

Reflection July 2022



My Dear Friends, I hope you are all keeping well and finding some time to spend with family and friends. As the holiday season gets underway and children break up from school, I trust you will be able to spend some time listening to all the news from your grandchildren or the children of friends near to where you live. Young people have so much to share and can be so refreshing to listen to. My Grandchildren, now 16, 19 & 20 lead very diverse lives. My two Grandsons, 16 & 20 live in Surrey, quite a distance from where I live in Wales, and I don't get to see them very often, but communication is so easy these days that I am able to hear what they are up to without even leaving home. The youngest is in to Scouting which teaches all sorts of wonderful skills in an interesting way. His brother at 20 works at the local adventure park, getting some life skills before heading off to university in September. My Granddaughter, who lives just down the road, has just finished her first year at university and is now home for the summer. She is a qualified instructor in gymnastics so is spending some of her time helping small children understand the fun but disciplined art of this sport. When she is at university, she is part of a cheerleading team, and being small and slim is the one who gets tossed in the air during sessions and competitions. I enjoy hearing all about their exploits, they remind me of some of the things I use to get up to when I was their age.

Now I think back and wonder how I ever found the time and energy to do all the activities I was involved with, but it doesn't take away the joy of listening to what they have to say. Listening is such a wonderful skill which few of us really possess. Over the years I have been involved in several sessions where listening skills have been practiced, maybe you too have been involved in this kind of thing, because so many of us think we listen but don't really hear what is being said. As a member of the MU and particularly as a member of the Worldwide Trustee Board, it is important that I listen so that I can understand what is happening with MU all around the world.

This wonderful organisation is working with others to promote and encourage members to engage, with among other things, the wiping out of domestic violence, not just during the 16 days of Activism but the whole 365 days of the year.

To do this requires much listening and as the Lambeth Conference is taking place this month, postponed because of Covid, MU staff and members will be there listening to and speaking with the wives of the Bishops in order to encourage better unity and understanding between countries on this and other issues which affect a great number of people throughout the world.

There will be a sharing of the joys of being a Christian as well, and, as Christians it is important that we hear what God is saying to us so we can be part of that joy and understand what makes him so sad when he looks on the world he created. My friends, please put your hands together with me in prayer for this very important gathering, especially the Mothers' Union's part in it,

praying that listening and genuine hearing will take place, because we need God's will to be heard and spread far and wide, so that we can begin to live in a world that is fit for the future generation and that will include our grandchildren and those of our friends.

Love & Prayers

Jenny

Let us Pray

God our Father, Creator of the world, please help us to love one another. Make nations friendly with other nations; make all of us love one another like brothers and sisters. Help us to do our part to bring peace in the world and happiness to all people.

Father, make us as ready to listen as we are to speak, ready to listen to your voice and the voices of those we meet in our everyday lives. Be with all who will attend the Lambeth Conference and help them to listen and to hear, so that when the time is right your world may be a place of peace and unity.

Father, we ask your blessing on the staff at Mary Sumner House, on the work that they do and the involvement they will have in the Re-imagining conference also taking place in Liverpool this month, may all who attend listen well that they may understand what is required to take this organisation forward into the future. We ask all our prayers in the name of Jesus our Saviour. AMEN

