

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**DIOCESE OF
GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY**



NEWSLINK

SPRING 2012

Scottish Charity SCO23885

Our Diocesan President writes

Dear Friends,

I hope this Newslink finds you all in good spirits!

On your behalf I recently attended Worldwide Council at Mary Sumner House. The focus of the Council was the forthcoming elections in September. Apparently 83% of membership worldwide will be voting by email, with the remainder using pen and paper. There is hope that these elections, as a result of changes to the constitution, will be more inclusive and that potential leaders will emerge from our 83 partner countries.

Our Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempself, who will soon be retiring, summarised Mothers' Union using, three words; **Enabling** – projects and programmes, **Campaigning** – social issues, **Praying** – Central to all we are and do.

Elections at all levels of the organisation heralds a fresh beginning and provides an opportunity for a re-evaluation of the role of Mothers' Union in 2012. However, as a Christian Organisation, members must entrust the future to God and we must endeavour to respond to what God wants of and for Mothers' Union. The future direction of Mothers' Union mission therefore will emerge through praying, listening to God, reflecting and sharing. By offering ourselves to God our faith will grow and we will have an increased willingness to share spiritually and practically with others. Our prayers and outreach therefore can have a positive effect on the Diocesan Growth Strategy.

Over the last period it has been evident that many members in Glasgow & Galloway show a willingness to step forward when vacancies occur at branch level. It is extremely encouraging when a member recognises the need to take a rest, then another steps forward to take the reins. Both members are excellent examples of a harmonious relationship within a healthy and Godly organisation.

Over the last months I have had the privilege to be involved with other members and ecumenical partners in gathering a band of volunteers for the soon to open Low Moss prison at Bishopbriggs. At the first worship at the prison the following words were heard:-

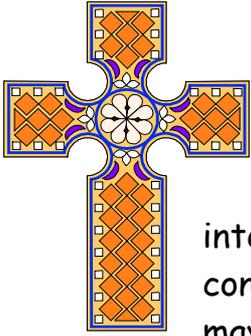
LET MUTUAL LOVE CONTINUE, DO NOT NEGLECT TO SHOW HOSPITALITY TO STRANGERS, FOR BY DOING THAT SOME HAVE ENTERTAINED ANGELS WITHOUT KNOWING IT. REMEMBER THOSE WHO ARE IN PRISON, AS THOUGH YOU WERE IN PRISON WITH THEM; THOSE WHO ARE BEING TORTURED, AS THOUGH YOU YOURSELVES WERE BEING TORTURED. Hebrews 13:1-3

I know the step of faith of initiating this ministry would not have taken place without God's grace or without the outreach at Kilmarnock and Greenock prison or without prayer support. With God's grace, prayers and by supporting one another we can help bring God's Kingdom nearer.

I offer my sincere thanks and wish you all well in your prayerful mission.

Ann X

Photo on front cover – The Chapel in Mary Sumner House



From the Chaplain :

Dear Mother's Union Reader, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

Last insert I talked of the road to hell being paved with good intentions and this time I am assuring myself that what I am intending to convey will be purposefully good for us all even though a Biblical teaching may seem to warn against it !

We are now in Lent, Anglo-Saxon for Spring (the LENThening of days). Of course Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and the Gospel Reading for Ash Wednesday from Matthew 6 proclaims some of Jesus's teaching, at the Sermon on the Mount, about giving alms, prayer and fasting; "not as the hypocrites do". Jesus says about giving alms, "Beware of practising your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven." So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you". So perhaps now, by what I am going to share, I am going to forfeit a reward !

