

**Mothers' Union Dioceses of Edinburgh; Terekeka,(S.Sudan); Nairobi, (Kenya);
Maiduguri, Osun North, (Nigeria); and Calcutta, (India).**

Intercessions September - December 2015

The Mothers' Union Theme for 2015: United in Prayer

This develops the 2014 theme – 'Sowing the Future together', by focusing on the centrality of prayer in the work of Mothers' Union across the world

Jesus, Lord of life, by the power of your word

and through your actions of love, call us to be your disciples.

Give us strength to be different, to stand up for justice and peace

and be signs of your reconciling love for all.

*God of grace, enable your servants to carry out your mission on earth
through the work of Mothers' Union worldwide.*

SEPTEMBER

8 Tue The Birth of Mary, Mother of the Lord

16 Wed **Ninian of Whithorn, Bishop, 6th c.**

22 Tue (Consecration - Bishop of Aberdeen, 2007)

14 Mon Holy Cross Day

21 Mon **Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist**

29 Tue **Michael and All Angels**

OCTOBER

8 Thurs (Consecration - Bishop of Brechin, 2011)

15 Thurs – Trustees meet 10am Diocesan Office

20 Tues – Provincial Trustees Perth 10^{am}-2.30^{pm}

28 Wed **Simon and Jude, Apostles**

13 Tue Consecration - Bishop of Moray, 2007

19 Mon **Luke, Evangelist**

23 Fri **James of Jerusalem, Martyr, c 62**

NOVEMBER

1 Sun **ALL SAINTS**

2 Mon Diocesan Council

22 Sun **The Last Sunday after Pentecost** (Christ the King) Sunday next before Advent

Sunday readings Year C; Daily Eucharist and Daily Prayer readings Year 2

29 Sun **First Sunday of Advent**

2 Mon All Souls

14 Sat (C^{onsecration} - Samuel Seabury, Bishop, 1784)

30 Mon **Andrew, Apostle, Patron of Scotland**

DECEMBER

8 Tue Conception of Mary, Mother of the Lord

24 Thurs. **Christmas Eve**

26 Sat **Stephen, Deacon and Martyr**

29 Tue **John, Apostle and Evangelist**

21 Mon **Thomas, Apostle**

25 Fri **CHRISTMAS DAY**

28 Mon **The Holy Innocents**

Please use '**Families Worldwide**' booklet as well as the following prayers

We pray for all members. May God be with them in every part of their lives,

encouraging them and leading them, sheltering and strengthening them

So they may work to your praise and glory.

Amen

We pray for: All Office Bearers, especially those in our new linked dioceses, that we may learn about these links and find ways to contact them. We continue to pray for our informal links with Sri Lanka and that their new links will flourish.

We pray for: ‘On The Way’ – the Scottish Provincial Day Conference to be held on 24th Sept 2015 in Perth. We pray for the work of MU - Province of Scotland.

We pray for: Those we know who are sick, especially for Doris Bilton’s daughter Deana, home in a wheel chair after 21 weeks in hospital after a stroke and still badly paralysed down her left side. Give thanks that her speech and brain are working well. Pray for Doris and Elaine caring for her.

Pray for Beverley Jullien the new Chief Executive of MU as from 3rd August. Beverley joins us with great experience within the corporate and education sectors, including roles such as Vice-President for pharmaceutical company AstraZeneca and Pro-Vice Chancellor at London Southbank University. Beverley also set up a unique service for the 2012 London Olympic Games to develop professionalism in sports governing bodies. Alongside this Beverley has served on the Open University Advisory Board and she volunteers regularly within her local community. Both she and her family are active members of their local Anglican church and have been members of Mothers’ Union for several generations. Beverley said of her new role; “I’m delighted to be joining Mothers' Union. This offers a wonderful opportunity to apply the skills and experience I’ve gained in my career to a new role in the not for profit sector. I’m excited to be joining a worldwide organisation of over four million members, men and women working together to support families through fighting poverty and injustice and tackling family issues.”

