ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

Joining the dots
…… + ……. = ?

The Mustard Tree

Mothers Union
Diocese of Bunbury
Summer 2026-7
Birak -Bunuru

Distributed as a supplement to the 'Mia Mia'

Country Rally 2026 - what a joyful occasion!

Dunsborough Branch welcomed MU members from around the diocese for our Country Rally this year. We began with a Eucharist in beautiful St George's church. Technology is amazing; members from the Albany branch joined us on Zoom, along with our Archdeacon and Administrator Geoff Chadwick, who not only worshipped with us, but also preached the sermon via Zoom!



The Archdeacon preaching via Zoom



Dunsborough members receive their 5 year awards

The AGM followed the service, where we presented long-service awards, including to many members of our branch who had reached 5 years in MU. Our president, Judy Lundie, was recognised for 40 years of membership! The diocesan president, Isobel Shortreed, also presented life membership to Glenda Marshall and Julie Gent.

The President addressing the AGM



We then moved to the Family Centre, where we enjoyed a fabulous lunch, catered by volunteers from Dunsborough's community kitchen ministry: Manna and Mercy. After a two course lunch, guest speakers from the Dunsborough branch spoke on the theme of the day, Joining the Dots: God, Church and Community.

Members spoke about how the branch has integrated into a busy parish and how it helps the parish join the dots between God and the Community in Dunsborough. Di Gillett spoke about the Prayer Quilt Ministry and Biennial Quilt Show; Fay Roocke spoke about the biennial Christmas Tree exhibition; and Cn Justine Richmond spoke about the dedicated MU ministries such as Christmas Baskets, Cuppa on the Verandah and Family Violence Outreach. She also spoke about a long list of other ministries and community organisations which MU members are a part of, including Manna & Mercy, Op Shop, Share & Care Food Relief and Recycling Program and a new ministry, the Joyful Voices Dementia Friendly Choir.

We were very pleased to host the Country Rally in 2026 and share something about how we "Join the Dots" here in Dunsborough.











Presentations during the Rally lunch

Wishing you all a wonderful and joyful Christmas!
God bless us, every one !





From the President -

Greetings to all Members across our broad diocese! November has arrived and with it the hurly burly of Advent and Christmas, planning with family and friends and generally getting stressed and over- tired!
So, it would do us well to step back and remember that Jesus arrived without ceremony in a plain place with only the stars and humble shepherds to welcome him. Mary and Joseph didn't have time to get to the very last sale at David Jones; or the Christmas market at Gilbert's Fresh Foods!

As I watch television at this time of year, I get quite overwhelmed at the amount of advertising which shows huge laden tables, endless gifts and all the family members in good humour. The reality for many people is far from that; and I would like us to remember all those for whom Christmas just does not happen.

I'd like us to remember the families who will be lucky to have paid off their credit cards by the time next Christmas comes around. It's a time of year when the disparity between wealthy and poor is highlighted in our community.

Thank goodness for Mothers Union who, I know, will be involved in many community projects to make Christmas better for families. The cards that we made at Friendship Day will be used to give to those in nursing homes who no longer have any family to send them a card.

The Angel Tree Project will ensure that children of prisoners receive a gift from their parent – and their carers will also receive a small gift. Community lunches will be held, carols in the park sung and prayers sent for all who have not.

The gifts that Jesus brought cost no money at all – which does not mean that they are cost free! – love; forgiveness; kindness and compassion. Perhaps they are the most costly of all, demanding a true gift from the heart.

It has been a very busy year, and I hope that each one of you has Christmas in whatever form it takes for you. Have a time of blessed peace and rest before we even start to think of next year!

Wishing you a safe, peace filled and very happy Christmas …

Isobelle Shortreed - President

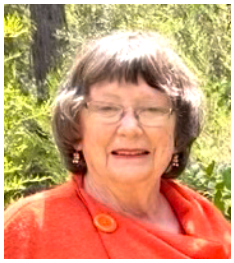
ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION

2026 Service Awards

5 Year	All inaugural members	Dunsborough	40 years	Judy Lundie	Dunsborough
20 Year	Ana Ord	Busselton	45 Year	Colleen Brooks	Albany
	Sylvia Spicer	Katanning	50 Year	Cynthia Kowald	Katanning
25 Year	Maureen Lenson	Albany	60 years	Veronica Branch-Smith	Busselton
30 Year	Margaret Rennick	Bunbury	65 years	Mary Skinner	Busselton

Dates for 2027 -

Lady Day	- Tuesday April 6th	Bunbury
Friendship Day	- Thursday July 29th	Donnybrook
Country Rally -	- Thursday October 21st	Busselton



From the Editor … in glorious Technicolor!