My late wife was not my conscience, but what she often did for me was to put my conscience into action for us. It was our joy to share so many of our beliefs in common and even though I might declare them, Margaret would often put them into action. Margaret, therefore had set in motion a Direct Debit each month in favour of Amnesty International. When Margaret died I continued the giving and, indeed, increased it a little in response to an Amnsesty request. Recently a phone call came on behalf of Amnesty. I was about to have a meal I had just prepared (typical) but the caller promised to be quick, and was! He talked of the plight of persecution by the Iranian establishment especially concerning the stoning of miscreants of their law. He, of course, pointed out the weghting against women who were involved in adulterous relations but also those who had been raped. So often the males involved would go off free (especially when a female rape victim was in fear of naming the rapist). He indicated how the stoning happened and that it was a punishment which was not merely a form of execution but their practice was to ensure that it was slower and involving more pain than was possible. I hope at this point you are wanting to do something against this if you can (remember prayer is action).

{put "iran, stoning" in your web browser and the Amnesty page should show a short talk by Shappi Khorsandi, the Anglo-Iranian Comedienne}

The caller said that the setting of the Iranian Laws were coming up for a possible revamp so could I give a little more. My reply was that I was giving what I had decided to give to Amnesty but I would look on their web-site to see if I could give my name to an on-line petition. I then was left to have my meal ! These are the sorts of challenges, dilemmas and opportunities that are part of our lives. I remember that the Christian Lenten challenge has for long been wrapped up with us considering our Baptismal promises and the following of our Lord who went through the Passion and asked his followers to take up their cross and follow Him. We are asked to be Christ's faithful soldiers and servants and to fight against sin, the world and the devil until our life's end. Are we going to look at our giving this Lent ? Will we use this Lent as an opportunity to consider more about what is happening around us (like looking and praying for what the MU is doing abroad) ? Are we going to be able to take more part in Bible Study and Prayer Groups or Circles ?

On these challenges first of all I could say that as I am not begging on behalf of a specific Charge. I hope we are remembering that fuel and other costs are increasing for your own church. Could you give more ?

Perhaps there may be more possibility for you to have a list, magazine or other item next to the place where you normally pray (e.g. Tearfund will send you leaflets to show where help is needed. If you have the Internet put "pray tearfund in your browser)

I too readily make excuses that I don't have enough time but it could be a Lenten discipline to sit in silence for 10 minutes each day and merely ask that the Holy Spirit will be with us. See what happens !

May we pass our Lenten time knowing that we are in Post-Resurrection times and that our Good Lord is yoked with us to help us and fill us with Joy and Peace and Love.

Enjoy your Spring and Summer !

Love, in Christ,

Peter

News around the Diocese

Holy Cross, Knightswood - 90th Birthday Celebrations

Those of us able to attend had a very enjoyable day when we joined Ruby Wilson in her Care Home to celebrate her 90th birthday. It was a joy to see and hear the enthusiasm, the singing, and the dancing of the 'not so able'. A lovely toast to 'the birthday girl', then sandwiches, sausage rolls, tea and , of course, cake followed – all arranged by Ruby's daughter Lorna and the excellent staff carers

Here's to the next time for us all.

Mary Reynolds



The photograph (taken by Graeme Hely) shows Sheila Chaza, Ruby, Lorna, Mary Reynolds and Margaret MacLeod.

Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock

A message from the Chaplain of Kilmarnock Prison.

'Thank you for the generous gift of the Christmas cards which the Mothers' Union sent to prisoners in HMP Kilmarnock.

This gesture was very much appreciated especially by those, a number of whom I spoke to, who **only** received your Christmas card. Your continued support is also appreciated by the Chaplaincy Team.'

..... and from the Kilmarnock MU Branch –

Very many thanks to all the members in other branches who helped us sign the 600 cards – and donated magazines for the prisoners.

More motor car and cycling, fishing, sport etc magazines are always welcome.

The cards we got from Mary Sumner House - old stock at a much reduced rate.

Gabrielle McCracken, Branch Leader

Your Gifts? Discover and Celebrate

News from St Ninian's MU, Castle Douglas

The spiralling costs of travel these last two years have certainly made us feel out on a limb in the south of the region. We used to enjoy our visits to the central belt and even to Largs at such events as Lady Day or when Table Sales had been arranged, but these visits have become a thing of the past since the recession has taken hold. However, we did enjoy an outing to our recently formed branch at Kirkcudbright last November. We attended a service conducted by the Revd Roger Cutler, Rector of Greyfriars Church after which we were directed to the hall of the local Roman Catholic Church, a few hundred yards away for some refreshment.



