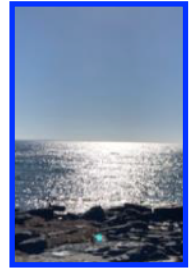




*Be salt  
and light  
-  
shine  
brightly!*



*Mothers Union  
Diocese of Bunbury  
Spring 2024  
Djilba - Kambarang*

*Distributed as a  
supplement to the  
'Mia Mia'  
Magazine*



*From the Editor ...* I must say that as I sit here in my office/study it does not feel much like Spring! It is almost the end of August -15 deg outside, but 'feels like' 10.9'. But at least the sun is shining and there has been lots of rain here in Busselton. So we have much to thank God for.

But my mind is still in hibernating 'go-slow mode'. However, this is all part of life and I have no doubt that Our Lord felt this way sometimes.

Recently at the Mary Sumner Day Eucharist at St Mary's in Busselton our Rector spoke about our 'salt and light' theme for this year. He made an interesting point - Jesus did not say 'You should become the salt of the earth,' or 'You must work hard to be the light of the world'. He said 'You ARE the salt of the earth and you ARE the light of the world.'

'The Beatitudes are not imperatives telling us how to achieve this blessedness. Jesus is describing certain qualities that define the character of true believers, who are blessed by God.' (Rev. Christopher J. Gordon, Escondido United Reformed Church in Escondido, Calif.)

It is inherent in our Christian lives that WE ARE light and salt and we must not be afraid. In the pictures below the insect just IS light. The pile of salt just IS salt.

And in the centre frame we are reminded that we ARE the Church.



*I am the Church !  
You are the Church !  
We are the Church  
together !*  
*Together in Song 467*



In this edition we have news from the Branches, more on Liz Byleveld's travels and an interesting item on page 9 from the archives. Thank you to all contributors.  
mubunburymt@gmail.com



## *From the President* *Spring 2024*

**The downsizing process is a mourning process and cannot be done in one shot. Underneath it all, it really is an ongoing psychological battle.**

<https://housesi+ngmagazine.com/declutter-your-life/>

Ian and I are currently downsizing our lives. We are not retiring and hope we still have at least a few years before this becomes our reality. Nevertheless, as we took stock of our current circumstances and assessed our capacity to continue doing the things we do within the framework of our living arrangements, we came to the conclusion that, to best enable ourselves to continue in our ministries, some adjustments needed to be made. And so we are about to move out of the parish rectory, a large four bedroom, two bathroom, multiple living space home set on a large block with a sizeable garden and outdoor living areas. We are moving into a modest home in a lifestyle village with no garden to speak of; with just enough room for the cactuses and succulents that will come in their pots, and a spot for Dusty, the dog.

The first step has been to declutter. I started with that which was easy for me, going room to room, cupboard to cupboard, deciding what to let go of, what to give away, what to send to the Op Shop and what to set aside for the upcoming parish fete. Going through the office, emptying the filing cabinet (which is not making the move), much has gone through the paper shredder. The display cabinets have proven more challenging. We have four and only two will be coming with us. The first sweep was easy, there was much of no real sentimental value that we never use and never pay any mind to. The second sweep took more effort as harder decisions had to be made. It is an evolving process as we determine what really is important to us. Needless to say, the last room to get my attention is my sewing and craft room. I am not ready yet to face that challenge!

Mothers Union too is facing challenges, needing to take stock of its current circumstances and assess its capacity to continue doing the things it has been doing within the framework of the environment in which it currently operates. On an international level this has included an assessment over the past few years of the viability of the model of operation that existed prior to the outbreak of the Covid pandemic at the start of 2020. Many changes have already been made and more are to come. Mary Sumner House, which became a major conference centre when its rooms were renovated a number of years ago following the closure of its accommodation facilities, no longer generates income from bookings of the magnitude needed to maintain such a major building and meet the operational costs of

Mothers Union. Adjustments will need to be made if Mothers Union is to continue its ministries.

It will not be without pain; hard decisions will have to be made as to what to let go and what to hold on to. Nationally, we have recently adopted a revised AMUA Handbook. Part of the rationale was the need to declutter the document, to remove unnecessary and, in a few cases, redundant content, and to rearrange what was left into a more user-friendly format. Another reason for the revision was the recognition that we needed to adjust the expectations on branches and dioceses with regard to their formal structures and the methods of operation needed to respond to the realities of our circumstance. What is most important is that, as we provide the opportunity for a downsizing in these areas, we maintain an environment where the ministries of Mothers Union have the capacity to continue to flourish, where we have the capacity to continue to live out our vision and our objectives, where we continue to walk in Mary Sumner's footsteps and to uphold our calling to prayer and action.

