



Diocese of Adelaide    South Australia

Issue 25

September 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.”



## MARY SUMNER DAY – 2025

Members gathered at St Richard's, Lockleys on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> August to once again celebrate the life of our Founder, Mary Sumner.

Following the birth of her first child Mary had the thought that mothers needed some assistance to bring up their children. Her first attempt to suggest that we should have an organisation whose members would actually

do this was something of a failure because Mary was so nervous that it never happened. At the time her husband was an Archdeacon and although she no doubt attended many functions, she wasn't overwhelmed with self confidence! However as we all now know, she did succeed at her second try and here we are today! It seems a good time to mention that we are actually celebrating our 130th anniversary this year!

The service was a really wonderful celebration so very well written and conducted with the assistance of several members. The Presiding Priest was our Diocesan President, the Reverend Dr Gethzi Devasagayam, and our MU Chaplain, Fr Simon Bailey delivered a very informative sermon. We are very grateful to the St Richard's Parish Priest, the Reverend Sally Sandford-Morgan for being such a gracious host, and their organist, Becky Llewellyn helped us to sing the lovely hymns. Thank you also to the several members who assisted during the service, and of course our sincere thanks to the branch and parish members who made sure that we enjoyed our lunch.



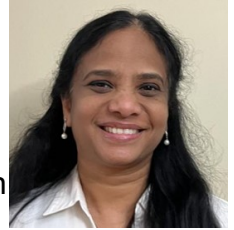
The offering was gathered for MU projects including St John's Youth Services "Healthy Mums, Happy Babies", raising \$327.50 from your offerings and \$152 for the Melanesian Adult Literacy Project through the purchase

of books. I am sure that we all enjoyed being together again on such an auspicious and happy occasion.



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### ***Getzhi's article from Mothers' Day***



In Acts 9:36–43, we encounter the inspiring example of Tabitha (also known as Dorcas), a woman admired for her unwavering devotion and tireless dedication to helping those in need (vv.36–37). Because she was always doing good and helping the poor, perhaps she had little time to care for herself - a typical example of a motherly nature. Her absence is profoundly felt by the community, which was so heartbroken that they urgently called for Peter (vv. 38–39). The passage makes it clear that a life marked by acts of love and compassion is truly treasured (v.39b), and such a life rightly receives both spiritual and physical support - an affirmation of its value and impact (vv.40–41). Through Peter's prayer and intervention, Tabitha is restored, allowing her legacy of kindness to continue and bless many more lives.

Women like Tabitha, whose love and care are expressed through generous acts of charity, embody the very essence of motherhood. They may not all be biological mothers, but their nurturing hearts and selfless service earn them a place among those we call "mother."

All the mothers of Mothers' Union (MU) fall into this special category. They are making a meaningful impact in many people's lives. Their generous contributions to women and men, young and old, regardless of race or religion, are deeply valued and admired. Because of their love, kindness, and motherly care for those in need, they build strong, lasting connections in every group they are part of. When they are absent, their presence is greatly missed. Many members of our MU, including our beloved Beth, are dearly missed and fondly remembered. Mothers are special and cherished for their steadfast care, boundless kindness, and sacrificial love. This profound love is beautifully reflected in the image of God as a comforting mother:

*"As a mother comforts her child, so I will comfort you"* (Isaiah 66:13).

Today, we honour not only biological mothers, but all who nurture, guide, and support with motherly love—often reaching far beyond their immediate families. Their quiet strength helps shape a more compassionate and hopeful world.

## *From the Chaplain's Corner:*

One of the things that I had to leave behind in England when we migrated to South Australia in 2003, was my being an Oblate of the mixed Benedictine Community (nuns and monks) who lived at Burford Priory in the Cotswolds. An Oblate is someone who has a particular association with a monastery or a convent and who follows a Rule of Life which seeks to incorporate the monastic spirit in their daily lives. One of the requirements of Oblature was to spend seven nights a year staying in the Community Guest House participating in the full worshipping life of the Community. I obviously had to let that go, as I couldn't make that commitment!



