



Diocese of Edinburgh

Mothers' Union Newsletter



March 2013

Letter from the Diocesan President: March 2013

Greetings to you all,

This year seems to be flying by and we are now well through Lent. Today is Mothering Sunday and I was delighted to be asked to St John's for their service during which the baby of a Nigerian MU member was Baptized. It was a lovely service with thoughtful anthems. After the service Catherine and I met three lapsed MU members – we hope that they will become Diocesan members.



The province will continue to look at the results from The Gathering (if you still have any thoughts do let me know) before making final decisions as this may involve changing the Provincial Constitution. BUT, we must not be complacent, we still have to run the Diocese until such times as there are any changes. This means we need your help, as several Trustees retired and need to be replaced. If you would like to find out more, please tell me. You would not be left alone to “get on” with anything as we work as a team. Several Trustees are now holding 2 or 3 different roles!

Hopefully, you took the opportunity to discuss the papers from M.S.H and send them your thoughts. Remember, there are no right answers to these, it is your views which are respected even if they differ from our own, that they want.

World Wide Council was gently and prayerfully led by Lynne our new World Wide President – more at Council.

Sadly, three of our long serving, faithful members have died this year, Ada Chapman (Christ Church), Margaret Gibbs, (Diocesan Member who collected the knitting for the Prem. Baby unit) and Joyce Jones (St James). If anyone would like to collect the knitting and meet with Jill at the Unit, or she will come to you, please say so. Jill was at Margaret's funeral and is keen that we continue to knit for them as they need so many hats and blankets.

Julia and I are willing to come and run a taster session/other session on “We are Created”. St James has started this. It is a discussion session, no right/wrong answers and each opinion is valued and kept within the group.

Easter is nearly here, the flowers are out and the daffodils budding. We have a lot to look forward to. I wish you a happy and joyful Easter,

Angela

Angela Sibley celebrated her 70th birthday on 12th Nov: She writes in an extract from St James ‘Outreach’: We were away overnight and to my surprise the family joined us for dinner. It was lovely to sit and chat and no cooking (or washing up!). To round off the week, son, Andy and Charlene had a daughter, Ella Marie on the 15th November. A really happy week. Angela Sibley

Lenten Reflection from Revd Frances Burberry

Edinburgh MU Chaplain



Lent is a journey that calls us to look again at life and belief, and to trust in the God who guides the unfolding journey. This season of new growth and transformation is, therefore, a good time to re-establish a way of praying and a way of being which is right for us; in both our uniqueness and in our reflection of God.

In the Gospels we see how important it is to Jesus to spend time praying to God, referring his whole work to God. Whether he withdraws to the desert; the mountain-top; the lake-side; the temple; the upper room; or the garden, Jesus spends time with God in prayer, so that God can work through him, in love.

The Church of the Pater Noster [Our Father] stands at the top of the Mount of Olives, overlooking the city of Jerusalem. The church is built above a grotto, which St Helena identified as the place where Jesus frequently taught his disciples. This place is where the Emperor Constantine built his great Basilica of the Eleona [which is Greek for, 'of the olive trees'], to commemorate Jesus' prophecy of the destruction of the Temple (and Jerusalem).

St Matthew's Gospel places the teaching of the Lord's Prayer in the Galilee – part of the teaching of the Sermon on the Mount – but since St Luke's Gospel places the teaching of the Lord's Prayer after his story of nearby Bethany, and not in the Galilean ministry, the grotto came to be associated with the Our Father. The words of this familiar prayer are displayed in over 100 languages in coloured, ceramic tiles round the cloister of the church, and carved in stone in Aramaic on the floor of the grotto. It is not difficult with the eyes of faith to imagine the scene – Jesus and the disciples sitting in the cool of the cave, looking towards Jerusalem. Gethsemane is the entire area at the foot of the Mount of Olives – not just the enclosed garden which pilgrims visit today. For Gethsemane was more of a park or olive orchard, than a 'garden' as we use the word. The Church of the Agony stands next to the garden – for it marks the spot where Jesus prayed, in an agony and sweated blood. The church translates the Gospel most compellingly. Great and spacious, it is dominated by a by a mosaic of the prayer-agony above the altar; in front of the altar, enclosed in marble balustrades, is the Rock of the Agony, surrounded on four sides by a wrought-iron rail with a crown of thorns motif. But the darkness of Gethsemane on the night before Jesus suffered enfolds the whole church; for the windows are of alabaster, in purple and dull pinks and reds, letting little light in – only creating little pools of dim light all round.

