



### President's Autumn Letter September 2023

Dear Friends,

As I write, Harvest is upon us, fruits are ripening, and autumn leaves are turning. Praise God for His love, shown through all creation. We pray for those in need and give thanks for all the ways in which we in Mothers' Union are called to help to love our neighbours.

We had a terrific response to our AFIA (Away From It All) coach trips to Weston Super Mare. More families than ever were able to experience a sunny fun day at the seaside. We've had some lovely, grateful feedback from families, we are so pleased to be able to provide these happy experiences. This summer we have supported a family fun day at The Rise Project in Chippenham. In Bristol we have provided transport for some disabled children to access summer holiday fun. Our ongoing projects at Ashfield Prison and The Bristol Children's Hospital are all active, and our support of the Blonde Angel Street Team continues. You can be very proud to belong to this wonderful organisation as we strive to make a difference.

*#wearyourbadgewithpride #makingadifference*

We warmly welcome our new members! But saddened to have lost some of our long standing and faithful members this year. My heart goes out to all who grieve, may God be close to you and give you comfort.

I am enjoying representing us all in the Bristol Diocese and visiting different places. I was privileged to attend a Mary Sumner Day Service on 9<sup>th</sup> August at Winchester Cathedral. Our Worldwide President Sheran Harper gave a moving address. After the service, flowers were laid on Mary Sumner's grave. It was good to hear of the various ways in which Mary Sumner Day was observed around our Diocese. Mary Sumner's vision is something to be celebrated as we continue to bring Christian Care to families. If you're not too sure who she was, look her up on Google!

Your Trustees are busy planning the Autumn Gathering Members Day on October 14<sup>th</sup>. An invitation and details are on the reverse of this letter. It would be great to see as many members and friends as possible. I hope that it will be a friendly and informative day. It is always useful to hear of all that is happening!

I would appreciate your prayers as I, and several of your Diocesan team, are travelling to York for the Mothers' Union Annual Gathering on 22<sup>nd</sup> September. I am collecting 50 posters for the Rise Up campaign and hope to distribute them at the Autumn Gathering. October also sees a focus on prisons and I have prepared an article and prayer for our prison work which you might like to access on our website: [www.mubristol.co.uk](http://www.mubristol.co.uk)

Recognising that this is a difficult time for many, this Bible verse is for you, and for us all.

*'Come to me all who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.'* Matthew 11:28-30

As always, with my love and prayers,

Jacky x [jacky.mubristoldiocese@gmail.com](mailto:jacky.mubristoldiocese@gmail.com)