



Diocese of Edinburgh

Mothers' Union Newsletter



March 2016

Letter from Sue Crosfield: March 2016

One of the problems facing all voluntary organisations at the moment is the difficulty of finding people willing to become office holders. The Mothers' Union is no exception. Finding a new diocesan president is especially difficult. In order to facilitate their search some dioceses have suggested sharing the burden between two or even three people, which may well be what we have to do.

At the moment we are in a state of transition. I myself have no status, beyond the lowly post of Minutes Secretary. Yet I find myself acting like a barely legitimate DP, which is uncomfortable. So I very much hope that by the time you read this we will be in a rather more settled position.

We are very grateful to Angela for keeping us going through thick and thin over the last six years. She has worked tremendously hard and we all owe her a big thank you. It is great that she has volunteered to carry on as our MUE rep, supplying us with cards, badges and other good things, and also that the Coffee Mornings in Waterstones, which she established and which have been such a success, will continue. But we are now on the lookout for new talent. I am sure there must be lots of lights hidden under bushels that with a bit of luck, skill, and hard work we can bring into the light of day.

To help us cope with our present problems, Jean Richardson, our Provincial President, has come down to Edinburgh twice during the last three months to help us consider a new way of "being MU". She has also talked to the Aberdeen MU as they have similar problems to ours. We are grateful to her for showing us a new way forward. She outlined a scheme originating in West Yorkshire by which the diocese is divided into a number of teams each concerned with a different MU aim or object, each having its own leader, one of whom becomes the Diocesan President. The teams proposed are Outreach, Communication, Prayer and Administration. The idea is that most MU members become involved in one of the teams and contribute to its work in collaboration with others. Thus as many people as possible become actively involved in a diocesan activity, rather than just sticking to their branch. To launch this scheme Jean suggested that we should organise a big event, perhaps in the autumn, centred on a really good meal, at which the new way of doing things can be fully explained. She also insisted that it should be FUN. The bishop was present at both meetings so is now fully in the picture and very supportive.

It is going to take a lot of effort to get used to, but I am sure it will be a case of "off with the old and on with the new", and with luck will ultimately, God willing, have a revitalising effect on us all.

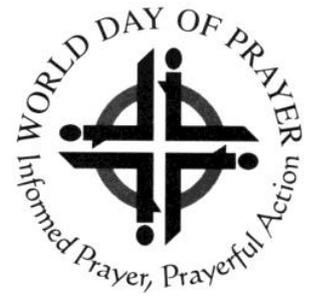
Susan Crosfield (acting secretary)

100 copies of Hilary Moran's Scottish News Letter, ps 5-8, have been printed for distribution at Synod, 12th March.



We thank Frances Burberry for her faithful service as MU Chaplain. Since Frances has retired and we are still looking for a replacement, below is a meditation, reproduced by kind permission of the World Day of Prayer Scotland.

It was produced by a Bible Study group in Biggar.



Friday 4th March 2016 - WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 'Receive children, receive me' - MEDITATION

And you know I remember this. I was there.

It was a hot, dusty day but people crowded round him, listening, trying to get a better view.

I hadn't meant to go. I was on my way to see my mother and I had Philip with me and Naomi. They always look to see what's going on if there's a crowd; it's hard to drag them away, little monkeys, and this time they got themselves near to the front. I was quite proud of them actually. They looked so tidy and were hanging on to every word. I don't know if they understood or not. I saw Ruth with her little one, Sarah. In fact, there were a lot of my friends there with their children. Trying not to be too conspicuous; it was a talk for the men really, I think.

Then out he came with those words ...

And the children seemed to know that he was gentle. I was really glad that Philip and Naomi were looking tidy. You don't want them to show you up, do you? But it was as if the Red Sea had parted all over again. As he stretched out his arms, all the children passed through the crowd. There was nothing the men could do. They could see that he wanted the children close to him. There were a few grimaces among his followers I can tell you. But there they were, the children. Philip and Naomi got near to the front. I could understand him wanting Philip near him. Well he's a boy isn't he? Could grow up to be a rabbi, needs to begin learning. But he smiled at Naomi too and you could see she was at ease with him.

Then I could hardly believe it, some of those beggars' children got in close too, dirty smelly things they are, no manners. And that boy with the crooked legs was struggling towards him. As he got close Jesus put out his arms to him and helped him onto his knee. What's a boy like that got to offer? Can hardly put one word after another. Then from the back two girls, obviously from Samaria, came striding through as if they owned the village. Lucky to be here, I'd say. But you'd think Jesus didn't know where they were from; he called out to them to come and join in.

Receive them and we receive him? Isn't that a bit much to ask?

