

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

Dear friends,

I write with good news!

What a joy, honour and humbling experience it is, to be writing to you, as your new Diocesan President and already, I have so much to give thanks for.

Rev Denise Burgess, I am delighted to say has accepted the role of Diocesan Chaplain. Rev Denise brings a wealth of experience, having been involved in several Mothers' Union roles within Lichfield Diocese. I feel sure her knowledge and support will be invaluable to me personally as well as the Trustee Board and the wider membership. Please pray for Rev Denise as she takes time to get to know us and settles into her new role.

Jane would like me to pass on her thanks and to let you know that around £600 was donated as her retiring gift to the General Fund. She was thrilled when I told her how much had been raised and I know you will join with me in prayerful thanks for Jane's generosity of spirit in this regard.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognise Jane's outstanding service to all things Mothers' Union and to express my heartfelt thanks to Jane, Rev Pam and the rest of the retiring Trustees for all that they have achieved during their term of office. The legacy that they have left is a solid one and I am confident that the Trustee Board is now ready to pick up where they left off. Please pray that the good Lord will continue to bless us all during this period of change and transformation.

I am also pleased that Jane has kindly agreed to fill the role of Mothers' Union Overseas Officer for our Diocese and as you know, Kapsabet Diocese holds a very special place in Jane's heart. Jane will therefore, continue to play a significant role in forging meaningful links between our Dioceses. Please continue to pray for our sisters and brothers in Kapsabet and for the success of this initiative.

I have been deeply touched and would like to express my thanks for your kind words of encouragement and the prayerful support I have received leading up to and since taking office. I am also aware that I owe a huge debt of gratitude to my fellow Trustees serving alongside me. To Rev Denise who will support me both spiritually and pastorally. To Margaret and Nicola for their great teamwork in all things financial and to all you faithful members who work tirelessly to serve your communities.

The Trustee Board met for the first time on Wednesday. Rev Pam administered communion and led us in worship before we settled down to the business of the day. Not surprisingly, top of the agenda was the Commissioning Service.

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We have so much to celebrate and give thanks for and I do pray that you will be able to join us.

With all my love,
Karen