

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



Diocese of Edinburgh
Mothers' Union Newsletter



September 2016

Letter from Diocesan President: September 2016

Below: Angela Sibley, (Retiring DP), Bishop John Armes, Helen Godfrey (New DP)



Taken by Jean Hindle at the Lady Day Service in St Ninian's Church, Comely Bank, Edinburgh. The commissioning of Helen as Diocesan President.

Dear friends,

It is nearly six months since I was commissioned to be your Diocesan President on Friday 18 March at St Ninian's Church, Comely Bank.

I felt welcomed and supported by so many members at that service and thank you all for entrusting me with being your new Diocesan President.

We have had several opportunities to get together and socialise with members from different branches

including a diocesan meeting and lunch on 7 June at Christ Church Morningside. The Mary Summer Day service conducted by the Dean and Rector the Very Revd Susan Macdonald was held at Christ Church Morningside on 9 August followed by lunch. The Revd Christine Barclay was welcomed as a Mother's Union member and Chaplain. We look forward to meeting in Musselburgh on 5 October to celebrate 140 years of the Mother's Union and I hope that as many members as possible will be able to attend the service and lunch to celebrate this occasion.

Diocesan Council, held on Tues 7th June The group on the right was taken on the lawn at Christ Church, Morningside after the service, which was conducted by the rector Susan Macdonald, assisted by our new chaplain Christine Barclay, who did the intercessions. Afterwards, the business of the day was conducted in the Christ Church Centre.



The work of the mother's Union is continuing to develop using new structures and all members

are encouraged to participate in the communication, prayer or enterprise groups. It is important that we connect with younger generations of families and try to pass on the aims and objectives of the Mother's Union in a practical and relevant way. Some members are involved in play and praise groups in their local communities and this is an excellent way to act out our commitment to young families with understanding of the many challenges that they may face.

It may mean changing the way we do things and trying to learn more about the life experiences of a wider group of people in our communities. Friendship and fellowship with each other, support in difficult times and expanding our knowledge about the challenges which face young families today are important. These challenges may be very different from those which we experienced when our families were young.

I look forward to meeting you all at your branch meetings and at the coffee mornings in the autumn. I hope that we can by example inspire younger people to want to be part of the Mother's Union and each of us may have to adapt to a new way ahead if we are going to provide an active organisation for the next generation.

With love and best wishes to you all

Helen Godfrey Diocesan President Edinburgh Diocese. 30/8/16

Mary Sumner Day at Christ Church on Tuesday 9th August.

Rev^d Christine Barclay was commissioned as MU Chaplain and the photo below was taken.



Afterwards we all enjoyed a lovely lunch provided by Christ Church members.



*Left: St Peter's, Musselburgh members,
Ruth Wogan, Kathryn Mackenzie
Marion Rowley*

The Wave of Prayer

I have always liked the idea of the Wave of Prayer rolling around the world. So many languages, so many women living different lives, but all our prayers said with love and faith.

The theme I have chosen is *reflect* and give thanks in this our anniversary year and *renew* as we look forward to the future.

The focus of course is to pray for our link dioceses and it was humbling to read about Mothers' Union members in Nigeria, South Sudan, Calcutta and Kenya. They are addressing the challenges of conflict, reconciliation and restoring stable family life in the most difficult of circumstances.

There was a very helpful article in the January – June 2015 edition of Families Worldwide.

It said that when you do pray for God's blessing for a diocese, do so in faith, embracing and exploring the whole spectrum of what God's blessing means – God's divine help, favour, mercy, benefit, gift and approval. Let us take these words with us as we enter the Wave of Prayer from 15th – 17th October and rejoice in knowing that our sisters are praying for us.

Janet Goody.

Provincial MU Retreat

Tues 19th - Thur 21st April - held at Conforti Institute, near Glasgow

A Celebration of Faith (Living with God in the every day) - led by Canon Paul Watson



It was good to meet up and chat with folk we knew, enjoying sitting in the sun and munching strawberries. Silence commenced after dinner. All the worship and talks took place in the Oratory and the services were interspersed with many hymns/songs. There was the opportunity for those attending to choose favourites. There were 4 talks over the 3 days.

