



ANGLICAN
MOTHERS UNION
AUSTRALIA

Diocese of Adelaide South Australia

Issue 22

December 2024

THE LINK



THE GOAL AND CHALLENGE

"To create a greater awareness of God's love for everyone, as well as the work of Anglican Mothers' Union Australia not only in our Church but also the broader community, through promotion and development."



Christmas Thoughts

From President Gethzi



Vibrancy of the young and wisdom of the old will together empower lives in challenging situations. Families that are nurtured in this way - the young listening to the old and the old encouraging the young - can face the difficulties of life with courage and confidence. Ruth and Naomi, Mary and Elizabeth, set an example for such an understanding. Ruth became the progenitor of Jesus, and Mary became the mother of Jesus. Young and pregnant Mary went all the way from Galilee to Judea (North to South) to meet Elizabeth, who embraced her and provided care and comfort, which she very much needed during the first trimester of her pregnancy. Mary was also confident to approach Elizabeth, which tells us that Elizabeth was a “woman” in a man’s world - not blaming Mary for her condition, but believing her. That perhaps enabled both women to rejoice in the Lord, filled with the Holy Spirit.

Many women around the world are still oppressed and exploited because of gender bias and inequality. Not only becoming the victims of male power and abuse, but also solely blamed when things go wrong, in any family situations. Many women are silently crying, holding onto their faith, and praying that their needs would be met. In what ways can we embrace and encourage those, especially the vulnerable women, identifying their needs? People experiencing gender-based violence, single mothers, or those who are pushed to homelessness, to name a few. They may be our immediate family members, or someone in the community, the extended family of God. We can make a difference by being a reason for someone to have hope, believe in the goodness of God and people.

May God grant us grace to rejoice during this Christmas season by seeing the joy in the needy through our support.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!!!



Our New President

The Rev'd Dr Gethzi Devasagayam



As the first woman to be ordained in the CSI* Diocese of Coimbatore, in 1998, I was involved in children's, youth, and women's ministries in both village and urban settings. Along with parish ministry and pastoral care to children in a Girls' Boarding Home, a mentally-challenged children's home, and to young women in a Teachers Training Institute. Engaged in women's fellowship, organizing retreats, fellowship meetings, and social gatherings, nurturing lives through Bible studies and focusing on gender and social justice awareness and activities. I was also involved in mission and evangelism, chaplaincy, and providing spiritual and moral support to children and women in Juvenile and Observation homes, and people of other faiths.

After coming to Adelaide in 2005, I completed my higher studies and have been the Anglican Chaplain at Lyell McEwin, Queen Elizabeth, and Royal Adelaide hospitals. I was also involved in parish ministry, and teach at St Barnabas and Uniting colleges. I am currently in the Parish of St Luke's, Whitmore Square. My husband Samson is also a priest and we have a daughter Hanukkah who just finished school.

I thank God for the opportunity to be a part of Mothers' Union - a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship, and service. I am delighted to join you on this journey, and am looking forward to working with you all.

*CSI Brough Memorial Church; 'CSI' is an acronym for the Church of South India, where Anglican, Congregational, Methodist and Presbyterian traditions joined together to form the CSI.



On 23rd October 2024, Rev Gethzi was inducted as a member of the Mothers' Union (MU), at the 9.30 am service at St Luke's, officiated by the Rev Peter Balabanski of St John's Anglican Church in Halifax Street. Various representatives of the Anglican Mothers' Union Australia also attended, and the service was followed by morning tea. It was good to see some of our male parishioners present on this auspicious occasion!



The MU in Australia is part of the worldwide Mothers' Union with links to 84 countries and over four million members who share one heartfelt vision – to bring about a world where God's love is shown through prayer and loving, respectful and flourishing relationships. For more details about the MU please see www.muaustralia.org.au.

We have changed our banking details

To send membership and/or donations to the treasurer,

Send **Cheques** made out to *The Mothers' Union Inc*

and **post** to Rose Miller

or

Deposit at either a post office or your bank using this bar code



*900 46 0705077000403769 21

The Mothers Union INC
82 833 781 513

It does
mean you will have to take your
"Link" with you when banking

Account details:

BSB: 705 077 Account No: 00040376

or

EFT using the same account details as above.

Tell the treasurer about your donations by post **or** email
and please indicate to which project or membership they belong.



An update letter from Leticia to Marion

Hello Marion,

I hope you are keeping well. On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of meeting the lovely Dorothy at the annual scholarship celebration. It was nice to catch up with someone from the Mothers' Union to talk about my nursing journey.

I have received a graduate position offer from the Bordertown Memorial Hospital, which I accepted. I am looking forward to moving back to the country to begin my nursing career. It will also be nice to see my grandparents, who live there, more often. My new house is just across

the road from theirs!

I recently celebrated my 21st birthday. My friends got me a coffee machine, which I will make good use of next year. My younger sister brought me some colourful nursing scrubs, and a lovely necklace. I had a party at Terra and Sol in Glenelg with my friends and family, which was a delight.

