

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

## Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

### NEWSLETTER



Pictured:- †Bob; Cathedral Branch Leader, Sonia Hudson; Provincial President, Jean Richardson; World Wide President, Lynne Tembey; Diocesan President, Chris Crosley & Provost, Richard Kilgour

*October 2014*

*From our Diocesan President, Chris writes .....*



Dear Friends,

It doesn't seem long since our last Newsletter was sent out, how time flies. A lot has happened since Easter. We welcomed our Worldwide President Mrs Lynne Tembey, our Provincial President Mrs Jean McPherson-Richardson who both joined us at the Branch Meeting of the Cathedral where Jean was asked to talk about her role in the Mothers Union. †Bob who is a member of the Mothers' Union joined us at the meeting and led us in the closing prayers along with Lynne. You can read more about this meeting in the report from the Cathedral Branch further on in this Newsletter.

Sadly we have said a number of farewells to some of our members and very dear friends some have died and some have moved away from our diocese. Those who have died include Julia Lord and Meg Bain both diocesan members, Peg Finnie, Nora Lamont from the Cathedral Branch and Mary Byars from St James Branch. It was wonderful however that Mary was able to be at our Afternoon Tea in the Carmelite Hotel on Mary Sumner Day, and many of you have told me how nice it was to be able to chat to her. God was so good to us that day. Members who have moved are; Sue Begg our much missed Faith and Policy Coordinator, Rev. Samantha Ferguson, the Rev. Canon Graham Ferguson and Maureen Erskine all Diocesan Members. They will all be missed and we send them our best wishes. However on a positive note Olga Robertson has volunteered to join our Trustee Board in the interim period and we thank her for this. My apologies if I have missed anyone out but please let me know, as I would like them to be included in our next Newsletter.

In May eight of us travelled to Perth to join other members from the Province to take part in a 'Reaching Out Day'. It was a wonderful opportunity for us to meet four young members of staff from the Faith & Policy Unit at Mary Sumner House and to listen to them as they told us about campaigning, their enthusiasm was infectious and really set us all thinking.

Pam Dench and I have attended two Provincial Council meetings. We discussed the way forward at the first one, something that has occupied my mind a lot recently as we definitely need to discuss this at our Council Meeting in November. At the second meeting we discussed next year's Conference, which will be held on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015 in the National Christian Centre in Perth there will be a nominal charge of £20 to cover refreshments and lunch. As usual numbers will be limited so please decide soon if you wish to go as booking forms will be available in the New Year. This will be another

opportunity to meet staff from Mary Sumner House and I would recommend it especially to members who can't always go to these events.

As I said in the last Newsletter many of our Trustee Board members have served us faithfully for many years and will be looking to stand down at the end of 2015. I would remind you of the need to form a new board to carry the work of the Mothers' Union forward in 2016, so please consider joining, it is important for the running of the organisation in the diocese that we have some new faces and more importantly new ideas. The work is interesting and very rewarding. You get to meet and know such lovely people. Please don't feel you need to be asked, talk to members of the Trustees' Board who will be only too willing to tell you about their roles.

My dear friends, Christmas goods are appearing in our shops already and by the time you receive this, Advent will be less than a month away when we will be waiting to welcome the birth of our Lord Jesus, my wish for all of us is that we may find time to reflect on the love that comes from knowing and loving God.

Love & Blessings  
Chris



**Some of our members who enjoyed  
our Mary Sumner's Day afternoon  
tea at the Carmelite Hotel.**



## *From our World Wide President*

Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

During 2014 I have had the great privilege and wonderful blessing of meeting with a good number of you in your homes and in your dioceses. How I have valued these very special times. Thank you for making me feel welcome and so special.

I do hope and pray that each one of you, whether we have met in person or simply through my letters, know how very special you are to me and how much you are loved.

I value your ministry of prayer so much. We are reminded in the bible so many times about the importance of prayer. Our Lord taught his disciples to pray, our own Mothers' Union was founded on, and continues to believe in the importance and centrality of prayer.

Mary Sumner's personal prayer is one so close to my heart, I imagine that it close to yours too: 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

The wonderful words of the hymn "What a friend we have in Jesus" by Joseph Medlicott Scriven comes to mind: "What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer". Please may I ask you to keep on with your interceding for Mothers' Union and for me. I assure you that I shall keep on praying for each one of you.