1: Faithfulness (Obedience & Stability) 2: Prayer, 3: Worship, 4: Fellowship.

Silence officially ended and votes of thanks were made as well as a gift to Paul for leading us so well. A full report can be read on the MU website. www.muscotland.org Next year, we should be back to our old venue at Kinoull, Perth. **Stop Press:** The Rev Canon Paul Watson was appointed Rector at St Clement's, Aberdeen on 18 August 2016; he continues as Rector at St Devenick's, Aberdeen.

Provincial President - Re-commissioning of Jean Richardson And celebration of 140 years of Mothers' Union

Saturday 30th April 2016



left to right: Provincial Pres. York, Barbara Taylor; The Primus, The Most Rev'd David Chillingworth; Prov. Pres. Scotland, Jean McPherson-Richardson; Provincial Chaplain, The Rev'd Christine Fraser; Bishop of Aberdeen and Orkney, The Right Rev'd Bob Gillies. Photo: David Crosley

The Provincial President was re-commissioned for her second triennium on Saturday 30th April 2016 at St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth.

The day's event opened in the Chapter House with speeches and a photo call before we enjoyed a light lunch. Then the Provincial President cut the 140th Anniversary celebration cake.

We then moved into the cathedral for the service of re-commissioning, during which Bishop Bob Gillies preached. The Rev'd Christine Fraser, the Provincial Chaplain, then presented Jean McPherson-Richardson to the Primus and asked him to re-affirm her in her role as Provincial President for Scotland. This he duly did and he also presented her with the badge of office.

At the end of the service after the procession of banners from around the Province, we were piped back into the Chapter house where the afternoon was brought to a close with tea and a piece of the anniversary cake.

Mothers' Union Scotland News

Welcome!

Welcome to our second edition of our Scotland News, designed to inspire and inform people of the worldwide aspect of the Mothers' Union, to engage with current social policy issues in a prayerful and faith filled way, to learn about what we are doing through the Scottish Episcopal church in Scotland and where we need your help and prayers.

This biannual news is available in the Mothers' Union Diocesan newsletters. Greater detail on all the articles and more are on the **Mothers' Union Scotland E News** which you can receive from enews@muscotland.org.uk ask to be put on the mailing list. It will also be available on Mothers' Union Scotland website at www.muscotland.org.uk.

International, National and Provincial work

"So what does the job of Provincial President entail?" is a question Jean McPherson Richardson is often asked, especially by church members, friends and acquaintances.

Briefly there are three main strands to my work, says Jean, namely International, National and Provincial.

Internationally I serve on the worldwide Trustee Board.

The meeting is chaired by the World-wide President Lynne Temby. The other Board members are 6 elected Trustees who represent the membership around the world and the 5 Provincial Presidents from UK and Ireland. Finally there are 4 elected Heads of Departments. So there are 17 of us altogether. In attendance are the CEO, Bev Julien and the four Heads of Departments who work at



our Headquarters in Westminster at Mary Sumner House (MSH). So – a lot of preparation and papers to go through!

Meanwhile back on home territory ie Provincially I hold Scotland Trustee on-line meetings. The Scotland Trustees are the Diocesan Presidents and it is they who determine policy and financial decisions. These are then ratified at two All Scotland Provincial Council meetings which I also run.

I also have the privilege and pleasure of visiting Dioceses and members.

But of course I am a member of my local branch like everyone else and go to the meetings and join in whatever is going on in my diocese. So all in all my MU life is a rich and varied range of responsibilities and commitments.

Active in Ireland



Greetings on behalf of Mothers' Union All-Ireland, thank you so much for the opportunity to share in the good news of

Mothers' Union. The magazine for Ireland is entitled Focus and is available on the Resource page on our website (www.mothersunion.ie) along with SPIN (Social Policy in the News) and the Clergy Newsletter which is circulated to clergy throughout the Dioceses.