In the garden outside the church there are eight olive trees. H. V. Morton in his book, 'In the Steps of the Master' gives evidence that these trees are older than 2000 years. He is talking to a French Franciscan:

'And is it true,' I ask him, 'as so many believe, that these are the actual trees that were growing in the time of Our Lord?' 'They may well be the trees,' he replies, 'for their age is lost in antiquity. I will tell you a very interesting thing about them. They have never paid the tax which, since the Moslem conquest [637 AD], was imposed on newly planted trees. That means they were not young trees many centuries ago. That, my son, is an historic fact; but whether they sheltered our Lord I cannot say; but, for myself,' and here the old man smiled gently and bent towards his rake and basket, 'I believe they did.'

Given such evidence, and again with the eyes of faith, it is not difficult to believe that these trees witnessed Jesus' agony. They are old and venerable – more like rocks than trees – and are propped up with ramparts of stones and stout wooden poles; but they are not dead, and still bear fruit. For out of apparently dead wood new shoots spring... .

The prayer which Jesus is believed to have taught in a grotto at the top of the Mount of Olives, he himself prayed in the garden at the foot, "your will be done." And from Gethsemane, under arrest, he went to do his Father's will. *Frances Burberry*

THE MU PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT SCOTLAND

Hilary Moran has retired from her post as MU Provincial President.

We wish her a happy retirement.

The new Provincial President is Mrs Jean Richardson.

Members' News: Sadly there have been several deaths since the last Newsletter.

Ada Chapman: Ada was a Christ Church Branch leader 30 years or more ago. She died in Drummond Grange on Thursday 31st January. She would have been 92 in August and had been in Drummond Grange for 15 years. During that time Rose Mackenzie's husband, Don, was also in Drummond Grange, so Rose & Jean Hindle would visit Ada from time to time Vera Jones and Betty Storey, who have visited her regularly over the years, attended the funeral which was on Fri. 8th February in the Pentland Chapel at Mortonhall.

Both Rose Nuttall and Margaret Gibbs, who were Trustees for many years, and looked after the Diocesan Members, died, Rose in hospital on Christmas Day (2011) and Margaret, despite a long illness got her wish to die at home in Feb this year.

Rose Nuttall – See page 7 *Rose and Margaret taken 8 Oct 2009 in Christ Ch. Centre*

Margaret Eleanor Gibbs: 8th May 1926 - 12th Feb 2013 (see also top pf p.8)

Those of you who knew Margaret Gibbs will be sorry to learn of her death at home on 12th Feb. Margaret had served for many years as a Trustee for Edinburgh MU. She had been responsible for coordinating knitting for premature babies and keeping in contact with Diocesan Members. Her funeral was on 22nd Feb at the Church of the Holy Cross, Davidson's Mains and was attended by Philip & Sue Crosfield, Hazel Davies, Lily Scott, Catherine Pow and Jean Hindle. Angela was unable to attend, since she was attending World Wide Council in Swanwick. Donations were requested for Macmillan Cancer Care. A reception was held at The Victoria Park Hotel, which gave the opportunity to meet and talk with Margaret's family and also with Jill, to whom Margaret used to pass the baby knitting. Jill asked MU to continue with this work, especially for knitting hats. The address given by Margaret's youngest brother, Roger Dean, who very kindly emailed it to me, is below. I make no apology for including all of it: *"There is a song in the stage show, "Chorus Line" whose final words are : "That I can do – I can do that!" This might well have been Margaret's theme song. If a "that" was not being done - she could do it. If a "that" was not being done well – she could do it better. This may have been manifested in infancy.*

In the early 1930's. all along the extensive Victorian Road where her grandmother lived, there would be a scattering of painter and decorator's sign boards advertising men at work refreshing the chocolate and cream paintwork of the houses and railings on their frontages . As the latter were so close to the pavement, they often bore a notice warning that the paint was wet.