Who is this man? The Holy Man from Galilee, they call him. From Galilee! And he loves children. Look at them all. I stand on the edge watching with the other women. He doesn't send us away.

Look, his eyes see me. Such kind eyes, full of love. They pierce my very soul. Something is moving deep within me. The world falls away – the fear, the envy, the worry ... That gaze is magic, pure love. My heart leaps and joy overwhelms me. I have never felt like this since I was a child.

I am blessed.

World Day of Prayer Scottish Committee



The journey through Holy Week, Palm Sunday,
Last Supper, Good Friday to Easter Day
He is Risen



Easter Greetings to Everybody

Don't forget the clocks go forward in the early hours of Easter Day

From the Primates meeting in January



We serve God in 165 countries

The Anglican Communion is a family of 85 million Christians,

38 provinces across 165 countries speaking over 1,000 languages.

We serve God everywhere from the richest to the poorest nations, often amid deep poverty and conflict. We are all brothers and sisters united by the love of 1 Lord, Jesus Christ.

Angela Sibley received news from Snigda Simick in one of our new linked dioceses – Delhi
(Printed as it came in)

Dear Angela,

Christmas Greetings and Happy new year 2016.

I am very excited to receive your Christmas Greeting Card. Last year also i received but could not acknowledge you. The first reason was i did not have your mail address. This year i could manage to get it. Hopefully it is the right address. And the second reason was my only sister was seriously ill in the hospital and expired on christmas day. I wanted to get in touch with you. Now you have got my e-mail address too. Please keep in touch and let me know about your activities. I will also let you know our activities. At present we are very busy with our bicentenary celebration. Women are taking part. We organised a program with the widows and widowers this year. Last year I did only with widows. It was excitent and everyone appreciated the program.

Hope you and your family are keeping well. Since my husband is the presbyter of St. Thomas Church and St. Andrews Church I take care of the women of the both churches and at the same time Diocesan Women's Fellowship. This year St Andrew's Church also was celebrated bicentenary year. Today we are having a fete where we are also having a stall and collecting money for our outreaching program. In our out reach program we sponsor the poor children for their study. I have talked a lot. I should end here today. Thank you very much for everything. God bless you.

Mothers' Union Scotland News

Welcome!

Welcome to our first edition of the Mothers' Union 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 will be biannual and is available in printed form in the Mothers' Union Diocesan newsletter. Greater detail on all the articles are on line with links to websites, this is called **Mothers' Union Scotland E News** which you can receive by email from ews@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.

Pants for Prisoners

Dear Friends,

I would like to reiterate Hilary's words of welcome to our first Scottish Mothers' Union News; how exciting to be able to learn about how the Mothers' Union (MU) is reaching out to communities in Scotland and overseas.

Some of you may know that a casual remark I made three years ago at a talk I gave at the Church of Scotland Session House in Kirkmichael (Perthshire) set a ball rolling over which I had no control!

Now, each year one of the six charities the village supports through the Session House is the MU project, "Pants for Prisoners". People like the

idea that they could give some practical help to a local need ie Corton Vale Women's Prison. People don't have to be a member to help us to reach out to those who are in need.

The Mothers' Union membership are often shy about sharing all the amazing ways we work to transform people's lives. I hope you enjoy this first edition and don't be shy about sharing

whenever and wherever you can. By sharing we can all learn.

With love and prayers,

Jean Richardson, Provincial President



Holyrood Domestic Abuse consultation



Churches are active in every kind of community in Scotland, in ways ranging from personal caring and support, to a wide variety of local and national projects. The Mothers' Union are a small part of this caring community in Scotland.

The Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office employ a small staff at Holyrood to inform churches of parliamentary business which they may take an interest in. Many churches choose to respond to official consultation processes initiated by the Scottish Parliament, Scottish Government, UK Government and other agencies. The Scottish Episcopal church has responded to many consultations as well as Mothers' Union members.

The latest consultation is concerning the definition of domestic abuse. Michael Matheson, Secretary for Justice asks for us as individuals to respond. The government are committed to creating a specific offence of domestic abuse and asks that all those with interest take time to complete the survey so that the criminal justice system is able to respond in dealing with the scourge of domestic abuse.

Unfortunately it is only an on line consultation. It has to be completed by 1st April 2016. 'Consult Scotland' website, description Domestic Abuse.

You can view the Mothers' Union Scotland response to *Consultation on Civil Partnership* on our web site under resources. Scottish Episcopal church past responses are on www.actsparl.org under official responses.

