



Diocese of Edinburgh

Mothers' Union Newsletter



September 2012

Letter from the Diocesan President: Sept 2012

Dear Friends,

August is nearly over and Autumn is approaching. I'm looking forward to the changing colours, a final fling before bare branches and colourless gardens.

The Mothers' Union has just completed the triennial elections, Lynne Tembey (Carlisle) is our new World Wide President.

We have two representatives on the Unit Committees, Linda Brownlie (St. Andrew's) for Action and Outreach and Rev Jeanette Allan (St. Andrew's) on Faith and Policy.

We had already elected our Provincial President, Jean McPherson Richardson also St. Andrew's. We need to find some new Trustees for our Diocesan Trustee Board, more news of that later.

The Province is looking to the future. What is best for us in Scotland? The best way to organize ourselves? Individual Trustee Boards as now, or a provincial Board of Trustees as in Canada.

THE GATHERING is for all of us to discuss these and other points early October. A full report will be given at Council (October 24th, at St. Ninian's).

In April, three of us welcomed the Pastors from Finland who were here for their conference and to hear about the Scottish Episcopal church. Several of us will have entertained them on the Sunday when they visited the church for the services.

In May, St. Ninian's hosted the Provincial training for "We are created by God" and Julia and I went. This is an excellent course – I am sure Julia will tell us more about it.

Some of us met with the Diocesan members for coffee and to discuss M.U. and we plan to meet early September.

I also enjoyed the Mary Sumner Day Service. It was good to see so many and catch up with those I have not seen for some while.

These have been joyful events, but there is a dark side to our society, a side we hear little about and makes us feel ill. One of these is Human Trafficking – modern day slavery. Women and men are brought here under false pretensions and forced into a variety of degrading jobs. I attended a day seminar on this.

I know some Branches work with Womens' Aid and perhaps this can be expanded in the Diocese? Your commitment to local projects and your community is varied and valued. Keep up the good work. Margaret Gibbs continues to collect knitting for the Premature Baby Unit at Simpsons.

Please remember St. Paul's M.U. Branch in Livingston as their church is to be closed and they need to find a new worship place and venue for their meetings.

Thank you for your support and prayers for the Trustees. Thank you to Jennie Ritchie, Margaret Graham Service, Pat Gordon and Betty Dunlop for their many years of Faithful service. We hope you enjoy your retirement and I look forward to seeing at Diocesan events.

I hope the Autumn will be sunny and drier so that we can enjoy a little more of the sunshine. (far to early to mention Christmas)

With my thanks and prayers for the future,

Angela.



Letter from Revd Frances Burberry

Edinburgh MU Chaplain

I'm very fortunate to be able to enjoy a beautiful and fruitful apple tree in my garden.

A long time ago there was a man called Jonathan Chapman. He used to travel around farms in America with his Bible. And in the evenings he would read his Bible to the family; because not many folk could read themselves. The people looked forward to his visits and they called him Johnny Appleseed.

Now, I've been a Brownie, a Guide, a Brownie Guider, and a Guide Guider, and in all that time one of my favourite graces was called 'Johnny Appleseed' – and this is how we sung it (your way might have been different from mine)...

...The Lord is good to me
and so I thank the Lord
for giving me the things I need
the sun, the rain and the appleseed,
the Lord is good to me.

And so you too might have heard of Johnny Appleseed.

This is the story of how he got his nickname. On some farms, Johnny noticed the farm workers busy making cider. The apples were pressed and when the juice was extracted the pips were thrown away. 'What a waste', thought Johnny, these little pips could grow into fine trees.' So Johnny asked if he could have some seed; and the people in charge of the cider-making said he could have as much seed as he wanted. And so Johnny filled his saddlebags with seeds, and went on his way.

When he visited a farm, in the evening he'd read from the Bible and then before he left in the morning he'd make some holes in the soil and plant some apple seeds. He then made a little fence around the seeds to protect them, and to give them the chance to grow. He then left these small nurseries in the care of others as he journeyed on and every couple of years or so Johnny would return to tend the growing trees.

Johnny did this work for over 40 years, sowing the word of God in people's hearts and sowing apple seeds in the ground. Everywhere he went he left something behind to give pleasure and nourishment to the people who lived there. And – most importantly – Johnny understood well that seeds can't grow unless they're planted and nurtured.