Our Mustard Tree printer assures me that, with their new photocopier, colour printing is not so horrendously expensive, so we decided to make our last printed Mustard Tree a colourful one.

Perfect love casts out fear…

I recently had a birthday and one of my presents was a book of prayers by the late Michel Leunig. It is called 'When I talk to You' and is simply wonderful. I would like to be able to share some of the prayers with you, but copyright prevents that.

What is so 'different' and thought-provoking about the prayers in this book is that they do not run along the usual prayer lines. Leunig address the unexpected, the things in our souls that we (well, I for one!) do not normally address. He talks of prayer as 'the little ritual which recognises the inner life and attempts to connect to it. This do-it-yourself ceremony where the mind is on its knees; the small ceremony of words which calls on the soul to coexist forth.This ritual known simply as prayer.'

The prayer in the book that has spoken to me very loudly and called me into question is one based on 1John 4:18 'There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear..'

In the poem Leunig writes that 'There are only two motives,…. Love and fear.' We do (or do not do) something either out of love or of fear. What do we fear? Being judged? Being punished? Failing?

As we come to the end of this special year let's remember just exactly what Mary Sumner did. 'In 1876, when her eldest daughter Margaret gave birth, she was reminded how difficult she had found the burden of motherhood. Inspired, Sumner publicised a meeting of mothers in the parish to offer mutual support. Her plan was quite radical in its day as it involved calling women of all social classes to support one another and to see motherhood as a profession as important as those of men, if not more so. The first meeting was held in Old Alresford Rectory, but Sumner was so overcome by nervousness that her husband had to speak for her and invite the women to return next week. At that second meeting she had gathered enough courage to lead her own meeting.' (Wikipedia)

She obviously feared failing, or of being judged for doing something ridiculous; probably both! But, during the following week she must have overcome that fear and it was her love for God and for those mothers she saw needing support that cast out her fear.

I remember many years ago when I was at a convention in Chicago one of our tutors, who was leading a session on prayer, asked us to come up with ways of addressing God that were out the ordinary. Hers was "O Thou Great Bumper-upper" !! In other words she was addressing the God who continually brings us up against our weaknesses - because that is one of the things that true love does.

Dear God, the great Bumper-upper, help us to act out of love, not fear, for the rest of our lives. Amen

Priscilla Broadbent: mubunburymt@gmail.com

Busselton Branch

Good gracious! Where did all that time go?

September is our annual birthday celebration, and we celebrated 110 years of MU in Busselton with a lunch at Hippo Lakes. It was very well attended (30) and we were delighted to be joined by Diocesan President Isobelle and Treasurer Sally, as well as our Chaplain, Revd Cathie and The Ven. David Ingleson, his wife Jill and 5 members from Dunsborough.

We are very proud of our new Life Member, Glenda Marshall and also members who received recognition for long membership -



Ana Orr 20 years
Veronica Branch-Smith 60 years
Mary Skinner 65 years

The photo left is a delightful pic of our President, Glenda and and Rev'd Cathie after Glenda received her award.

October saw us head down to Dunsborough for the Country Rally which was thoroughly enjoyed, and November will be our final Eucharist followed by Christmas lunch at Nova Village.

We are looking forward to hosting the Country Rally next year.

Thanks to all members of the Diocesan Executive who have kept us moving forward and 'joining the dots' during the year, and also heartfelt thanks to our own President, Secretary and Treasurer who work untiringly on our behalf.

Priscilla Broadbent - Vice-President

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News from Albany

Our June meeting was very low key. Several members were away on various trips, so after a brief meeting the group adjourned to the café at Handasydes', a local strawberry farm, for coffee and delicious eats.