The welcome was very cordial and a bowl of piping hot soup with bread and rolls, followed by a mouth-watering selection of home baked cakes, tea and coffee, were enjoyed by all - just the thing for a rather cold wet day. There was a raffle and some of our group were lucky to win prizes. There was also a sales table and many books changed hands. One of their members, Mrs Mary Newton, spoke about her visits to China, where her daughter and family have

made their home. Her beautiful slides afforded us a guided tour of some of the more remote parts of China as well as visits to famous cities. Her talk was most interesting and the slides left a marvellous impression of Chinese life and art in all its diversity. The Chinese gardens alone were a sight to behold.

It was a very enjoyable visit and so well planned and conducted that it seemed as if their branch had been doing this type of thing for years. We look forward to many such get togethers in the future.

Jessie Lockhart



Two busy ladies from the Kirkcudbright Branch



Mary Newton

Moments with Members

Wendy Petrie – MU Diocesan Secretary



1. *Who or what has made a lasting impression on you?*

Rev. Robin Paisley made a lasting impression on me. The word I can use to describe him is “rabbi” not a term we normally use in the Episcopal Church, but it fits best. On moving to the area, and checking out all the local churches, he made us feel the most welcome, and encouraged my growth of faith, which is still continuing.

2. *Name a poem, song or piece of music that has inspired you.*

*There's a dream, I feel
So rare, so real
All the world in union
The world as one
Gathering together
One mind, one heart
Every creed, every colour
Once joined, never apart.*

A great sentiment. I love the music and the lyrics. There is something so uplifting about them. The song, first used in 1991 in England, has become synonymous with the gathering of the nations, in the Rugby World Cup tournament. The tune for World in Union is taken from Jupiter, of Gustav Holst's Planets Suite.

3. *'Hindsight is a wonderful thing' it is said. What might you have changed with hindsight?*

I would not change anything. If we make mistakes, we learn by them. You cannot tell what journey the other road would have taken you on.

4. *Has political correctness gone too far?*

Yes. Positive discrimination is taking over in some areas of life.

5. *What could you not live without?*

Faith and hope.

Prayer Diary

We pray for those known to us who are suffering in body, mind or spirit; may they find the inner strength which comes from God and practical help from those around them. Help us to remember that it is not just the suffering that matters, but our response to it that counts.

Please pray for

Geoff Scobie	Lucy Toner
Betty Burn	Nessie Rankin
Caryl & John Haglington	Anne Young
Jenny Adam	Kay Hindle
Maggie Veriod	Chris Peppard
Sue Cobb	Susan Groves
Doris & Jean Smiley	Henry Sawyer
Anne Guthrie	Anne Bills
Trish & Struan Robertson	

We give thanks to God for the recovery of Sara Glenesk. Ann and Sara's family were sustained by your prayers and send their thanks.

'Father God, empower us by Your Spirit to may go into our neighbourhoods to proclaim Your Good News to all people by the deeds we do and the words we speak. Amen.'

Please could we all pray for the members of Helensburgh who are mourning the loss of Angela Muir, Betty Dickson and Isobel Thomson. Please also pray for the family and friends of Pauline Thompson, Ardrossan who died recently.

'Father, help us to trust in You, even when things seem hard. We ask that those who are suffering in any way may know your comfort and hope.'

Lilian Bancroft

Obituaries

Pauline Thompson

We were all saddened to lose a very dear friend when Pauline died just after Christmas. Pauline had been a very faithful and dedicated member of the MU serving in various posts both in the Branch and at Diocesan level. At her funeral service in the packed church in Ardrossan we remembered with thanksgiving a very full and committed life through her family, her church and her friends. Pauline was actively involved in many local activities, particularly the Friends of the Ayrshire Hospice and always gave of her best.

