



Choral Evensong

with

**THE TRIENNIAL COMMISSIONING
of The Diocesan President and Officers
of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Lichfield
by the Rt Revd Geoff Annas, Bishop of Stafford**



Tuesday 9 August 2016

***A celebration of the 140th anniversary
of the founding of Mothers' Union
on Mary Sumner Day***

The singing is led by the Mothers' Union Diocesan Choir
conducted by Marion Standing.

WELCOME

It is with enormous pleasure that the Cathedral Chapter welcomes you today in offering prayer and praise to Almighty God as you commission new officers and a chaplain here in the Mother Church of the Diocese in this, the 140th anniversary year of the worldwide Mothers' Union. You are warmly welcome as you take your own proper place in your spiritual home.

PRACTICALITIES

In the unlikely event of an emergency, please remain quiet and respond calmly and promptly to the directions of the stewards.

Lavatories are located opposite the Old Stables in the south-east corner of the Close. Facilities for the disabled are in College Hall, also on the south side of the Cathedral. Please ask a steward for directions.

giftaid it It costs nearly £6 per minute to keep Lichfield Cathedral open and running, offering free entry and open-door hospitality to the city, region, and beyond. English Cathedrals receive no State aid towards their daily running costs and depend entirely on donations. Please do give as generously as you are able to the collection at the end of this service in order to maintain the work of this building in our own day, and in future generations and to enable a donation to be made to the work of the Mothers' Union Relief Fund. If you are a UK tax-payer, please place your contribution in the **gift-aid envelope, completing and signing it as directed**. This will increase the value of your gift by 25%, at no extra cost to yourself. It will be helpful if you would prepare your envelope before the service begins, in time for the collection during the final hymn. *Thank you.*

Please join in the hymns **and words printed in bold type.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN

during which the Diocesan Banner of the Mothers' Union leads the Archdeaconry and Branch Banners in procession through the Nave.

368 *Michael*

**All my hope on God is founded;
he doth still my trust renew.
Me through change and chance he guideth,
only good and only true.
God unknown, he alone
calls my heart to be his own.**

**Pride of man and earthly glory,
sword and crown betray his trust;
what with care and toil he buildeth,
tower and temple fall to dust.
But God's power, hour by hour,
is my temple and my tower.**

**God's great goodness aye endureth,
deep his wisdom, passing thought:
splendour, light, and life attend him,
beauty springeth out of naught.
Evermore from his store
new-born worlds rise and adore.**

**Daily doth th' Almighty giver
bounteous gifts on us bestow;
his desire our soul delighteth,
pleasure leads us where we go.
Love doth stand at his hand;
joy doth wait on his command.**

**Still from man to God eternal
sacrifice of praise be done,
high above all praises praising
for the gift of Christ, his Son.
Christ doth call one and all:
ye who follow shall not fall.**

Robert Bridges 1844-1930

based on the German of Joachim Neander 1650-1680

Sit

WELCOME

Canon Dr Anthony Moore

Vice-Dean and Canon for Liturgy & Formation

INTRODUCTION

The story of Mary Sumner's inspiration for the founding of a 'Mothers' Union' (from 'Mary Sumner, her life and work' by Mary Porter, 1921)

Read by George Hanna, Diocesan member (narrator) and Sue Egerton, Incoming Diocesan President (Mary Sumner)

In 1885 the National Church Congress was held at Portsmouth, and one of the items in the week's programme was a Mass Meeting for Women, to be held in the largest hall that existed in the great, densely-populated seaport town. As we came in the Hall, which was packed to overflowing, the sight which met us moved us profoundly. On all sides there were rows upon rows of women, many of them with sad, anxious faces, or bearing some unmistakable sign of poverty.

It was a sudden and quite unusual resolve that the presiding Bishop of Newcastle took when he went straight to Mrs Sumner and asked her to speak. She set herself to obey the call quite simply, although "with a trembling heart," as she herself wrote afterwards.

The Bishop told the audience that a woman who cared for them, and wanted to help them in the trials and difficulties of daily life, would now speak to them. She came forward and we who listened to her felt that the Holy Spirit was manifestly guiding and strengthening her, in an undertaking which at that time called for no little courage.

She said: "My friends, as wives and mothers we have a great work to do for our husbands, our children, our homes and our country, and I am convinced that it would greatly help us if we could start a Mothers' Union, wherein all classes could unite in faith and prayer, to try to do this work for God.

With His help and inspiration we can conquer all difficulties, and raise the Home-life of our Nation. Union is strength. United prayer gives miraculous strength, and mothers can be made powerful and successful in their sacred duties by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us help one another to come to Him; to lay all our cares before Him, and to look up into His loving Face. He will not send us empty away; He will most surely strengthen, help and comfort us in our Home-life here, and fit us to meet together, when our work is done, in His own Presence, before the Throne of God”

Stand

OPENING RESPONSES

O Lord, open thou our lips.

