

In Mary Sumner's footsteps: Rationale

The theme for 2018 is **"In Mary Sumner's footsteps"**.

2018 is a significant year for Mothers' Union, with our triennial elections and the beginning of global conversations throughout the Provinces to inform our way ahead. As we look to the future we want to build on our heritage, and in particular, the life and vision of our founder, Mary Sumner.

Mary Sumner was a woman of deep faith, with a heart for prayer and a determination to make a difference in the lives of others. She listened to God and acted upon his call.

Contrary to what is often assumed, she was an older woman, a Grandmother, when she took the first steps which eventually led to the establishment of Mothers' Union. She was not a natural speaker, but quiet and diffident. However, her faith and resolve to follow God's call to make a difference to families and society, laid the foundations for today's worldwide movement.

And so our theme resources for 2018 will focus on the example of our founder, and on the core principles of Mothers' Union; listening to God and each other, having determination to take steps of faith as we journey together in response to His call.

The resources we have produced include:

Service of Thanksgiving
Mary Sumner Day Service
Prayers and reflections
Reflective prayer activity
Bible verses and Mary Sumner quotes
Listening resource
Bible reflections
Ideas for Branches and Dioceses