In July our guest speaker was Lori Eli to talk about Family and Domestic Violence prevention. We had some outside visitors to the talk and have heard that some of them have followed up with requests for guidance. Well worth inviting guests from outside MU.

In August we had our Eucharist service in honour of Mary Sumner, hearing of her history and commitment. Over afternoon tea we then shared our own stories of women who had had a positive influence on our lives. Although several of us nominated our own mothers, it was interesting that others chose to talk about a boarding school headmistress, the local Girl Guide leader or an aunt or grandmother. Again, thought provoking and interesting. Makes me ponder on the 'ripple on the pond' effect- you never quite know where it is going to head. (Cont p 6)

In September we were taught how to use ‘finger labyrinths’ as an aid to meditation and mindfulness. We also touched briefly on thinking about what we wanted around us as we were dying. Family or solitude? Music? Funeral preferences?

In October we met to watch the live stream of the Diocesan MU service and AGM. At our meeting the following week we had a Eucharist service followed by our own AGM. We also acknowledged the recent death of our former member, Rae Dainton.

In November we will meet to have lunch at a local hotel as our end of year function.

Special thanks to Amanda, who has covered for the president, secretary and treasurer at different times in the last few months.

Wendy Minchin - Secretary

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From the Chaplain - The Revd Cathie Broome

Greetings to you all, my dear brothers and sisters in Christ,



Christmas is a time of celebration and family, but it also invites a deep reflection on compassion, humility, and those who are less fortunate, lonely, or struggling during the festive season.

Amidst the lights, gifts, and commercial traditions, Christmas draws us back to simpler, humble origins—reminding us that true value lies in kindness, grace, and human connection rather than material wealth. It is really a time of giving not only of gifts but also time – time for others whether family, friends or those in need. Christmas is very much a testament to the human heart.

Luke 2:1-20 - The Birth of Jesus

When we reflect on the actual Christmas story, it’s a rather humble and unassuming event. It occurred in a small town where individuals gathered to be counted for tax purposes. People had to pick up their families and walk for days to get there for the process of being taxed. I can’t imagine they would be too happy with that.

A 9-month pregnant teenager named Mary with her husband, Joseph, were seeking some kind of refuge and there was none. There was only a stable with all the animals, along with those staying at the inn with them. There was a birth where the nursery was a stable and the bed was a manger where animals were fed. I don’t think it was exactly the nursery they were looking for. It epitomised the ultimate in what poor and humble people do.

Today this humble event is celebrated in 161 countries, which is the majority of the world. The traditions may be different, but the celebrations are reflective of this simple moment in time. Rather than the retail marketing glitz with its lights, its sales, and all the fanfare, the original event was a serene scene with little more than a few shepherds visiting.

As we reflect on Christmas as a time when we consider the gift that gives life to us all out of the humility of a stable, a manger, and the gift of this child, may we take a moment to stop and give thanks for all God has done in our lives this past year and for His many blessings. May we remember amongst the celebrations that the true Christmas story lies in the humility of a simple gift representing salvation, peace on earth, love, grace, and hope.

Wishing you a blessed, Christ-filled Christmas season and wishing you quiet joy, peace in every corner of your home, calm days, and the comfort of the Christmas spirit.

With God's grace and blessings, *Cathie*

ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

ENCOURAGING FAMILIES THROUGH FAITH IN ACTION

3. Teaching to prevent violence: and to build Equality and respect

Commitment Three: Our church consistently teaches about equality, freedom from violence, respectful relationships and the honour / value of every person.

Ten Commitments for Prevention and Response to Domestic and Family Violence in the Anglican Church of Australia.

You are invited by the World Council of Churches to 'Be an ambassador in your words and actions for respect, security and justice for women and men, girls and boys.'

CELEBRATING 150 YEARS OF MOTHERS' UNION
Join Us, Join In!
Lighting the way for Generations to Come

DOMESTIC & FAMILY VIOLENCE PORTFOLIO

November 2026

vicepresidentdv@muaustralia.org.au
www.muaustralia.org.au

DID YOU KNOW?