And our mouth shall shew forth thy praise.

O God, make speed to save us.

O Lord, make haste to help us.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Praise ye the Lord.

The Lord's name be praised.

HYMN

**As the deer pants for the water,
so my soul longs after you.**

**You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.**

***You alone are my strength, my shield,
to you alone may my spirit yield.***

***You alone are my heart's desire
and I long to worship you.***

**I want you more than gold or silver,
only you can satisfy.
You alone are the real joy-giver
and the apple of my eye.
*You alone are my strength, my shield ...***

**You're my Friend and You are my Brother,
even though you are a king.
I love you more than any other,
so much more than anything.
*You alone are my strength, my shield ...***

Martin Nystrom. Based on Psalm 42
© 1984 Restoration Music, Ltd

Sit

FIRST READING

read by Prebendary Carl Ramsay
Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain

Does not wisdom call, and does not understanding raise her voice? On the heights, beside the way, at the crossroads she takes her stand; beside the gates in front of the town, at the entrance of the portals she cries out: 'To you, O people, I call, and my cry is to all that live. O simple ones, learn prudence; acquire intelligence, you who lack it. Hear, for I will speak noble things, and from my lips will come what is right; for my mouth will utter truth; wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are righteous; there is nothing twisted or crooked in them. They are all straight to one who understands and right to those who find knowledge. Take my instruction instead of silver, and knowledge rather than choice gold; for wisdom is better than jewels, and all that you may desire cannot compare with her.

Proverbs 8.1-11

Remain seated

THE MAGNIFICAT
sung by the choir

Mary sang a song, a song of love,
Magnified the mighty Lord above;
Melodies of praise his name extol
From the very depths of Mary's soul:

'God the Lord has done great things for me,
Looked upon my life's humility;
Happy, they shall call me from this day
Merciful is he whom we obey.

To the humble soul our God is kind,
To the proud he brings unease of mind.
Who uplifts the poor? - pulls down the strong?
God alone has power to right the wrong.

He who has been Israel's strength and stay
Fills the hungry, sends the rich away;
God has shown his promise firm and sure,
Faithful to his people evermore'.

This was Mary's song as we recall,
Mother to the Saviour of us all:
Magnify his Name and sing his praise,
Worship and adore him, all your days!

© 1973 Michael Perry (1942-1996) – The Jubilate Group

SECOND READING

read by Helen Palfrey

Lichfield Archdeaconry Leader

Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who are being tortured, as though you yourselves were being tortured. Let marriage be held in honour by all, and let the marriage bed be kept undefiled; for God will judge fornicators and adulterers. Keep your lives free from the love of money, and be content with what you have; for he has said, 'I will never leave you or forsake you.' So we can say with confidence, 'The Lord is my helper; I will not be afraid. What can anyone do to me?'

Remember your leaders, those who spoke the word of God to you; consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith. Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and for ever.

Hebrews 13.1-8

Remain seated

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

sung by the choir

'Let me now depart in peace,
To my passing reconciled -
Thankful, e'er my life should cease,
To have seen the holy Child.

Jesus, hope of every nation,
Dawn of God's eternal Day:
Sent to offer us salvation,
He himself shall light the way.

Lord, your servants long have waited,
Trusting you to keep your word:
Now our faith is vindicated
For these eyes have seen the Lord!

Glory be to God the Father,
Glory to his Royal Son,
With the everlasting Spirit
Praise for ever God as One.

© Michael Perry (1942-1996) – The Jubilate Group

Stand

THE APOSTLES' CREED

A statement of Christian faith developed between the 2nd and 5th centuries.

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth:
and in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day he rose again from the dead;
he ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty;
from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost;
the holy catholic Church;
the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins;
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

RESPONSES

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Let us pray:

Kneel or sit

Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon us.

Our Father,
which art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done,
in earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive them that trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.
And grant us thy salvation.

O Lord, save the Queen.
And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

Endue thy ministers with righteousness.
And make thy chosen people joyful.

O Lord, save thy people.
And bless thine inheritance.

Give peace in our time, O Lord.

**Because there is none other that fighteth for us,
but only thou, O God.**

O God, make clean our hearts within us.