Apples are now falling from my apple tree, and the leaves on that tree are changing colour. Indeed, at this time of year the leaves on most of our trees start to change colour: yellows, reds and oranges. Soon many leaves will fall to the ground and the colours will fade. But the leaves are not wasted. They will rot and go back into the earth, feeding the soil with goodness for new plants to grow. And it's in this way life's circle begins again. Harvest is a time for being grateful – for such as food and water; for air, warmth and light; and for our many and diverse gifts. And as we say thank you to God for all of this in our various celebrations of the harvest – in our actions and in our prayers – perhaps we can also promise God to be careful with all the good gifts of the earth by both recognising and respecting our interdependencies in the world and co-operating in creative and sustaining activity.



Frances

MESSAGE FROM THE MU PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT SCOTLAND

MU on the Move – Dumfries to John O’Groats - My summary of this wonderful journey. At the beginning we decided to split the jobs to be done, Linda (Brownlie) would do the paper work (write in this book and keep a record of the people we meet and travel with) and I would do the electronic side sending pictures and texts for the websites that Jeanette and Paul in Scotland had set up for the journey; which is why I haven’t written in here before. We have really had a wonderful three days, meeting so many members who have turned out at all the bus stops and given us hospitality too. It has been a trip that has given us fellowship and encouraged the more remote diocesan members in particular in the northern part of Scotland. The talks we have had on the bus, people have been receptive and I’m sure will know what we do now. We have been in several newspapers so encouraged that the trip has led people learning more about us. I have had great company in Linda as my travelling companion, although we have had so many good chats with other members who have joined too. The hazards we have had to face are very few, writing and texting while moving we have become good at. Our main problem has been to try not to over eat, as at every stop food has been plentiful. We have found toilets in time luckily. So it hasn’t been the healthiest Olympian challenge, very little exercise, but we’re nearly here and very happy to have been part of the journey. When I hear of long journeys our members make overseas, this journey has been so easy. I will pray for all who are making long journeys for the work of the Mothers’ Union tonight. I hope to visit a very special



gem of a church in Stromness, on the Orkney Isles, a Scottish Episcopal church that Bishop Bob recommended I visit as his parish is in the Orkneys as well as Aberdeen.

More pictures on the Facebook page.

With much love to you all, Hilary

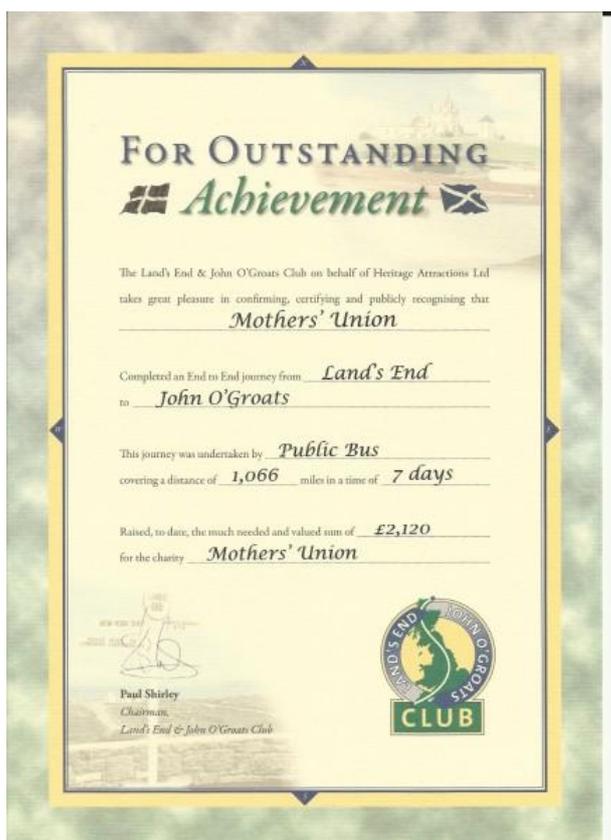
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Scottish Charity SCO 36459



Mary Sumner Day Service

On August 13th, 46 members gathered in the sunlit St. Peter's Church, Musselburgh, for our Mary Sumner Day Service. The church was decked with flags from around the world (left from the Childrens' Club the week before) which was a great symbol of our World Wide membership.

