



**Diocese of Edinburgh**

**Mothers' Union Newsletter**



**October 2014**

## Letter from the Diocesan President: September 2014

Dear Friends

What a lovely, sunny, warm summer!

How great to go out without taking a jumper or jacket.

It was relaxing being in the garden and the rain followed by the sun encouraged the plants to grow and grow -they were so tall and flowered profusely.

I hope you enjoyed your summer and now feel refreshed. We have just had family visitors and went visiting National Trust and Historic buildings. We went on ferries – despite hip replacements, climbed steep stairs and had lots of laughter. This was truly a magnificent time, especially doing things on the spur of the moment (the ferries). Now, it is back to normal BUT I hope the joy and new experiences continue. This is a challenge for us all in the Mothers' Union. Sometimes, although we enjoy what we are doing, we are slightly scared of trying something new.



Perhaps seeing what other Branches do (*on the display table on 21<sup>st</sup> September*) will encourage us to think wider and, if it is appropriate, try something new. This might not be projects but our own personal development.

At the end of September, we will learn about our new Links. It will be sad to say “goodbye” to Sri Lanka, the only Link we hear from, but we hope to keep in touch with them informally. (\*See p.10 for details of Edinburgh’s new contacts. Ed.)

It is exciting to have new links and I hope we will be able to communicate and learn from each other.

We are looking forward to the visit from our World Wide President to St. James, Penicuik and more will be said at Council (October 13<sup>th</sup>)\*

Sadly, some of our members are now getting frail and unable to attend church or M.U. Please don't forget them. They have given many years of faithful service to us and as they continue to pray for us we must pray for them.

Thanks you all for all that you do in your local communities as well as in your congregations. I know it is not all “tea and cakes” for events. Continue with your fellowship, have fun and laugh.

Love and prayers, \*(see also item following)

Angela

Notes made by Angela on Sept 21<sup>st</sup> from Lynne's talk

(First of all. It was disappointing that so few were able to come but those who did, approximately 30, had a great time of fellowship with her. She was interested in talking to everyone and listening to their story.)

**Lynne's talk:** She first said she was delighted to be with us. She then told us that she always took 3 things with her on her travels: a photo of David, her husband, who has been such a great support and encouragement to her, her Bible (with a modern pink cover!), given to her by her daughter, an Angel given to her by a friend who had it Blessed at Walsingham and this was to give her protection on her journeys. The other item she took was a holding cross.

She was overwhelmed when elected for WWP and much prayer had gone into even agreeing to be nominated. She said that the position was not one of “power” or “prestige”, but one of serving others.

She said “LEADERSHIP IS A SERVANT ROLE”. She was there to listen to what the members said as well as chair the Trustee meetings at Mary Sumner House.

Her first overseas visit was to Kenya and in preparation had written 6 “talks” which could be adapted/used if and when she was asked to speak. She packed them in her luggage as she thought it safer than taking it in her hand luggage and when she arrived in Kenya with her hand luggage, her case was still in London.

She made visits to several areas, some very poor and saw the CCMP way of working which involves the whole community pooling their resources, skills and finances and working together on the project decided by themselves. They met to prioritise their needs and hopes and decide which to work on first. They might need financial help at first but they wanted to stand on their own feet and not rely on handouts.

In Barbados there was no time for sitting on the beach or swimming in the sea. She saw the poverty side of the country. One Branch runs a breakfast club for the school children as their parents cannot afford to feed them.

Madagascar is recovering from a coup and life is difficult for all. The MU are planning their future together and are excited and hopeful in spite of all that has happened and the present situation.

In Jan '14, she went to Myanma, (Burma) which is opening up to the West. They are gentle people and she fears for them as the Western World and all that it brings meets them. They are planning for their future. Some members walked for 4 days to be at the Conference and greet her.

One old lady said “With God all things are possible”



During the first 2 years, Lynne plans to visit each Diocese in England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales

Although she is WWP and some think she is “the BOSS” or really important, she said she was there to listen and guide the MU. After all, she is a member just like us.

