responsible for completing MU Live on behalf of your dioceses and provinces! Your efforts are greatly appreciated, and the information you provide through this system helps us share the incredible work and message of the Mothers' Union far and wide.

We encourage you to continue submitting updates through MU Live. If you have any questions or need assistance with the system, please reach out to Jeanette in the Global Programmes team at: Development@mothersunion.org.

Also circulated with this update, is the Easter Message from the WWP.

Thank you for your continued support!

Membership Team

Central Charity

Mary Sumner House

membership@mothersunion.org