



Wendy's Writings October 2024



*“Every morning’s dew is a fresh
breath of a new beginning.”
—Jessica Edouard*

Dear members and friends,

Each week I receive a short newsflash/update from Mary Sumner House. I share with you this week’s message:

We’ve been busy at Mary Sumner House (Mothers’ Union HQ) putting together our Prayer Diary for 2025. In between proofing, designing and drafting those all-important briefs, I’ve been reminded of the foundation of prayer that Mothers’ Union is built upon.

It’s encouraging to see members engaging with Midday Prayers on Facebook. The Wave of Prayer continues to be a source of guidance when we pray for our Mothers’ Union brothers, sisters and communities, wherever we are in the world.

‘First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for all people.’ – 1 Timothy 2:1

Let’s come together in prayer throughout this coming month – whether it’s digitally, on the phone to a friend or out in nature. Prayer is the thread that binds us together as Mothers’ Union, and it’s our joy to see you doing just that.

I am looking forward to seeing as many members as possible in Albany for our AGM and Country Rally on Friday 18th October. Branches are reminded that numbers need to be with Albany within the coming week. Please don’t forget to bring your banner, with banner stand so that you can be a part of the banner parade at the commencement of our Eucharist. We will be presenting service awards during our AGM. I have made contact with branch leaders who have members that I know of who eligible for awards. If you are a branch leader and have not had contact from me but believe that you have a member who should receive an certificate this year, please let me know.

Last month I advised that the caravan at the Anglican Campsite has been sold. It has been decided that it is appropriate that a Memorandum of Understanding be entered into with the Diocesan Trustees with regard to the positioning of a new van at the campsite, which will as clearly as possible set out the expectations and responsibilities of the MU executive, the Bunbury Diocese and the Campsite Manager. We are working toward finalising this.

As a part of the MOU, we will be setting aside specific weeks in the school holidays for branches and the executive to sponsor families to have a holiday in our van. If your branch wants to be a part of this new arrangement, please advise me without delay so that we can confirm this with the diocesan office, thus allowing the MOU to be completed and a new van purchased.

The restoration is complete on our MU Banner that has hung in the Cathedral since 1964 and the banner will be at Country Rally for members to view. In the coming months I will have conversations with the Dean of the Cathedral as to an appropriate place to hang this banner, in a glass case, given that we will hopefully have a new banner made in the not too distant future. I am looking forward to the presentation that Executive will have at its meeting on the 17th October where we will consider the new design.



These are some before and after photos that show the conservation and restoration process, which is not to replace damaged components, but to repair and stabilize what is present. Rinske Car has done exceptional work on our behalf. She will shortly provide a full conditions report on the banner.

On the 26th & 27th September Ann Busch and I represented Mothers Union at our Diocesan Synod, which was held at Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School. We commenced with a Eucharist and lunch, followed by the business session where we heard Bishop Ian's Presidential Address, received reports from the Trustees, Bishop in Council, and diocesan organisations, and considered motions which had been placed on the agenda.

Four motions of a legislative nature were considered, to adopt a Canon of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in relation to Safe Ministry, to amend our diocesan interpretation statute with regard to church workers, to amend the parochial statute with regard to parish finances and reporting, and to amend the parochial statute with regard to oversight committees and safe church. All four were adopted, with some amendment to the third.

There were three motions brought by members of Synod. The first called on the Synod to wholeheartedly support the project Hope25- Hope in an Uncertain World. The second, called for a reversal of a decision of the 2022 Synod which adopted amendments to the Faithfulness in Service document. The third was to make a Synod appointment to the board of Bunbury Cathedral Grammar School. The first and last motions were adopted and the second was defeated, as it was when this motion was brought before Synod in 2023.

Friday night Synod members enjoyed a dinner at the school. Bishop Ian once again gave Bishop's Awards to parishioners from around the diocese. I congratulate Colleen Brooks from Albany on receiving this award. Part of Colleen's citation acknowledged her involvement in and leadership of our Albany branch.

On Saturday morning we participated in elections for the new three year cycle of the Synod, received and debated the audited accounts and budget as presented by the Trustees, and listened to a presentation from Meagan Schwartz from ABM. Synod was finished by the end of the morning and concluded with lunch.

I remind you of our new executive email addresses, which I encourage you to use when communication with us on Mothers Union matters:

Myself (president) – mubunburypres@gmail.com
Jan Ritson (secretary) – mubunburysec@gmail.com
Diane Hill (VP & treasurer) – mubunburytreas@gmail.com
Ann (prayer and spirituality) – mubunburyps@gmail.com
Priscilla (The Mustard Tree) – mubunburymt@gmail.com

Every blessing

Wendy Mabey
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*Praying globally – serving locally
Supporting family life
Advocating for social justice*