

## New Year 2026

*And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:*

*"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown".*

*And he replied:*

*"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God.*

*That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way". (Minnie Louise Haskins)*



By the time you read this, it will probably feel as though the New Year is already well underway. The above poem is one that especially resonates with me, as it was given to me on a prayer card many years ago by the curate of my home parish before I was ordained. At that time, I was about to leave home and begin a new job. The words were ones of comfort, of knowing that with God we are never really alone or unsupported.

With every new year, we are in a sense, stepping out into the unknown. We can never be sure what the year will hold for us in terms of health, challenges or opportunities. Still, we take with us the Christmas message of Emmanuel (God-with-us) and can place our hand into the hand of God.

Epiphany reminds us that there is indeed a guiding light in our lives. Through the gospel readings we are shown some of the various ways in which through Jesus, people were able to glimpse the presence of God. There are those moments of revelation in our own lives too, and these can inspire us and bring us strength for our journey through the year.

This will be a big year for Mothers' Union. As we prepare to celebrate one hundred and fifty years of our movement, we can look to the future with hope. Though we cannot control the future, we can put our faith in the God who is always with us and who is making all things new.

Happy New Year to you all! May it be a year of many blessings.