Every blessing

*Wendy*

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## A letter from Kapsabet to the Diocesan President

Dear Wendy,

RE: Letter of Appreciation

We send you Christian greetings, hoping this letter finds you well.

On behalf of Mothers Union Department, Anglican Diocese of Kapsabet, I am writing to extend our deepest gratitude to the Diocese of Bunbury for allowing Miss Elizabeth Byleveld to visit us from January-May 2024.

During her stay, Elizabeth was able to join the Mothers in numerous ministry programs and initiatives that have been well appreciated by our rural communities. Her efforts in reaching out during various outreach activities, workshops, and fellowships have strengthened our bonds and enriched our collective faith. She was also able to witness the ministry in Kimngoror health centre where the knitted sweaters and all other baby clothing contributed across Bunbury Diocese are of great help with support from Rev'd Cathie Broome and the Parish of Donnybrook. Her ability to connect with individuals and groups has been profoundly inspiring and beneficial to our diocese.

As her time with us comes to a close on 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024 after five months, we are confident that the experiences and insights she has gained from her interaction with Mothers Union in our Parishes will be of great value to her ministry in your diocese.

We are immensely grateful for the opportunity to have had Elizabeth with us and highly recommend her for future mission work or any other roles she may undertake. Her time



here has demonstrated her remarkable abilities and dedication to service, and we believe she will continue to be a tremendous asset wherever she goes.

Thank you once again. We look forward to continued collaboration and mutual support between the Diocese of Kapsabet and the Diocese of Bunbury.

With warm regards and heartfelt appreciation,

Mrs Seline Kori President, Diocese of Kapsabet ;  
Mothers Union Department



*Liz Byleveld wearing a couple of her outfits from Kenya.*



Liz Byleveld has been very much 'around and about' during the last 2 months!



### *From the Branches - Christ Church Mandurah*

The ladies during July meeting were very busy replenishing the cupboard with joy bags due to a lot of illness in the community. This August we met on the 21st and cheered ourselves up by making chaplets (pictured left). 17 ladies attended and it was a delightful gathering. One member celebrated her 80th birthday, Sally Bone, who a lot of you may know. One member went to be with her Maker who was a faithful servant, - Audrey White. May she rest in peace.

### *Boyanup*

Three members joined the Bunbury Branch for their August meeting. Following the Eucharist and a tasty morning tea Liz Byleveld gave an interesting talk on her time in Kapsabet. Meryl, Margaret and Kerry thoroughly enjoyed the morning and thank Bunbury for the invitation.

Since our August meeting falls on Mary Sumner Day we plan to acknowledge this with a special service at St George's church.

## *From the Branches - Dunsborough*

Our June Meeting was held in the home of Fay Roocke as she is co-ordinating our Christmas Tree Display to be held in December. Some of the Christmas decorations received a make- over and some new ideas were explored.

In July we enjoyed a visit from Liz Byleveld who has recently returned from working as a volunteer with MU Members in the Diocese of Kapsabet. We heard first hand of her experiences, and she displayed some of the gifts she received of jewellery, clothing and local handicrafts. In speaking to us, Liz showed the sensitivity and christian care that she shared with local women and their families during her time in Kapsabet.

The 25th July marked our Branch's three-years-young birthday! To celebrate, our August meeting was held at Annie Brook Farm. We enjoyed a relaxed lunch with each other and afterwards browsed the jam-packed emporium!



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## *Albany*

In May two of us attended the visit of the Worldwide President in Perth. The Branch also had a social gathering led by Colleen and Rev Karen. We watched a film - followed by ice cream!

In July Liz Byleveld gave her presentation of her time in Kapsabet with the Mothers Union. This was a great gathering of 30 people. Liz wore her Kapsabet dress and displayed her gifts from Kapsabet.

A reminder of the new email addresses - President: [mubunburypres@gmail.com](mailto:mubunburypres@gmail.com)  
Secretary: [mubunburysec@gmail.com](mailto:mubunburysec@gmail.com)  
Mustard Tree editor: [mubunburymt@gmail.com](mailto:mubunburymt@gmail.com)  
Prayer and Spirituality: [mubunburyps@gmail.com](mailto:mubunburyps@gmail.com)



## WE CAN JUMP PUDDLES



Please join members of the Albany MU branch, for the 2024 Country Rally in Albany.

