

Dear Friend, Member of IMPC or Member who hasn't been able to attend meetings recently,

Bringing you up to date with our meetings, on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March 16 members came to hear Rev Sarah Lamb talk to us about Soul Food for Lent. On 23<sup>rd</sup> April, 23 including 2 men from the Methodist Church, came to hear Jonathan Challis give a talk about the history of flying with Manchester Airports.

We look forward to hearing 2 members of the Women's Refuges give a talk about the Refuges on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> May. On Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> June, Linda Smithson will talk about 'Working on Flog It.' We are collecting £16 for our Afternoon Tea on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July at the Thyme Restaurant. At EMU, on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> April, 15 of us shared our school photos and spent so long discussing them, we never did the Church Beetle Game! Then on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May, Roger Hussey talked about Fraud Safety. On Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> June, Jean Cooke and Jennie Sly will present a session on Poetry and Flowers. Finally on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> July, we will have a 'Jacob's Join' of snacks at June's home on Wilson Square, Little Bispham.

We continue to collect items for the Women's Refuge. They need any size of nappies, shampoos, conditioners and any cleaning items. They do accept some small kitchen electricals - they get them PAT tested before giving out and also accept plates, bowls etc and pyjamas.

Now we have started a new project with the Refuge to help literacy for the children in the Refuges. We will be collecting books for reading for the very small to older children. They can be pre-loved but in good condition-hardbacks are preferable as they last longer. The date I have to take them to the meeting is on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June at St Hilda's Bilborough

### How well do you know your Bible? Are these True or False?

1. The book of Hezekiah is one of the Minor Prophets.
  2. Rachel was older than her sister Leah.
  3. Jacob used branches from poplar, almond and plane trees to create his speckled flocks.
  4. There are 67 chapters in the book of Isaiah.
  5. The lame man who begged at the Gate called 'Beautiful' was over 40 years old when the apostle Paul took him by the hand and healed him.
  6. Jesus was with his mother at a Jewish harvest thanksgiving when He turned water into wine at Cana in Galilee.
  7. Luke, who wrote the Gospel bearing his name and the Acts of the Apostles, was a doctor.
  8. Matthew was also known as Thaddaeus.
  9. Reuben was Leah's firstborn.
  10. Ishmael also had twelve sons, just like Jacob.
- (Genesis 25)

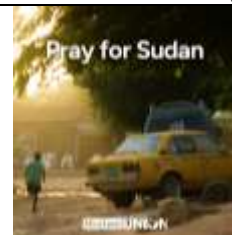
### Theme –Thy Kingdom Come

*"Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven."* (Matt 6:9-10)

Heavenly Father, we come before you with reverence, thanking you for the gift of the Mothers' Union and for the many blessings you have poured into our lives. May we always honour your name in our hearts, our actions, and our service. We pray that your kingdom will be made known through our work, and that your will be done in our lives and in our communities. May we continue to be vessels of your love and grace. May we as Mothers' Union be a reflection of God's holy name, always striving to honour Him in all that we do. In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen.



Kathleen Snow, newly commissioned Worldwide President of Mothers' Union visited Rome recently, she attended several Anglican and ecumenical events to represent the organisation, promoting our work and mission.



For the past 2 years there has been conflict in Sudan. In the last 4 days, (May 7<sup>th</sup>), the civil war has escalated further with the latest confrontation increasing fears of disruption to aid deliveries.

### Answers to 'How well do you know your Bible?'

- 1 False. There is no book of Hezekiah.
- 2 False. Rachel was the younger sister but Leah was given in marriage to Jacob first because the older sibling had to be married before the younger.
- 3 True (Genesis30)
- 4 False. There are 66 chapters.
- 5 False. It was Peter and John, not Paul (Acts 3)
- 6 False. It was a wedding.
- 7 True
- 8 False
- 9 True
- 10 True



On Easter Sunday; The Bishop Rt. Rev. Isaiah Obuya presided over the official Launching of St. Anne's

Parish Ebwanga with Rev. David Musana Ndalo being appointed as the Vicar in charge. The new Parish comprises St. Anne's Ebwanga Church and St. Mark Busidibu Church, Kenya. MU members in the new parish in Nambale Diocese to which we are linked.



### A PRAYER FOR THE NEW POPE

Almighty God,  
shepherd and guardian of all,  
we pray for your servant Pope Leo.  
Grant him grace to follow in the footsteps  
of the Good Shepherd,  
to preach the Gospel with boldness,  
to build up your people in unity and peace,  
and to serve them with humility and love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.



### On a light hearted note

Early one morning the husband and wife were arguing over who should get out of the warm bed to make the tea. Finally the wife folded her arms and said decidedly, "You have to make the tea. It's in the Bible!"

The husband was shocked. "It's not! Show me!" Pulling out her Bible, the wife opened it to one of the New Testament books and declared, "It says right here — HEBREWS!"

### *A Sheepish Recovery*

A devout old shepherd lost his favourite Bible while he was out looking for a wayward lamb. Three weeks later, a sheep walked up to him carrying the Bible in its mouth. The shepherd couldn't believe his eyes. He took the precious book out of the sheep's mouth, raised his eyes heavenward and exclaimed, "It's a miracle!"

"Not really," said the sheep. "Your name is written inside the cover."

### Sharing the success of our Educational programmes

Agricultural development for women in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda has helped them to grow food to eat, as well as grow food to sell at the market, to start their own business and become financially independent.

In other countries such as Uganda, the MU has conducted training to include music, drama and dance, in places with strong cultural beliefs that perpetuate gender-based violence. Elsewhere, the MU is working with young people in schools to raise awareness of female genital mutilation, with the MU in South Sudan combining safeguarding training

As encouraging as the sharing was, with all the above and more shared with almost 50 attendees, there is still more that we can be doing to put women's education on the global agenda. In September 2024, MU launched a new campaign, Empower Her Literacy, to raise awareness of women's illiteracy and promote the importance of educating women. The MU started a petition, contacted the government, and are actively working across the world and around the corner to keep women's needs the focus.

**I hope you are able to enjoy the sunshine that we are having at the moment. Yvonne our Deanery President, was able to attend the Commissioning of Kathleen Snow. She told me that next July 2026, we will be celebrating the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. Best wishes to you all. June**