

St Clement's Monthly News

August 2026

150 years ago, Mary Sumner, a vicar's wife in Hampshire, invited all the mothers in the parish to a meeting in the vicarage. Women of all social classes were there, all with one aim – to support each other in raising their children and improving family life. From the start it was a mutual group. It wasn't about the vicar's wife preaching to the uneducated poor about what they must do, it was all women sharing their experiences, giving advice and offering support to one another with no barriers of class, money or status. That small beginning developed into a worldwide organisation with over 4 million members in 80 countries. It's called the Mothers' Union (MU), however membership is not restricted to mothers only - women, men, single people, those who've never had children, anyone can join, and everyone is welcome at the meetings -they're not just for members.

So what does the Mothers' Union do? We aim to show our Christian faith by supporting families and communities around the corner and around the world. At branch level that usually means a monthly meeting (at St Clement's 3rd Thursday of the month at 2pm) with a speaker or an activity and, of course, tea and biscuits. We also support diocesan initiatives so in the past we've collected bras for homeless women in Manchester, panties for teenage girls in Africa struggling to manage their periods, and every year Easter eggs for families who need some extra help. The MU provides caravan holidays by the sea or in the country for children who otherwise would never have the chance to go on holiday. In hospitals, prison visitor centres, courts, refugee centres, anywhere there are families and children who need support the Mothers' Union will be there.

The MU is a worldwide organisation with a concern for women and families everywhere. In societies where women have little power and influence the MU gives disadvantaged women a voice, and the opportunity to organise and run projects to suit their needs and empower local communities. It also has a voice in government and the United Nations. The MU has always campaigned for justice and better living conditions for families and in recent years has been involved in the Make Poverty History Campaign, the Jubilee Debt Campaign and has advised the United Nations on poverty, gender equality and HIV/AIDS. When 4 million people around the world speak out with one voice, people in power listen.

This is only a small snapshot of all that the MU does locally and globally. To find out more visit the website www.mothersunion.org or join in the celebration of 150 years of the Mothers' Union at Manchester Cathedral at 3.30pm on Sunday, 9th August – Mary Sumner Day. And you'll always be welcome at the MU meetings at St Clement's – look out for the dates on the news sheets.

Diary for August

Sun 2nd	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 3 rd	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
Tues 4 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 5 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Sun 9th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 10 th	9.00am	Walking for Health Group
Tues 11 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 12 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Sat 15 th	10.30am	Good as New Sale in Parish Hall
Sun 16th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 17 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
Tues 18 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 19 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Thurs 20 th	2.00pm	Mothers' Union
	7.00pm	Men's Group
Sun 23rd	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 24 th	9.00am	Walking for Health
Tue 25 th	9.30am	Morning Prayer
Wed 26 th	10.15am	Holy Communion
	11.00am	Welcome Coffee Morning
Sun 30th	10.30am	Eucharist at the Parish Church
Mon 31 st	9.00am	Walking for Health

Diary Notes

Please note that there will be no Handbell Ringing or Choir Practice during August
 Choir Practice will resume on Friday 4th September
 Handbell Ringing will resume on Monday 7th September

Enjoy the holiday!!

THE BRANCH CHURCH HUMPHREY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE

SUNDAY AUGUST 2nd
10.30am Morning Worship

Brownies 6.00pm Every Tuesday
 Meeting in the Parish Hall
 Contact Samantha
5urmstonbrownies@gmail.com

COFFEE MORNING

&

GOOD AS NEW SALE

In The Parish Hall

From 10.30am

SATURDAY 15TH AUGUST

Coffee and refreshments
 available while you browse the
 stalls for all the bargains on
 offer.