And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

THE COLLECTS

COLLECT FOR MARY SUMNER DAY

Faithful and loving God,
who called Mary Sumner to strive for the renewal of family life:
give us the gift of your Holy Spirit,
that through word, prayer and deed
your family may be strengthened and your people served;
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR PEACE

O God, from whom all holy desires, all good counsels,
and all just works do proceed;
give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give;
that both, our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments,
and also that, by thee,
we being defended from the fear of our enemies
may pass our time in rest and quietness;
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR AID AGAINST ALL PERILS

Lighten our darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord;
and by thy great mercy defend us
from all perils and dangers of this night;
for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Sit

ANTHEM

'Praise Our God'
sung by the choir

Praise our God in his holy place.
Praise him, all you peoples.
His love for us is unending,
he is faithful forever. Alleluia.
All the earth, sing out to the Lord.
Serve the Lord with joy in your heart;
Come into his presence with song.
Come and bring your gifts to the Lord.
Come before him, singing his praise,
he is Lord and he is our God.
God is good, his love never ends.
He is always true to his word;
he is faithful, age upon age.

Words: Hubert Richards
Music: Andrew Moore
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SERMON

The Rt Revd Geoff Annas
Bishop of Stafford

A moment of silence is kept

Stand

HYMN

*during which Elizabeth Binsley, outgoing Diocesan President,
and Sue Egerton, incoming Diocesan President,
come forward and stand before the Bishop*

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

Come, bow before him now, with reverence and fear.

In him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground.

Be still, for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One, is here.

**Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around;
he burns with holy fire, with splendour he is crowned.**

How awesome is the sight, our radiant King of Light!

Be still, for the glory of the Lord is shining all around.

**Be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place,
he comes to cleanse and heal, to minister his grace.**

No work too hard for him, in faith receive from him;

be still, for the power of the Lord is moving in this place.

David J Evans b 1957

© 1986 Thankyou Music

Sit

**THE COMMISSIONING OF THE DIOCESAN PRESIDENT,
TRUSTEES AND OFFICERS**

The Bishop says:

We have come together today to worship God
and to commission the officers of Mothers' Union
for this new triennium.

This is a joyful and important occasion.

Each office carries great responsibility,

for Mothers' Union is a worldwide society within the Church,
with special concern for all that strengthens and preserves
marriage and Christian family life.

Elizabeth Binsley, outgoing Diocesan President, says to the Bishop:

Bishop,

I relinquish my Office as President of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Lichfield and hand over the badge of office.

I present to you Sue Egerton to be commissioned as the new President of Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Lichfield.

The Bishop says:

Elizabeth, thank you for this presentation, and for all that you have contributed through your work as President of Mothers' Union in this Diocese.

The Bishop addresses the in-coming President:

The office of Diocesan President in Mothers' Union is a solemn trust carrying great responsibility.

Sue, are you willing to commit yourself to this office and work?

Sue responds: I am, the Lord being my helper.

Will you serve God in this way, in the firm belief that the power of the Holy Spirit will guide and direct all who call upon him?

Sue responds: I will, putting my trust in Him.

The Bishop takes Sue by the right hand:

Sue, I admit you to the office of Diocesan President, in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit,
bless, preserve and keep you;
may the Lord show his kindness and have mercy on you.
May the Lord watch over you and give you peace. Amen

The badge of office is handed to the President by the Bishop.

The Bishop says to the congregation:

I call upon you all to pray
that God will bless his servant Sue
and give to her such gifts and powers
as may be needed for her work.
Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around.

Those to be commissioned stand before the Bishop.

The newly-commissioned President says:

Helen Palfrey

Deb Tudor

Val Hanna

Celia Richardson

Katherine May

Helen Davis

Marion Standing

The Revd Prebendary Carl Ramsay

are Trustees and Office Holders of Mothers' Union in this Diocese.
I invite you to commission them to this work.

The Bishop says:

Are you willing to commit yourselves to this office and work?

Trustees and Office Holders respond: I am, the Lord being my helper.

The Bishop commissions the new Trustees and Officers.

All may applaud the new Trustees and Officers.

The Bishop says a prayer of blessing for the Trustees and Officers:

O God, we ask that you will bless your servants
with a sense of your presence,
and knowledge of your constant love.
Give wisdom and understanding,
your guidance and the humility to accept it.
Grant all members the grace to support
and uphold all who work in your name;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Bishop then says to the congregation:

I call upon you all to pray
that God will bless these his servants
and give to them such gifts and powers
as may be needed for their work.
Be still and aware of God's presence within and all around.

'A Blessing'
from 'Fire of Love'
sung by the choir

May the Lord bless you,
May the Lord protect and guide you,
May His strength uphold you,
His light shine upon you,
His peace surround you,
His love enfold you.

May the Lord bless you,
The Lord bless you,
The Lord bless you.

Margaret Rizza
© 1998 Kevin Mayhew Ltd

Kneel or sit

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

led by Helen Davis

Faith & Policy Unit Coordinator

Loving Father, we thank you for 140 years of Mothers' Union, for Mary Sumner and her vision to help all mothers everywhere to bring up their children in faith and love.

We ask that through your love we may continue her work.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Loving Father, we thank you for the faith and work of Mothers' Union members worldwide.