Burford Priory and Chapel - above

Interior view of the chapel at the Priory of  
Our Lady, Burford - Left



In 2008, the Community moved from Burford to a new purpose-built Abbey at Mucknell just outside Worcester. On a couple of occasions whilst in England since then, Jane and I were fortunate enough to be able to visit them for

the day, but I had never stayed with the Community as I used to do back in their Burford days. In 2022, I booked a seven-day Retreat at Mucknell, but unfortunately several members of the Community contracted Covid and they had to shut the Guest House, so my Retreat was cancelled.

I was delighted during our recent trip to England, to be able to book three nights at Mucknell, and to actually get to spend those three days and nights with the Community, joining in with their worshipping and working life as I used to before.





Mucknell Abbey - built 2008 in Worcestershire

Obviously, there have been changes in personnel over the intervening years, but there are still four of the Community there who I knew at Burford, and there are now seven new nuns and monks. What hasn't changed is the worshipping life and spirituality, and it was a real joy and privilege to enter into the silence, the prayerfulness and the life of the Community, and to step away from the hubbub of everyday life for a little while, and to reflect. (If you are interested in reading more about the Community, you can visit their website at <https://mucknellabbey.org.uk/>)

Later this year, I am planning an opportunity for members of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Adelaide to do similarly: to spend some time away from the hubbub of daily life and to reflect together.

**'An Oasis of Reflection'** will take place on **Monday 20<sup>th</sup> October** between **11.00am and about 3.15pm** at the **Church of the Good Shepherd, Plympton**. Please put the date in your diaries now – nearer the time, I will be sending out 'flyers' with more details.

Yours in Christ,

*Fr Simon*



Now is the time to be thinking about your contributions to the MU projects which are due by November 30<sup>th</sup> at the latest.

**Please follow the guide below** for sending monies to the treasurer, and give clear instructions as to which projects are to receive your gifts.

Healthy mums, Happy babies through St John's Youth Services  
(main local project)

Supporting Adult Literacy in the Solomon Islands  
(main overseas project)

Northern Outreach

Training for Indigenous Women

Ordination Candidates Fund

Disaster Relief Fund

If you use internet banking, transfer your subscription to the following account

BSB: 705 077 Account No: 00040376

Please be sure to **always** inform the treasurer about your transactions as those details cannot be picked up from the bank statement.

**The Bank SA account has been closed, so please do not try to use that account again.**

A number of subscriptions have still not been paid, so if you wish to continue to receive "The Link" and "Mia Mia", please pay now so that our head office can be informed of how many of our members wish to receive those publications.

Also a couple of you have paid your subs but not informed me. So please check that you have done so. I would rather know twice than not at all.

*Rose Miller*  
*Treasurer*



Last year, the Marion District Council planted three spotted gums on the Dwyer Road Reserve, adjacent to St Elizabeth's Anglican Church. The Rev'd Marian Giles, president of St Elizabeth's Mothers Union Branch, blessed these gums.



Now, a plaque has been placed on a rock close to the trees, explaining what they all represent.

175 years of the Anglican Diocese of Adelaide

130 years of the Mothers Union in the Adelaide diocese

30 years since women were priested in the Adelaide diocese

## **Subject: My Childhood**

I accept that we were from a different era, as I keep agreeing with statements like these.

My mum used to cut chicken, chop eggs and spread butter on bread on the same cutting board with the same knife and no bleach, but we didn't seem to get food poisoning.

Our school sandwiches were wrapped in wax paper in a brown paper bag, not in ice pack coolers, but I can't remember getting e. Coli

We all took PE ..... And risked permanent injury with a pair of Dunlop sand-shoes instead of having cross-training athletic shoes with air cushion soles and built in light reflectors that cost as much as a small car. I can't recall any injuries but they must have happened because they tell us how much safer we are now.

We got the cane for doing something wrong at school, they used to call it discipline yet we all grew up to accept the rules and to honour & respect those older than us.

