

**Anglican Mothers Union Australia
Overseas Project 2019
Developing Peace and Reconciliation
in South Sudan**

Help Mothers Union train women in leadership and promote reconciliation in their communities.

Jesus said, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.' Matthew 25:40.

Donate through Mothers Union in your church or diocese. Find out more at www.muaustralia.org.au. Follow the links to Overseas and Northern Outreach

Do you check the Mothers' Union Website - both local and overseas? There is much to encourage us in our thinking about what MU is involved in. On the Australian site—there is the *Thought for the Week*, and you can also access the latest Mia Mia online. Do use all the tools available to help promote and further AMUA!!

Please support the MU shop as you have in the past - we are arranging for the travelling suitcase to be available for each region especially for the areas who find it difficult to get to Frankston. Make a day of it and take a packed lunch - there is a kitchen so you can have a cuppa, parking available. Arrange to have your branch meeting at the Vicarage — note: the rooms are **NOT** available on Monday or Tuesday mornings as the parish have playgroups meeting there — please contact the office to book your time! There is a sign board advertising MU out the front of the vicarage.

Are you available on a Monday, Tuesday or Friday to help out in the MU Shop?

Florence is in the office on Monday and Tuesday and Margaret Dunbar is usually in the office on Fridays. [A current Working with Children check linked to Mothers' Union is required by the Parish] Make a new group of friends and help MU at the same time!! Contact Margaret Dunbar or Florence as soon as possible.



Melbourne Diocesan Newsletter June 2019

Theme for 2019:

Listen, observe, act - in step with God

Contact: Diocesan President Elaine Longford
MU Office Address: 22 High Street, Frankston 3199
Mail to : PO Box 11265 Frankston PO 3199
ph. 9783 5062 : email: mumelb@tpg.com.au

Sharing
Christ's
love
by
encouraging,
strengthening
and
supporting
marriage
and
family
life

**Rev Judith Lake—Priest in Charge,
Heyfield, Diocese of Gippsland**



Judith's induction and commissioning went very well. There were at least 50 in the congregation – including priests from all over. Alison and Des Benfield were there from Castlemaine. Rev Carmel Hunter was also there as well as Jenny and Graham McRobb. Judith's mother, brother, son Ben and daughter Anne and her husband

were also there and Ben read the lesson from John. The Bishop of Gippsland [Richard Treloar] was very encouraging of Judith and I am sure will support her. The church will be celebrating it's centenary in Heyfield next year. The Church warden, in his welcoming speech, said they had been praying for a priest and for rain! This weekend they have had both!! Judith will [theoretically] be working 3 days a week and also plans to start an MU group in the area.



St James' Heyfield

State Gathering at Drouin



About 80 Mothers' Union members from across the five Diocese of Victoria met at Christ Church Drouin on 1st May, to explore how we can be part of the world wide MULOA experience.

The Rt Rev Dr Richard Treloar opened the meeting with a short address. The Rev Tracy Lauersen from Warragul led the first session—ending with the questions 'Where is MU focussed? Wherever it is MU should do it with prayer.'

After lunch, the second session included feedback, thoughts, ideas and plans which could be followed up.

Thank you to all the Melbourne members who made the effort to travel to Drouin—by car and train. It was good to see you there.

MULOA at Mornington

A regional workshop was held at St Peter's Mornington on 2nd May—and again, the members were encouraged to think outside the square. The Bible study for this meeting was based on Blind Bartimeaus: who was he and who does he represent in our community today?

MULOA at St James' Dandenong

A further workshop was held on Saturday 11th May. A small number attended but this was felt to be worth while by all who attended. The St James' president, Annie McDonald, who had also attended at Drouin, said that this second session helped make clearer some of the items which had been discussed at the first session. Members were involved and responded well to the questions, including "How do we most effectively make a difference?" And "What to you plan to do now?"

MULOA Prayer

May God enable us to become the people God calls us to be, and, in everything we do, may our lives honour the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

May God inspire and move us to action so that we fulfil God's will in response to God's amazing grace, so freely give to the world. **Amen.**

They have engaged with Christian women from other churches in providing opportunities for the wider population to worship together as one.

In our bi-monthly meetings we have the opportunity to hear what's happening in other churches and to learn about initiatives being taken in Christian service from other perspectives, as well as catch up on progress of our projects.

ACW sponsors the annual Winifred Kiek Scholarship which helps young Christian women Australia, South East Asia and the Pacific, to expand their knowledge through study of their field of interest. The Winifred Kiek Fellowship is awarded annually to a woman who has contributed to the wider church, Mrs Rathie Selvaratnam (MU Life Member) being the first recipient. ACW also coordinates Fellowship of the Least Coin collections, which helps women in under-resourced countries to begin business with micro-finance loans to help them feed and educate their families, and to develop confidence to play a greater part in their communities. Each year a Special Project nominated by State Units is supported through funds raised by members.

Sadly, as with AMUA, numbers have diminished, and financial support for this ministry to women has been disregarded by many of the major churches, including the Anglican Church. Hence, the uniting of the two unsupported Anglican and Catholic members to lead ACW this year. Support for women's ministry is slipping away, and although we believe we have a society that is 'equal', who is picking up the work that has been done by women, often for women, in the past?