A little story to share with you. I recently purchased "Bauble Books" for our five wonderful Grandchildren. I bought them from the Mothers' Union shop at Mary Sumner House. I saw them firstly in our MUE catalogue.

There are four in a set: "Mary's Christmas", "Joseph's Christmas", "The Shepherd's Christmas" and "The Wise Men's Christmas". On the

back of each are the words "discover the exciting story of Christmas with - Mary...Joseph...The Shepherds...the Wise Men" .

They are small, beautifully written with a little bit of glitter on each book. On the first page are the words "every Christmas we remember that Jesus was born. Jesus is God's Son". Our eldest Granddaughter Charlotte saw them on my study desk.

"Oh Nanna, aren't these books beautiful? Are these for us? Look how they shine. They will sparkle on our Christmas tree. I will be able to read them to Daniel (her five year old brother). When my friends come I shall be able to show them and tell them the Christmas Story too." Oh how happy these words made me feel.

I pray that as we once again prepare to meet the Christ child and welcome him into our hearts and into our homes, we too may share the sparkle of his presence in our lives and shine so that others will experience the love that our Saviour brought into the world.

With my love and my prayers this blessed Christmastime.

*Lynne.*

Lynne Tembey

Worldwide President

### **The Mothers' Union Prayer**

*Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.*

*We pray for families around the world.*

*Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.*

*Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world.*

*In Jesus' name.*

*Amen*

## **SIXTY FIVE YEARS AT ST. ANDREWS CATHEDRAL BRANCH OF THE MOTHERS' UNION.**

I had a lovely surprise during our September meeting of the Mothers' Union. We welcomed guests from all over the North East of Scotland along with Mrs Lynne Tembey, the World Wide President and Mrs Jean Richardson, the Provincial President. Lynne presented me with a Certificate celebrating my 65 years of being a Mothers' Union member. It was such a happy occasion and a complete delight. Thank you so much.

This is my early years Mothers' Union story:-

I was introduced to the Mothers' Union by my mother, Mrs Ann Adams, who was a life-long member of the Cathedral and one of the founder members of the Cathedral Branch.

Having been baptised and confirmed, I was allowed to serve one year probationary period before joining. Mrs Kinnell, the Enrolling Member (now known as Leader) and wife of the Cathedral Provost, took me "under her wing", guided and assisted me. This involved attending meetings, taking notes and learning about the purpose and aims of the M.U. focussing on marriage and family life, with great emphasis on prayer. No single or divorced women, or unmarried mothers were allowed to join. Thankfully, that has now changed.

After my training period, I was enrolled as a member of the Mothers' Union. The meetings were held on the first Tuesday of each month. The annual subscription at the time was 1 shilling (5 pence today). Home and Family magazine was, I think 4 pennies (2 pence?), tea and biscuits were 2 pennies. Nowadays, that would be such a bargain.

After my daughter, Carole-Anne was born I was encouraged to bring her along to the meetings. Not so easy after the birth of my sons Stuart and Alexander.

Our meetings commenced with a short service frequently followed by a speaker. Often the speaker gave a slide show. The slides which were on a roll, very like a camera film, were fed into a projector with a wheel at the side, which when turned showed each picture. Technology has advanced greatly since then! During Lent and Advent the services were longer ending with an address by the Bishop.



Our fundraising consisted of ‘Bring and Buy’ sales. (Coffee Mornings were introduced much later). There was always a collection box waiting to be filled with loose change which was another fund-raising effort. I can remember my Mother saying “Remember change for the boxes”. It was amazing how quickly they were filled. All money raised was used for needy projects.

A number of years ago I became very ill and had to have a life-saving operation. Recuperation took some time. The loving prayers and support of my Mothers’ Union friends, along with the loving care of my family greatly helped me through this period. Never underestimate the power of prayer.

I look back and think ‘Where has the time gone’? It really does not seem all that long ago that I was pushing Carole-Anne’s pram from the Bridge of Don, meeting my Mum and walking together to our M.U. meeting - such memories! I have formed many friendships throughout these 65 years and am proud of being a member of the Mothers’ Union.