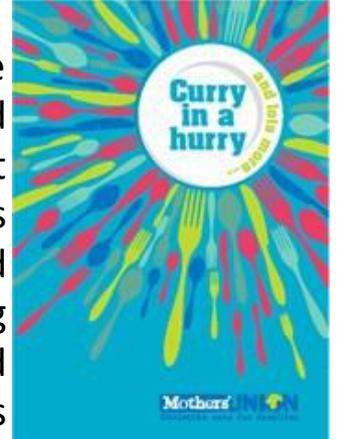
We first began in Ireland in 1887 in Raheny, Dublin and we are celebrating 13 Decades of Love and Service in 2017 as we remember the past, celebrate the present and focus on the future.

Mothers' Union members have embraced the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Based Violence. Each of the twelve Dioceses held a Vigil, many in the Diocesan Cathedrals, on the last Saturday in



November. Politicians and representatives of Women's Refuges were invited to attend and the worship resources provided by Mary Sumner House were used. A number of interviews were given on both local and national radio. We intend to develop this project in the future.

10,000 copies of Curry in a Hurry are on the move at present! The student cookbook includes helpful tips and contact numbers along with The Lord's Prayer and information about Mothers' Union. It is distributed to Third level students during Fresher's weeks and by College Chaplains throughout the year.



Bishops' Appeal is the Church of Ireland's World Aid and Development Programme and has contributed generously to Mothers' Union programmes in Burundi and Guyana. The current Diocesan Appeal in Cashel, Ferns and Ossory includes the literacy programme in Ethiopia.

Funds raised during the triennial Fundraising Appeal, Mums in May, are used to support Worldwide, All-Ireland and Diocesan projects and enable all Dioceses regardless of numbers to undertake projects such as the Away From It All Holiday scheme.

The Annual Young Women's Get Away, organized by the All-Ireland Young Members, offers an opportunity for younger women to enjoy a short break which included a time of relaxation, reflection and discussion, the title this year is "Family Matters".

Teddies for child refugees

Members assist with contact centres; visitors' centres in prisons; parent and toddler groups; while others provide 'baby changing' facilities at the National Ploughing Championships and a number of county Shows.



Premature baby knitting, fiddle blankets for dementia sufferers and Trauma Teddies are supplied in enormous numbers by members. This year a supply of Teddies was used by the Irish Naval Service when participating in migrant rescue in the Mediterranean. What a moment when a member recognised on TV a Teddy which she had knit as it was clutched in the hand of a rescued child! That child has been added to her prayer list!

6 members of Mothers' Union from North Connor completed the 8 Mile Walk at the Belfast City Marathon on May Day, raising funds for MU projects both at home and overseas.



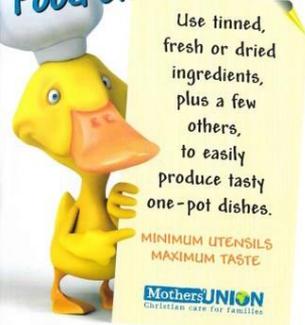
And that is just a flavour of Mothers' Union in Ireland,

With love,

Phyllis Grothier Provincial President All Ireland

Tasty recipe booklet

Flavoursome Food on a Budget



Mothers' Union in Scotland have produced 5,000 new recipe booklets full of tasty recipe's for those on a very tight budget. It is being distributed by members across the country going to

many food banks, Glasgow City mission, Tesco shops etc.

If you have a local food bank and would like to take a few along please contact; Hilary 01475 686213 or hilary.moran@btinternet.com



Christian care for families through praying, enabling and campaigning

From Zimbabwe to working with refugees in Scotland

I joined the Mother's Union at a church in Harare, as a young mother of two very young children who were both under 3 years old. Our group was very diverse and we met every Saturday afternoon in the main church.

For the following five years, I continued to be involved in various MU activities including leading a girls' group called St Veronica's guild.

My family relocated to Scotland at the beginning of winter 2004. At the time I was expecting our third child Ropafadzo, {meaning blessing} who has really been a blessing in our lives in so many ways. The transition to the UK was both interesting and challenging. Leaving our families and careers was life changing.