My netball season finished, my team came third overall. I've spent my final year at college with my younger sister Tayla and treasured this time together. We enjoy going on walks around the botanic gardens, going to the Zoo and getting coffee from one of the local cafes.

Uni has been business as usual. My grades last semester were 3 distinctions and 1 credit; it is looking like I will get similar results this semester too.

Please send my warmest regards to the Mothers' Union members, and my thanks for the scholarship support. It truly has helped my family and me so much

Best wishes,

Leticia Kate Sismey



A Happy Gathering in the South East Deanery

The South East Deanery Gathering for 2024 was hosted by the St Columba's Church MU and over thirty members and guests attended.

After some introductory chatter, the afternoon began in the Church where St Columba MU Chairwoman, Dorothy Hudson, assisted by Maureen Russell, led us through *The World around Us* from the MU Service Book.

On settling in the hall, SE Deanery Representative, Cynthia Kennedy thanked Hawthorn branch for hosting this gathering and suggested the possibility of having 3 within the deanery in 2025.

Dr Dorothy Hudson extended a warm welcome to everyone then Secretary Mary Handley introduced the Guest Speaker, Archdeacon Jo Smith. Mary, a former teacher at Walford School, had known 'Joanna' as a much respected and admired student there. Mary had asked Jo if she could trace her path from being a Year 9 school student to becoming an Archdeacon of the Anglican Church.

This talk was excellent, a learning experience for some of us. Archdeacon Jo began her journey not at year 9 but at the beginning of her life when she was taken to church regularly from babyhood by her parents in Pt Pirie. When she became a boarder at Walford, Jo had absorbed already subconsciously the basic principles of Christianity, even to the extent of being asked to present 'The prayers of the People' at the age of 7. This early Church experience gave her the ability and strength to hold on to or return to Church principles as she experienced and enjoyed the various adventures and temptations of adolescence and early adulthood. She became a teacher for several years and then finally took up the suggestion made by a friend to train for the Anglican Ministry.

After answering many questions Mrs Sandra Engelhardt gave a vote of thanks.

Revd. Dr Warren Huffa also thanked the Archdeacon for her very lively and impressive talk, before saying a prayer and giving a Blessing.



A Happy Gathering in the South East Deanery (cont'd)

Everyone adjourned to enjoy an excellent afternoon tea as well as good chatter with members of the various groups and the calling of the raffle. A very enjoyable gathering for St Columba's.

A big thankyou to our Warden Mark, his assistant, Julie, and Rector Warren for managing the arrangement of chairs and the Church's new coffee machine!

Mary Handley

MU St Columba, Hawthorn



Our Vice Regal Patron, The Hon Frances Adamson entertained members of charitable organisations, to which she and her husband are Patrons, with a Garden Party at Government House. Our new President, Rev'd Dr Gethzi Devasaguyam accepted the invitation along with Secretary Betty Edwards and members, Linda Roberts and Rev'd Marian Giles.

They were introduced to the Governor as she toured amongst the guests.



2025 Diary Dates

| | |
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| February | |
| Friday 28 th 10.15am | AGM Wise Employment 78 Currie Street |
| March | |
| Friday 7 th 10.00am | World Day of Prayer St Johns, Halifax Street |
| Tuesday 25 th 2.00pm | Lady Day St Andrew's Church Walkerville |
| May | |
| Thursday 15 th TBA | Film morning Regal, Kensington Rd |
| June | |
| Wednesday 25 th 10.15am | Mid Year Council Meeting Wise Employment |
| August | |
| TBA | Mary Sumner Day |
| September | |
| Friday 19 th TBA | Film morning Capri, Goodwood Rd |
| November | |
| Thursday 20 th 10.15am | Council Meeting Wise Employment |

MU Executive

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>President</i> | Rev'd Dr Gethzi Devasaguyam | | |
| <i>Secretary</i> | Betty Edwards | <i>Chaplain</i> | The Rev'd Simon Bailey |
| <i>Membership</i> | Cynthia Kennedy | <i>Treasurer</i> | Rose Miller |
| <i>Promotion & Communication</i> | Heather Cooper | <i>Publication Coordinator</i> | Marilyn Heyer |

ADELAIDE DIOCESAN AND LONE MEMBERS

Usually meet ***First Monday*** of each month 11.30am to 1 pm

February to November at

Wise Employment
(formerly 'say kitchen')
78 Currie Street, Adelaide.

Contact Betty Edwards

MU ADELAIDE CENTRE

Church Office, 18 King William Rd, North Adelaide 5006

The Link Deadline

Articles for March "Link" are due by February 7th 2025 ready for publication by the end of the month.

EVERYBODY can contribute to The Link

Please send in your photos, prayers, articles about events that have occurred or are about to occur, to be included in future editions of The Link.

NB - Please send photos as separate files, not text.