

Education Update July 2016

...in preparation for Mary Sumner Day Hello everyone ...before we know it, it will be August and possibly your Diocese or Branch will plan a celebration service around Mary Sumner Day which is traditionally celebrated on August 9th. [but strictly speaking should be celebrated on August 11th which is the day Mary actually died.] Apparently in those early days there was a little confusion and the 9th was designated ...any celebration around then would be fine.

Apart from the service you can find in our Worship and Prayer Book [pge 46], I have attached two possible types of services /outlines from Mothers' Union UKfrom these you will be able to decide the type of celebration you wish to have, either as a small group, branch or Diocese.

This year in particular, perhaps we should make time to celebrate the 140 years of Mothers' Union from it's very small beginnings in 1876 to the involvement and commitment across the world of the 4 million plus members in 2016.

I have attached some items for you to consider using as you celebrate this amazing lady who was never too old to appreciate and be involved with, the growth of the movement which she founded with one small group of mothers in a village in England.

Within this email I shall include some snippets of information/simple activities which can be shared with members....plus

[a] a bifold for personal use/ or in a group...choice of picture as plaque may be indistinct when printed.

[b] other events of 1876 which may be of interest and stimulate discussion

[c] a copy of Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer which could be used for group or personal reflection...could be laminated if you have the equipment

[d] A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Mary Sumner *She passed away in August 11th 1921. She is buried with her husband in the gardens at the rear of Winchester Cathedral. The inscription on the tombstone reads:

*In Memory of
George Henry Sumner, Bishop
Born July 1824, Died 1909
and of his wife
Mary Elizabeth Sumner
Born December
1829, Died August 1921
I heard a voice
from Heaven saying unto me
Write Blessed are the dead which died
in the Lord from henceforth.
Here, saith the Spirit,
they may rest from their labours,
And their
works do follow them.*

***Celebrating 140 Years:**

Service and General Meeting [2016] Details of the Service in Winchester Cathedral on 22nd September and the General Meeting on 23rd September at the Hampshire Court Hotel, Basingstoke are available on the Mary Sumner House website: <http://www.mothersunion.org> Mary Sumner's Personal prayer with each line in a different font so as to facilitate a reflection either as a group on each line [perhaps a few moments on each line ...what Mary was thinking ...and how I see this line is relevant to me right now.]...or to allow you personally to reflect on the breadth of this prayer....four can be made from each sheet ...[card or paper] and also may be laminated ...this size will tuck neatly into your MU Diary Mary Sumner said this personal prayer every day of her life.

Do you have a brief personal prayer you say daily or as often as possible??
...another sharing opportunity?

How the organisation actually grew wings...

Then in 1885 came a move from Old Alresford to Winchester, where George Sumner became Archdeacon. Before the move, Mary accompanied her husband to a church congress in Portsmouth. An evening meeting for women had been arranged, with various male speakers - women did not in those days take part in such activities. Unexpectedly, the Bishop of Newcastle had the idea of asking Mary to speak, and indeed almost ordered her to. Mary spoke of that which meant most to her. The bringing together of wives and mothers of all classes to unite in prayer, and help raise the home life of the nation.

As a result of the meeting, the Mothers' Union was founded as a diocesan organisation in Winchester, with Mary Sumner as president. Ten years of ceaseless work was to follow. She organised planned and travelled, addressing meetings everywhere.

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Hope some of these are useful for you and could I also suggest you maybe have a look at the card from last year.. attached ...also would enjoy hearing of any specific activity you have used to celebrate Aug 9 /or 11th this year...

Grace and Peace to you all

Ronda