

AMUA Bendigo Diocese Newsletter



Our Theme ... Transformation Now

The angel does not merely say that “Christ is born; “ he says, “*for you* he is born.” He does not say, “I bring news of great joy”; he says, “*to you*, I bring news of great joy.”



This was originally to be an Advent Edition



Hope Love Joy Peace



From the Editor;;;
Welcome to our A4 version of Linked Together ... Time has been a bit short these past few weeks but hopefully you will enjoy sharing a little of what was intended to be our Christmas Edition of Linked Together in this A4 version . Ronda Gault

Leone Tress submitted this photo of members from **Nyah West** MU who donated Care Bags to Swan Hill District Health Aboriginal Care Unit . Members, Cliff, Lynne, Sylvia, Ada, Elsie and Claire are here with Michelle from SHDHACU.

Bishop Matt commissions **Reverend Suzannah Daniels [Zan]** as President of AMUA Bendigo Diocese for 2023 –23 during our 2022 AGM on November 18th.



Do YOU keep a Marmalade sandwich in your handbag?

7th Dec 2022

Dear MU members,

Thank-you for welcoming me so warmly into Mothers Union. Even before becoming an official member I had already experienced the famous hospitality and fellowship of MU particularly through the thoughtfulness of Jenny, Ronda and Rev. Peter. Three shining stars that have been lighting the way for years and from whom I have already learned so much and am looking forward to learning even more.

At our recent AGM I shared some photos of the important people that have **shaped** my life. Amongst others, it included my parents, a very dear friend, of course my husband and kids as well as two women from the Parish of Bendigo North. Carolyn Senter was one of my wardens when I was deaconed and looking after the parish. Her steady hand, wisdom and practical help were invaluable to me. As was the faithfulness, energy and knowledge of my sacristan Carol Fenselau. How would I have managed without them?

I am bringing your attention to these people because I have absolutely no doubt, that each and every MU member in Bendigo Diocese would have their name listed as 'an important person who has shaped someone's life'. As Bishop Matt said both at our AGM and at the National Council meeting in Melbourne, Mother's Union members and women in general, hold up our parishes and our communities. We hold them up and we shape them. Encouraging words from our Bishop!

It brings me a lot of joy to now get to work alongside you all in contributing to this work of shaping our communities.

As a new member and now President of MU Bendigo Diocese my first task is going to be getting to know the flavour of each branch, including what your passions are. Alongside supporting you in your worship and work, I'll also be working with Executive and branch presidents to start dipping our toes into the Domestic and Family Violence material that General Synod has produced.

At the National Council meeting in Melbourne this topic was given top priority in discussion groups. Some bigger diocese are naturally further along with their understanding of the topic and so the Victorian branch presidents decided to commit to meeting on Zoom throughout the year to share ideas, resources, challenges and strategies. We are stronger together! Before finishing, I want to bring to mention those whom are under particular strain this Advent. To those of you who have directly experienced or who are supporting family and friends that have been impacted by the floods, the prayers of your MU sisters and brothers are with you.

A traditional Christmas prayer: Almighty God, who has poured upon us the new light of you Incarnate Word; grant that the same light enkindled in our hearts may shine forth in our lives through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Have a very Merry Christmas. I look forward to meeting you all in the year to come. **Zan**



On 18 th November, the Rev'd Suzannah (Zan) Daniels was Commissioned by Bishop Matt to take on the position of President of the Anglican Mothers Union Australia (AMUA) in the Diocese of Bendigo following on from Andrew Howe and (acting) President Jenny Rainsford. (Photo)

Zan brings enthusiasm, and the new skills and ideas of a younger generation! Zan was recently welcomed to AMUA in St. Paul's Cathedral by the Dean, the Rev'd Elizabeth Dyke.

Zan is photographed with the Dean, and former President Jenny Rainsford and some other members including from the Karen MU group...**see page 3**

Zan was present at the recent national AMUA Council meeting held in Templestowe Victoria in November at which Dr. Robin Ray was elected as the new National President of AMUA.

Zan, as a diocesan president, automatically becomes a member of the AMUA National Executive.

AMUA in Bendigo Diocese participated in the 16 Days of Activism which concludes on 10 December. This is part of the focus on Domestic and Family Violence.

The Anglican Church of Australia has conducted Australia's first known national research into family violence within faith communities - investigating the prevalence, experience, and impact of family violence for those who identify as Anglicans in Australia.

Jenny Rainsford Acting President

A LITANY OF THANKSGIVING AT THE WEEKDAY EUCHARIST.

In faith let us pray to our risen Lord Jesus Christ, who is the resurrection and life of all who trust in him, remembering before him Elizabeth, Queen of Australia, whom we now recall in a moment of silent prayer:



For the faithful witness of our Queen,
We give thanks and praise.

For her dutiful commitment to her people,
We give thanks and praise.

For her loving leadership of Commonwealth and family,
We give thanks and praise.

For her gentle constancy amidst continuing change,
We give thanks and praise.