*Anne (Nan) Robertson.*

## **Wave of Prayer.**

Those of you who attended Diocesan Council may remember that I reported that the Wave of Prayer was changing to accommodate the Diocese where there is Mothers’ Union but no Wave of Prayer Links.

We have since been advised that from 2015 our dates will change from 21<sup>st</sup> – 25<sup>th</sup> November to 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> May and we will be linked with Angola (Southern Africa), North Ankole (Uganda), Okene (Nigeria), Ibadan South (Nigeria), Karnataka (South India). I will be able to share more information with you at Diocesan Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November.

As I explained to you at the time this does not mean that we can’t continue to pray for our links in Ruvuma & South West -Tanganyika in Tanzania and Athabasca, Kootenay & New Westminster in Canada.

This is a welcome opportunity to establish new links and I do hope we will embrace these but also continue to pray for those that we have already established.

*Chris Crosley*

# Mothers' UNION

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Join Mothers' Union as we take part in

## 16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence

25<sup>th</sup> November – 10<sup>th</sup> December

[www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)  
[www.twitter.com/mothersunion](https://www.twitter.com/mothersunion)  
[www.facebook.com/mothersunion](https://www.facebook.com/mothersunion)

## **16 Days of Activism**

Learn more about this by downloading the information pack on the Mothers' Union website. Each branch or group will receive a copy of the pack that has been put together by the staff at Mary Sumner House, but further copies will be available for members at Diocesan Council on 22<sup>nd</sup> November, these will be limited so can I urge those of you who can to download the pack from the Mothers' Union website. [www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)

We in the diocese support those affected by domestic violence through our links with Grampian Woman's Aid. While I know that it is impossible for all of us to meet together can I urge you to meet in groups where possible and set aside some time on the 25<sup>th</sup> November, which is 'The International Day Against Violence Against Women' and the final day the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 'The International Human Rights Day'. Can we make a point of marking these days in some way using the '16 Days of activism Pack' and if we can't meet in a group can we as individuals set some time aside to pray for those who are affected by violence and those who work tirelessly to help the victims caught up in violence in any shape or form.

*Chris Crosley*

## **Provincial Retreat**

This provides an opportunity to be quiet in the presence of God. In the past it has been held at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull in Perth but in 2015 due to refurbishment, the retreat is being held at Netherurd House near Blyth Bridge in the Scottish Borders.

The retreat runs from Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> April until Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2015 and I would recommend it to anyone who needs some quiet time but with some free time to explore the area if you wish.



## *The Mothers' Union General Meeting in Belfast: June 2014*

In June 6<sup>th</sup> Members from Aberdeen & Orkney flew to Belfast where we joined Sue Begg, now in Durham Diocese. We were welcomed by everyone we met during our weekend visit, and taxi drivers, hotel staff, shop assistants or people who stopped to help us read our city maps were interested to hear about the Mothers' Union and were so friendly and informative. Our hotel, where we found other members from many parts of the UK, was very close to St Anne's Cathedral, the venue for the Celebration Service on the Friday evening, and only about 20 minutes walk from the Waterfront Hall where the General Meeting took place on Saturday. The weather was beautiful during our stay so we enjoyed exploring different parts of the city each day.

Our group had booked to go to the 'Titanic Experience' on the Friday morning and we spent several hours there. The exhibition uses different kinds of modern technology to portray the story of the ship built in the nearby Harland and Wolf shipyard, then sent off on her maiden voyage with great pride by the hundreds of workers who had been involved.



The one phrase we heard over and over again was, 'she was fine when she left us'! As well as being impressed by all the sights, sounds and emotions we shared there, the Scottish visitors had the added bonus of meeting up with our former Worldwide President, Trish and her husband Michael, as we lunched at one of the excellent cafes.

The Celebration Service in the evening was attended by about 1200 people, and there was a wonderful parade of Banners from every diocese in the Province of All Ireland, as well as beautiful and inspiring organ and choral music during the worship. The Most Revd. Richard Clarke challenged and encouraged us all to live our Christian lives as disciples; each one called by the Lord Jesus.

