

Mary Sumner Day August 9, 2015



"The Mothers Union is a mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia, and part of the worldwide Mothers' Union with links to 83 countries and over four million members who share one heartfelt vision - to bring about a world where God's love is shown through prayer and loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Mary Sumner (1828-1921) lived in the village of Old Alresford, near Winchester, England. As a young Vicar's wife, Mary Sumner, looked at her first-born child. Amazed at the enormous responsibility of nurturing a human life, she dreamed of a union of mothers coming together regularly for encouragement, support and education.

In 1876 she gathered together a group of mothers to discuss her ideas of meeting together to help one another. The women were also helped to understand the significance of the sacrament of baptism and the teaching of the faith to their children. In 1885 at the invitation of the Bishop, Mary spoke to a large gathering in Portsmouth and from this, Mothers' Union grew.

The society quickly spread throughout England and as women migrated it was established overseas. By 1892 Mothers' Union had reached Australia, and a small group formed in Cullenswood, Tasmania." (www.muaustralia.org.au)

At St Paul's

1903-1907 Women from St Paul's and St Barnabas' met as a combined Mothers' Union with members working for the Diocesan House of Mercy, Cheltenham

1907 When St Paul's became a separate parish, the Mothers' Union was established, and became one of the largest branches in the Diocese. It disbanded in **1999**, and members formed **The Friends of St Paul's** in 2000.

1938 Mrs Dempster made the blue tablecloth with the MU monogram

1946 The MU banner cost £13.13.00, and was carried in the Cathedral on Lady Day.

1957 MU Golden Jubilee Gifts to the church of a Basin and Ewer, and wooden Font Cover. Many donations toward the purchase of Hymn and Prayer books, and disaster relief have been made.

1976 MU Centenary Year gifts to the church of a pair of Brass Candlesticks and the wooden bracket (in the Baptistery)

A Literary Secretary organised literary and artistic speakers at the monthly meetings. Over the years, the MU members have worked quietly and steadily in the parish on flower and cleaning rosters, teaching in both Sunday and Primary Schools, visiting the sick and helping one another in times of crisis.

Members served in the sanctuary, on the vestry, and many made goods to send to the Missions.

The **Mothers' Union** is a central support body for groups with differing needs.

1937 St Paul's was one of the first three parishes in the Diocese to form a **Fellowship of Marriage Group**, which was intended for young married women to be brought together with common values and prayer.

After World War 2, the group was called **Young Members' Department (YMD)**. These groups of women, while raising their families, enjoyed friendship, and supported each other and numerous church activities.



Caritas means "**Christian love for others**" and was formed in the Diocese in 1980. In **1981**, St Paul's **YMD** decided to become **Caritas at St Paul's**.

This active group has a varied program of daytime and evening speakers, and over the years members have participated in fund raising efforts for the church, and mission work such as supporting the Dream Stitches volunteer sewing group, and the Malawi2Melbourne project. An annual social event raises money for MU special education projects to support women overseas.

Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer:

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible
for thee and every life I touch,
do thou by this spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.

Jill Bales

Sourced from St Paul's Archives- Minute books and artifacts. August 2015

Mary Sumner Day August 9, 2015



"The Mothers Union is a mission agency of the Anglican Church of Australia, and part of the worldwide Mothers' Union with links to 83 countries and over four million members who share one heartfelt vision - to bring about a world where God's love is shown through prayer and loving, respectful and flourishing relationships.

Mary Sumner (1828-1921) lived in the village of Old Alresford, near Winchester, England. As a young Vicar's wife, Mary Sumner, looked at her first-born child. Amazed at the enormous responsibility of nurturing a human life, she dreamed of a union of mothers coming together regularly for encouragement, support and education.

In 1876 she gathered together a group of mothers to discuss her ideas of meeting together to help one another. The women were also helped to understand the significance of the sacrament of baptism and the teaching of the faith to their children. In 1885 at the invitation of the Bishop, Mary spoke to a large gathering in Portsmouth and from this, Mothers' Union grew.

The society quickly spread throughout England and as women migrated it was established overseas. By 1892 Mothers' Union had reached Australia, and a small group formed in Cullenswood, Tasmania." (www.muaustralia.org.au)

At St Paul's

1903-1907 Women from St Paul's and St Barnabas' met as a combined Mothers' Union with members working for the Diocesan House of Mercy, Cheltenham

1907 When St Paul's became a separate parish, the Mothers' Union was established, and became one of the largest branches in the Diocese. It disbanded in **1999**, and members formed **The Friends of St Paul's** in 2000.

1938 Mrs Dempster made the blue tablecloth with the MU monogram

1946 The MU banner cost £13.13.00, and was carried in the Cathedral on Lady Day.

1957 MU Golden Jubilee Gifts to the church of a Basin and Ewer, and wooden Font Cover. Many donations toward the purchase of Hymn and Prayer books, and disaster relief have been made.

1976 MU Centenary Year gifts to the church of a pair of Brass Candlesticks and the wooden bracket (in the Baptistery)

A Literary Secretary organised literary and artistic speakers at the monthly meetings. Over the years, the MU members have worked quietly and steadily in the parish on flower and cleaning rosters, teaching in both Sunday and Primary Schools, visiting the sick and helping one another in times of crisis.

Members served in the sanctuary, on the vestry, and many made goods to send to the Missions.

The **Mothers' Union** is a central support body for groups with differing needs.

1937 St Paul's was one of the first three parishes in the Diocese to form a **Fellowship of Marriage Group**, which was intended for young married women to be brought together with common values and prayer.

After World War 2, the group was called **Young Members' Department (YMD)**. These groups of women, while raising their families, enjoyed friendship, and supported each other and numerous church activities.



Caritas means "**Christian love for others**" and was formed in the Diocese in 1980. In **1981**, St Paul's **YMD** decided to become **Caritas at St Paul's**.

This active group has a varied program of daytime and evening speakers, and over the years members have participated in fund raising efforts for the church, and mission work such as supporting the Dream Stitches volunteer sewing group, and the Malawi2Melbourne project. An annual social event raises money for MU special education projects to support women overseas.

Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer:

All this day, O Lord,
let me touch as many lives as possible
for thee and every life I touch,
do thou by this spirit quicken,
whether through the word I speak,
the prayer I breathe,
or the life I live.
Amen.

Jill Bales

Sourced from St Paul's Archives- Minute books and artifacts. August 2015