Date: Friday October 18<sup>th</sup>

Time: Morning Tea 9.00am, in the Dorthy Wood Hall  
Service in the Church at 10.00am  
Followed by AGM

Lunch 12 noon, at Emu Point Sports & Community Centre  
2 Birss St. Emu Point

Guest speaker - Rev. Dorothy Bailey

Cost per person: \$30 - this is the cost of meal and venue hire. (This is a subsidised cost, with MU Bunbury diocese covering the shortfall.)

Please RSVP by: **7<sup>th</sup> October** Make sure you tell us of your dietary needs.

For more information please contact: Wendy Minchin 98451220

Email [wendyminchin1@gmail.com](mailto:wendyminchin1@gmail.com)

Banking details - Anglican Community Fund Ref: Country Rally

BSB 706-001 Acc 3000 3081

### *From the Branches - Busselton*

St. Mary's Busselton Branch of MU were blessed with a special Eucharist service on Mary Sumner Day on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of August.

President Mary Watts welcomed 9 members and 2 parishioners to the service and gave a brief but informative account of the life of Mary Sumner and the subsequent "birth" of the MU movement.

Father Nick also spoke positively on the MU branch in Busselton being an integral part of St. Mary's church. Father Nick celebrated the Eucharist for us and following it, all were welcomed to share fellowship in St. Mary's Family Centre. In July we also welcomed Liz Byleveld and were fascinated by what she had to tell us about her time in Kapsabet. She is a wonderful young woman and we are sure that God will bless her in her next adventure of faith.

## Friendship Day 2024



For the past four years the Diocese of Bunbury has been holding Friendship Days for members. Held in a different parish each year, and not necessarily one where there is a Mothers Union branch, our Friendship Days are designed to be interactive workshops. We deliberately meet outside our major coastal population centres, choosing instead to travel to small worshipping communities.

This year we came together to Explore God Through Technology. Rev'd Justine Richmond, former teacher and school chaplain and now a parish priest, has worked with children for over 17 years. Using the knowledge and experience gained, she responded to questions from a baptism family, and the desire of parishioners wanting to share their faith with grandchildren and children who are disconnected from church and God to develop her presentation.

Apart from three people, Rev'd Justine, our diocesan president, and our chaplain, all those present were over 70 years of age, with several in their 80's. Age was no barrier to downloading and learning to use apps on mobile phones and tablets, some child focused to be used with our grandchildren and others for our own use.

Rev'd Justine cautioned us to not share anything with children or teenagers that we hadn't watched or read ourselves and to be mindful of crossing lines that parents might object to, to be inclusive with books, and be attentive to the theology presented in what we are sharing, especially if the family are not currently church goers. We were also encouraged to take an interactive approach to sharing with our grandchildren, to let them tell us things that comes to their minds and to encourage thinking by using 'I wonder' questions.

Members enjoyed watching some of the YouTube Christian based videos that are out there, such as the Cheeky Pandas and even got into one of the songs with actions. We also watched a trailer for 'The Chosen', which none of the members present had seen, but which is gaining in popularity as an accessible expression of the New Testament.

Rev'd Justine suggested that the use of technology should not ever replace quality time, but rather we can use it to enhance our sharing time with our grandchildren and allow us to live a little in their world while also inviting them to experience a little of our faith world. She also brought along some books that she recommends for using with children and young people – she even read a couple of the picture books to us. Having the books as a part of our workshop gave those that are super technologically challenged another option.

Following the overwhelming positive response to Rev'd Justine's presentation we are now planning to have her visit several parishes around the diocese, where Mothers Union branches will host a workshop open to all. *Wendy Mabey*



# *PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY*

We give thanks to God for the abundance of rain that has fallen throughout our Diocese since my May contribution to the Mustard Tree. Most areas in the grain growing regions seem to be off to a great start, however our dams still need more rain to get to 2023 levels. I know it seems that, since the rain finally started, it has not stopped, but dam levels are important.

However, sadly there has not been much progress for Peace in the Middle East, Ukraine, Africa with Myanmar experiencing internal violence. We continue to pray for peace for our world.

On a very positive note we have just finished watching the Paris Olympic Games with the Special Olympics commencing soon. How wonderful are these young athletes, and some not so young, coming together competing for their countries with joy, enthusiasm, sportsmanship and lack of malice. Well done to everyone involved with these Olympics.

If you know of anyone (they do not have to be family or a member of MU), or indeed an event that your Branch is hosting, that needs prayer, please let me know and I will add to the Circle of Prayer monthly newsletter. The Circle of Prayer is a group of faithful daily pray-ers who would love to include your prayer request into their daily prayer routine. If you would like to join the Circle of Prayer as a pray-er, please let me know, and again I will add you to the list. We are nothing without prayer, Prayer and Spirituality is nothing without prayer and most importantly MU is a prayer based organisation first and foremost. I give thanks to God for the very faithful and devoted group that are our Circle of Prayer and to everyone who stepped out in faith, asking for prayer for self, family or friends. Thank you and I do appreciate everyone's participation in this mission.