Our father used to tell that the 4 year old Margaret once approached one of the sign boards, traced its lettering and proud of her reading ability declared, "That says WET PAINT!". The fact that the board spelt – W NEWBY & Sons, Painters and decorators since goodness knows when – was quite immaterial to her. Little Margaret knew that its very presence indicated that paint certainly would be wet even if it was not already. Young Margaret could cut to the chase!

Cooking was her thing and these reminiscences seem to develop mostly around food. It was a Christmas tradition in our family to serve coconut pyramids when the cakes came round. Margaret could do that - she could make them just like her mother did. Margaret had newly moved to secondary school where there was a huge domestic science room resting above an equally huge woodwork room. And there she toiled away on a Wednesday afternoon preparing the Christmas delicacy. When the family

had gathered on Christmas Day, she presented the fruits of her labours. Whereupon, her grandfather rose from the table and solemnly shook hands with everyone, "Those who are about to die – I salute you!" Margaret was not pleased by the cruel inference. But it didn't deter her from cooking other things.

When she was fifteen, Margaret was offered a job at the local electricity supply company – NORTHMET HOUSE, as it was known. She continued to work there for the next nine years. During this time the chief accountant lost his male secretary through enlistment in the war effort. The job was vacant. "I can do that!" said Margaret and so she did very much to the chief accountant's satisfaction.

When she was twenty, Margaret started a Wolf Cub Pack. "I can do that", she said. So she did. And we obedient wolf cubs would shout "Akela we'll do our best" every Thursday evening. I can remember walking home with Akela and Baloo. Opposite Baloo's house was a little shop. It sold Smith's potato crisps from a large tin just inside the door. They were the ones with a blue paper twist of salt hidden in the packet. Baloo's crisps – thank you Margaret for introducing me to those and for teaching me to tie a reef knot and a sheetbend - sometimes executed behind my back for good measure.

On Saturday 17th May 1947, the 22 year old Margaret journeyed to St Albans in Hertfordshire to observe a young Ronald Gibbs giving a guided history lecture on the Abbey there. She went to make sure he could do that and do that properly. She could do that (she knew much about St Albans Abbey herself). He did.

And thereon developed the lasting Gibbs dynasty of today.

By 1950 Margaret was married with a very young baby and in the summer holiday, I was sent on the 125 bus to their East Barnet home. Having her hands full with the baby, she suggested I might like to ride out into the countryside on her bicycle. Caring, as she was, she prepared me a packed lunch. "I'll pop in a hard-boiled egg and some bread and butter", she said. I'd never had an egg hard-boiled before. (I was 10 years old). Sitting on the grass in a quiet country lane with the sunshine playing on my back while eating that perfect hard-boiled egg was beyond comparison. She must have known how it would please.

Five years later, I was welcomed into Margaret's brand new home in Solihull, Warwickshire, where I stayed for four months while working on a pig farm. Each day I took off on that self same bicycle with a carefully packed pack lunch (often with an egg). I would return at night smelling strongly of pig. But Margaret smiled on my odour with sisterly affection and plied me with supper. She was a very good cook and a kind one.

These are just snap shots, I admit, that have been yellowing in the memory's album. My brother and I have lost a sister. "There is no friend like a sister", wrote Christina Rossetti. This is how her 19th century poem goes:

"For there is no friend like a sister
In calm and stormy weather
To cheer one on the tedious way
To fetch one if one goes astray
To lift one if one totters down
To strengthen whilst one stands.

Margaret did all these things.

But I would perhaps add another line:

*To feed one with some tasty dish"

Throughout the family there are recipes here and there passed on for shortbread or for lemon pud or some such. Only in the past few weeks has the recipe for "Kinghorn Katie Kake been carried south by one of her nieces. Margaret would say, "I can do that" - "Now you can do it too!"

God bless.

Roger Dean

5



The photo of Margaret from the 'Funeral Order of Service'

Members' News Continued

Penicuik St James Branch were shocked by the sudden death of **Joyce Jones** on 27th Feb just before the branch meeting was due to start. She is pictured centre right with Joyce Black and Vera Jones at the General Meeting last year. Joyce was 83 on 9th Jan. Joyce's daughter, Vanessa Orr was recently awarded the MBE for her services in fostering a huge number of children. Many of whom were newborns. Rev Dr Neville Suttle who conducted the funeral service said that Joyce had been a super Grannie, not only to her own grandchildren but to all the foster grandchildren.