For her royal dignity in joy and in adversity,
We give thanks and praise.

For her kindly humanity to one and all,
We give thanks and praise.

We give thanks and praise for these divine gifts given to Elizabeth, our late Queen, and we pray that you will grant her peace; let light perpetual shine upon her;

and in your loving wisdom and almighty power work in her the good purpose of your perfect will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

There was an opportunity for MU members around the world to submit a [Condolence Message](#) to be placed in the [Condolence Book at Mary Sumner House London](#) following the death of our Beloved Patron Queen Elizabeth 11

This message was submitted on behalf of our members in Bendigo Diocese....

Mothers Union members in the Diocese of Bendigo, Australia give thanks to God for the life of our late Queen Elizabeth II, beloved Patron of Mothers Union for seventy years. Her example of dedication to her people, her sharing of her faith and trust in God and her commitment to duty and family, set us a high example. Her humility, humour and wisdom will be always remembered by our members. We offer our heartfelt condolences to her family and all who loved her.

Zan was recently welcomed to AMUA in St. Paul's Cathedral by the Dean, the Rev'd Elizabeth Dyke, and is photographed with the Dean, former President Jenny Rainsford and members from Cathedral and the Karen MU branches.



All members of AMUA Bendigo Diocese express their grateful thanks, appreciation and love for the effort and commitment by JENNY RAINSFORD, supported by Barry, ...to ensure Mothers Union continued functioning in 2022...in spite of ill health and other challenges....and we now look forward to working with Zan who will need our energy, and enthusiastic and understanding support, as we move into 2023 and beyond.

A NEW Executive for AMUA 2023—2026 at the National Level

was elected during the Australian Council Triennial Meeting held at Holy Cross Centre Templestowe between November 5th and November 8th 2022.

The Incoming Executive members for 2023 -2025 are

PRESIDENT : Dr Robin Ray [North Queensland] *Robin has been the Overseas and Northern Outreach Co-ordinator for the past 6 years.*
PAST PRESIDENT Anne Kennedy Melbourne
VICE PRESIDENTS: Elaine Longford Melbourne
 Elizabeth Parker Armidale
MIA MIA Christine Brain Perth
TREASURER Marilyn Robey Bathurst
SECRETARY Sue Milright Queensland
PRAYER & SPIRITUALITY Christine Jensen Sydney
OVERSEAS & NORTHERN OUTREACH Wendy Maybey Bunbury
SOCIAL ISSUES & ACTION Susan Skowronski Queensland
PUBLICATIONS Rob Kennedy Melbourne
PROMOTION & DEVELOPMENT Kristi Day North Queensland

Meanwhile , in **BENDIGO DIOCESE** following our 2022 AGM, the slim 2023-25 Executive is ...
 Reverend Zan Daniels **PRESIDENT** Appointed
 Reverend Peter Dyke **CHAPLAIN** Honorary
 Ronda Gault **SECRETARY** [6/12]
 Anne Roberts **MAGAZINES**
 Leonie Strauch **PUBLICATIONS**
 Evelyn Mortimer **LIASON with DOCESAN MEMBERS**
 Jenny Rainsford **PAST PRESIDENT**
 Gail Brabazon **DATA BASE**
 As members can see we have almost a skeleton Executive AND NO Treasurer. Can you help?

YOU MAY NOT HAVE SEEN ! Dec. 30 2022

. *People in the world's most fragile and conflicted regions are in danger of experiencing extreme need in 2023, but few in the international community are paying attention, humanitarian groups say.
 The United Nations World Food Programme said 350 million people across the globe faced a hunger crisis, the largest in modern history, and it anticipated worse was to come. Anglican Overseas Aid and Micah Australia said widespread hunger was among the most pressing issue.
 * *'Gift from God'* church escapes central Victorian floods.... The Melbourne Anglican..... It was Mooropna !
 * Melb. Anglican also mentioned Jude [&

** MU Melbourne Diocese has generously donated money to our Diocese MU to be used to assist flood affected people to deal with mosquito attacks... for which we are very grateful. More news on the progress here in the next LT.*



And finally

How shall we celebrate 120 years of Mothers Union in this Diocese in 2023????
 Ideas and suggestions to Zan please

amuabendigodiocese@gmail.com

Or Ronda or Jenny

You may know someone who might like to bring our history up to date, building on the work of the late Phyl Reid ??

A Prayer for all those affected by floods in Australia

Loving God of all creation
 look on those whose lives have been stricken by the flooding of large areas of our country,
 Be with those who weep for loved ones lost
 Comfort those whose homes are gone
 Strengthen those whose livelihood has disappeared
 We see your face..... In the steadfastness of tireless rescue workers,
 In the generous hands of friends, neighbours and strangers
 In the guidance of our leaders
 In the words and prayers of countless people
 Give us the courage to rebuild our land renewed in hope
 through Jesus Christ our risen Lord. AMEN
Prepared by Bronwyn Fryar