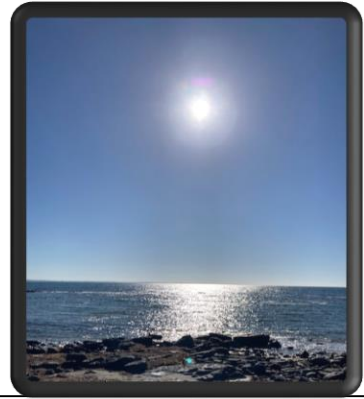




Wendy's Writings April 2024



**'Be salt and light:
Shine Brightly'**

Advocate for yourself, engage proactively, and remember that often it's not just about what you know, but also who knows you and what they know about you. (Anne Caulfield, Accredited Executive Leadership Coach and ECR accredited Emotional Intelligence Coach)

Dear members and friends,

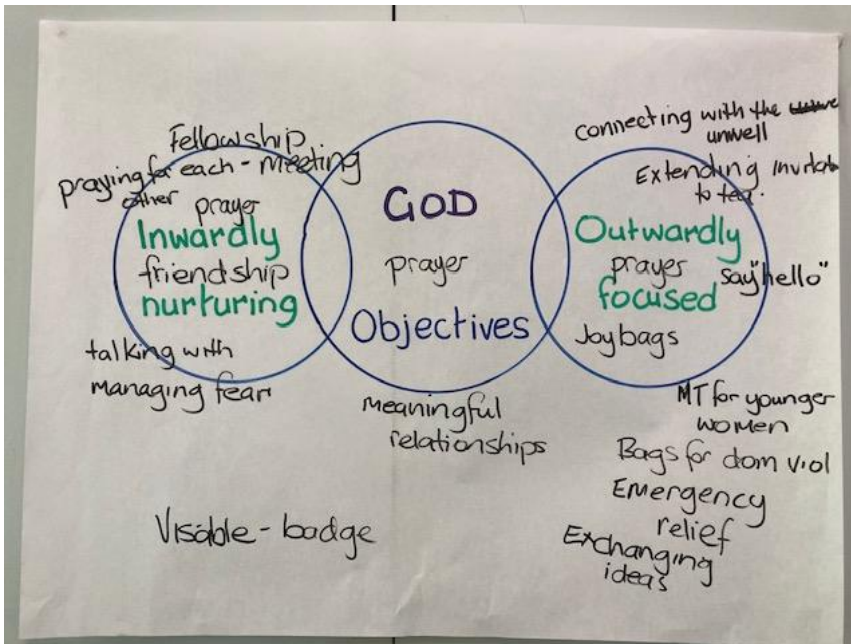
It was a delight to be able spend time during March with our Australian President Dr. Robin Ray as we travelled around the diocese to meet with you all. While in our diocese Robin:

- Attended a service in a retirement village where she met a former member who she invited to rejoin and who she was able to formally welcome back as a member six days later
- Attended Lady Day in Albany and led a conversation with members from Albany, Katanning and Lones.
- Attended our diocesan executive meeting in Bunbury and led executive members in a conversation around membership and around executive composition and function
- Attended Lady Day at the Cathedral and led a conversation with members from Boyanup, Boyup Brook, Bunbury, Busselton, Carey Park, Katanning, Lones. Mandurah
- Participated in Morning Prayer at the Cathedral and at Mandurah on two mornings each
- Attended Mandurah Branch meeting and led a conversation with members.
- Made home visits to Blanche in Colle and Margaret in Bunbury
- Shared lunch with Isobelle and Bronwyn in Mandurah
- Enjoyed the hospitality of Jane in Albany
- Visited tourist sites in Collie, Kojonup, Albany, Denmark, Manjimup and Bunbury

Bishop Ian was able to join us in Albany for our service and I thank him for doing so. I also thank Canon Karen Cave and the Dean the Very Revd Daryl Cotton for leading us in our Lady Day services and for their hospitality.

We were also joined at our Albany service by the diocesan president of The Murray, a diocese in South Australia. Jocelyn and her husband were travelling in WA and through conversation with Robin found that they would be in Albany at the time of our visit for Lady Day.