One in three women has experienced physical or sexual violence.
More than eight out of ten girls have experienced street harassment before the age of 17.
Women and girls represent 70 percent of human trafficking victims
One in four children lives in a household with domestic violence
An estimated 246 million children experience school related violence each year *(Worldwide Council of Churches)*

Thursdays in Black

Thursdays in Black grew out of the WCC Decade of Churches in Solidarity with Women (1988-1998), in which stories of rape as a weapon of war, gender injustice, abuse, violence, and many related became much more visible. The campaign is simple but profound:

- Wear black on Thursdays.
- Wear a pin to declare you are part of the global movement resisting attitudes and practices that permit rape and violence.
- Show your respect for those who are resilient in the face of injustice and violence.
- Encourage others to join you.

(taken from WCC resources and webpage on Thursday in Black)
Other things you can do:

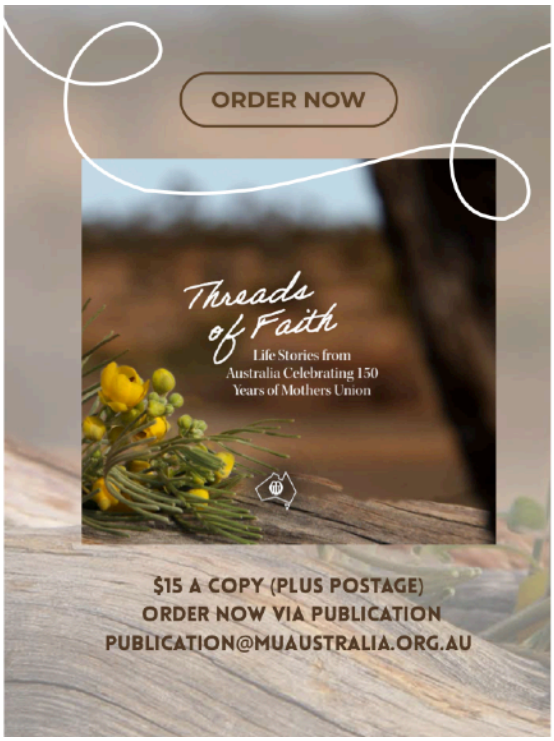
- Learn more: Thursdays in Black | World Council of Churches
- Undertake a Bible Study: https://www.oikoumene.org/resources/publications/thursdays-in-black-bible-studies-series-1

Often black has been used with negative racial connotations. In this campaign Black is used as a color of resistance and resilience.





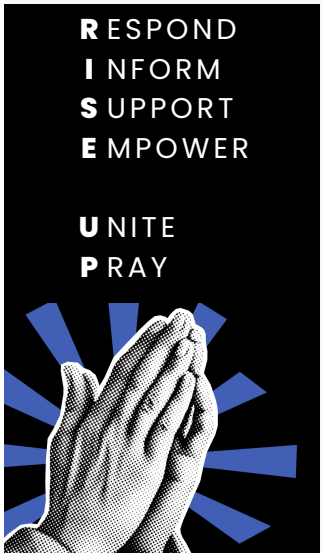
Have you (or your branch) ordered your copy of Threads of Faith? It contains at least 3 stories from our Diocese …Essie Kenworthy, Wendy Mabey and Glenda Marshall.



16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

25TH NOVEMBER - 10 DECEMBER

BUT I WILL SING OF YOUR STRENGTH, IN THE MORNING I WILL SING OF YOUR LOVE; FOR YOU ARE MY FORTRESS, MY REFUGE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. PSALM 59:16



Almighty and everlasting God,
We pray to you for those who suffer from gender-based violence.
We pray for the victims of such abuse and ask that you will heal, renew and guard them.
We ask that they will bring their cares to you who care for them.
We pray that we may see the end to such evil and a new day of peace and sacrificial love.
And this we ask in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen

ANGLICAN MOTHERS UNION AUSTRALIA

…. and news from Bunbury

Several of our members attended the Country Rally in Dunsborough in October and we all agreed that it was a very special day of friendship and sharing .We thank the Dunsborough Branch most kindly for their hospitality. They presented their new banner which is beautiful.

Unfortunately the Bunbury Primary School Junior Choir visit scheduled for our November meeting had to be cancelled due to unexpected leave of the music teacher, but we hope to reschedule next year. It is always such a lovely morning with parents and grand-parents joining us for morning tea after the performance. So in its place, our November meeting saw us starting to assemble several Christmas Hampers (we have been collecting non-perishable goods for a few months) which we will deliver next month to Doors Wide Open, the Cathedral Emergency Relief and to Pregnancy Assist .

