



Diocese of Adelaide South Australia

Issue 23

March 2025

# 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."

## **Introducing ... our Chaplain Rev'd. Simon Bailey**

In October 2024, Archbishop Geoff agreed to the appointment of Fr. Simon Bailey as our MU Diocesan Chaplain. Fr. Simon was born in West Dorset in England in the mid-1950's and went to Theological College at the tender age of 6 months old when his father trained for the ministry in the Church of England.

After a short teaching career, Simon went back to Theological College at Lincoln to train for ordination and was ordained Deacon in 1983 in Ripon Cathedral and Priest in 1984. Simon served in four parishes in Yorkshire and Leicestershire before migrating with his family to Adelaide in 2003.



He then served in three parishes (Christ Church North Adelaide, Glen Osmond and Gawler) in the Diocese of Adelaide before retiring from full-time parish ministry in 2022. Interestingly, five of the seven parishes in which he served had branches of Mothers' Union!

He has links with a number of Religious Communities in Europe and Australia, including Taizé and Bec in France, Mucknell Abbey in England, and the Community of the Holy Name and the Community of SS Barnabas and Cecilia in Australia.

Simon is married to Jane (this year they celebrate their Ruby Wedding Anniversary!), and they have two daughters, Rebecca and Sarah and two grandsons, Arthur and Freddie. Now that the advancing years and physical diminishment have confined his sporting interests to the touchline, boundary-line and couch, he still pursues his great love of trumpet-playing, and is enjoying being an 'ordinary' parishioner for the first time in his life.

He is humbled and privileged to be called to serve Mothers' Union both in the Diocese of Adelaide and the Province of South Australia. He would be delighted to visit your branch. His contact details are on the back page of The Link.

## **Requiem Eucharist in thanksgiving for the life of The Right Reverend Dr Keith Rayner AO**

It was a joy for me to attend as I have known Keith for many years as he followed my husband's father as Bishop of Wangaratta in 1969. The music was traditional and lovely; the family played a big part with Professor Chris giving the Eulogy speaking of the family life and Jill and Philippa, the readings. Please read the readings as they reflect Bishop Keith's reflective theology. Isaiah 40. 28-31; 1 Corinthians 4. 1-5 and John 15. 12-17.

Our Archbishop, Geoffrey Smith both celebrated and preached and we rejoiced in what Keith had achieved in his time as Archbishop and Primate, overseeing significant liturgical changes, social controversial issues of the day including the re-marriage of divorced persons, homosexuality, indigenous issues, ordination of the first women to the Priesthood in Australia. His opinion was always respected. The Cathedral was full of many Bishops, many priests, the Governor and people from many parishes.

"Holy and loving Father  
by your mighty power you gave us life,  
and in your love you have given us new life in  
Christ Jesus.

We entrust Keith to your merciful keeping:  
in the faith of Jesus Christ,  
who died and rose again to save us,  
and now lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit in glory for ever. Amen  
"

*Marion McCall  
Past President*



Bishop Keith pictured at  
St Saviour's in 2024

## ***Mothers' Union report for 2024*** by *Christine Barber*

Dear Members,

We give thanks to God for the work of MU around the World and with the closure of 2024, for our out-going President Mrs. Sheran Harper A.A.



At the **Lambeth Awards 2024, the Cross of St. Augustine** was awarded to Sheran for outstanding service to the Anglican Communion over 20 years, as a volunteer leader of MU at all levels, including Worldwide President and representing the Archbishop of Canterbury on the World Council of Religions for Peace. This recognised her ability to connect spiritually and personally with an incredibly diverse global range of personalities which has touched the lives of countless individuals worldwide. Within her home country Guyana, she has served the Church at Diocesan Synod level and represented MU on the National Commission for the Family 2012 – 2015.

With MU she has travelled to over 20 countries as a trainer on parenting and economic empowerment programs and as a facilitator for MULOA (Mothers Union Listens, Observes and ACTS). She led the Worldwide Council in Kigali in 2019, when they affirmed the key aims for MU of stopping poverty, violence and injustice, and shaped a new Strategic Plan to 2026.

Another Award was **The Langton Award for Community Service** which went to the late Jocelyne Vololoniaina Razafiarivony. It recognized her significant and distinguished service to MU and the Anglican Church, and in fostering resilience in communities across Madagascar's six Dioceses facing the frequent natural disasters and ongoing economic challenges as a result of the Covid pandemic.



As the National Coordinator for the MU in Madagascar for 16 years and Provincial CDC of the Indian Ocean for 6 years, Joycelyne exemplified outstanding leadership skills as a facilitator. Demonstrating remarkable dedication, she made it her mission to reach rural and remote communities. After a learning exchange she implemented a pilot project in two dioceses aimed at fostering community resilience in health and mental well-being. In the drought stricken south of the Island she mobilized communities to work collaboratively in constructing irrigation channels and training on crop diversity, and drought-resistant plants. The results have provided improved yields and better nutrition and diet.

As we progress into our new year, we can learn about and pray for members of our new 2025 – 2027 World Board of Trustees.