Frances, our Chaplain, explained the the 13th fell between the church's celebration of our founder, Mary Sumner (9th) and the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Heaven(15th) so we would try to bridge both festivals.

Frances said that Mary and Joseph were just like us, facing the same problems – taxes, family demands and general struggles. They like us, needed to find some-one who understood them, would recognize them as individuals with their own gifts and precious to God.

We can only be truly ourselves when we accept that. We must look to the future, not the past. God has a plan for each of us, but this might bring pain, sorrow, sacrifice as it did to Mary. She was told that t sword would pierce her heart – it did as heard in stories/rumours of Jesus ministry, and she as at the Cross.

This gave us much to think about, especially as we remembered the bold step Mary Sumner took when she first decided to help others. In spite of our set-backs, we must continue with prayer to try to help those around us.

Frances ended with this poem:

A mother's forgiveness will save the planet and all of her children upon it
and all of the damage done – for compassion is the structure of motherhood
and every prayer whispered is an angel touching the heart
of the one to whom it is sent. (J.Janda)

Afterwards we gathered in the hall for an excellent tea and time to catch up with friends old and new, especially those who came for the first time.

Our thanks to St. Peter's Mothers' Union for their generous hospitality and to Frances for a joyful service and leaving us with a lot to think about. Angela



Joyce Black. Joyce Jones & Vera Jones – Edinburah Dioc.

The Mothers' Union General Meeting - Llandudno 2012

Both the Dioceses of St Asaph's and Bangor held magnificent services in both Welsh and English on the evening prior to the General Meeting. More members wanted to attend than there were tickets available, but fortunately extra accommodation was provided both for the meeting and for the services. The Rt Rev Gregory Cameron opened his sermon with these words " People on this side are radiators and those on that side are drains...or may be the other way round" He explained that radiators are those people who exude warmth, love, care, friendship, concern, whilst the drains are those who drag you down with their constant complaints, self centred-ness and negative attitude. The meeting itself was held in the Venue Cymri, a theatre and conference centre. The use of our gifts and talents was the main theme and we were urged to do all that we can to heighten the profile of the MU in our Dioceses so that its work and witness may flourish into the future. *Extract from report by Sheila George. Full report on the web or available from jean Hindle – Photos:Paul Hindle Another picture is on p.9*

Summary of Group Destinations

Organisation	Mission	Membership
<p>Single provincial structure/as single diocese with one unit coordinator</p> <p>Simplify branch structure</p> <p>Simplify administration with subs, Families First through central office</p> <p>Less chiefs, more Indians.</p> <p>Not too many people trying to do the same thing</p> <p>Change the name</p> <p>Slimmer more flexible structure</p> <p>Better communication</p> <p>Networking across branches (including outside province)</p> <p>Part of the structure of charges and dioceses</p> <p>More involvement with young people</p>	<p>Provincial schemes</p> <p>Involvement in church or diocesan projects</p> <p>Identifying local needs and responding to them</p> <p>Recognise the needs of young mums and meet them</p> <p>Working ecumenically with other church groups</p> <p>Skype to connect with housebound members etc</p> <p>Care for housebound</p> <p>Communicate using variety of media</p> <p>Advertise more widely (eg ante natal clinics), posters</p> <p>Involvement in multiparty Government committees</p> <p>Sharing ideas between groups of what we do</p>	<p>Ecumenical membership – open to all who want to proclaim the gospel</p> <p>Use Skype for those who can't make meetings but want to take part</p> <p>Expand boundaries by making MU known to schools, support agencies, etc</p> <p>Telephone contact with older/indoor members</p> <p>Young members</p> <p>meetings/engage with young people</p> <p>Email contact</p> <p>Financial circumstance not a barrier – approach diocesan bishop for funding.</p> <p>Fellowship membership – Friends of Mothers' Union</p>