Our Secretary, Diane, has been hard at work planning our schedule for 2027 and it promises to be a very good year!

As Bunbury Branch organises lunch for our yearly Lady Day celebration on April 6th (with many thanks to our wonderful member Lynne who does the catering), we have sent forms to all branches to ensure members have plenty of time to advise if they are coming, dietary requirements and make payment to your branch so Bunbury can be advised of numbers and payment made by 10 March.

We are now looking forward to our Christmas meeting and lunch which we share with members from the smaller branches close by. This year we are going to join Rev Marion in singing Carols which should add to the festive atmosphere.

We wish all MU members a blessed and peaceful Christmas and a safe, healthy and joyful 2027.

Val Duff -President

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Greetings from Mandurah Branch

As 2027 is on the horizon I reflect back to the busy year we have had. It is with a sense of pride to look back on 2026 and all we have achieved.

We celebrated our 67th Birthday in September. What fun we had celebrating with a High Tea! Members dressed up in their posh clothes and hats and fascinators.. We managed to entice “Carson” from Downton Abbey to work as our butler, to add a bit of theatre to the event. Julian Goss filled the role of Carson looking very handsome dressed up in tails including white cloves.

Christ Church’s Spring Fete was held in October. Mother’s Union members provided Devonshire Teas and raised $800.

At the Country Rally at Dunsborough, our much loved member Julie Gent was presented with Life Membership.

AGM – Two members joined our committee. Also we have another two new members who will be officially welcomed in 2027.

Guest Speaker Susan Davies spoke of significant woman in our community. We thoroughly enjoyed listening to the history of these amazing woman. This was a long meeting but we achieved a lot.

The Program for 2027 will take shape soon. Having a few more members on our committee will definitely bring some more energy to the Program.

Robyn Chalk (Vice President) has returned from 3 months touring up north in their caravan. She has been busy making plans for our Christmas Lunch. (*Cont on page 9)*

Wishing all our Mother's Union members across the region, all the blessings of Christmas and look forward to sharing events together in 2027

Maggie Goss - President

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New Life Member - 1 - Julie Gent - proposed by the Mandurah Branch



Isobelle Shortreed (President) and Rev'd Cathie Broome (Chaplain) welcome our new Life Members - Glenda Marshall and Julie Gent.

Julie Gent joined Mother's Union at St. Michael's church in Mt Pleasant in 1959. She then joined Bunbury Mother's Union. In 1980 she joined Mother's Union at Christ Church in Mandurah. She has been President in each of these Mother's Union Branches.

While in Mt Pleasant she was President of Caritas, which was part of Young Wives Branch of MU.

While she was President the group helped with fund raising to build a church. This group organised Old Time Music Hall events, and they were joined by their husbands who also later became members of MU..

Julie was also Vice President of the Diocesan MU.

This is an amazing history that should be preserved. Listening to Julie share her story was captivating.

Even though Julie is in her 90's she is still an active member of the Mandurah Branch. She participates in many activities and has remained both an active and financial member of our branch.

As a newly appointed President of Mandurah Branch I have been blessed to have Julie's support and encouragement to guide me. At times when I have had challenges in my role at meetings I look across the table and there is a huge smile lighting up the room on Julie's face.

To me she is the epitome of MU. She has lived her life helping others according to MU values.

Maggie Goss - President - Mandurah Branch

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New Life Member - 2 - Glenda Marshall - proposed by Busselton Branch

I was introduced to Mothers' Union and became a member in 1962.

I grew up up in a loving church environment. When we were teenagers our mothers were involved with the youth of the church. A committee ran a dance for us once a month in the church hall and, as some of the lads were Scouts, they also ran a monthly dance at the Scout Hall.

In 1952 St Matthew's Ladies Group helped with the organisation of a Debutante Ball. I was one of the debutantes and Roly Marshall, one of the church lads who later was to become

my husband, was my partner. It was a grand occasion held in the Boulder Town Hall and we were presented to the Western Australian Governor, Sir Charles Gairdner, accompanied by Lady Gairdner.