We ask you to continue to bless us

as we are united in love and service, wherever we may live.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Loving Father, we thank you for enabling us

to help so many people enrich their lives through our work.

We ask you to enrich our lives with your love and power,

and so giving us the strength and commitment

to continue your work.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Loving Father, we thank you that we live in safe and secure homes, in a land where we can share your love and walk and talk freely.

We lift up to you our members across the world

who are living in difficult and dangerous conditions.

We pray for their protection as they speak out against injustice.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Loving Father, we thank you for all the people in our lives who have inspired us and helped us journey to the place we are today.

We ask that they may continue to encourage and share your love with the people they meet.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

Loving Father, we give thanks for all members who have already made their journey to meet you face to face.

We remember their love, support and encouragement.

We ask that you will help us to encourage other people to come to know you through our work for Mothers' Union.

Lord in your mercy

hear our prayer.

All say together

THE MOTHERS' UNION PRAYER

Loving Lord,

we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

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.

Stand

COLLECTION HYMN

Please support the Mission and Ministry of the Cathedral and the work of Mothers' Union Relief Fund.

165 *Gelobt Sei Gott*

**Christ is the King! O friends rejoice:
brothers and sisters with one voice
tell all the world he is your choice. *Alleluia.***

**O magnify the Lord, and raise
anthems of joy and holy praise
for Christ's brave saints of ancient days. *Alleluia.***

**They with a faith for ever new
followed the King, and round him drew
thousands of faithful hearts and true. *Alleluia.***

**O Christian women, Christian men,
all the world over, seek again
the Way disciples followed then. *Alleluia.***

**Christ through all ages is the same:
place the same hope in his great name,
with the same faith his word proclaim. *Alleluia.***

**Let love's unconquerable might
your scattered companies unite
in service to the Lord of light. *Alleluia.***

**So shall God's will on earth be done,
new lamps be lit, new tasks begun,
and the whole church at last be one. *Alleluia***

G K A Bell 1883-1958
© Oxford University Press

Remain standing

The organist improvises as the Archdeaconry and Diocesan Banners are returned to those who carry them.

THE BLESSING

The Bishop says

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The love of the Lord Jesus draw you to himself,
the power of the Lord Jesus strengthen you in his service,
the joy of the Lord Jesus fill your hearts;
and the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Remain standing for the procession to the Great West Doors

Archdeaconry and Diocesan Banners

Crucifer and Acolytes

Mothers' Union Diocesan Choir

Mothers' Union Chaplain

The President and Officers

The Archdeacons

The Canons Residentiary

The Bishop

ORGAN VOLUNTARY

Toccata in 7

John Rutter (b. 1945)

**Extracts from an address
given by the Archbishop of Canterbury on 1 March 2016**

The Archbishop of Canterbury said he “praises God” for the Mothers’ Union during a service at Lambeth Palace to recommission Lynne Tembey as Worldwide President of the global Anglican women’s organisation.

During the service Archbishop Justin Welby said:

“The Mothers’ Union in so many places is an organisation that listens to the voices of weeping. Whether it’s in Burundi, the Congo or South Sudan; whether it’s in homes in cities where when the local football team loses there is a 50 percent increase in domestic violence; whether it is in the loneliness of weeping by people who are not suffering physically but are spiritually empty and lost; it is the Mothers’ Union that exists in the vision of Mary Sumner to speak of those things that God has provided that bring hope, help and a future.

Central to this vision, he said, is “an extraordinary movement to support the family.”

“There has never been a time when the family was not a place that needed the light of Christ shining within it to become what God has called it to be. And you hold that treasure in your hands, and as we go to the reaffirmation that is part of the vision.”

He added: “But there is also such a need for global women’s groups. And you are among the most embedded, the most effective, the most widespread. There are few that can rival you – if any.”

Reflecting on United Nations research showing that no major civil conflict since 1945 has ended without the involvement of women's groups, the Archbishop said the Mothers' Union holds in its hands two aspects of "the most extraordinary treasure that God has brought together."

"You are one of the greatest of women's groups in the world, and you have the treasure of the gospel of reconciliation. What more could be needed to be transforming of the world in which we live?"

"So. Nine-tenths of your work is hidden in the parishes and the dioceses, in the hills and the villages – doing the work of bringing hope and strengthening families, of supporting churches, of transforming communities."

"I pray that God will go on blessing you, and that your vision of the God who rises above all the fears, all the problems we face... will end with a vision of hope and confidence not in the Mother's Union and this great heritage, not even in this wonderful vision, but in the God who underpins and secures it all."

<http://www.mothersunion.org/archbishop-canterbury-reaffirms-worldwide-president-trustees>

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at Lichfield Cathedral please do get in touch with us.
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