Underpinning all of her life was her faith which has been a particular strength over these many years when she has fought cancer, never complaining but getting on with what had to be done and also being a real source of strength and hope to others on the same journey. She will be sorely missed by her family and many friends but has left us all a wonderful legacy and example to follow.

May she rest in peace and rise in glory

Rev Jeanette Jenkins

Betty Dickson

Betty Dickson, 88, was a member of Mothers' Union for 45 years. She had joined in London and was delighted on moving to Helensburgh about 12 years ago to discover that St Michael's had an MU. She donated our branch with enough copies of United in Prayer and Worship for all our members. Betty, the mother of six, was thrilled to receive her long service certificate in 2008, had it framed and hung on her wall.

She was never seen without her MU badge and a broad smile.

Isobel Thomson

Isobel Thomson, 74, was on the verge of joining the MU and had attended our meetings faithfully. After many years of searching she had finally found her spiritual home at St Michael's. She was a prayerful, self effacing person who had seen hardship in her life but fought her final illness with great fortitude and faith.

Angela Muir

Angela Muir, 69, came to Helensburgh in the 1980s. She suffered ill health and was given a kidney transplant about 15 years ago. She had weakened tendons in her legs as a result and had to wear supports. This severely restricted her mobility but did not curb her enthusiasm for life and attending as many activities as possible including Mothers' Union. She took on the role of Treasurer three years ago. However, since her health deteriorated in the past 18 months, she has spent most of the time in hospital, with short trips back home to care for her beloved cats. She was unfailingly cheerful and bright and had a lovely singing voice. A nurse herself, she was well aware of her condition and its probable outcome but she never lost faith that she would return home to St Michael's and hear the baby grand piano that she donated being played again for the choir.

We miss them all but carry their memory in our hearts.

Margaret Horrell

Dear Friends,

This year we are asked to look at what gifts we have been given by God. Sometimes I'm surprised by the tasks I do now, 10 years ago I would never have thought I would be doing the work I do at present. God moves us in different ways and it is for us to discover what we are capable of doing and ask for his guidance.

Spending a period of time away from everyday life can really help us in this endeavour. So I would commend to you our Provincial Retreat from Tuesday 27th to Thursday 29th March, at Kinnoul Monastery, beside Perth. There are still a few rooms left if you would like to come to a partially silent retreat with us. Revd. Canon Dominic Ind will be leading the retreat.

Spending some quiet time at home is important too. I ask you, this year in particular, as it is an election year for the Mothers' Union and there will be a lot of office holders standing down, that you ask yourself how important the work of the Mothers' Union is to you? The branch membership is fundamental to there being a good supporting network for fellowship all over the world, but they do need people to organise them. We will be looking at what we can do to support the branches at our Scottish Gathering. Leadership roles in the diocese are also needed. So maybe it is time to discover your gifts and offer yourself in service?

You are all invited to The 'MU Scottish Gathering 2012' to go on 'The Road we Take'. On the way we will discover, where we've come from, where we are now and where we are going. It will be from Friday 5th October to Saturday 6th October, in the attractive house and grounds of Tulliallan Police College, Kincardine, Fife FK10 4BE. It will be an exciting Gathering, a chance to pray together, share together, celebrate together and look forward together, as nothing stands still in this life. This is your chance to meet with members from branches all over Scotland. There is a small cost of a £20 deposit to secure you a place, first come first served. We have Bishop Mark Strange from Moray, Ross and Caithness as our Gathering Chaplain, the development of the younger element to the Mothers' Union is close to his heart. Marian Pope from Mary Sumner House and Trish Heywood along with my committee will lead us over the two days. Your DP will have the booking forms.

An extended Mothers' Union meeting with a difference will be from August 9th to August 15th, Lands End to John O'Groats by public bus. This is happening to raise the awareness of the Mothers' Union. Did you know that we are helping in six prisons in Scotland? Come and meet us at the bus stops and jump on it for a while. Your Provincial Representative member Linda Brownlie will be travelling on the bus, come and hear about her work in Malawi and Sierra Leone. Rosemary Kempell will be on the bus from Aberdeen to Inverness. Your DP will have the time of the buses we will be on in your area. We hope to see some of you along the way.