Johannesburg, South Africa

Mothers' Union central staff are



currently working with a wonderful group of church and community facilitators from Mothers' Union, SA, exploring a vision and an approach for working with the most vulnerable and marginalised groups and communities. It is the 'Training of Trainers' event for the next two weeks, using the Church and Community Mobilisation process. 18th Feb 2016

Please pray for those staff and members attending Commission on Status of Women (CSW), at United Nations, New York

CSW60

Commission on the Status of Women
14-24 March 2016

WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT | SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Christian care for families through praying, enabling and campaigning

Mothers' Union strides forth in Guyana

The First Lady of Guyana, South America, Mrs Sandra Granger lauded the Mothers' Union for its continued service to the vulnerable sections of the society for the past 90 years.

She addressed the members at their AGM in Georgetown, she continued "the women in the Mothers' Union could not have accomplished all that you have without great faith; faith has brought you here, faith and prayer has guided the Mothers' Union of Guyana.

The programs include: income generating projects, day care facilities, parenting classes, programmes to nurture youths and children, feeding programmes, and hospital, parish and prison ministry.



"These programmes underline the fact that the Mothers' Union of Guyana is focused on the vulnerable sector of our population and on building strong communities and supporting families.

She pointed out that given the challenges that women in general and mothers, in particular, face every day, the importance of the services provided by the Mothers' Union cannot be understated. Mrs. Granger explained that women continue to bear the burden of nurturing and educating and in many cases, providing for their families, while at the same time, grappling with issues such as sexual, mental and physical abuse, and human trafficking."

Feb '16

Female Genital Mutilation in Scotland

Glasgow and Galloway church area recently held a very informative day and realised that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) affects women in Scotland.

Raising awareness, education and support are key elements in the reduction of the practice of FGM.

28toomany is one of the charity's involved in the fight against FGM. The charity provides re-



search and training across the 28 countries in Africa which still carry out the practice.

FGM refers to 'all procedures involving partial or total removal of the female external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons - there are 4 types (WHO 2014).

To learn about communities potentially affected by FGM in Scotland please go to our website or email enews@muscotland.org.uk for the E News Scotland. AG/Jan 16

Children affected by imprisonment

I have taken on a Mothers' Union Provincial role as overseeing the prisons in Scotland. Part of this role is to attend meetings at Scottish Parliament and Families Outside.

In the years since its foundation, the Scottish Parliament has taken important steps to increase protection for children and young people in Scotland. This includes Getting it Right for Every Child (GIRFEC), the Children's Hearings (Scotland) legislation, the Early Years framework, and the establishment of the office of Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People.

Last year at one of these Cross party Group (CPG) meetings Mary Fee said she believed that there is still a group of children who are being let down. "I am referring to children experiencing parental imprisonment, of which there are estimated up to 27,000 in Scotland."

The last CPG Mary Fee MSP,

told us how they were getting on with her *Private Members' Bill, Support for Children (Impact of Parental Imprisonment) (Scotland)* which they are hoping to get through Parliament. She managed to ensure that **child and family impact assessments will be done for those entering the prison service**. If you want to know more about this bill you can go to www.maryfeemsp.com. Summary of Consultation responses can be accessed on the Scottish Parliament web page. Bill 86482

Jean Richardson our Provincial President gave our support to this bill on behalf of the Mothers' Union.

Mothers' Union members currently work in 5 prisons in Scotland, running play areas and a brownie/scout group for visiting children, providing toiletries and Christmas cards for prisoners. To learn more about *Supporting Families in Relation to Serious and Organised Crime* join up to our **E News Scotland**. MS/Feb 16



Provincial Dates

Thurs 17th March Provincial council 10am St.Ninian's, Perth

Tue 19th—Thur 21st April

Provincial Retreat at Conforti Institute, near Glasgow. A few places still left

Sat 30th April Recommissioning of Scottish Provincial President and 140th celebration service St.Ninian's, Perth 11am

Wed 25th May Governance day for all Scottish trustees with MU CEO St. John's Church, Threshold centre, Perth

Thurs 22nd Sept 140th Celebration Service, Winchester Cathedral

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

Reg Charity No. SC036459

Christian care for families through praying, enabling and campaigning

Relationship Report gives insight into UK relationships

The Way We Are Now – a welcome insight into relationships in the UK

Mothers' Union today [1st Sept 2015] welcomed the 2015 [“Way We Are Now” report](#): a publication from Relate, Marriage Care and Relationships Scotland that gives a unique perspective into the quality of our relationships with partners, family, friends and colleagues in the UK.

For Mothers' Union – a charity firmly focussed on improving the lives of families across the world – the survey results are extremely helpful: we were particularly struck by the overall message “family life is hard, but it is ultimately worth every drop of blood, sweat and tears.”

