

To: All members via Branch Leaders/contacts, Deanery Chairs and other Diocesan contacts:

Dear friends,

STOP PRESS: Lambeth Conference news and more!

There has been so much to keep up with – the Commonwealth Games, the Lioness's making Euro 2022 history in front of a record crowd at Wembley and of course the 15th Lambeth Conference is now up and running.

STOP PRESS: Lambeth Conference

Talking of which, I am thrilled to confirm that our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper is due to give a keynote speech on Peace and Reconciliation this afternoon at 2.30pm. Do please uphold Sheran in your prayers as it can be rather daunting speaking to a large audience. That she may feel God's comforting and reassuring presence surround her.

I am also hoping that a rather special picture of Sheran and Bishop John taken at the Lambeth Conference will shortly be downloaded to our Facebook page so do look out for this one!

Did you also know that the Lambeth Conference website is packed full of information and it also provides an overview of each day's themes and highlights?

Simply click on <https://www.lambethconference.org> and within the menu bar choose the first option, 'Today at the Lambeth Conference', to keep up-to-date with all the news.

I would also encourage you to watch the **Lambeth Conference Opening Service** that took place on Sunday morning at Canterbury Cathedral. I understand that there was not one spare seat to be had and it was such a joy to see so many MU members in attendance. The eclectic sound of the various choirs praising God will also make your heart sing. So sit back and enjoy every moment. Here is the link:

<https://youtu.be/RcX4ixvQP7c>

Reading Jenny Barton's *reflection* for the month of August is another delightful treat and once again she doesn't disappoint. Jenny, amongst other things, prayerfully encourages us to reflect on the importance of Mary Sumner Day and I am very much looking forward to travelling around the Diocese, to the various services and events being planned to commemorate Mary Sumner.

Mary Sumner herself had a vision of a fellowship of women supporting each other and strengthening their communities and the mood of the nation has been transfixed by a group of ladies from humble beginnings. Even Her Majesty the Queen felt the need to send a message of congratulations to the England women's national football team stating, "You have all set an example that will be an inspiration for girls and women today, and for future Generations."

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The [Bishop of Derby](#), the Rt Revd. Libby Lane, who is the lead bishop for sport, wrote on Twitter: "So, so pleased for our incredible Lionesses and feeling incredibly proud of their achievement. Congratulations to ALL involved. A great result for them and for the nation."

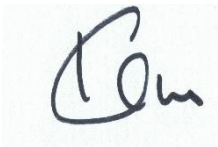
Speaking on Radio 4's *Thought for the Day* on Monday morning, the [Bishop of Burnley](#), the Rt Revd Philip North, who watched the match from the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury, said that he took the most joy from "the stories of the players themselves".

He continued: "Four weeks ago, only a few people had heard of Beth Mead, Allesia Russo, or Lucy Bronze. They were plugging away, carving out a living from the sport that was tiny compared to the men's version of the game.

"But, today, their names, and those of their fellow players, are being splashed across the front and back pages of the papers. Somebody, at some stage, was clever enough to spot raw potential in these players, and now that judgement has been richly fulfilled. That raising up of the lowly and the unlikely lies at the very heart of the Christian faith, with its passion to recognise the dignity of all people."

I can't help feeling if Mary Sumner were alive today; she would also be delighted that transformational opportunities are now beginning to happen within women's football and pleased that already grassroots clubs have been snowed under with requests for girls and women to join.

With love,



Karen