Monday August 13th Depart 08.50 Dumfries–Glasgow–Dunfermline–Dundee–Arbroath Arrive 16.25

Tuesday August 14th Depart 07.10 Arbroath–Montrose–Aberdeen–Elgin–Inverness Arrive 16.40

Wednesday August 15th Depart 08.30 Inverness–Brora–Wick–John O’Groats Arrive 13.30

I’m on the only Scottish Inter Faith committee concerned with domestic abuse. We are about raising awareness within our faith communities of domestic abuse, challenging preconceptions and standing together as people of God with those who are abused. We have a very moving exhibition called ‘Souls of Our Shoes’. At this event abuse in the home is portrayed by an exhibition of shoes. The collection of shoes on show, with their accompanying comments, will speak on behalf of abused individuals who suffer, and some who die, at the hands of their partner or ex-partner. Other comments come from people who journey with them and many of these reflections will represent a faith perspective. The exhibition is available for local use and is free. Contact me if you would like to use it. hilary.moran@btinternet.com or 01475 686213.



Margaret Horrell, our MUE Representative – the top Enterprise Rep in the whole of Britain receiving a gift of flowers from our Diocese at Council last Autumn.

Overseas news

The latest news for Uganda is; The Family Life Programme has a special outreach into community members affected by HIV/AIDS. This vital work is carried out often by people affected by HIV/AIDS themselves, who have trained with Mothers' Union to become "home carers". They want to expand this work in the eight areas in Uganda to six new areas this year. Naomi went to Ethiopia and Burundi this January to give facilitators training to expand the literacy programme with the local Mothers' Union. She will be travelling to South Sudan in March to see their progress with this programme and gather information for our Comic Relief Grant application.

In December 2011 and early January 2012 we received Relief Fund requests from four dioceses in South Sudan.

Juba diocese, has witnessed a massive influx of people returning home from the north following the split of the country in July 2011. Many have fled to South Sudan, fearing how they might be treated in the north (Sudan) now the country has officially split. Local statistics indicated that at the end of 2011 over 500 people were arriving in Juba each day. This put immense pressure on land and resources within Juba and the Mothers' Union identified 200 households they wished to help with items of food and medication in the short term.

Lainya and Rumbek dioceses were both affected by conflict at the end of 2011 leading to mass displacement. In Rumbek, the scene was described by one eye witness: *"the raiders passed through one of the villages called Reel-kou and they started to kill people and loot the house and around 15 houses were destroyed by looting them and burnt them down. In the morning...soldiers still moved in the bushes looking for whoever tried to follow the raiders and the situation was getting more tense and worse and worse for four days"*. Mothers' Union in Lainya and Rumbek dioceses aimed to reach 9,500 people in total through their relief projects.

In Cuiebet, floods caused by heavy rainfall led to a massive loss of homes, crops and livestock and potential outbreaks of disease. The Bishop of Cuiebet diocese described the situation in Pakam: *"water had covered the villages in the county - many houses were demolished by water and many families were displaced and the county commissioner declared over the state radio that his county had been overrun by the floods. Only some few villages in the high land remained...So displaced families came with their children to the roadside to stay there for their survival and the same road had become a grazing land for cow and goats"*.

Amongst those affected ,the diocese identified women and children as being those most vulnerable and with this in mind Mothers' Union in Cuiebet identified 3,490 displaced people that they wished to support with food items, tools, plastic sheeting and utensils. Grants were agreed from the Relief Fund to support the Mothers' Union relief work in these four dioceses.