The following morning about 2000 members made their way to the Waterfront Hall where there were many reunions taking place in the foyer along with conversations between people from all corners of the United Kingdom and several from overseas countries too. After Opening worship, Lynne Tembey, our Worldwide President gave her presentation covering both the many activities and the future plans for Mothers' Union. Each Provincial President spoke about the various ways members in each specific area aimed to 'make a difference' in the church and community.

The Rev. Chris Bennett, Chaplain to the 'Titanic Quarter' in Belfast was then interviewed by our Chief Executive Officer, Reg Bailey. This for many of us was the highlight of the day as we shared the experiences and caught the enthusiasm of this dynamic young man, who with energy, love, vision and humour was working to make the Christian Church an integral part of the growing community, springing up within the area dominated by the fantastic modern Titanic Building and the world famous yellow shipyard cranes known as Samson and Goliath. We had never thought that 'building a Church' could begin with 2 deck chairs, a kettle on the boil and a welcome aboard a little moored pilot boat at the quayside! God calls and then enables us in some surprising ways.

The afternoon session introduced us to Andy Kind, both a comedian and an author who has written several articles in our 'Families First' magazine. The son of a Mothers' Union member, Andy entertained us with his special brand of humour which filled the hall with waves of laughter. The first time the General Meeting has been used as a 'gig'!

Our closing worship was led by Reg Bailey and it rounded off a very happy and memorable day.

The Cathedral Eucharist on Sunday was followed by an impromptu Concert by the young Choristers: a special bonus. Our Aberdeen group spent the afternoon on an Open-topped Bus tour which gave us a wider view of the different areas of Belfast, a beautiful city, but one which still has divisions to cope with as its people try to move forward.

The Mothers' Union received a lovely welcome everywhere, from the Mothers' Union Plaque set in the floor tiles as we walked into City Airport, to everyone we met including the Bus Tour Operators, who gave us an extra day on our tickets.

After enjoying such a special experience we now look forward to 'Nottingham 2015' and we hope you will put the date in your diary too.

*Doreen Baillie*

## **ACTION AND OUTREACH PROJECTS**

Since the Easter newsletter 60 toiletry bags from the St Mary Branch have been donated to the Grampian Women's Aid Centre and both the Cathedral and St James's Branches have also donated quantities of toiletry items, all of which were received with most grateful thanks by the Centre. Our thanks go to all, both to the members of Mothers' Union and especially to those outwith who have so generously helped with this ongoing project. It is hoped very much that this project will continue later in the year as Christmas approaches.

The Neo-Natal Unit have also been delighted to receive all the knitting and other items we have been able to give to them, and again grateful thanks must go to all who knitted and sewed for this project – keep up the good work please!

## **AWAY FROM IT ALL HOLIDAYS**

This year our Diocese received three requests from deserving families to provide a holiday break for them and it is thanks to the generosity of our members and two large donations received from others that the Diocese were able to send all three families (a total of 5 adults and 7 children) away on a one week caravan holiday.

Unfortunately the costs of these holidays are increasing each year. Fortunately this year we were in a position to be able help all three families, but sadly we could come to the point when we will have to choose who gets a holiday and who doesn't, this will be a very hard decision to make. This year the average cost of a caravan holiday for one week has been £826.00, but thanks to very generous discounts given by the Haven Holiday Charities Scheme this cost came down to be within our budget of £650.00 per family.

Your Trustees are currently looking at different types of holidays and venues that can be offered but of course the school holiday periods are the most expensive times for a holiday. If there is anyone reading this who might have a brilliant suggestion of how to increase our funds for this much needed resource or ideas for an alternative type of holiday then please speak either to myself or any member of the Trustees.

*Pam Dench  
Action and Outreach Coordinator and  
AFIA Holiday Representative*

# News from the Branches

## *St James', Holburn Place.*

We have been holding our regular meetings, switching to evening meetings during the summer months which appear to be a great success with many members attending.

In April, Sue Begg led an interesting discussion on Divorce and the response from the Church – both as an institution and us as individuals. This also gave us a chance to say goodbye and thank you to Sue before she left the Diocese.

In May, instead of a meeting we met at the Winter Gardens in Duthie Park and had a look round before having tea and cake at the Inn at the Park.