<p>Rotate unit committees round province with single representative, reporting fully to each diocese</p> <p>Continuity of some committee members to bring previous experience</p> <p>All members to pay for subs and magazine together</p> <p>Leadership structure changed from triennial to staggered</p> <p>Build up clergy support</p> <p>More help and inspiration to set up projects</p> <p>Vary style of meetings- meeting with no speaker – more social</p> <p>Services? Do we need?</p>	<p>Official MU representative at diocesan meetings</p> <p>MU news part of church/diocesan website</p> <p>Working in partnership with enabling projects</p> <p>Keep connected prayerfully</p> <p>Be integral part of Scottish Episcopal Church</p> <p>Focus on opportunities for young people</p> <p>More engaging branch meetings</p> <p>Offer crèche facilities</p> <p>Revive Young 'Wives' or Mothers</p> <p>Weekend meetings. Elderly folk love weekend outing</p> <p>Raise awareness that membership is open to all</p> <p>Group work in Addiction</p> <p>Faith based and Christ centred</p> <p>Bye Buy Childhood, Human Trafficking, Domestic Abuse</p>	<p>More flexible meeting times</p> <p>Improved communication</p> <p>Shared leadership</p> <p>Open membership to non-Christians</p> <p>Centralise administration to diocese to relieve branch of admin load</p> <p>Meet in summer rather than winter</p> <p>Care for members who had left or are ill – cards, flowers, etc</p> <p>Offer of lifts, etc</p> <p>Open doors to view cathedral with tea, cakes</p> <p>Opportunity of 2014 Commonwealth Games</p>
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Report of 'The Gathering' Friday 5th & Saturday 6th Oct 2012.

The Gathering was held at The Tulliallan Police College. The purpose of the meeting was 'The Road We Take', ie to consider ways of making MU Scotland work in the 21st century.

The Provincial President, Hilary Moran welcomed us. There was a message from Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempell. The opening prayers were led by The Primus and Bishop Mark Strange, (the Chaplain for the 'The Gathering') in the Lecture Theatre. Our future World wide President, Lynne Tembey, and Jean Richardson, the next Scottish Provincial president were introduced. This was followed by Session 1 - 'Where have we come from?'. Trish Heywood (1st Scottish Provincial President and subsequently Worldwide President spoke of our past history.

The second session saw us meeting for the only time in our Diocesan Groups, where we discussed 'where we are now?' using post it notes- pink for membership, green for mission and yellow for organization, a colour scheme used for feedback from all our meetings.

After a comfort Break & Tea, it was back to the Lecture Theatre for Session 3 to hear 'what roads are others on?'. We heard about MU in Ireland from Alison Chillingworth, Canada from Angela Sibley and Aotearoa, New Zealand, Polynesia from Sheila Rewood.

Session 4, saw us meeting in 'Break Out groups' composed of members from different dioceses. We introduced ourselves briefly and went on to discuss 'where do we want to go (1)?' By this time we had spent 2³/₄ hrs in what proved to be a hectic schedule for the whole 'Gathering'. Then it was time to go to our rooms to unpack followed by dinner. Quite a bit of walking was involved to get to the various venues.

Session 5 was 'where do we want to go (2)?' There was a recap and then each group assembled a motorway style A3 'Direction Sign' with 3 headings, organization, mission and membership. Yellow Diversion slips and Dead end slips were filled in.

There was a short break for Social Time followed by Compline and so to bed.

Marian Pope, the Diocesan Development & Training Manager for the Mothers' Union was busy compiling materials needed for each of the sessions .

Morning Prayer followed breakfast and led to Session 6 – 'Finding the way' in our groups. Group H, of which I was the facilitator, concentrated on ways of involving members in forming groups to deal with 'Addiction', a big concern for a member from Alloa. Other groups covered areas of concern that MU should tackle. Each of the 9 groups nominated somebody to give a 3 minute Feedback in the Lecture Theatre. Possible changes to the Organization structure were suggested, different times for meeting to attract new members. Mid-day Prayers were led by Trish Heywood and then to lunch.

Session 7 'The Roads we've chosen' took place in our groups before going to the Lecture Theatre for a 20minute Feedback followed by 10minutes allowed for Session 8 'Where are we going now?'. Bishop Mark conducted the Sung Eucharist at the close of 'The Gathering'.

Prior to the Closing Eucharist, Hilary Moran thanked and made presentations to Bishop Mark and to the people who had worked so hard to organize 'The Gathering'. Hilary thanked the almost 100 people who attended for making it such a successful meeting. Angela presented a gift to Hilary, retiring Provincial President. *Jean Hindle*

The Summaries of the Group Destinations are on the centre pages.



