

## Friday

### A Leader

**Reflect :** “Mary was a skilful interpreter and negotiator of the aspirations and needs of the time.” However, history records that she was a nervous and fearful speaker. Reflecting on the 1885 congress she said “With a trembling heart I spoke and suggested the starting of ‘a Mothers’ Union’ for all classes.” This is an encouragement to those called into leadership – to take risks in following vocation.

**Read :** Mark 10: 43 - 45

**Pray :** for our leaders in MU

Rosemary Kempself, Worldwide President,

Libbie Crossman, Provincial President

Prayer of the week : Mary Sumner’s personal prayer

## Saturday

### A Woman of faith

**Reflect :** Mary had a deep sense of vocation about assisting mothers to nurture their children in the Christian faith. Her mighty trust in God’s unfailing love was her rock.

**Read :** Luke 1: 57 - 66

**Pray :** for our sisters in many parts of MU around the world.

Prayer of the week : Mary Sumner’s personal prayer

*Perhaps you would like to take up the challenge to write your own personal prayer.*

*(Acknowledgement to A history of the Mothers’ Union : women, Anglicanism and globalisation, 1876 – 2008 by Cordelia Moyses)*



## Mid-Year Prayer Leaflet 2011

Dear Friends,

On August 9<sup>th</sup> we celebrate Mary Sumner Day. This year there is to be a Worldwide Day of Prayer for the Mothers' Union. Members across the globe will pray for the future advancement of Mothers' Union. The day is called – **Faithful in Prayer.**

Mary Sumner was born in England’s north country. The greatest influence on her early journey of faith was her mother. Her life showed clearly her belief in the vocation to prayer and the call to social action that flowed from it. This has always been the foundation on which MU is built.

In looking at Mary Sumner’s life this leaflet also leads us to reflect on the many different relationships in our own lives - as daughters, mothers, wives, grandmothers, friends, leaders and Christian women.

With Mothers’ Union around the world we celebrate with thanksgiving Mary’s vision.

Peace and blessing, **Bronwyn**

Mary Sumner’s personal prayer written in 1876.

**All this day, O Lord,  
let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;  
and every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,  
whether through the word I speak,  
the prayer I breathe,  
or the life I live. Amen.**

## Sunday

### A daughter

**Reflect** : the single most formative influence on Mary Sumner's life was her mother, who was a devout and compassionate Christian woman caring for her own family and those around her. As a young person who did you look to for guidance, wisdom and compassion?

**Read** : Ruth 1:15 - 18

**Pray** : for our daughters and daughters-in-law  
for ourselves as daughters

Prayer of the week : Mary Sumner's personal prayer

## Monday

### A wife

**Reflect** : Mary married George Sumner in 1847 when she was 20 years old. They shared together their belief in serving others and having prayer at the centre of the life of their family and their household. George publicly supported Mary's work and this was a source of strength to the organisation.

**Read** : 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8

**Pray** : for the newly married  
for families facing economic pressures

Prayer of the week : Mary Sumner's personal prayer

## Tuesday

### A mother

**Reflect** : The idea of Mothers' Union came to Mary when her first daughter was born. She was overwhelmed with the sense of responsibility and inadequacy for the task. All parents know that feeling as they care for their children from babyhood to adulthood. At the Portsmouth Church Congress in 1885 Mary urged her hearers 'be yourself what you wish your children to be'.

**Read** : Luke 2: 41 - 51

**Pray** : A Litany for Parents. (P 37. MU Prayer Book.)  
Prayer of the week : Mary Sumner's personal prayer.

## Wednesday

### A grandmother

**Reflect** : The first Mothers' Union branch was formed when Mary was a grandmother. Christian Grandparents have a yearning for their grand-children to be introduced to the great story of the people of God.

**Read** : 2 Timothy 1: 5-6

**Pray** : for our grandmothers  
for those who are grandmothers

Prayer of the week : Mary Sumner's personal prayer

## Thursday

**Friend**: It was Mary Sumner's extensive personal network of friends that was a great catalyst to the early growth of Mothers' Union. Good friends are a great treasure to us always encouraging, always there, like Barnabas who befriended and accepted Paul.

**Read** : Acts 11: 22 -26

**Pray** : for friends, near and far, that we may nurture our friendship  
Prayer of the week : Mary Sumner's personal prayer