With much love to you all, Hilary x

(photographs on back cover)

Your Gifts? Discover and Celebrate

Review

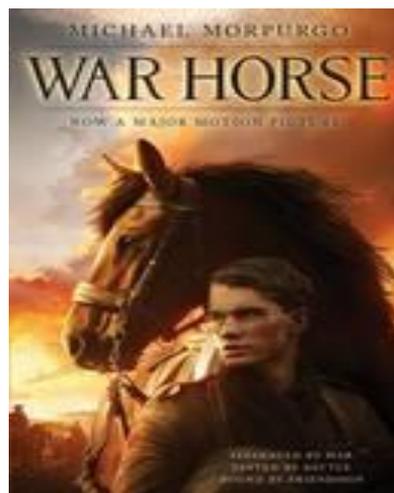
War Horse

A review of the book, the stage show and the movie.

Book

This is written by Michael Morpugo and published by Egmont.

The horse, Joey, tells his story, as he reluctantly leaves his master, Albert, and trots off to the Great War. The story displays the truest of friendships in the worst of wars.



West End Show

In a highly complex and technical display of life sized horse puppets the story is powerfully interpreted – resulting in a standing ovation – and shouts of “Bravo!”

Movie

This is directed by Steven Spielberg.

I went to see this with my husband and two granddaughters.

We discussed our views.

Nicole, aged 9, said her favourite part was when Joey jumped over the tank at the Battle of the Somme. She loved the graphics. She said that the horse trainer, Bobby Lovgren, must have had years of trust in the horse – and vice versa.

Taylor, aged 12, said it was a very touching story and had fantastic horse acting. She felt that Albert’s father was not very good. She always knew the horse would survive many horrific experiences. (She has read the book many times).

My husband said it was a real tear jerker. It was heavily condensed, so that each episode became a short snapshot. This resulted in a short time-frame. The father was a believable man, embittered by the Boer War. There was a real sense of poverty.

“The interesting thing was that a ten year old and seventy year old had different opinions of the father.”

I have never seen such a long list of credits in any movie.

It is set in beautiful, rural Devon. It is more detailed than the book and is full of emotion and real fears. The two hours passed quickly.

A gripping movie as Joey finds kindness and brutality from both sides.

Another Spielberg Masterpiece.

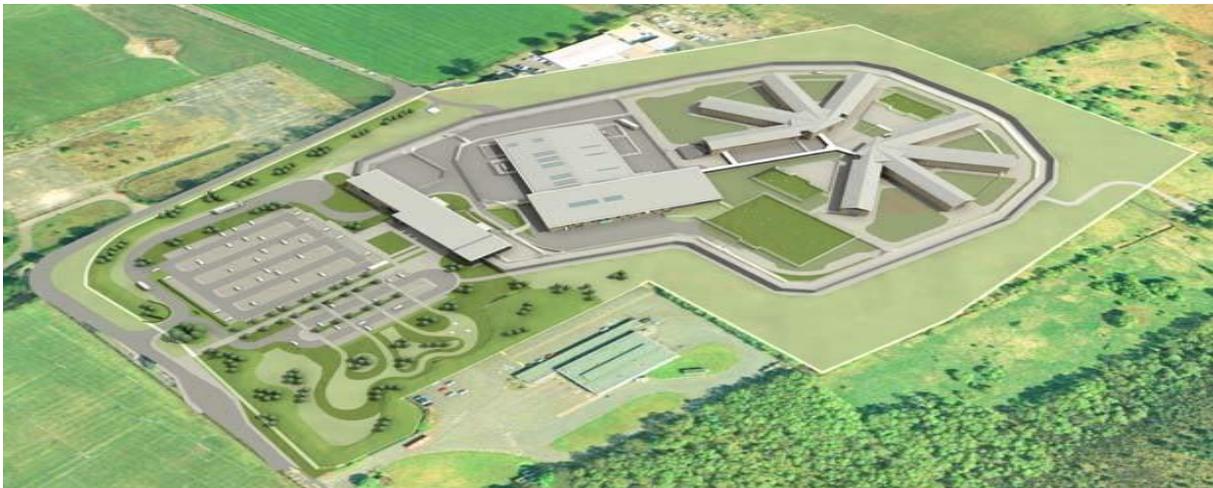
Maureen Langford – Diocesan Member

CHANGING PRISONS, CHANGING LIVES

The mantra of the first public sector prison to be built in Scotland since 1978 is Changing Prisons, Changing Lives. The staff at HMP Low Moss, Bishopbriggs have set their stall on creating an environment which will provide the 784 prisoners with the opportunities to transform their lives; by learning new skills while working a 35 hour week, engaging in education course, sport and the creative arts. Worship and discussions on faith issues will be led by the chaplains in the Multi-Faith centre supported by members of Prison Fellowship.