'Be salt and light: Shine Brightly' is the Bunbury MU Diocesan theme for 2024, I thought you all might like the following prayer.

## **A Psalm of Light**

The Lord is my lantern, I shall not falter.  
He goes before me on the dark and lonely footpaths.  
He lifts the shadows that wait around my door.  
He lights the empty corners of my room.  
In the greyness of doubt and uncertainty,  
He will guide me.  
In the darkness of hurt and despair,  
I shall seek His brightness.  
His light is constant and His comfort everlasting.  
I shall travel with him always.  
And He will lead me safely on the journey of my life.

*(The Prayers We Breath #197*

*Author: Iris Hesseldon)*



*Ann Busch* - Prayer & Spirituality Coordinator [mubunburyps@gmail.com](mailto:mubunburyps@gmail.com)





*From the Diocesan Chaplain - Reverend Cathie Broome*

Blessings to you all,

Great news, the seasons are changing and we can farewell the colder, wetter months and embrace Spring. Despite the occasional storms during this time of the year, Spring is a beautiful season. It's a season of renewal as buds appear on trees, flowers bloom, and birds build nests to welcome their young. This natural cycle of nature reflects the human experience of hope as we emerge from the dark shorter days into brighter days. Just as we leave winter behind and welcome spring, we can find hope in the promise of new life and the potential for spiritual growth and transformation.

Nature always brings hope and joy, especially in the springtime when often our spirits need lifting after winter. Watching the first signs of Spring reveal her beauty, and seeing the flowers grow and bloom, always fills me with peace and hope. My prayer for you all is that it does for you too.

*“Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens. For He chose us in Him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and blameless in His sight”—Ephesians 1:3-4*

In **Psalm 24:1**, David reminds us that *“the earth is the Lord’s and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it”*

God blessed us with beauty, a beauty unable to be fully captured by an artist or a photographer. Paintings and photographs are merely an imitation, a copy of what we can only experience for ourselves. Even the most talented cannot recreate the Master’s handiwork.

We are also made in His image. He chose us, loves us, gave His life for us, so that we might be holy and blameless in His sight. When we gaze upon the face of another, we are seeing God’s design.

When was the last time you looked into the face of a stranger and thought to yourself “God loves him or her, too?” I’ve become more aware of that thought recently. I find myself praying more for those I meet or pass on the street. For those whose lives appear to be filled with storms, I share a smile, hoping they **see Jesus** in me.

Mothers Union throughout the Diocese and world is every day reaching out to those in need, caring for one another, and I praise God for each one of you, as we together share the Love of God with those we meet.

With God’s grace and blessings, *Cathie*

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*From the archives – September 24th 1964. 60 years ago!*

*(Thank you Diocesan President Wendy, for this article)*

*Below is an excerpt from a branch minutes book:*

Inaugural meeting held in C.W.A. rooms at 8.30pm on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September [1964] following the MU service in [the] church for admission of official workers.....

The meeting was officially opened by Mrs F..., and the 3 objects of Mothers Union were said by all present...

Correspondence:

- 1) A telegram from the President & executive of Mothers Union with best wishes for our first meeting
- 2) A circular regarding the Diocesan Festival at which the Commonwealth President Mrs T Reid will be present
- 3) The Diocesan constitution has been received and discussed...

Mrs H..., our presiding member spoke about the Bunbury Diocese in comparison to the Perth Diocese...

Also Mrs H... mentioned several ways by which MU may help the church:-

- 1) Mid well communions
- 2) Corporate communions
- 3) Prayer groups...
- 4) Cradle Roll
- 5) Hospital visiting and a small gift for new born babies was also discussed...

This branch lasted for all of 8 years and its minutes speak of small numbers, lack of interest, lack of contact from diocesan executive, and lack of support for small & struggling branches.

Unfortunately, this has been the tale of many of our inland branches.

