

**Diocese of The Murray,  
South Australia.**



ANGLICAN  
MOTHERS UNION  
AUSTRALIA

# **THE MURRAY CON-TRIBUTARY NEWSLETTER**

September 2017

## **“Faith in Action”**

Dear Friends,

How the seasons fly by and here we are again at the beginning of Summer. Spring has brought our gardens an abundance of colourful flowers, to say nothing of the weeds that seem to grow quicker than the flowers! What a wonderful part of God’s world we live in, if only the whole of the population in the world were as lucky. We continue to remember in our prayers those who are affected in any way by illnesses or natural disasters.

As you will see at the top of this newsletter, we now have a new Mothers’ Union Logo. This was launched at the Mothers’ Union Celebrations at Launceston, Tasmania earlier this month. 200 Mothers’ Union members attended this 125 year celebration and I am pleased that a few members of this Diocese managed to attend, some extended their stay for a holiday. The beginning of Mothers’ Union in Australia was when Mrs L’Oste wife of the Rector of Christ Church, Cullenswood in Tasmania met with a small group of ladies on the verandah of the Rectory to form the first branch in Australia in 1892 under her enthusiastic leadership. From those small beginnings, Mothers’ Union is now in each of the 23 Australian Dioceses.

Among those attending the celebration was the Mothers’ Union Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey. After the conference she visited South and West Australia before returning to England.

While in Adelaide she stayed at Bishop’s Lodge and about 50 members from the State gathered together to welcome her to South Australia. After a shared lunch Lynne spoke about her personal membership of MU, her beliefs of what the MU is about and how Mary Sumner began the organisation and her vision for the future of Mothers’ Union.

For me it was particularly good to see Lynne again as I knew and worked with her when I was in UK. Unfortunately I did not make the trip to Tasmania as David had a special birthday during this period and our daughter from England, who we have not seen since we left in 2009, and her daughter made a surprise to David visit to us for the celebrations.

I am hoping that this year we in this Diocese can take part with the Mothers’ Union around the world in the 16 days of Activism Against Gender Violence, as the MU campaigns around the world, through our 4 million members in 83 countries, for an

end to gender based violence – violence carried out most often against girls and women because of their gender.

Mothers' Union engages each year with the global 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence, which runs from 25<sup>th</sup> November (the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) and 10<sup>th</sup> December (International Human Rights Day). Throughout the campaign, members join together with one voice, to raise awareness of and call for an end to this violence in all forms and in all societies. This year, Mothers' Union is focussing on the issue of stigma, where society responds negatively to, or by blaming those who are, victims of gender based violence. MU is asking people everywhere to break the silence and lift the shame that is often placed unfairly on survivors, shifting the blame from victim to perpetrator.

Let us not forget that Mothers' Union is dedicated to promoting conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children, supporting those in adversity and challenging injustice. MU is committed to seeing God's love demonstrated around the world through healthy and flourishing relationships. One of the greatest threats to individuals, families and societies around the world, is violence. One in three women in the world will be affected by gender based violence at some point in her lifetime, often with severe consequences.

In Kenya, Mothers' Union has carried out extensive work in different communities on raising awareness of, and supporting those who have experienced or who are at risk of, female genital mutilation. MU members have held workshops with church leaders and those in authority, raising awareness of this harmful practice. Following members work in sensitising the community, and working with other organisations, the Female Genital Mutilation Act, outlawing the practice, as well as parents of victims and local authorities who fail to report these acts have faced criminal prosecution.

If you can support this campaign raising awareness of this issue, either by personal prayer or by holding a vigil or service with members of your branch or parish and would like further information, please either contact me or Trish Frith the Social Issues and Action Co-ordinator for this Diocese.

With my love

*Eileen*



Worldwide President Lynne Tembey in Adelaide.  
Christ Church, Cullenswood.  
Diocesan members at Tassie.  
Libby Crossman, Lynne and Elizabeth Appleby in Tasmania.



# VALE

## RUTH PACEY – 21<sup>st</sup> August 2017

It was with great sadness that we heard the news of the death of Ruth Pacey, a long and valued member of the MU Executive in this Diocese. We give thanks for her long and dedicated service and send our condolences to her family.

Eileen.

oOo

I first got to know Ruth and her husband Grant when he became the Priest of a neighbouring parish in the Diocese of Riverina in New South Wales. Ruth supported Grant in many ways. Well known was her hospitality and work with groups in the parish, one of which was the Mothers' Union. Ruth always filled the car with fellow members to attend Diocesan events. Later we both came to live in Port Elliott/Goolwa.

Despite her physical difficulties, she attended MU Diocesan gatherings, setting up MU card tables around the Diocese and also at Synod meetings.