What I will always remember fondly from those early days in Scotland is the warmth of the MU members, congregation and the ministry team at St James. The warmth of neighbours and being part of a new church family allowed us to settle in our new life, form new relationships and create lifelong friendships which we will forever cherish.

I always believed in my heart that God had prepared a way for us way before our arrival in Scotland and he was using his people to help our family settle into our new life.

I also believed that God was going to see us through the loneliness and bereavement we suffered during our first weeks in Scotland when my father in law suddenly passed away at a time when my husband was starting a new job and we were all adjusting to a new environment.

12 years on, my involvement with MU continues. Apart from currently being part of a team which coordinates MU Bishopbriggs branch, I have been blessed with the opportunity to speak about my work with refugees to other MU members. I have also had the opportunity to represent MU Glasgow and Galloway Diocese at the Valdens fest festival in Sweden and share experiences with other people from throughout the world.

I always draw parallels between my involvement with the MU and my work with refugees from throughout the world.



I always draw parallels between my involvement with the MU and my work with refugees from throughout the world. For me in both cases I am called to be part of a family which helps people and families whose 'lives are in adversity'.

I miss my family in Zimbabwe especially my dear mother Linah who had the opportunity to visit us here in 2014. She was impressed with the reception and hospitality shown by the MU members in Bishopbriggs. In my mother's own words she would have relocated to Scotland too if she was younger but her life is back home in Zimbabwe and she loves it there. In the meantime I continue to enjoy my new Scottish family here.

Esther Muchena Aug'16

Reg Charity No. SC0364

**Wed 25th May Governance day for Scottish trustees
with MU Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at St.John's Church, Perth**



The aim of the training day for Trustees in the Province was to understand the guidelines and regulations regarding the role of Trustees and to raise awareness of the roles and responsibilities. Bev Julien (CEO) gave an overview of the work of the Mothers' Union Worldwide.



The meeting was hosted by our Provincial President, Jean Richardson - *Above rt: Vera Jones, ***** - Treasurer, Edinburgh Diocese*

The General Meeting is to be held in Winchester Diocese.

Thurs 22nd Sept 140th Celebration Service, Winchester Cathedral

Fri 23rd Sept General meeting, Hampton Court Hotel, Basingstoke

Unfortunately there was not enough support to run a coach from Scotland and accommodation had competition from other events taking place in the area.

The Wave of Prayer

I have always liked the idea of the Wave of Prayer rolling around the world. So many languages, so many women living different lives, but all our prayers said with love and faith.

The theme I have chosen is *reflect* and give thanks in this our anniversary year and *renew* as we look forward to the future.

The focus of course is to pray for our link dioceses and it was humbling to read about Mothers' Union members in Nigeria, South Sudan, Calcutta and Kenya. They are addressing the challenges of conflict, reconciliation and restoring stable family life in the most difficult of circumstances.

There was a very helpful article in the January – June 2015 edition of Families Worldwide.

It said that when you do pray for God's blessing for a diocese, do so in faith, embracing and exploring the whole spectrum of what God's blessing means – God's divine help, favour, mercy, benefit, gift and approval. Let us take these words with us as we enter the Wave of Prayer from 15th – 17th October and rejoice in knowing that our sisters are praying for us.

Janet Goody.

Round the Branches

Christ Church Morningside: Anne Elizabeth Watson, (*in the wheel chair in the photo on p.2*) died on 1st July and her funeral at Christ Church was attended by a large number of the congregation. In spite of a progressive illness Anne was always cheerful and a faithful member of the Church and Mothers' Union. Having been a teacher her particular interest was in the Literacy and Finance programme.

St James Penicuik:

We were sad to hear that Rose Mackenzie had died. Her funeral service was held on 11th May at St James and a reception was provided by church and MU members. Some of her family live in Canada and travelled over for the funeral. Rose had been a long-standing member and had served as Leader of the branch. She was renowned for her cake making and is sadly missed.

On July 5th, members enjoyed an outing for lunch at Mannerstons Farm Shop & Cafe.