Joyce Black, Joyce Jones, Vera Jones at Llandudno last year.

Two weeks later on March 13th, also just before the MU branch meeting, we learned of the death in Edinburgh Royal Infirmary of **Canon Philip Crosfield OBE**. Please pray for Sue and her family. The funeral is on Fri 22nd March at the Cathedral since he was the Provost of St Mary's Cathedral in Palmerston Place until his retiral, Philip & Sue celebrated their Golden Wedding on 22nd Aug 2006. The photo on the left was taken 2 days before on 20th Aug at Penicuik House where St James congregation held their annual picnic. From 1988 he was also the first Chaplain of Edinburgh Diocese Mothers' Union and very supportive of MU. After he retired as Provost, he served on the Ministry Team at St James, until he was forced to give up on health grounds, but he still regularly attended St James in a wheel chair. For many years he ran a Bible Study Group for St James at his home in Silverburn. He even attended the funerals of Margaret Gibbs and of Joyce Jones.



Livingston Ecumenical Branch

Our Branch leader Linda Marshall graduates in April with a BSC Hons in Social Sciences and Social policy. Linda's graduation ceremony takes place at the Usher Hall and all our branch members congratulate Linda on her achievement. Bette Mackie and Gloria Akinlami both had special birthdays last year and our branch members wished them both a very happy birthday. Mary McCloskey became grandmother to twins - a boy and a girl and she was congratulated for being the first grandparent in our branch to be a granny of twins. I myself graduated from West Lothian College with an SQA level 9 in Child Care learning and Development. All branch members congratulated me on my achievement. *Fay Edgar* Congrats on these successes from Edinburgh MU

Congratulations to Hazel Davies on her 80th birthday - 17th Mar. (Photo on p.8)

St Ninians Branch: Pray for Pat Treherne's continued progress after her operation.

See also p. 8 lines 3 & 4)

News from Sydney, Australia: I received an email from Helen Cooney, who is an Australian MU member and who I met in 1988 when she and her husband were living in Edinburgh and when Helen attended Worldwide Council at Swanwick. I keep in touch with her at least once a year. She writes:

Thank you also for the Edinburgh MU newsletter. We had a meeting last Thursday, discussing the future of MU and the ongoing leadership problems. I was able to share some of responses from your conference, the Gathering, with the ladies who were at our meeting. They were very pleased to hear about MU in Scotland. It is interesting know that we all struggle with the same problems, with declining membership and knowing how to move forward. We have a shop in one of Sydney's main arcades, it is both a blessing and a challenge! You might like to look at our website, -



May Mann (Mae) 1918 – 2012

Mae MANN died on Monday 3 December 2012 at Braid Hills Nursing Home. Our thoughts and prayers are with her daughter, Susan, and all her family and friends as they continue to grieve her loss. May was born in Aberdeen in 1918 and she died in Edinburgh on 4th Dec 2012 aged 94!

May was married to Alexander in 1936, and had two sons and one daughter; latterly she had two grandsons and a great-granddaughter. She brought up her young family in Colinton from 1955-1975, where she was a member of St Cuthbert's, Colinton. In that time May had a busy and fulfilling life: she did voluntary work as a Red Cross instructor and Cadet leader, was a member of the Casualty Union, worked

with children with cerebral palsy, with unmarried mothers, deaf and dumb adults and also in a home for the blind. When her husband retired, they moved near to Bath where she found a church and joined the Mothers' Union. May remained a faithful member of the MU for the rest of her life. In 1986, after her husband died, she moved back to Edinburgh and lived with her daughter, Susan, in Liberton. She moved to Penicuik with Susan in 1987. While at St James's, May joined the Cursillo movement, which she loved. She faithfully attended all the meetings and especially loved the worship and hymn singing. Sadly, in 2006 May was diagnosed with Dementia and was looked after by Susan until 24-hour care was needed and she moved into Braid Hills Nursing Home. The family organised a lovely funeral service, led by the Revd Derek Collingwood, who had befriended and visited her after her move to Braid Hills. Two of her favourite hymns were sung: Be still for the presence of the Lord and Here I am Lord. The prayers of commendation said at the end were especially apt for May and the way she lived her life. A lovely ending for May; she would have enjoyed the service. May was a true and faithful Christian; may she Rest in Peace and Rise in Glory. (This is a synopsis of Val McGavin's report in 'Outreach', St James' magazine.)