### **Worldwide President - Kathleen Snow.**

Following two terms as a worldwide Zonal Trustee, Kathleen heads up and chairs meetings of the Board of Trustees and fulfils an ambassadorial role on behalf of the organisation.



A retired registered nurse, who worked in her home Cathedral in Canada. She was involved in Safe Church Regulation and has been a Patient Advocate in a major health region.

As a member since 1988, Kathleen is passionate about MU. Other areas include the Fundraising and Communications Committee which produced the *Dear Lord Prayer Book* and Regional Training for Parenting. Her particular role, facilitating parenting programs with the Indigenous Peoples of Canada. As well as being a member of the Steering Committee for the Central Parenting Program, she was a facilitator in her Zone and in Britain and Ireland for MULOA.

### **Joy Hla Gyaw - Zone Trustee for Zone A -**

(Korea, Myanmar, North India, South India, Sri Lanka)

Joy is a retired school teacher. She has worked as manager of a drop-in-centre for street and working children and then as a communications manager for World Vision Myanmar. After leaving World Vision she joined the provincial development desk in the Church of the Province of Myanmar as a consultant and later as director.



Joy visited the Anglican Church of Kenya to learn about the Church and Community Mobilisation Process. She loves to identify the skills of others and has mentored and help develop the leadership skills of those where she is involved, especially women. She joined her parish MU branch in 1987 and has served in various roles, and joined the Yango diocesan MU executive committee as an advisor in 2023. Joy facilitates the CCMP to the mothers in her parish and mentors other facilitators in the province where possible.

In Kathleen's words from our Prayer Diary,

***' You Lord are a shield around me. (Psalm 3:3)***

***May we continue to be blessed by praying for each other around the world.'***

## **From our Worldwide perspective, I share with you the theme of “Living Hope” for Lent 2025, from MSH.**

This theme invites us to reflect deeply on the hope we have in Christ, even as we walk through the challenges and complexities of life.

During Lent, we are called to journey with Jesus along the difficult road that leads to the cross, a road marked by sacrifice, pain and ultimately redemption. It is a journey that resonates with the struggles we face in our own lives and in the lives of those around us.

**Living Hope** reminds us that even in the darkest moments, God’s presence shines as a beacon of light and renewal. Through prayer, reflection and acts of love, we are invited to bring our personal burdens, as well as the brokenness of our world, to God. As we do so, we open our hearts to the transformative power of Easter, where death gives way to life, despair to joy, and sorrow to hope.

This lent, the Mother’s Union encourages us to explore what it means to carry and share this living hope in our families, communities, and the world. It is a hope that sustains, heals, and restores—a hope we are called to embody and extend to others, especially to those who feel most burdened by life’s trials. Together, let us journey with Christ and embrace the living hope that empowers us to face life’s challenges with faith, courage, and love.

It is a time to reach out and invite others to share in the transformative journey of faith. Whether through MU groups and gatherings, or our work of social justice acts of love, we can extend a warm invitation for others to join us on this Lenten journey of living hope. Together, we can build a strong more connected community rooted in faith, love and the hope that Christ offers to all.

### **2025 Holy Week Prayers Theme: Living Hope**

Welcome to this special week of prayer as we reflect on the theme of "Living Hope" for the Mothers' Union 2025 Lent journey. As we walk through Holy Week together, let's embrace the hope that springs from Christ's love, sacrifice, and resurrection. In moments of joy and sorrow, His living hope is with us, guiding and renewing our spirits.



### **Prayer for Palm Sunday – The Hope of Christ's Kingship**

Lord Jesus, on this Palm Sunday, we celebrate Your triumphant entry into Jerusalem, with hearts filled with living hope. You are the King who comes in humility, offering peace and salvation to all. May Your reign of love inspire us to walk in Your footsteps, serving others with compassion and grace. In a world often overshadowed by darkness, let Your light shine brightly within us, so that we may reflect Your hope in every action. As we wave our palms in praise, we renew our commitment to follow You, our eternal King, with unwavering hope.

### **Prayer for Maundy Thursday – The Hope of Christ's Sacrificial Love**

Jesus, on this Maundy Thursday, we remember the depths of Your love, shown through the breaking of bread and the washing of feet. You, our Teacher and Lord, humbled Yourself to serve. May we, too, embrace the call to serve one another with humility and love. Your sacrifice gives us living hope, reminding us that in giving, we receive, and in serving, we are made whole. Fill our hearts with gratitude and a renewed sense of purpose, knowing that we are never alone. In Your example, we find the true path of hope, grace, and redemption.

### **Prayer for Good Friday – The Hope of Christ's Suffering**

Jesus, on this Good Friday, we meditate on Your suffering and death upon the cross. In Your greatest hour of agony, You brought forth the greatest gift of hope to the world. Your sacrifice frees us from sin and opens the gates of eternal life. Help us to see that through suffering, we are drawn closer to Your love, and that even in the darkest moments, we can find hope in You. As we reflect on Your passion, may we be transformed by Your love, living out the hope You've given us, and trusting in Your victory over death.