The Christian communities in the surrounding areas have responded enthusiastically to a call by Mothers' Union to form a band of volunteers to support the children, family and friends of prisoners during visiting times. This ministry includes providing a welcome, hospitality, care of young children and assisting prisoners and their children during dedication homework visits. Plans are also underway to develop other innovative ministries with young people. To date over sixty people have come forward and more will always be welcomed to share God's love with our neighbours.

Both ministries are dynamic and have and will continue to be guided and sustained by prayer. By so doing volunteers; members of MU, ecumenical partners, show a willingness both to work together as Christians and with those of other or no faith in an environment that will be challenging and take them out of their comfort zones. However, by God's grace, there is hope that all those involved, prisoners, families, chaplains, staff and volunteers will be open to their lives being transformed in Low Moss – changing prisons, changing lives. The new prison opens on March 19th.



Let mutual love continue. Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it. Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them; those who were being tortured as though you yourselves were being tortured.
Hebrews 13:1-3

Ann Glenesk
Diocesan President Mothers' Union

Singing

Spring is a beautiful season for us: we see new life returning, and welcome again wide areas covered with snowdrops, then the golden daffodils, and notice buds on bare branches beginning to open. Above all, we look towards the joyous celebration of Easter – all enough to encourage us to sing, as the Psalms so often prompt us to do.

With the psalmist we can find so many reasons to ‘sing in our beds’, as we trust in God’s ‘unfailing love’ to us; with David, we can all say ‘I will sing to the Lord for he has been good to me.’ When we have been helped in facing our problems we can respond with ‘shouts of joy ... and make music to the Lord.’ As we awake ‘in the morning’ we can sing of God’s love to us,

We live in a particularly beautiful part of the world, and as we look around us we can feel that even our ‘hills and valleys shout for joy’ - and Isaiah even adds that ‘the trees of the field will clap their hands’.

We too can say ‘I will sing of the Lord’s great love for ever’ and will ‘sing of the ways of the Lord’, adding ‘I will tell of his wonderful acts’. The prophets in many places also exhort us to sing – Jeremiah calls us to ‘sing with gladness’ and Zechariah to ‘sing and rejoice’.

The New Testament urges us, ‘sing with melody in your heart’, ‘sing with grace’, and sing ‘with the Spirit’. The God who causes ‘the widow’s heart to sing for joy’ is able to fill us with his joy too. We remember that Jesus sang a hymn with his disciples, and as we sing together in our hymns we share our joy and praise together. Let us continue, in that safe and secure place, to ‘sing under the shadow of his wings’.

Barbara Jeffries

Festival Service	St Michael and All Angels, Helensburgh	10.30 for 11am	19 th May 2012
Quiet Day	St Ninian’s, Castle Douglas		16 th June 2012
From Land’s End To John O’ Groats	Dumfries – 12 th August Glasgow – 13 th August	See Hilary’s article	9 th – 15 th August 2012
Quiet Day	St Serf’s, Shettleston		15 th September 2012
MU Scottish Gathering	Tulliallan College, Kincardine		5 th – 6 th October 2012
Autumn Council	St Mary’s Cathedral Date to be confirmed	10.30 for 11am	20 th October 2012



Floods in Ciuibet (see Overseas News)



Heelster Gowdie – raised funds for the MU.

Thanks to all the contributors.

All articles for the Autumn 2012 edition of Newslink should be sent to me - Elsie Murray, 1 Comrie Street, Sandyhills, Glasgow. G32 9TU or by email to elsieburray@btinternet.com by 15th September 2012

Your Gifts? Discover and Celebrate