In June we celebrated Compline before having a walk down memory lane courtesy of Cherry who had brought some old news cuttings and church newsletters.

We have also celebrated our branch's 50th Anniversary this year with a special service and cake. Thanks to all who organized, participated and attended and made this a special day.

In July, we studied Hannah [1 Samuel: 1&2] led by Olga which led to some diverse opinions and discussion.

In August, we welcomed Charlie Fox who gave an interesting talk on Scottish /US connections.

We continue to support Grampian Women's Aid with toiletries and the neo natal unit with baby hats (31) and hosted the Prayer Group in April.

Members also attended the Annual Meeting in Belfast.

*Rachel Officer*

## *St Andrews Cathedral.*

We have rather a lot to report for the last six months. Our A.G.M. was held in January and members received their new programme.

Our first meeting welcomed our Provost to speak to us about our place in the Cathedral. It gave us food for thought and future discussion. Our annual visit to the theatre to see 'Oh what a Lovely War' was most enjoyable as was our 'Fish and Chip supper' afterwards. It was good to see so many members and friends of our branch joining us.

Our Lenten service with the Rev. Max Patterson was well attended by members and our friends from St. Peters and Queen Street churches. The Diocesan Lady Day Service was held at the Cathedral again with Bishop Bob and the Provost. It was sad to hear of the death of Peg Finnie at this time. Peg was a lifelong member of our Branch and it was a mark of her life with the Mothers' Union that so many members from all over the Diocese attended her funeral.

Our links with other churches meant that this year we were invited to an afternoon of music at Queen Street Church, and then to St. Peter's for a talk and tea. We hope that these links will continue and grow.

Members took an active part in the Mothers Day service when we enrolled two new members, Catherine Dongo and Pauline Umezurike. At this service the branch presented another 15 new bibles to the Cathedral. This brings the total of new bibles given by the branch to 29.



Our summer theme was 'All things bright and beautiful'. We lived this theme by enjoying an afternoon visit to Drum Castle Garden Centre where we listened to a talk about summer plants and then enjoyed afternoon tea. At our next meeting we invited our friends to a summer party where we concentrated on flowers with

crafts and a quiz before tea. Our third event to celebrate our theme was a summer walk at Duthie Park admiring the renovations, gardens and dolphins.

*Sonia Hudson*

# Who's who

World Wide President

Lynne Tembey

Provincial President

Jean Richardson

Diocesan President

Chris Crosley

Diocesan Secretary

Diocesan Chaplains  
Paul Watson & Ali Harvey

Diocesan Treasurer  
Charles Fox

Co-ordinators

Action & Outreach  
Pam Dench

Social Policy  
Doreen Baillie

Faith & Policy  
Olga Roberson

Finance & Central Services  
Vacant

Fundraising & Communication  
Vacant

General Trustees

Florence Cal-Anglia

Victoria Angoe

Laura Heatherington

Agnes Robertson

AFIA rep  
Pam Dench

Diocesan Member rep  
Blanche Beattie

MUe rep  
Sheila George

## Branch & Fellowship Leaders

St Andrew's Cathedral

Sonia Hudson

St James', Holburn Place

Joint Leadership

St Mary & St James

Carole Fox

Diocesan Members

Blanche Beattie

## **Dates for your Diary in 2015**

25<sup>th</sup> March - Lady Day Service – St Mary-on-the-Rock, Ellon @ 7.30pm

14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> April - Provincial Retreat – Netherurd,

26<sup>th</sup> June - General Meeting – Nottingham

24<sup>th</sup> September - Provincial Conference – Christian Centre, Perth

**Please put these dates in your diary and plan to join us.**

**Thank you to everyone who has contributed pictures or articles.**

**We would love to have news and photographs from ALL branches as well as information on activities.**

**Items from ALL members are most welcome, this is your newsletter!**

**Copy for next issue - please send to David Crosley at:-**

**[david@crosley.org.uk](mailto:david@crosley.org.uk)**

**or by post to:**

**66 Snipe Street**

**ELLON, AB41 9FW**

**NO LATER THAN 28<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2015**

**Scottish website: [www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk)**

**Scottish Charity No. SC036627**