Her reliance on God and the Bible was so obvious in the way she spoke, off the cuff and without notes, and listened to everyone

as she met them. It was a time of fellowship and very informal. *Angela*

The photos above right show Angela with Lynne Tembey and the one above left shows Provincial President, Jean McPherson-Richardson, Provincial President of MU in Scotland chatting to Catherine Pow, Secretary of Edinburgh MU. Jean had transported Lynne to this meeting. We all enjoyed afternoon tea from 5pm onwards. Jean Hindle took the photos above and has prepared 2 montages for Dioc Council. Gillian Little of St James also took some super pics.

# Reflection from Revd Frances Burberry

## Edinburgh MU Chaplain

It's in September that the Church celebrates Holy Cross Day. The cross on which Jesus was crucified has, of course, become the universal symbol of Christianity; replacing the fish symbol of the earlier Church. You only have to look around any Christian sanctuary to see the truth of this symbolism. Crosses are made of burnished mahogany, and of rough-hewn wood. They're forged of polished brass, and twisted wrought iron. In some churches, they're given shape by magnificent stained glass, and crudely backlit Plexiglas. They bear depictions of Jesus' broken body, and are as bare and unadorned as a farmyard gate.



And you – like me – might be in the habit of wearing a cross underneath your clothing; or of keeping one in your pocket, in your handbag, or by your bedside. For the cross brings comfort, and helps prayer.

But what of the Holy Cross itself? Let's remind ourselves of the Gospel: John tells us, 'Now there was a garden in the place where he was crucified, and in the garden there was a new tomb in which no one had ever been laid...and the tomb was nearby.'

The point is that Calvary and the Tomb were close together.

And today in Jerusalem you'll find a church which has inside it Calvary and the Tomb – the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre – and underneath Calvary there's an underground cistern. That cistern was excavated in the fourth century and when it was revealed, it was Saint Helena who – it was said – found the cross of wood and the instruments of the passion in it, dumped hurriedly on the first Good Friday.

The earlier Christians didn't separate the event at Calvary with the subsequent resurrection of Christ; and neither do we. And so the cross became a reminder of the Resurrection; a reminder of the Risen Lord present in the world.

Jesus says, 'Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 'In his increasing frailty and tiredness, John Paul the Second came to rely more heavily, and more obviously on the cross that he carried for support, and strength, and confidence in his own suffering. He came to lean more and more on the cross that he carried – his pastoral staff, which was surmounted by a crucifix. He leant – quite literally – on the cross; he held on to it for dear life.



For the cross is a symbol not of death, but of life; not of weakness, but of strength; not of despair, but of hope: a hope that gives a sense of confidence in the presence and power found in our relationship with Jesus Christ.

And for me, the cross is also symbol of our growth in love – our growth in God’s love – as we try, as Saint Paul says, to ‘lead a life worthy of God, who calls us.’

We are called to nurture others with tender care and shared vulnerability, and in all of this to depend upon God. For we all cling to the old rugged cross, and we shall all go on doing so until like all the saints before, and after us we exchange it some day for a crown.

Blessings, *Frances*

**NEWS FROM SRI LANKA . . . extract from Uthpala’s email to Angela**

We had a visit in early June from Hanna Taylor and Nicola Lawrence. They came here after a visit to North India. They were due to stay in Sri Lanka for about a week . . . . . We had to shorten the planned programme to two days. They enjoyed their short visit and went back with a promise to return. They had been warned of dengue fever and mosquitoes in Sri Lanka. Once here they were really sorry that they had cut short their stay as there was much less of a danger than they had been led to believe.

When we heard that they were going to stay the full length of time in Calcutta (now Kolkata) knowing the conditions in India and especially in Calcutta we were surprised. They too said that they wished they had decided to stay in Sri Lanka longer as the conditions here were so much better. . . . .

Our present Diocesan President Mrs. Errani de Mel is due to visit UK to participate in the Provincial President's meeting in October. I am sure she would love to visit Scotland and meet all our link branch members and you as the current Diocesan President. If you wish to have her visit you please contact Mary Sumner House and request them to make the necessary arrangements. She is still in the process of getting her visa. Hope she will be successful in getting the visa and come for the Provincial Presidents meeting.

Hope you and all your family are keeping well. Jean Brohier is not keeping very well. She is very weak and also suffers from memory loss. Her youngest son Perry is now the Archdeacon of Colombo.