The responses on what people find puts the most pressure and stress on their relationships re-enforce our own belief that more needs to be done, through government funding for relationship support in particular, to support stable relationships in order to avoid the considerable financial, social and psychological costs of relationship and family breakdown.

Within the UK Mothers' Union has campaigned since 2006 for policy to support a more flexible approach to working. Therefore it is of some concern that there is a common belief in younger people that as employees they need to be available 24/7. Given the evidence that work can put great strain on relationships, we would encourage employers and employees to look at work life balance and to embrace appropriate flexible working, recognising the stabilising effect on relationships of time away from work with family.

Mothers' Union works throughout the UK to provide support to families. We provide relationship education for couples through our *Loving for Life* programme, helping engaged couple build a solid foundation and develop techniques to handle pressure; and through our *Passionate About Parenting* programme our members offer support to parents and carers to manage the inevitable tensions of bringing up a family.

- See more at: <http://www.mothersunion.org/relationship-report-gives-insight-uk-relationships#sthash.YpzSDi6W.dpuf>

Former Central President, Rachel Nugee has passed away



Mothers' Union has received news that former Central President, Rachel Nugee died peacefully on Tuesday 11th August 2015. We give thanks to God for Rachel's life and for all that she enabled Mothers' Union to achieve, especially during her time as Central President.

Rachel served as Central President from 1977 – 1982. She was especially active in ensuring that the Mothers' Union 'Social Concerns Committee' was effective in finding support and solutions for difficulties faced by one-parent families, the homeless, tackling violence in marriage, and more. She was passionate about advocating the value of Mothers' Union to governments, achieving wider recognition and respect for the organisation. Rachel also remained an active and knowledgeable voice on our Worldwide Council for many years after her term of office as president.

On behalf of the membership, our current Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, has been in contact with Rachel's family through two of her sons, Andrew and Richard and has been able to encourage them with the many ways Rachel was inspirational to members over the years, and how thankful Mothers' Union is for her service, her wisdom, her faithfulness and total dedication to the vision and mission of our organisation.

The funeral of Past Central President Rachel Nugee took place at 2pm on 14th September at Hampstead Parish Church, London. We remember Rachel with thanksgiving and gratitude and remember too her family at this sad time as they face a new journey without her.

- See more at: <http://www.mothersunion.org/former-central-president-rachel-nugee-has-passed-away#sthash.zwG8JxQJ.dpuf>

Round the Branches

The Livingston Branch: The Livingston branch of the mothers union continue to meet in each others homes on the 3rd sunday of each month and we enjoy lunch together, we are continuing with our craft activities - knitting and fiddle aprons. We also continue to donate items for the toilet bags. At Christmas time we had a carol service and in November we held a lunch for the clergy of Livingston united parish church - which was well attended. Last summer we had a trip to Dunblane to the former chuches house which is now a restaurant. *Fay Edgar 20.02.15*

St James, Penicuik: Our Rector, Rev'd Lynsay Downs was admitted to the Mothers' Union by Branch Leader, Margaret Coull at the Mothering Sunday service.

Two other members received 'Long Service Awards':

Below right: Agnes Thorburn, Rev'd Lynsay and Marion Mather, who received the 70 year award on behalf of her mother, Irene Hair. Irene who lives in care is pictured below right. Lynsay: below left.

Pictures from Marion Mather & Margaret Coull.



Lynsay spoke highly about the Mothers' Union in her sermon. Susan Tonin, who was unable to attend yesterday, will be admitted at the MU meeting on 9th March. Susan spent several years working alongside members in Papua New Guinea. (PNG) *Photo p.11*

Susan lived in a remote part of PNG, teaching MU members how to grow vegetables and how to make clothes etc.



The branch meets usually on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month after midweek communion, which is followed by a soup or sandwich lunch. We take part in consultations and have various speakers as well as 'knit and natters'. Last December, our Rector prepared an Advent carol service and items for the Christmas hampers were collected. We are usually well represented at the various Diocesan events.

Christ Church Morningside: Vera Jones writes:

Betty Storey, a member of the branch for many years and who was the enrolling member/ leader in the 80's, died peacefully, at Braeside House, on Friday, March 4, 2016. Betty was the beloved wife of the late John, much loved mother of Catherine and mother-in-law of Tim. The Service was at Christ Church, Holy Corner, on Monday, March 14, at 1 pm, to which all friends were invited, followed by a private Cremation. Betty took a very active role and came to Lady Day, Council, Mary Summer Day until recently.