A number of members asked if they could have a copy of Robin's reflection from our services, which she has graciously agreed to. It accompanies this newsletter. Please take the time to read and contemplate Robin's message. It would be an excellent discussion point for a branch meeting, as would the points raised in each of our conversations with Robin.



Robin encouraged us to continue using the AMUA framework of being God centred, upholding our aims and objectives as we seek to be inwardly nurturing and outwardly focused. We were also encouraged to be articulate, relevant and visible.



To help in understanding where we are now as MU, Robin recently suggested to diocesan presidents that we ask members to practice what you would say to our World Wide President Sheran Harper if she asks what does MU mean to you? What do you do in your branch?

In this digital age one way of meeting the challenge of being articulate, relevant and visible is through our presence on the world wide web. We have a page on our diocesan website where we share a little about MU and post copies of both my newsletter and our diocesan magazine. If your parish has a website and / or Facebook page or other social media presence, is MU mentioned? Do you have a presence? Can people read about what MU is doing locally and how to find out more? Can visitors find details of your meeting times?

Parish noticeboards and parish bulletins are another way of sharing MU with others. Whether it be information on upcoming activities, stories of achievements, or the inclusion of excerpts from Thoughts of the Week, every time we share a little of ourselves we are walking in Mary Sumner's footsteps.

At our Friendship Day in Boyup Brook on Tuesday 9th July we will be workshopping how parents, grandparents and carers can make use of resources available through use of digital technology to share the love of God with the children in our lives. Revd Justine will be leading us in an exploration of apps and websites such as YouTube to learn what we have available to us. We will also be sharing some book resources currently available which also give children an understanding of the love of God and how we can respond to that love through the things we do and the actions we take.

A flyer with more details will be distributed with my May newsletter. In the meantime, you might like to set this date aside as a day to come together with other members for fellowship, sharing and learning. Please be assured that you do not have to be computer literate or technologically savvy to be a part of our 2024 Friendship Day.

For now, we move to preparation for the visit of our World Wide President Sheran Harper and Jeannette Lawrence from Mary Sumner House. We currently have 26 members travelling to our state gathering on Monday May 13th. Unfortunately, with only 115 tickets available, it may not be possible for any further members from our dioceses to attend. However, if you have not yet purchased a ticket and would like the opportunity to attend, I am compiling a wait list so that if further tickets become available I can offer them on a first come, first serve basis. Similarly, if you have purchased a ticket and find you are no longer able to attend I ask that you let me know as soon as you are able so that another member may have the opportunity to attend.

On the day we will be giving a 10-minute presentation on our diocese. I will be inviting several members to share what it means to be Mothers Union in their branch, parish and community. This will not only be an opportunity to inform Sheran and Jeanette about our relatively small yet very unique part of Western Australia, it will also be an opportunity to share with members of both Perth and North West Australia what it means to be MU in the Diocese of Bunbury.

Executive will be paying for a bus which we are borrowing from Georgiana Molloy Anglican School to take members from Busselton, Bunbury and Mandurah to the gathering. Those travelling on the bus will be contacted with the travel arrangements in the coming weeks.

Following the gathering in Perth Sheran and Jeanette will travel to Brisbane for a Zone C retreat with representatives from Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand, Melanesia and Papua New Guinea. They will then travel to Sydney where I will join them and other members of Australia Council for a gathering from 20-23 May. I have sent in our diocesan report, covering the 18-month period since the last meeting in November 2022. I will also give a verbal report at the gathering.

At its March meeting executive also agreed to sponsor a family of seven to have a holiday in our caravan at the Anglican Campsite in Busselton during this second week of the April school holidays. This is the first holiday that this family has had. Food and travel assistance is being provided through the local parish which is a wonderful way of strengthening relationships and making MU more visible.

It was a joy to meet with so many of you during my recent trip around the diocese with Dr. Robin Ray. I look forward to continuing to gather with you at branch meetings and diocesan events as we together continue to be MU in our communities.

Every blessing

Wendy Mabey
President
AMUA Diocese of Bunbury



*Praying globally – serving locally
Supporting family life
Advocating for social justice*