St Peter's Musselburgh: (*See also the photo on p.3*)

Ruth Wogan informed us of the sad news that Betty Dunlop passed away peacefully on Saturday night/Sunday morning (3rd/4th April). She was a well loved member of our church and Mothers Union and will be missed. The funeral took place at St Peter's Musselburgh at 11.00 am on Wednesday 13th April, with a service at the crematorium afterwards. The church was crowded. Those of you who remember Betty Dunlop, will know that she served as a Trustee and looked after Families 1st orders, a job that her daughter Kathryn MacKenzie took over when Betty became too ill to continue.

Diocesan Members

Hazel Davies: We were very sad to learn of the death of Hazel Davies at the end of July. She was a long standing member of MU. Please keep her family, Morgwn, Bronwen, Owen and Gareth and the grandchildren; Vicky, Jim, Jennifer, Ryan, Kelsie, Kieran, Andrew and Lauren in your prayers. The Eulogy which was read by Morgwn at her funeral on 12th August at St Cuthbert's, Colinton is overleaf.

We continue to meet at Waterstone's coffee shop roughly every 4 weeks, depending on how many can make that date. There are several dedicated monthly members, but sadly one of them Hazel Davies died recently and we will miss her as she was always so cheerful. It is for ALL M.U members - we get to know each other better and the Diocesan members feel part of the Diocese and we get to know Branch Members who we do not usually meet.

The next meeting is Monday, Sept 25th at 10.30 at Waterstones. Angela

Hazel's eulogy 12/08/2016 – provided by Morgwn Davies, the son of Hazel Davies

Thanking everybody for coming. Morgwn explained that we all have different memories of Hazel and wished to share the family's collective memories that had been written by the family. He went on to say,

“For those who don't know, and my mother's circle of friends was so wide that I don't know you all, I'm Morgwn her son and I'm speaking on behalf of the children and grandchildren. That is Hazel's children, my siblings Bronwen, Owen and Gareth and the grandchildren; Vicky, Jim, Jennifer, Ryan, Kelsie, Kieran, Andrew and Lauren. She was also a loving mother in law to Bronwen's husband Pete and Owen's wife Trish. Our mother was proud, of everything her children and grandchildren have achieved. Their future and welfare was always paramount in her thoughts.

To go back to the beginning, Hazel was born on the 17th of March 1933 in Runcorn, Cheshire, the only child of Lydia and Leonard. All her children have strong memories of Runcorn as we went to stay with my mother's parents at least three times a year and we normally drove past a school in Widnes, the Wade Deacon Grammar School and every time, our mother would say “that's my old school, I used to get the Transporter Bridge over the Mersey every day”. This became almost a running joke and we felt we should mention her school in the eulogy as this is one of the many things we will remember our mother for.

In the early 1950's Hazel moved to Liverpool and worked in the library, reflecting her lifelong interest in the written and spoken word but the bright lights of London beckoned and she soon had secured a job and moved there. Whilst living in London, she took a holiday to Norway and as you know my mother will talk to anyone and everyone and whilst in Norway she met a couple, Arthur and Muriel from London and stayed in touch with them. Through them, Hazel first met Beryl and then Beryl's brother Edwin. Love blossomed and Hazel and Edwin were married in 1958 and from what they both said they had a great social life in London before their children were born, frequenting Ronnie Scott's Jazz Club in Soho as well as many other bars and clubs around London. Then they had children and life changed, my father stopped going to sea and secured a position at Leith Nautical College and we moved to Currie in 1967. Hazel was very trusting of Edwin as she didn't even see the house in Currie before they bought it.

With four young children my mother stayed at home and raised us, and living close to the school we were fortunate enough to be able to go home to have lunch with one another and our mother. In late spring when the weather was good my mother would have lunch ready for us all in the garden. We all have wonderful memories of that time.

Hazel and Edwin embraced life in Currie becoming involved in the local community and forging friendships that would last for many years. Hazel was always a great communicator, she was interested in people and could get their life story out of them in a matter of minutes. However, she was also very caring and from the numerous letters and cards that the family have recently received it is clear that many, many people valued her friendship and support.