Janet Goody writes: In February, our evening meeting featured a Conversation with an Ordinand. Jane Green, a member of Christ Church, was looking forward to a peaceful retirement but God had other plans for Jane. After a searching selection process she

undertook three years of study and practical placements. After hearing about the amount of work involved we now appreciate our Clergy more than ever and we look forward to Jane's first sermon. The afternoon meeting was a Question and Answer session with the Dean. This included a list of the Dean's duties - many and varied, the origin of the use of incense in church services, and of course the Columba Declaration. This last made for a lively debate and some indignation.

It would be interesting to hear what other people feel about it. Next month we are trying out one of the Mothers' Union Workshops - Listening to our Community. Watch this space!

The Diocesan Group enjoy meeting regularly at Waterstone's cafe in Edinburgh.

On Mothering Sunday, 6th of March 2016, at the Good Shepherd Church, Murrayfield Edinburgh, the Rev. Hilary Naish, was admitted into the Mothers Union by the Rev. Dean Fostekew and Pat Gordon. This happened at the end of the communion service, before the posies were handed out to the congregation. Sometime in the near future we will enrol Rosie Addis who is our Curate. They will both be diocesan members of Edinburgh. *Pat Gordon.*

St Peter's Musselburgh Mother's Union has undergone a change this year with a new leader, secretary and a monthly meeting instead of twice monthly. We have a new Rector at St. Peter's too!

We have had some really interesting speakers so far this year: Simon Fairnie gave us a trip down memory lane with a "Tram journey from Levenhall to Edinburgh GPO." It was fascinating to see the pictures of trams in Musselburgh High Street!

The Reverend Janice Andrews from the Congregational Church spoke to us about Advent.

Major James Elliot of the Salvation Army spoke about his time in Zambia. He moved the audience into an impromptu collection for him to pass on to the Salvation Army to continue their work there. Bethany Christian Trust's "Passing the Baton" Coordinator, Pall Singh spoke about his work in rehabilitation of ex-homeless people. He spoke about the biggest killer of people in Scotland today- Loneliness!

These are the speakers so far this year- we look forward to "meeting our new Rector," Andy Reid at our next meeting this month.

Our membership is still thriving with an average of about 20 or so members attending each month; illness has taken its toll on one or two, in particularly- Betty Dunlop, Betty Blair and Jane Stuart.

We ask the Lord's blessing on each one of them for strength and mobility. *Ruth Wogan*

The Mothers' Union Tartan

The Mothers' Union fabric is available to order. The minimum order is 4 metres, so if a group of people got together it would be more cost effective at £65 per metre 70cm width. They can also make it in silk, if you had a special dress you wanted to make but that would be a minimum order of 5 metres and a lot of money, £130 per metre 75cm width! They are selling it to the public in three different styles now. Ancient, Modern and Reproductive Colours. The company that is selling it is called Scotweb. The company is Internet and call centred based. Telephone number is 0800 634 8640 www.scotweb.co.uk At present in their clear-ance section they have a scarf for sale at £18 and two ties for £6. *Since Hilary sent me this jnformation, You need to rerify what is still available in their clearance section, because I bought the scarf and a tie. Jean Hindle*



From Doris Bilton : Thank you so much for email and enclosures.

Thank you for your care and prayer for Diana Elaine and myself.

Diana has read your email and the prayers and has asked me to pass on her personal thanks for yours and the way our prayers have been answered. She is much like her old self, left arm and leg still not good, and left sight, but she now has an electric chair so gets round the house herself, much more independent in some every day events, uses her computer with her right hand, doing some research papers on CF and the latest treatment and drugs, she tires quickly and gets a bit frustrated with herself and us, but that is all on the good side really, we have so much to thank God for. Please pass on my love and blessings, and thanks for prayers to those who remember me.

On Jan 22nd Doris said she is praying for Edinburgh Diocese MU after learning about our meeting re the running of Edinburgh MU. Please keep up the prayers for Doris and family.

CALENDAR

See Provincial dates and Annual Meeting details on p8

Diocesan Meetings:

Mary Sumner Day – Tuesday 9th August – Christ Church, Morningside.

It is proposed to hold the service at 11.30 am followed by a buffet lunch.

This would enable us to be finished before the Centre is needed for another purpose.

Diocesan Council Meetings will be replaced by other special meetings as the proposed running of the Mothers' Union in Edinburgh Diocese gradually unfolds.

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. It also includes the new M.U badge and the special circular one celebrating the 140th Anniversary of the Mothers' Union. 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 badges and have ordered more, hopefully to arrive in time for Lady Day. If not, place your order at the Service and I will send it to you.

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.

I have Easter cards ready for you to buy.

See you at Lady Day, I hope and keep shopping with the M.U. *Angela*

Contributions for the Autumn 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*