We had 50 kids in our class and we all learned to read and write, do maths and spell almost all the words needed to write a grammatically correct letter.

We all said prayers in school irrespective of our religion, sang the national anthem and no one got upset.

Staying in detention after school caught all sorts of negative attention we wish we hadn't got, both at school and then at home.

Oh yeah .... And where was the antibiotics and sterilisation kit when I got that bee sting? I could have been killed!

We played "King of the Hill" on piles of gravel left on vacant building sites and when we got hurt, mum pulled out the 2/6p bottle of iodine and then we got our backside spanked. Now it's a trip to the emergency room, followed by a 10 day dose of antibiotics and then mum calls the lawyer to sue the contractor for leaving a horribly vicious pile of gravel where it was such a threat.

To top it off, not a single person I knew had ever been told that they were from a dysfunctional family. How could we possibly have known that?

We never needed to get into group therapy and/or anger management classes. We were obviously so duped by so many societal ills, that we didn't even notice that the entire country wasn't taking Prozac!

How did we ever survive?

LOVE TO ALL OF US WHO SHARED THIS ERA.  
AND TO ALL WHO DIDN'T, SORRY FOR WHAT YOU MISSED.



## ***South Eastern Deanery gathering***

The South East Deanery gathering was hosted by St Saviour's, Glen Osmond on 30<sup>th</sup> July. Every branch was represented commencing with a service in the St Stephen's Chapel,



St. Stephen's Chapel showing the windows which came from the St Stephen's Church which joined with St. Saviour's some 20 years ago.

Members adjourned to the meeting room for afternoon tea and to hear from our guest speaker, Anne Monceaux, a parishioner and Mayor of Burnside. Anne spoke of her experiences on Burnside Council and how her faith as a Christian gave her resilience in coping with the challenges in that role. Anne spent most of her adult life as a teacher before retiring and running for Burnside Council. She finished her talk with a quote from Psalm 37 ...."Trust in the Lord, and do good; dwell in the land and feed on His faithfulness."



Anne (standing) being presented with flowers by President Lesley Fenton after her talk.

Members of the SE Deanery (below)





## Overseas Project Target

2025-27

### Melanesian Adult Literacy Project

AMUA is supporting MU in the Solomon Islands to implement an Adult Literacy Program in three dioceses:

- Diocese of Ysabel
- Diocese of Malaita
- Diocese of Guadalcanal

When women can read and write, they are able to participate in prayer and worship, understand what is happening in the world around them, and respond appropriately to the day-to-day needs of their families

**Outcome 1:**

More women at the grassroots level can read or write and are confident to take on leadership

**Outcome 2:**

Women engaging in business or income generating activities and are more independent or self-reliant

**Outcome 3:**

More stable families with drop in the level of abuse and violence

Issues such as equality, gender-based violence, safety and security, disaster resilience and other issues that pose risks to families are better realised and can be proactively managed when members of society are equally literate.



# Healthy mums Happy babies



Empowering young mums to create bright futures.

**St John's Youth Services is excited to partner with the Mothers' Union, Diocese of Adelaide to support young mums and their babies.**

Healthy Mums, Happy Babies supports young mums by providing a nurturing environment where young mums can develop the skills and confidence they need to build a stable and happy future for themselves and their children.



-  Personalised support
-  Parenting workshops
-  Health and wellbeing
-  Education and work
-  Safe accommodation

**Together, we're creating a future where every young mum and her baby can thrive.**

## 2025 Diary Dates

<b>September</b>	
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> Morning tea 9.45am	<b>Film morning</b> Capri, Goodwood Rd
<b>October</b>	
Sunday 12 <sup>th</sup> 4pm	<b>Blessing of the Pets at</b> St David's Burnside
Monday 20 <sup>th</sup> 10.30am	<b>Oasis of Reflection</b> Church of the Good Shepherd, Plympton
<b>November</b>	
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> 10.15am	<b>Council Meeting</b> 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 &amp; 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 December "Link" are  
due by November 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, pray-  
ers, 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.**