Even in Ruth's final weeks nothing seemed to phase her. She had a gentle calm acceptance of what was to come. It is now perhaps that we begin to realise how much we have lost and how blessed we were to have known her. Indeed as St. Paul told us in his letter to the Romans, "The life and death of each of us has its influence on others" (Romans 14.7) Ruth's legacy to us includes her lovely natural smile and gentle humour, her calmness despite any difficulties and above all her strong faith and trust in Jesus and her love of her church.

Kath Varnish.

oOo

## PROJECTS:

I would like to thank you all for the wonderful work you carry out in the name of Mothers' Union. Whether it is by knitting, sewing, providing items for emergency activity/toilet bags, filling boxes with goods for Refugees, visiting individuals, offering support where it is needed or simply praying, the list is endless! Everything you do makes a difference in someone's life. All that we raise through coffee mornings, baking, raffles, donations make a difference. That is what being a member of Mothers' Union is all about, making a difference and that is what you do. So please continue the good work. I thank you all, you make me proud to be a member of Mothers' Union.

**Beanies** – still being collected for Mission to Seafarers. It may be Summer here but for men at sea it is cold all the year round.

**'Making a House a Home'** - Many branches have again begun packing boxes for the Refugees in the Adelaide area. If you would like further information about how to do this please contact me.

**The Quickest Warmth Project** - Rev. Prue O'Donovan and Rev. Gail Hardy will bring samples of things needed for this project at the MU Council meeting at Aldinga on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Please do try to join us to see the wonderful work that is being done for families in SA. If you can knit, crochet or sew I can guarantee that you will be able to help with this project. The Christmas challenge is for 400 stockings with fillers for delivery this year, to date 144 have been made and donated!

Eileen.

## To flutter or not to flutter?

Fluttering?

I am really thinking about gambling and the role it plays in our society. We have all heard the expression, 'she enjoys a little flutter'.

Did you know that Australia leads the world in the amount lost per head each year through gambling? Our losses in 2016 were \$1292 per adult person, and the next country is Singapore, with about \$700 per person. This amounted to about \$23 billion in 2014 – 2015.

As you think about this, remember that many people do not gamble. Also, these losses are disproportionately borne by those who can least afford them.

It's mainly lotteries and poker machines, of course. But instead of trying to curtail gambling, our authorities seems to be allowing its spread more and more through electronic means. Have you noticed how frequently now ads for gambling appear on the sporting programmes on TV?

A proportion of people are addicted, problem gamblers. But a problem gambler has an effect on many. A few years ago, the Australian Medical Association put out a report which said, "up to 5 million Australians feel the health, social and financial impacts of problem gambling, including friends, families and employers of people with a gambling problem.

It also said 'problem gamblers have a higher than average number of visits to a GP and experience an increased incidence of physical illnesses such as hypertension, insomnia, migraine and other stress related problems.

People gamble for a variety of reasons, the idea of being wealthy, hope for a better future, a way of giving to charity etc.

The Bible does not directly forbid gambling. Instead, it offers a critique of the reasons which lead people to gamble and it offers something better. In the end it would be hard to conclude that the Bible endorses this behaviour and for that reason many Christians abstain entirely.

Thus, the Bible warns us about love of money and the powerful negative impact of greed. But in gambling, we are trying to gain money not through work but through chance.

The Bible calls us to love our neighbour as ourselves. But much gambling depends on winning what other people lose. When we gamble, we must consider consequences – especially for the problem gambler.

The Bible calls us to provide for ourselves through the work of our hands, not through chance and luck.

The Bible calls us to live by faith in the Lord and his provision, which comes to us through work, our own or another's.

Above all, the Bible calls on us to be generous, '*for God loves a cheerful giver*' (Corinthians 9.7).

Governments can help but it would be impossible to ban gambling. It is a form of revenue to the government, which means that addicted people are paying for things which the rest of us enjoy.

But governments can help by channelling and restricting gambling and we should be ready to take this matter up with our representatives.

In the end it is a matter of the heart. The question of gambling is played out in our hearts as we think about trusting God, being generous, resisting greed, loving our neighbour, finding our deepest fellowship amongst God's people and not allowing ourselves to be enslaved. The gospel of Jesus offers help in the very area which motivate so many to gamble in the first place. Here is hope, and here is love.

As Jesus once said: '*It is more blessed to give than to receive!*' (Acts 20.35)

Christine Jensen.

oOo

## FUTURE DATES

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> November** - 10.30 for 11am Holy Eucharist followed by Council meeting, Lunch and talk by Rev. Prue O'Donovan and Rev Gail Hardy from The Quickest Warmth Project.

**17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> December** - Diocesan Wave of Prayer.