Our Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, leads us in welcoming Beverley to our organisation; “*We are delighted to be welcoming Beverley to Mothers’ Union. As we look to build on our strong heritage, whilst moving forward towards our strategic goals, Beverley brings to Mothers’ Union her deep faith, her talents and her experience all of which will enable us to do more to transform communities worldwide through our prayers, our practical programme work and our advocacy.*”

- See more at: <http://www.mothersunion.org>

Requests from Jean Richardson received before the Annual Meeting in June: Please could you pray for A&O Coordinator, Juliet Ross, who, herself, is not in good health and whose father is terminally ill with cancer of the spine. Also keep Dolores Lewis in your prayers ; after a period of absence has left MSH. She has worked as Senior Administrator in F&CS for about 15 years. Her work schedule has been temporarily divided amongst other members of staff.

Pray also for Reg Bailey and his wife in their retirement.

Faithful in Prayer Bible verses: *from the MU web site*

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. *Romans 12:12*

Introduction:

Prayer is not overcoming God's reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness. *Martin Luther*. As we seek to be faithful in prayer on behalf of Mothers’ Union, let us take encouragement from God’s word. Reflect on these scriptures and allow the Holy Spirit to increase faith and insight into the value of our prayers.

Pray With Faith

The Lord is near to all who call on him, to all who call on him in truth. *Psalms 145:18*

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. *John 15:7*

And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

John 14:13

Pray With Determination

Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful. *Colossians 4:2*

Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray, not give up. *Luke 18:1*
Answer me when I call to you, my righteous God. Give me relief from my distress; have mercy on me and hear my prayer. *Psalms 4:1*

Pray With Power: The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective. *James 5:16*

Pray With Confidence: This is the confidence we have in approaching God:

that if we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. *1 John 5:14*

Let us then approach God’s throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. *Hebrews 4:16*

Pray Continually: And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people. *Ephesians 6:18*
Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

Pray With Thanksgiving: Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. *Philippians 4:6-7*

Harvest Time: We pray for our work in promoting the MU, that we may be faithful and persistent in presenting the MU to those who don't know about MU, remembering that ours are the hands and feet for this work. We also pray for your blessing on our farmers and those who work on the land and produce the food we eat. Guide those who legislate in this country and also in the European Union, that they may act for the common good and overcome wasteful practices.

Pray for Our *Bye Buy Childhood* campaign: Today's society leaves children vulnerable to many attacks that take away their right to be a child. This campaign was launched in 2010 to raise awareness of the increasing levels of marketing and sexual imagery aimed at and accessible to children. The campaign has already brought about a change in both industry and government. Pray that we may continue to support its impact over the coming years.

Our Focus - Promoting stable marriage and family life

Mothers' Union's aim is to be transformational. Our worldwide fellowship of over four million members brings Christian care to families of all kinds. The grassroots nature of our locally-based membership means that the focus of Mothers' Union is on promoting marriage and building stable family life within local communities. This care is delivered through our three strategic steps as we:

- * Pray for relationships to be flourishing and loving.
- * Enable development of all kinds: so that family life is strengthened
- * Campaign for social justice and for greater recognition of the value of stable family life.

When a believing person prays, great things happen." James 5:16

As Christians we know the importance of prayer - in our personal lives, as we support one another and as an essential foundation for our work as a charity.

Pray for help to engage effectively in prayer, guidance in articulating our thoughts and forming our requests; pray that we find appropriate space for this and help us to encourage each other.

It is good to be reminded of the truth of what prayer achieves and that God loves to hear our prayers and is ready to answer our requests, in his time and in his way.