Here are the places where, according to our financial records, we had branches in 1948/49 (listed as they appeared in the ledger:

Collie	South Bunbury	Greenbushes
Narrogin	Cathedral	Katanning
Ravensthorpe	Williams	Kojonup
Boyanup	Margaret River	Busselton
Acton Park	Jarrahwood	Middlesex/Yardee
Greenbushes	Willyabarup	Manjimup
Donnybrook	Bridgetown	Harvey
Osmington	Brunswick	Cowaramup
Albany		



By 1978/79 this had changed to the following branches listed:

Collie	Brunswick	Bunbury Eve
Narrogin	Albany	Boyanup
Williams	Busselton	Mandurah
Boyup Brook	Manjimup	Bridgetown
Margaret River	Katanning	Bunbury
Harvey		



There were at this time also several Young Wives groups mentioned in the ledger.  
*More next time!*

## SOCIAL ISSUES AND ACTION REPORT

I heard some good news just recently, the State Government has given a \$350 grant to households for their Power bills throughout the State. This is really helpful even us as pensioners have benefited and as our power bill was much more than normal due to adult grandchildren staying in our Studio Unit hence a larger bill! Some further good news is that here in Katanning there are some new houses that have been built as well as the demountable units, it may take some pressure off.

World peace seems further away due to problems getting Israel & Hamas to come to a peace deal to stop the war there. In Ukraine the invasion by Russia has continued but Ukraine seems to be trying to create a buffer zone between them and Russia invading Russian territory in that area. We can only pray that things will change and agreements reached.

In some parts of Africa where there has been issues with countries such as Sudan and Kenya the Mothers Union has been at work also. The visit by Liz Byleveld gave us some interesting insights into what help MU can be in Kapsabet, for instance.

Our local Katanning Regional Emergency Relief Centre has had many calls on their services, but the Department of Communities has held Workshops in Katanning on 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> August, re a new women's refuge at KREAC a new homelessness response and importantly a new men's behaviour change program

The climate change issue does not escape our attention with huge fires in Canada and Greece very difficult for the people of the villages and towns affected by this.

We have many things to be thankful for and the help given by Boniface Care to the church in towns such as Katanning and Kojonup where we are able to assist the schools with uniforms for the children whose parents find themselves unable to do so. May we always be praying for those in need and give thanks for the blessings we have in our lives

In His service.

*Sylvia Spicer* - Social Issues and Action Coordinator



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### Here's some fun! - **Travelling to Heaven** - Essential information

ACCOMMODATION - arrangements for first class accommodation have been made in advance (John 14:2)

PASSPORTS, VISAS etc - persons seeking entry will not be permitted past the gates without the proper credentials, and their names registered with the Authority of their country of destination (Revelation 21:27)

DEPARTING TIMES - the exact date of departure has not been announced. Travellers are advised to be prepared to leave at short notice (Acts 1:7)

TICKETS - take the form of a written pledge that guarantees your journey. It needs to be claimed and its promises kept firmly in hand. (John 5: 24)

CUSTOMS - only one declaration is required through customs. (1 Corinthians 15: 1,3&4)

IMMIGRATION: - travellers are classified as immigrants since they are taking up permanent residence in the new country. There is no quota limit (Hebrews 11:16) *Cont on p 12*

LUGGAGE: - no luggage whatsoever can be taken, nor is it required. Full provision is made on arrival. ( 1Timothy 6: 7 Isaiah 61:10)

AIR TRAVEL: - those going directly by air are advised to watch daily for indications of imminent departure. (1Thessalonians 4: 17)

VACCINATIONS, INOCULATIONS, MEDICAL PRECAUTIONS: - not needed at all; diseases are unknown in the country of destination. (Revelation 21:4)

CURRENCY: - arrangements should be made to liquefy all assets and forward them ahead to await arrival (Matthew 6:20)

PLACE RESERVATIONS: - bookings are now open. Application should be made immediately (2 Corinthians 6: 2)

CORONATION CEREMONY: - the climax of the journey is the welcoming reception and coronation that greets each arrival. (2 Timothy 4: 8)

*Please take action as required on the various points given above.*

*Thanks to Joy Poustie (Busselton) for the above information!*

## **Mothers Union, Diocese of Bunbury 2024 Events and Dates of Importance**

**SEPTEMBER** 20th Agenda items for AGM to Diocesan secretary  
20th **Branch annual reports to Diocesan secretary**  
20th **Executive annual reports to Diocesan secretary**  
27th–28th Synod  
*Public school holidays 23rd Sept - 6th Oct.*

**OCTOBER** **Branch annual meetings to be held this month**  
11th Annual Report Book to be distributed  
11th AGM agenda to all branches and executive  
14th Executive members reports to all executive  
17th Executive meeting in Albany  
**\*18th Diocesan AGM and Country Rally in Albany**

**NOVEMBER** **Branch annual meetings to be held if not held in October**  
14th Mustard Tree contributions to Editor  
30th Branch annual returns to Diocesan Secretary  
*Public school holidays start 13th December*

**DECEMBER** 31st Financial year ends for branches.