With best wishes to you, your family and all MU members of Edinburgh.

*Uthpala Kalpage*

## **Annual Scottish Provincial Retreat**

The retreat is run mid-week from Tuesday afternoon to Thursday lunchtime in the Spring of each year. Our annual silent retreat provides an opportunity to be quiet and feel God’s presence. It is normally held at the welcoming and comfortable setting of St. Mary’s Monastery, Kinnoull beside Perth, but next year we have to find an alternative venue whilst Kinnoull is closed for a year for refurbishment. Netherurd, off the A701, (Blyth Bridge), south of Edinburgh is the venue for the next retreat which will be held from Tuesday @ 2.30pm 14th to after lunch on Thursday 16th April 2015. This is in the week following Easter Week. The retreat leader is Fiona Fidgin from St Anthony’s priory. Cost £150 – by mid January. The website has been updated with all the information available at present. <http://muscotland.org.uk/Retreat.htm> is the link to the page and there is also a link in the news box on the home page with facilities to make an on line application. If applying by post please send a stamped addressed envelope.

Such is the popularity of Kinnoull, we have booked up for the following two years, so you have plenty of notice of when they will be held. Assuming Kinnoull to be open, the 2016 retreat will be from Tuesday 12th to Thursday 14th April and in 2017 it will be from Tuesday 25th to Thursday 27th April. The Retreat web page has reports and photos from previous retreats as well as photos of Netherurd taken when Paul and I visited to see if it would be suitable. If you have any questions, please feel free to phone me on 0141 776 3237 or email me at [retreat@muscotland.org.uk](mailto:retreat@muscotland.org.uk) *Pat Hindle*

## CALENDAR

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Diocesan Council at St James the Less, Penicuik.

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup> Dec** – **Quiet Day at St Ninian's** to be led by our Chaplain, Frances.

**MU GENERAL MEETING was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June 2014 in Belfast**

Next year - Nottingham in the Royal Concert Hall on Fri 26<sup>th</sup> June – details later.

## Literature

**MUe: Greetings Cards For Sale: Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well, Welcome**

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

17 Rullion Road Penicuik EH26 9HS - Email: [angelasibley@talktalk.net](mailto:angelasibley@talktalk.net)

**Editorial: Contributions** should be sent to: Email: [jean@jrhindle.co.uk](mailto:jean@jrhindle.co.uk) or post to Mrs J Hindle 24 Mauricewood Park, Penicuik EH26 0BP – Tel 01968 674591

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 February 2015 to enable distribution at Lady Day or 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 and read a fuller report of the General Meeting, at: [www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk) *Jean Hindle*

## The Mothers' Union Tartan

Scotweb (*see website*) in Edinburgh can now supply most items in their range in the Mothers' Union tartan and give a **10% discount** on prices below. Tel:0800 634 8640

**How to Order:** Tel: 0131 452 8356 or send email query from the website in order to obtain the discount of 10% - Orders taken Mon-Sat 9am - 5pm. As the MU tartan is woven to order the minimum order requirement that needs to be met is four metres.

The prices for skirts vary depending on the measurements but the basic price is:  
The kilted skirt price for a hip measurement of up to 43 inches, a length up to 23ins. waist up to 41ins. This skirt is GBP 431.48+VAT in the 11oz wool. This skirt alone should meet the four metre minimum order.

The hostess skirt price is for a hip measurement of up to 43 inches, length of up to 33 inches and a waist of up to 41 inches. The skirt is GBP 580.64 + VAT in the 11oz wool. This skirt alone should meet the four metre minimum order.

Since the sash uses approx. 2.3 m. of cloth, in 11oz wool, the cost is £175.43 + VAT, *2 sashes need to be ordered to avoid paying for extra 1.7 m of cloth £106.25 + VAT.*

## Round the Branches

The **Livingston Branch** have now settled in to their new meeting venue at Carmondean church. The members have enjoyed sharing a lunch after the church services until the guest speaker arrives. Recently we had speakers from Mary's Meals, an afternoon of our Favourite hymns music provided by Bill Russell which we really enjoyed - all singing loudly!