Rose Nuttall: Rose died on Christmas Day after a long battle with cancer. Her funeral was on Tuesday 10th January and was attended by MU members including Angela Sibley and Doris Bilton, a past DP of Edinburgh MU and also for many years a neighbour, a few doors away from Rose. Doris travelled up from Cambridge to attend the funeral. Rose had been a trustee for many years and for many years had looked after the Diocesan Members, keeping them up to date with MU happenings. The photo on the right shows Margaret (left) and Rose (rt) taking part in the Trustees presentation in Christ Church Morningside Centre. Other photos show the Trustees wearing hats!



Hanna Monelle: who was branch leader of St James before moving to Edinburgh and Christ Church MU; is a grandmother. Younger daughter, Julia, gave birth to twins, Grace on the left and Millie on the right. The photo was taken mid Oct when they were 4 months old. They and their parents have moved from London back to Edinburgh, and are living near Hanna. 7

STOP PRESS: The daughter of Margaret Gibbs, Rona Hope, writes that £400 was collected at the funeral for Macmillian cancer support.

St Ninians: Mrs Dorothy Hendry, long term member of St Ninian's Church, will be 90 on April 3rd. *Congratulations from Edinburgh MU*

CALENDAR

The Lady Day Service will have taken place (March 20th) by the time you receive this Newsletter, at St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Palmerston Place.

The 2013 Provincial Retreat: The 2013 Retreat will be from 9th to 11th April, which is later than usual and in the week following Easter Week. The cost will be £105 in total. The Retreat Leader will be The Revd. Paddy Allen, Rector of the Strathearn Churches and co-ordinator of the Spirituality module of the Initial Ministry Education provided by the Theological Institute of the SEC. Her theme is Stature of Waiting -The Other Side of Ministry. *(All the places have been filled)*

Monday April 15th Diocesan Council will be held on at St James the Less, Penicuik – Communion at 10.00am - Meeting starts at 11am.



Hazel Davies, Joyce Black and Margaret Gibbs at the 2007 Annual Meeting held in Liverpool.

MU GENERAL MEETING 12th June 2013 DIOCESE OF BATH and WELLS

The bus will be leaving from Dunfermline on Monday 10th June picking up en route to Weston- super-Mare where we will be staying at the Arosfa Hotel for 4 nights dinner, bed and breakfast. There will be a report in next Newsletter.

Triennial Elections: The Office bearers/Trustees are: .

Diocesan President: Angela Sibley, Secretary: Catherine Pow, Treasurer: Vera Jones. Catherine Pow is Coordinator for Finance & Central Services, Julia Mason and Jean Hindle are sharing Faith & Policy. Vera Jones is looking after Diocesan Members.

Vacancies for Marketing and MUE since the Marketing Co-ordinator, Pat Gordon now a trustee and MUE Rep Susan have both retired. Angela is covering both MUE + Action & Outreach, This is a heavy load. If you can, please think about volunteering to help.

MUE: Greetings Cards For Sale: Easter, Sympathy, Get Well, Welcome

Apply to Mrs Angela Sibley a.s.a.p. Tel 01968 674211

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Editorial

Contributions should be sent to: Email: jean@jrindle.co.uk or post to Mrs J Hindle 24 Mauricewood Park, Penicuik EH26 0BP - Tel 01968 674591

I have had a much better response to the request for items of interest from the branches this year. Thank you to all who have contributed. Since this Newsletter goes to every member as well as past members who have left the Diocese, it is a golden opportunity to show what activities members are taking part in. Items for the **next Newsletter** should be with me by August or early September 2013 to enable distribution at the Autumn Diocesan Council in order to save on postage. News of branch activities, special birthdays, anniversaries etc. plus photos would be welcome.

If you can receive Newsletters, Intercession Leaflets by email please let me know since this would save on postage for Edinburgh MU. Those of you with access to the web can view this Newsletter in colour at: www.muscotland.org.uk