Scottish members by the coach which took them to the General Meeting – see p. 5

SCOTTISH PROVINCIAL RETREAT 2012

The 2012 Retreat was held from 27th to 29th March and led by the Revd. Canon Dominic Ind, Rector of St Saviour’s, Bridge of Allan and Chaplain to the University of Stirling.

Catherine Pow and I attended our first provincial retreat, initially with some reservations, as we weren’t sure about the “Greater Silence” commencing after dinner on the first evening! In the event we needn’t have worried – we slipped into being silent and comfortable with the opportunity to reflect on Canon Dom’s talks on the theme of

“It’s not the years in your life that count – it’s the life in your years!” We enjoyed the retreat, even getting up to be at Morning Prayer at 8 a.m. It was good to meet other MU members from all over Scotland and to enjoy the hospitality of the Monastery and the wonderful weather we were blessed with. The basis of the four talks given during the retreat arose from the work of an Australian hospice chaplain who asked people nearing the end of their lives what they would have done differently. The main topics for reflection were:

1. Relationships – *I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.*
2. Work – *I wish I hadn’t worked so hard.*
3. Joy – *I wish I had let myself be happier.*
4. True to self – *I wish I’d the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.*

Using as illustration recent popular TV programmes, like “Call the Midwife” and “Downton Abbey”, he also reflected on his own background, being born into a family with clerics and theologians all around. He also admitted to being an “Essex” boy, although long since moved to Scotland with a Scottish wife.



He talked of the fact that work is really important and the lack of it, which he had witnessed in different parts of the country – East End of London, North East Newcastle, Glasgow. Work is integral to living but if there is no prospect of getting work it is so demoralising. The opposite problem is that people at the other end work too hard.

Dom introduced us to the “The Rule of St Benedict” which provides a moderate path between individual zeal and formulaic institutionalism. This rule has been used by Benedictines for fifteen centuries but he posed the question, how could that have anything to do with the pressures we have to deal with in 21st century Scotland.

..... As a member of the Society of St Francis (SSF) for two years after he left university, Dom had lived by their principles of humility, love and joy. He worked in the community mingling with all kinds of people many with real problems, sometimes cut off from their families for various reasons. He said that these principles should be the basis of our Christian lives. Maureen, a member of the community at Kinnoull, a sister with the most wonderful Irish accent, radiated humility, love and joy, as she ensured that we all had enough to eat. Dom suggested we should all aspire to her example. In the final talk about being “True to Oneself” he said we were all actors as illustrated by Shakespeare’s “As You Like It” that “all the world’s a stage.....” We were then introduced to the Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) [I suggest for enlightenment you “Google” it]. In simple terms, individuals are either born with, or develop, certain preferred ways of thinking and acting. We are all a mixture and are stamped by our various experiences as well as our innate personalities. Mothers are “givers” but can get so caught up in their children and grandchildren they get lost in the giving.

As the theme for the retreat *“It’s not the years in your life that count – it’s the life in your years!”* Jesus came that we would have life and have it in all its fullness. (John 10:10). We are on a journey, with the most important week of the Church year, Holy Week, only a few days away. Dom finished by saying “May you have lots of life in your years, however many years you have left!” Elizabeth Clark (St James MU) (Full report available on the web)

The Wedding of Trish Heywood and Michael Brown



Trish writes:

Michael Anthony Brown and Patricia Ann Heywood (alias Trish!!) were married on the 28th April at St Giles Church in Ashted Surrey having met on a Saga holiday in Egypt. Can you believe it I was "the best thing on the Nile"!!!!

Michael comes from York but seems quite happy living here in Surrey. We move in to our own house on 29th October.

We send our love, prayers and best wishes to the happy couple on their marriage and future together.

Hope the move goes smoothly

It was lovely to catch up with Trish at 'The Gathering'.

Pictures of The Gathering – 2 below taken by Paul Hindle

Left half of delegates in the Lecture Theatre.

Below: Right half of group



*Below:
Doreen
Bailey
Valeria
Walker*

*Right:
Catherine
Pow with
2 others
from
H group.*

