

Central Charity's Monthly Update – May 2026 Edition

Dear Members,

Welcome to the May edition of your monthly Central Charity Update.

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1. Celebrating Bev on her retirement!

Our wonderful CEO, Bev Jullien, retires after eleven years' service, the week after the big 150th events, Celebratory Service and Annual Gathering, in June. Here is a message from Kathleen Snow, your Worldwide President:

“Dear friends,

I am honoured to share this link with you as we celebrate and express our appreciation for our CEO, Bev Jullien, and her remarkable time with us over the past nearly eleven years. Bev has given generously of her time, talent, and deep love for the Mothers' Union.

To help us celebrate Bev and express our thanks, please find the link below to a page where you are warmly invited to share your well wishes and messages of gratitude. If you wish, you may also choose to offer a gift as a token of appreciation.

<https://viing.com/v/bevs-retirement-dzpceq>

Thank you for joining us in honouring Bev and all she has contributed to the Mothers' Union.

Blessings,
Kathleen Snow”

Bev will be delivering her last **Midday Prayers on Friday 12th June**, make sure you join her if you can <https://www.facebook.com/MothersUnion>

2. 150th National Events, Global Gathering, Challenges and Activities

Tickets close for both the 150th Celebratory Service and the joyous Annual Gathering on 16th May.

Tickets are still available for both, do not miss your chance!

For information on booking either event, including the [Annual Gathering Programme](#), please go to: www.mothersunion.org/150

Scroll down the page and select the appropriate picture tile for more information and resources on:

- 150th National Events,
- Global Gathering in South Africa,
- 150th Membership and Fundraising Challenges, and
- Activities including Sunday Takeover and the Big Picnic

3. Important Consultation- Growing Up in the Online World!

The government has launched a consultation “Growing Up in the Online World.” You are encouraged to do individual and diocesan responses to this consultation.

Steph Nunn, Director of Membership, will answer the consultation on behalf of “Mothers’ Union in Britain and Ireland.” Dioceses have been asked to feed back into the organisational response on behalf of members.

Evolving previous involvement in campaigns like "Bye Buy Childhood" a campaign by MU aimed at reducing the commercialisation of childhood, launched around 2010 to protect children from excessive marketing pressures, it is essential that we continue to be heard championing and supporting our young people and providing parents and grandparents with information and tools. This will add to our work with [PEGI](#) and our emerging partnership with [Girls’ Brigade](#), whose youth voice will help inform our work and focus.

The closing date of the consultation is 26th May 2026.

[Find out more](#)

The Government will publish its response to the consultation in summer 2026.

4. Thy Kingdom Come (14 - 24 May)

The theme this year for Thy Kingdom Come is 'God with us', and our Mothers' Union call to action is to pray for five people to know God's presence in their lives, and to invite one person to an MU event and to become a member. The resources provided by [Thy Kingdom Come](#) include daily videos, one of which includes our Worldwide President, Kathleen Snow, and our Canterbury Provincial President, Comfort Idowu-Fearon, sharing about the life of Mary Sumner, the impact of Mothers' Union and the presence of God in their lives.

Stories like this remind us that every invitation, every conversation, and every act of encouragement can help grow our movement. Let us keep the momentum going, who might you invite to join next?

5. Annual Gathering - Singing Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

Get ready for a wonderful opportunity for a sing along at the joyous Annual Gathering. The Mary Sumner prayer has been set to beautiful melodious music by **Revd Richard Rice-Oxley** and is available on the website. Many members may already be familiar with this uplifting piece but if it is new to you, now is the perfect time to learn it ahead of the **June 11th event!**

We warmly encourage you to **practise at home or within your branches**, so that on the day we can raise our voices together with confidence and joy. Singing as one is a powerful expression of our shared faith and unity, and we would love everyone to feel part of this moment.

The words and sheet music can be found in the [Resources](#) section of the website. In addition, a special recording of Revd Richard singing and accompanying himself on guitar is available on request. This is perfect for helping you learn the melody and capture the spirit of the piece.

To request the recording, simply email: **faith@mothersunion.org**

Let us prepare to sing with joy, energy, and togetherness.

6. A New Approach to Safeguarding Training

We would like to share an important update regarding the Core Safeguarding Training. Starting from the end of June 2026, the **Core Safeguarding Training will no longer be delivered via Zoom**. The programme is moving fully to an **online e-learning platform**, one that is designed to offer greater flexibility and accessibility for members and volunteers.

Further updates, including access details and rollout information, will be shared as they become available.

❖ Looking ahead

At the **Annual Gathering on 11th June 2026**, there will be a special presentation titled: **“Safe spaces, open hearts – safeguarding that brings people together”**. We encourage members to attend as we continue to strengthen our shared commitment to creating safe and supportive environments for all.

If you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Safeguarding team at: **safeguarding@mothersunion.org**

Thank you for your continued engagement and commitment to safeguarding across our communities.

7. Important Update: New Central Email for Domestic Abuse Programme

To better reflect the full scope of our domestic abuse work, we have introduced a new central email address for all related correspondence.

Therefore, the previous **RISE UP** email (riseup@mothersunion.org) has now been replaced by **domesticabuse@mothersunion.org**, which will now serve as the main point of contact for the domestic abuse programme.

In the meantime, all emails sent to the RISE UP email address will be forwarded to the new inbox and an automatic reply has also been set up to inform members that the RISE UP email is being retired.

Please send all enquiries, submissions, and communications relating to the domestic abuse programme, including those connected to the RISE UP campaign to the new email address. The change was also shared at the Community of Interest meeting, and updates to relevant web pages and resources will follow shortly.

Thank you for your continued support in helping us communicate this important work clearly and effectively.

8. Speakers Training: Empowering You for the 150th Anniversary – 2nd June, 10am

We are delighted to announce that plans have been firmed up for the long-awaited Speakers Training session. The training is designed to empower our members to speak with confidence as we promote the Mothers' Union during this landmark anniversary year, including Sunday Takeovers!

Whether you are already speaking on behalf of Mothers' Union or are considering taking that step for the first time, this training will offer practical guidance, encouragement, and useful tools to help you communicate with clarity and purpose. Sharing the impact of our work is a vital part of our mission, and every voice plays a role in reaching more families and communities with God's love.

The session will be facilitated by **Joyce Bush**, Worcester Diocese, a trained Mothers' Union speaker, alongside our Director of Communications and Marketing, **Rachael Anderson**. Together, they will guide participants through key aspects of speaking, including structuring a talk, telling your story, and confidently inviting others to engage with Mothers' Union.

The training will be held on Zoom, making it accessible wherever you are.

To attend: *Please send an email to membership@mothersunion.org*

Please note that only registered participants will receive the Zoom link ahead of the session.

9. IMPORTANT UPDATE - Decommissioning of CAF vouchers!

Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) has announced an important update affecting donations. From 1 May 2026, its physical Vouchers and Charity Cards will be decommissioned. If you currently hold any vouchers and were planning to support the Mothers' Union, we warmly encourage you to use them as soon as possible.

Following this date, there will be a **three-month grace period**, allowing us to process any vouchers received up until **1 August 2026**.

If you have any questions or would like further information, please contact CAF directly or visit their website for the latest guidance.

Thank you, as always, for your continued generosity and support.

10. Live - your stories bring Mothers' Union to life!

We encourage you to continue submitting updates through MU Live. Every story shared helps to celebrate the amazing work happening across our movement from small acts of kindness to large community initiatives. These stories inspire others, strengthen our connections, and show the many ways faith in action is transforming lives every day.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the system, please contact us at Development@mothersunion.org.

Thank you for your continued support!

Membership Team

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