### **Prayer for Holy Saturday – The Hope of Christ's Presence**

Lord, on this Holy Saturday, we stand in the quiet between the cross and the resurrection, holding fast to the living hope that You are always with us. Even when we feel abandoned or unsure, You are present, working in the unseen and the unknown. Grant us patience as we wait for the dawn of Easter, and help us trust that You are at work in our lives, even in moments of silence. In this stillness, may we be assured that Your promises are true, and our hope in You is never in vain. Restore our hearts to joy.

### **Prayer for Easter Sunday – The Hope of Christ's Resurrection**

Risen Lord, on this glorious Easter Sunday, we celebrate the living hope that You have conquered death and risen to new life! Your resurrection is the ultimate triumph over despair, offering us a future filled with promise. May Your victory bring renewal to our hearts, and may we carry the light of Your resurrection into the world. Help us to live boldly in the hope that, through You, we too can rise to new life. Let the joy of Easter fill our lives with peace and inspire us to share the hope of Your resurrection with all.

**PLEASE KEEP THIS PAGE FOR REFERENCE**

## **MU SUBSCRIPTIONS 2025**

All subscriptions for 2025 must be received by **April 30<sup>th</sup>**

Please follow these directions correctly and promptly.

Subscriptions to the treasurer may be sent in any of the following ways.

Send **Cheques** made out to *The Mothers' Union Inc*  
and **post** to Rose Miller

**or**

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



The Mothers Union INC  
82 833 781 513

Account details: *The*

*Mothers' Union Inc*

*BSB 705 077 Acc. No. 00040376*

**or**

**EFT** using the same account details as above.

Always inform the treasurer about your transactions by post and be very clear about which branch or member sent the money



## Membership details

Branch secretaries or treasurers, please send the branch list to

Cynthia Kennedy

11 Cheviot Avenue, Lower Mitcham, SA 5062

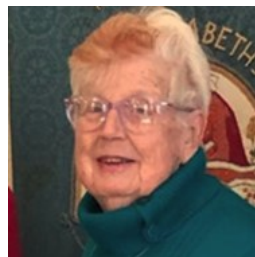
or email [sandcrk@optusnet.com.au](mailto:sandcrk@optusnet.com.au)

The branch lists should be up-to-date and include

- members' names, addresses
- phone numbers
- email addresses
- positions held
- day (eg 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday) and time of meeting

### ***Beth Ingram's Interment of Ashes***

Beth Ingram was a Mothers Union Diocesan President and was also made a life member as Vice President. Her ashes were interred at St Peter's Anglican Church Glenelg on 2nd February 2025.



Family and friends who had not been able to attend Beth's funeral in August, along with others, were able to participate in the Interment of Ashes. Paul, Beth's older son, delivered the eulogy, and Jamie, her young son, interred the ashes.

Refreshments afterwards was a perfect time to contact her family and friends. Thanks to Cate Schafing, Beth's daughter, for organising the refreshments after the service.

## **St Michael's MU, Mitcham**

### **Sharing and Caring**

We had some fun meetings in 2024. But, with the fun, there were opportunities for us all to learn, to give and to receive.

Our group discussions gave us all a chance to reflect and to have our say. Some meetings gave us a time to laugh and yet provided information which gave considerable thought and new understanding. We especially enjoyed hearing about some cultural aspects of life in India and a comparison of those with our life in Adelaide. There were some chuckles in the group.

We had a very detailed and fascinating talk on surrogacy and what it might mean for our society. This raised some serious questions and concerns. It became clear that few of us were aware of the dangers of surrogacy, and what it really might mean in the long term. This aspect of family has so many questions to be asked and answered.

A light hearted "Cooks on Board" was a fun food preparation and tasting session with information and references to food in the Bible. "What it means to be a mother in today's world" was an outstanding meeting, bringing together some young Mums with their children from our Just Music group with our older mum members. Our members and the younger women shared stories and experiences providing evidence that parenting is just as varied and difficult today as ever it was. It was a privilege to be able to share experience of motherhood across the generations.

Our July meeting had us making a birthday or Christmas card, and hearing about the development of our Parish Craft Group. It was particularly interesting to have a couple of teenage grandchildren helping in the presentation and they threw in some interesting comments about the activity.

Our grand finale for the year was to give to others through the decoration and donation of a Christmas tree to a local Aged Care Home. We each gave some tree decorations and most participated in helping to dress the tree. There was a hesitancy from some of us as we decided on the BEST spot on the tree! Everyone had a laugh and enjoyed the fun of attaching their baubles. (An even greater laugh was getting the tree to its new home.... thankfully the tree separated into 3 pieces, and it then fit in a car for delivery.)



Our Candle Service prior to this effort was a great start to the Festive Season. It was enjoyed by everyone and was a delightful introduction to dressing our tree. During afternoon tea, our members shared many stories of their own tree decorating experiences and one member donated a tiny Father Christmas she had made as a young child, and which had been brought out and used over many years on her family tree.



This was a wonderful meeting full of happy memories, friendship, love and fun.



## 2025 Diary Dates

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

## 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 June "Link" are due by May 7<sup>th</sup> 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.**

### **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 &amp; Communication</i>	Heather Cooper	<i>Publication Coordinator</i>	Marilyn Heyer