ACW will continue to work for support and equality for women in the Church as long as we have a few people who believe this is important. If we don't have your physical support, may I encourage you to pray for the enabling work carried out by ACW?

Rev'd Anne Kennedy
Anglican Representative - Incoming Co-President
Australian Church Women - Victorian Unit

New World Wide President

In a colourful and packed Southwark Cathedral, Mrs Sheran Harper, was commissioned to her office as Worldwide President of Mothers' Union, a movement of four million members worldwide, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, The Right Revd Justin Welby. He spoke of the challenges that many Mothers' Union members face in their work of supporting the communities in which they live and serve, "in many places you will have to bear the cross of other people's suffering. Whether it's in Burundi, the DRC, Guyana, South Sudan, Nigeria or in towns and cities and slums, whether it is domestic violence, whether it is loneliness, whether it is spiritual emptiness, the Mothers' Union is there bringing hope and a future. So, make yourselves known," he said.



Australian Church Women Report

The commissioning of the new Presidential Team and Executive will be held at the Welsh Church, 320 La Trobe Street, Melbourne, on Friday 28th June, at 11am, with a light lunch to follow. The new Presidential Team will be led by Miss Loyola O'Donohue (Catholic Church) and Rev'd Anne Kennedy (Anglican Church). You are cordially invited to be present - please RSVP to Anne - ppmuaustralia@telstra.com by 21st June.

Australian Church Women was initiated by the wife of the Archbishop of Melbourne almost 60 years ago. A long line of MU members have represented the Anglican Church in ACW, and seen our previous reps, Una Birchnell, Audrey Binks, Lorna English, Erline Balmer, Ros Sahhar, and many others, contribute to this ecumenical group.

FOR YOUR DIARY

MULOA workshops to be held:

- 10.00am Wednesday 12th June at St Matthew's Glenroy
 - 10.15am Tuesday 20th August at St Paul's Geelong
 - 1.00pm Monday 26th August at St Stephen & St Mary Mt Waverley
 - 12 noon Thursday 19th September at St Paul's Ringwood
- Please support these events and get involved locally.

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## Mountain Views Mothers' Union

Invites you for a

**Service of Praise and Thanksgiving to Celebrate 100 years of Mothers' Union**

**At St John's Croydon**

**Guest speaker: The Revd Anne Kennedy, MU Australian President**

**1.30pm on Wednesday 19th June 2019**

**St John the Divine Church,**

**5 Toorak Avenue, Croydon.**

RSVP 12th June

*(Web admin Edit: personal contact details removed so please contact the MU Shop)*

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St Peter's Mornington MU meeting

10.30am on 4th July

Tony and Robin Hickson will be speaking on their recent visit to Kenya, Israel and Palestine with AOA. [see article in the latest MIA MIA written by Robin Ray who was also on the trip with Tony and Robin]

Contact: *(Web admin Edit: personal contact details removed so please contact the MU Shop)*

For your diary—cont.

St Michael and All Angels MU Beaumaris

You are invited to attend our fundraising meeting on Tuesday 3rd September 2019 at 1.30 pm in the church hall, 30 Dalgetty Rd, Beaumaris.

Our speaker will be Tony Hickson who visited Kenya and Israel with the Anglican Overseas Aid Board this year. He and Robin will share their adventures with us and report on the recent MU partnership with the Diocese of Kenya West.

You are very welcome to attend and enjoy an afternoon of fellowship together. Donation: \$10

Enquiries: (*Web admin Edit: personal contact details removed so please contact the MU Shop*)

About People.

Welcome to our new Melbourne MU Chaplain.

The Archbishop has approved our nomination of our new chaplain and sent his best wishes and *'be assured of my prayers for the coming year as you undertake valuable mission work in the Melbourne Diocese'*.

We are very pleased to announce that The Rev'd Carmel Hunter from St Albans, St Albans, has agreed to accept this position. She attended her first Executive meeting on 3rd June.

Farewell to our Friend, Florence.

After four years in the MU office, Florence is leaving at the end of June. We will miss her quiet efficiency in whatever task she took on and wish her all the best for whatever the future holds for her. She has been a great support to the Hostesses and Executive.

Welcome, Helen

We will welcome Helen Ju to the office as from the beginning of July. Helen will be with Florence for a couple of weeks to ensure a smooth beginning to her role in the office. Helen is a member of St Paul's Frankston parish and arrived in Australia four years ago. She is married and has a three year old daughter. Please make Helen welcome when you make contact with the office.

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## CASUAL VACANCY ON EXECUTIVE.

Joanne Venville has finished her valuable contribution to Executive as Overseas and Northern Outreach/Links coordinator. She has kept us up to date with all that is going on globally in this department and we thank her for that. If you feel you would like to continue Joanne's valuable work, speak to a member of executive - you will need to be able to prepare and access data on computer and be prepared to maintain contact with the wider Diocese. The Australian Overseas and Northern Outreach coordinator would be one of your main contacts and sends out regular updates. You would also be responsible for producing the annual Wave of Prayer service booklet — there are other members who would be available to help with this.

NB this year's Wave of Prayer service booklet has already been produced, as it needed to be available for distribution to branches before our designated dates — 30th July to 1st August.