Having successfully raised four children, Hazel was delighted when the grandchildren started to arrive and she was able to spend time and create more happy memories with them.

Sadly, Edwin passed away in 2004 and although Hazel was devastated by her loss, her energy and enthusiasm for life ensured that she continued to live life to the full, keeping up with old friends and making new ones. It was at this point in her life that she broaden her interests further and attended art appreciation classes and spent more time in the galleries of Edinburgh. Having worked as a librarian she had a lifelong love of literature and joined a local book club. This widened her pool of friends further. Hazel had many other interests as well, too many to detail in this short eulogy, all of which kept her engaged in the world and led to many discussions and debates.

With her enquiring mind, interest in all around her and her determination to always remain up-to-date Hazel was always young at heart. Even if she had lived to be 100, Hazel would have never grown old. She rejoiced in her latest “bargain” or treasure found, whether a shopping find or a new friend, Hazel had a zest for life which touched us all.

Whilst she was realistic about her cancer and how long she might live she never lost her enthusiasm for life and living it to the full. She was determined to make the most of each and every day and many more happy memories were forged during that time with both family and friends.

Although, she was weakening, her determination was resolute and there was no way that she was going to miss the opportunity of attending the Queen's Garden Party at Holyrood on the 5th of July, and with the help of a wheelchair, she made it and had the pictures to prove it.

Whilst we all mourn the loss of Hazel we reflect that for our mother it was a relief that the gap between losing her independence and the end was not too great. Up until 2 weeks before she went into the hospice she was still walking down to the local newsagent to buy a paper.

Hazel's recognition of the reality of her illness was brought home to me at the hospice, when I met some of her Mother's Union friends, Hazel had been a member of the Mother's Union for almost sixty years and was still meeting up regularly with her friends for services and coffee. On speaking to them, they said that recently they had told Hazel that they had the MU diary for 2017 and Hazel's reply was that she wasn't sure that she would need it but to hold on to it until December in case she did.

Like everything in her life, Hazel met her illness head on showing great resolve and bravery until the end. We are so proud of our mother; she remains an inspiration to all of us.

We would like to thank all of you for your kindness to the family at this difficult time, whilst we adjust to life without our mother and grandmother. A short ten minutes doesn't begin to cover Hazel's rich and fulfilling life so we would hope that you can all stay after the service to share with us your personal memories of Hazel."

CALENDAR: Diocesan Meetings:

Monday, Sept 25th Diocesan members and any others meet at 10.30am at Waterstones.

140th Anniversary Celebrations: Oct 5th at St Peter's, Musselburgh

11.15 - Service conducted by the Chaplain, Revd Christine Barclay. 12.15 – Talk about the way forward, introducing the unit leaders. 12.45 - lunch provided by St Peter's MU. Bring old photos of outings or Church events to display and let Helen know numbers coming a.s.a.p.

15th – 17th October - Wave of Prayer – contact Janet Goody for your date & time.

Provincial Meetings:

Tuesday, 18th Oct – Provincial Council Meeting at St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

Sun 30th – Friday Nov 4th Worldwide Trustee meeting at High Leigh, Hertfordshire

Literature

MUE: Greetings Cards For Sale: Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well, etc.

By now, most of you will have seen the new catalogue and the new range of cards. The cards are very good value - you pay twice as much for cards in the shops.

I have a wide range of these cards in stock, also Christmas cards and calendars. If you have not ordered already, do not delay in case supplies run out.

We no longer get 10 complementary copies of the magazine. I think this is because some members rely on getting one free! Please let me know if you want to order cards or I can come and visit you. We still have our regular very good customers.

Thank you to all who have bought cards over the year.

See you at October Diocesan Council, I hope and keep shopping with the M.U. *Angela*

Contributions for the Spring Newsletter should be sent to: Email: jean@jrhindle.co.uk or post to me at 24 Mauricewood Park, Penicuik EH26 0BP – Tel 01968 674591 *Jean Hindle*