- * Prayer connects us to God and God's power. Changes take place when we pray. Perhaps the issue is transformed, at other times we are the ones changed. Either way, God's power is at work.
- * Prayer is a way of sharing our burden. Some problems are difficult to share with another human being. The issue may involve deep guilt or shame, making it difficult to confide in a friend. In such cases, prayer can help ease the burden.
- * Prayer puts into words what troubles us. Identifying and articulating the problem can help.
- * Prayer reduces feelings of helplessness. Rather than feeling as though life is out of control, when we pray, we take the first step in reclaiming our lives and putting order into chaos.
- * Prayer is a powerful reminder that we are not alone. Life's troubles often leave us feeling isolated, lonely, and vulnerable. Prayer reminds us that we are not facing difficulty alone.
- * Prayer generates courage. We become strengthened, and more confident as a result of prayer.
- * Prayer provides us with a sense of direction. Rather than merely being tossed about on life's sea, we receive insight, guidance, and direction from prayer.

Resources to download

Continue to pray for the over 200 girls, who were kidnapped last year from their school in the northern Nigerian city of Borno. Please join us, and our fellow members in Nigeria, to pray for the kidnapped girls, their families and their communities.

15 Oct Pray for: Trustees who are meeting in the Diocesan Office in Edinburgh.

Wave of Prayer: 15th – 17th October: Terekeka,(S.Sudan); Nairobi, (Kenya);

Maiduguri, Osun North, (Nigeria); Calcutta, (India) and our diocese, Edinburgh. Pray for all leaders especially those who are being elected in the Triennial Elections and who will take up office in January. We also pray for members and office bearers in our previous link with Sri Lanka. We are currently developing themed resources to help us celebrate our new links, inspire us to pray and help us discern how and what to pray. As we work on these resources, let us ask God to illuminate the way he wants us to respond, equip us in our prayer life and take us forward on our journey with Him and in unity with members across the world.

When a believing person prays, great things happen.

19 Oct. Mon Luke, Evangelist: Pray for Doctors and nurses, all who work in our hospitals and for good reforms in the NHS. Pray for any we know who are in hospital, recovering from operations, receiving Out Patient treatment, awaiting the results of tests. (*Add the names of those you know*)

20 Oct - Provincial Trustees Perth 10^{am}-2.30^{pm} – Pray for the work of the members of this meeting.

2 Mon All Souls: Pray for those we have loved and see no more. Help us to remember the happy times. May those who grieve know your comforting presence.

2 Mon – Pray for Angela, the Trustees and those attending and making decisions at Diocesan Council at Christ Church Morningside - 10.30^{am} prompt.

Wed. Nov 11th – Remembrance Day – We remember those who have given their lives in the armed forces. We pray that the support given to those who still survive and those who have been injured in more recent conflicts, both mentally and physically, will receive better care and support. **Pray for** the people in the areas of recent conflicts, Israel, Syria and Iraq and the many other places around the world. We pray that those planning terrorist activities will not succeed in the mayhem that they plan to inflict on innocent victims.

Tuesday 17th Nov – Margaret of Scotland - 1093

Sun 29 Nov – Advent Sunday

Monday 30th November – Andrew Apostle & Patron Saint of Scotland. Observed also by Greece and Russia. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was originally a fisherman.

Tues 8th Dec – Conception of Mary, Mother of the Lord.

Mon 21st Dec – Thomas, Apostle.

Thursday 24th December - Christmas Eve.

Friday 25th December - Christmas Day – We give thanks for the birth of Jesus.

Saturday 26th December – Stephen, Deacon & Martyr.

Monday 28th Dec – The Holy Innocents

Tuesday 29th Dec – John, Apostle and Evangelist

Thursday, 31st December: As we look forward to the New Year, we pray for a better year ahead, for the Leaders of the nations and especially our Governments, both at Westminster and Holyrood, especially for the forthcoming elections. We ask you, Lord, to guide all in government so that they may act for the benefit of all. We pray for Bishop John and all the clergy in the diocese, that they may hear your voice in all they do.

Pray for the 2016 General Meeting to be held in Winchester, Mary Sumner's diocese, as we celebrate 140 years of Mothers' Union.

MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord We thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world. Bless the work of the Mothers' Union

As we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life. Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, And in love and service reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. *Amen*