Roly and I were married in 1955 (The MU ladies catered for our wedding!)

A few years later, when I had two small children, I was invited to join Mothers' Union. I was given their Service and Prayer book and other literature to read. I was so impressed with the information and all that the organisation stood for that I joined. I was admitted to the Boulder Branch by Mrs Barbara Apthorp, the President and Enrolling officer at that time. Joan Shenton, who years later was the Perth MU Diocesan President , and I held a couple of 'Pram Services' hoping to form a Young Wives Group. Unfortunately, we did not get enough young wives interested so that did not come to fruition.

It was not until we moved to Busselton many years later that I was able to take a more active part in Mothers' Union. I have held office as President and Treasurer in the Busselton Branch, and a term as Overseas and Outreach coordinator on the Bunbury Diocesan executive.

I also had the opportunity to attend many State Conferences and festivals. These I feel were a highlight of my involvement in Mothers' Union, especially when we travelled to meet various Worldwide and Australian presidents. It was a great occasion when we travelled to the state conference in Geraldton, I think the only
one that had been held in the Diocese of the North- West. Going to Tasmania for an Australian conference was also a highlight to celebrate 125 years of MU in Australia.

It was wonderful when Busselton held a festival attended by the Australian President and other executive members. A visit by Florence Mahoney* was another great occasion.

During Joy Barratt's term as President of Bunbury she held several weekend gatherings at Busselton with members from all branches being invited. We all stayed in the CWA cottages here. We enjoyed study groups and various speakers. I particularly remember one session was 'Women of the Bible' - it was a great learning session. We also enjoyed picking a partner on one afternoon and doing an Emmaus walk.

To be able to reach out to so many people in the world through Mothers Union is such a great honour. I was touched when I read a passage in one of our overseas magazines in which a lady from Africa had written a small story and finished with 'Thank you Mothers' Union for teaching me to read and write'. By the grace of God, it is good to know that you have helped someone on the other side of the world.

When we received a video from Kapsabet thanking us for the knitted gifts we send, and the thanks we receive from people in developing countries who are so grateful that members on the other side of the world are thinking about them, we give thanks to God for enabling us to be able to support others in need.
I am so grateful to the Lord for my journey with Mothers' Union, and for the love I have shared with the wonderful people from all walks of life I have met and the life-long friendships that I have made.

Glenda Marshall - Busselton Branch in the Bunbury Diocese, Western Australia

Vale Rae Dainton - we were very sad to hear of the passing of Rae Dainton, of the Albany Branch. Rae was a wonderful wife and mother and a faithful member of MU and the church in the Perth and Bunbury Dioceses. RIP

News from Dunsborough Branch

Dunsborough Branch has recently blessed a new MU banner, designed and made by some of our very clever members. It was wonderful to showcase the banner at the Country Rally. The banner reflects our wonderful local region, and also some aspects of our mission in Dunsborough:



- The beautiful Geographe Bay and beaches we enjoy.
- Families are represented by the figures in the bottom left-hand corner.
- The cross on the rocks near the beach represents the annual ecumenical Easter Dawn service at the Dunsborough Boat Ramp, where many families meet at dawn to celebrate that Jesus is Risen!
- The grapevines represent the many wineries located in our region.
- The trees and gum blossoms reflect the beautiful trees in our church precinct.

The banner also features our church logo and the AMUA logo. We love it and hope you like it too!

Dunsborough Branch have been hosting a monthly Cuppa on the Church Verandah for about 5 years now. We hope to create a space where people can come if they would like some company and a friendly face. Our Op Shop customers are often delighted when they discover our MU members are serving a delicious morning tea on the third Wednesday of the month.

An Op Shop bus tour visited our Op Shop in October. Luckily for them, it was Cuppa on the Verandah day! The MU members had a particularly busy morning welcoming the group of about 30 people, in addition to our regular guests.





Cuppa on the Church Verandah

Some photos of the 2026 World Wide Gathering of MU in Durban.
(Thank you to Wendy Mabey)













‘The 150th anniversary has brought Mothers’ Union’s global nature into focus throughout the year, but gathering together in one place made that fellowship something delegates could see, hear and experience for themselves. There was a sense that this was not simply a conference people had travelled to attend; it was a family gathering.’