Two of the members spoke about their involvement with Girl Guiding Scotland - Margaret Springett told everyone about the local branch of the Trefoil Guild and the activities which they do, then Fay Edgar spoke about her role as a Rainbow Guider in a local Rainbow Unit. Fay showed the members how the Rainbow Guide programme was presented to the Rainbows. We ended the summer session with High Tea at Hartington's restaurant in Harthill, which was very enjoyable. *Fay Edgar 29.08.14*

**St James Penicuik:** It's been a busy year for St James branch. We held a Fellowship Lunch on 23rd Mar. after church. We attended the Lady Day Service on 25th Mar. at Christchurch, Morningside, at which one of the 2 MU members from PNG preached at Bishop John's invitation. We have enjoyed several speakers, Lynsay, our Rector, David McGavin about the new A&M, Susan Tonin spoke about her life in PNG and the help and protection she had received there from MU and Mission Aviation Fellowship, (MAF). This tied in with the Bishop's Lent Appeal for sewing machines for PNG. We supported 'Make a Mothers' Day' which helps in practical ways to finance and encourage various projects worldwide. We hosted the Mary Sumner Day for the MU in Edinburgh diocese on the 8th Aug. for around 40 people. Our Rector, Lynsay had prepared a service for us, which was much appreciated by the members attending. Rose Mackenzie had made a cake which was cut by Sue Crosfield at the afternoon tea following. The highlight for us on 21st Sept was to host a meeting for the Diocese MU when our WW President, Lynne Tembey, accompanied by Jean Richardson. Provincial President, came to speak to us and chat informally. Finally, at the opening meeting on 25th Sept we studied the latest Consultation Paper and sent our responses to 'Faith & Policy' at MSH.

## Choose An Ethical Gift

[Inspired by the Bible](#) - **£7 can help church groups bring about lasting change**

[Give them a voice](#) - **£15 can equip marginalised women with a voice for justice**

[Baby Love](#) - **£20 can help to bring a new life safely into the world**

[Emergency aid](#) - **£22 could help provide emergency food such as 25kg of rice to people who have been affected by disaster.**

[Providing for parents](#) - **£30 can buy a resource pack for Passionate about Parenting**

[Expand a mind](#) - **£50 will help provide education & financial know-how especially regarding – Illiteracy – particularly female illiteracy**

These are things to consider not just around 'Make a Mothers' Day'  
but all through the year.

**STOP PRESS:** Below is an extract from the letter from Lynne Tembey  
Dear Angela . . . . Re: Mothers' Union Wave of Prayer . . . . .

This letter comes with my love and prayerful good wishes for you and all the members within your diocese.

Prayer is a central focus to Mothers' Union membership, an essential part of our vision, mission and strategy for moving forward, and the Wave of Prayer is a much valued and important part of expressing our worldwide Christian fellowship. It is a privilege to pray for another human being, it is also wonderful to know that God listens to our prayers and blesses us in so many ways through them.

I am delighted to introduce you to your new Wave of Prayer partners:

From 2015 - New Wave of Prayer calendar on **15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> October** each year.

**2015 Theme:  
"United  
in Prayer"**  
This is the Mothers' Union Theme for 2015, which develops the 2014 theme – 'Sowing the Future together', by focussing on the centrality of prayer in the work of Mothers' Union across the world.

Diocese	Country	Province
Terekeka	South Sudan	South Sudan & Sudan
Nairobi	Kenya	Kenya
Maiduguri	Nigeria	Nigeria
Osun North	Nigeria	Nigeria
Edinburgh	Scotland	Scotland
Calcutta	India	North India

≥ As we continue to plan for the future and grow together, prayer is at the heart of all we do.

As we look to build the community of Mothers' Union, we unite with other members across the world, and particularly we are united in prayer. Our theme for the year highlights the importance and centrality of prayer to all we do. As we embark upon the new Wave of Prayer, with over 100 new links added, we have the exciting opportunity to pray for many more people.

We are currently developing themed resources to help us celebrate our new links, inspire us to pray and help us discern how and what to pray.

As we work on these resources, let us ask God to illuminate the way he wants us to respond, equip us in our prayer life and take us forward on our journey with Him and in unity with members across the world.

When a believing person prays,  
great things happen.

- See more at: