



**Diocese of Edinburgh**

**Mothers' Union Newsletter**



**September 2009**

# VISIT of Worldwide President to Edinburgh



Left:- Sue Crosfield, Bishop Brian & Rosemary Kempself- WW President Plus Sheila Redwood - Scottish Provincial MU President.



Below:- Left to Rt – the husband of Sheila Redwood, Margaret Gibbs, Rev Marion

Chatterley, Rev Andrew Bain Rector of St Ninian's where a new Branch was opened on Sun. Sept 6<sup>th</sup>. See below and p. 4

Andrew was the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edinburgh MU Chaplain. He followed Rev Canon Philip Crosfield, who at the time of the Annual Meeting held in Edinburgh was Provost of St Mary's Cathedral - Photos taken by Joyce Black.



Left: Photo taken by Paul Hindle after the Festival Service on Sat 23<sup>rd</sup> May at St Cyprian's Lenzie, in Glasgow Diocese. It to rt: Bishop Idris, WW President Rosemary Kempself, Sheila Redwood and Enid Scobie, Pres, Glasgow MU -



## New Branch St Ninian's Comely Bank

Left: – Banner Right: Branch Members & guests after the Dedication Service. The Branch Leader is Rev Julia Mason.

Photos taken by: Eric Bower



## ***Letter from the Diocesan President: September 2009***

“We don’t have Mothers’ Union in Scotland do we?”

“Oh does the Mothers’ Union still exist?”

These questions fired at two of my fellow DPs recently point all too clearly that we have an uphill task ahead of us when it comes to marketing the MU. There are many reasons for this: our natural reticence; the anti-religious culture in which we now live; the difficulties of finding the right opportunities and the most effective methods of “spreading the word” about the MU; and also (and I think this is a big factor) the almost wilful “deafness” of those we might try to address- and that includes church people-who just don’t want to know about what they regard as yet another church organisation. So we have to seek more imaginative ways of getting ourselves known and therein lies the challenge.



This time last year I was getting organised to go to Uganda- just as my fellow DP from Aberdeen, Olga Robertson, is now preparing for her trip to a Special Regional Meeting in Zambia. On the plane to Kampala I got talking to my neighbour, a Ugandan scientist with no church connections, but when I told him that my reason for going to Uganda was to attend a Mothers’ Union conference, he knew exactly what I was talking about, and as we chatted a very smart young man sitting some way further down the row leant forward and asked me excitedly which MU leaders and which bishops I was going to meet. He knew all about the Mothers’ Union. Similarly on my way home the young woman sitting beside me although a Roman Catholic, knew exactly what the MU stood for. In Uganda it is really a force to be reckoned with! But theirs is a far more overtly Christian and god-fearing culture than ours.

I have recently returned from World Wide Council in London where we were told about the drop in MU membership in the UK and Ireland over the past decade or so as older members die and are not replaced. Again much thought is going into ways of encouraging younger women, for whom regular branch meetings- afternoon or evening- are not the answer, to join the movement in some capacity, maybe forming their own branches on their own terms. Many have benefited from things like parenting courses or toddler groups, so the potential is there. It just needs to be nurtured. This is something we should all keep very much in our prayers.

We were much saddened to learn recently that one of our longest- standing members, Penny Turnbull, died on Sept.6th, just days after her 90th birthday. She was a faithful and much loved member of the Cathedral Branch for at least half a century. You can read a fuller obituary elsewhere in this Newsletter.

This will be my last Newsletter as I will be stepping down as Diocesan President at the end of this year. In spite of being hurled in at the deep end and doing a good bit of floundering in strange waters it has been fun and full of interest and has brought me into contact with a lot of very admirable people. I shall of course continue to be around and look forward to the next triennial.

God bless you all,

*Susan Crosfield*

## Letter from the Provincial President

Dear Friends in Mothers' Union,

My three years as Provincial President for Scotland are almost over and I look back with thanks for having been given the opportunity to take on this role. The main work of PP is being involved with the General Trustee Board at Mary Sumner House in London. Many meetings involve major decisions; the closure of the flat at Mary Sumner House, the new magazines Families First and Families Worldwide, the Roadshow, conferences, policies. I didn't know anything about auditing before I was put on the Audit Committee – the Mothers' Union is a learning experience for all of us! The staff at MSH are constantly updating and keeping the Mothers' Union a vibrant, modern organisation.



Here in Scotland my role is to support the diocesan presidents in the work going on in their dioceses and I have had great pleasure in this. What dedicated members we have in every diocese and I thank you all for the work you do to spread God's word through the Mothers' Union.

Rosemary Kempself, the World Wide President, was very impressed with all that she saw as she travelled around Scotland on her visit earlier this year. Small is beautiful we decided. I am now looking forward to the residential Parenting Facilitators Training Course that takes place at Scottish Churches House in late October. My hope is that I can leave a parenting facilitator in each diocese. After all, parenting is what Mary Sumner started MU for – to help mothers in bringing up their children in the faith.

Now we must look to the future and I have every confidence in handing over to Hilary Moran. Hilary will be commissioned for her work as PP for Scotland by the Primus, the Most Revd David Chillingworth, at a service at St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow at 11 o'clock on Saturday, 13 February 2010. Put this date in your diary and please make a big effort to be there to support her.

Lastly I thank you for the work you do for the Mothers' Union. MU is a great organisation because we have great members keeping Mary Sumner's vision alive.

With my love and prayers to you all, knowing that the Mothers' Union in Scotland is in good hands.

Sheila

**THE NEXT PROVINCIAL RETREAT - 16th to 18th March 2010  
will be held at Kinnoull and the cost per person will be £90.**

## Letter from Edinburgh MU Chaplain

St. Anne, mother of the Virgin Mary, is not mentioned in the New Testament. Her name appears for the first time in the Protevangelium of James, an apocryphal gospel of the second century.

Whatever their names or the facts of their lives, the truth is that it was the parents of Mary who nurtured Mary, taught her, brought her up to be a worthy Mother of God. It was their teaching that led her to respond to God's request with faith, "Let it be done to me as you will." It was their example of parenting that Mary probably followed as she brought up her own son, Jesus. It was their faith that laid the foundation of courage and strength that allowed her to stand by the cross as her son was crucified. Such parents can be examples and models for all parents. Anne is the patron saint of Christian mothers. St Anne became seen as the gentle grandmother of Christ and is considered almost everywhere as one of the great helpers for the various needs of the body and soul.

Thinking of St Anne reminds us that Jesus was rooted in a human family closely linked to faith – Elizabeth, Mary's cousin, was married to Zechariah who served as priest in the temple - their son was John the Baptist.

Many of the painters of the Renaissance, Da Vinci, Masaccio, Durer, Giotto, Fra Lippo Lippi among others, portrayed Anne with her daughter, the Virgin Mary, and the Infant Christ. Another popular subject was Anne teaching her daughter to read.

How much can we trace of what Anne might have taught Mary? There are many clues in the gospels when we see how Jesus had been rooted and grounded in Judaism, in its traditions and its customs. We can deduce from what we are told (mostly by Luke) that Anne taught Mary

- to be still and ponder
- to be obedient
- to recognise the call of God

What Anne gave to Mary and what Mary gave to Jesus has blessed the whole world. Anne and Mary are examples which we, as members of the Mothers' Union, can cherish in our desire to nourish and support family life. *Jennifer Edie – Chaplain*

**VISIT OF WORLDWIDE PRESIDENT:** Lissa Smith, the Bishop's wife, welcomed us to her home where 18 members met to welcome our Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempself, accompanied by her husband and our Provincial President, Sheila Redwood, also accompanied by her husband. After mid-day prayers taken by Sheila, we all met and mingled together before serving ourselves with a delicious two course lunch over which there was plenty of chat.

The Bishop was able to catch up with us towards the end of the lunch. He had been otherwise engaged earlier as the Episcopal Representative to the Church of Scotland Assembly, We then all gathered together for Rosemary to give a short talk, mainly about her travels to Africa and the Caribbean and the effect her visit to the children of Africa, infected with AIDS, had on her. Mothers' Union have had representatives in New York at UNESCO since 2001 and the main theme this year was AIDS. She was glad to see Marion Chatterley with us who was also in New York. She also spoke about Kenya,

where they have a scheme of 'texting' (they all seem to have mobile phones) a certain number of Prayers, a scheme Sheila thought was well worth looking into.

Rosemary was particularly delighted to see prospective members from our new Branch at St Ninian's, who had their dedication service on September 13th.

Rosemary has had a very full week visiting 5 Dioceses here in Scotland and they faced a long journey home. We all had a nice few hours together with our Worldwide President and hope she manages to visit us again. We thank Lissa for her hospitality in opening her home to us and also to Sue Crosfield, our Edinburgh Diocesan President, for organising it all, especially the food which we all enjoyed.

*Joyce Black, Edinburgh Diocese MU Secretary*

*Photos of Rosemary's visit to Edinburgh were taken by Joyce Black. See p.2*

## **ACTION AND OUTREACH.**

I hope that some of you will have taken the opportunity to meet the Diocesan President from Sri Lanka when she visited Edinburgh. Having worked hard to repair the damages caused by the tsunami, the M.U members are waiting to help the refugees from the north living in camps in dreadful conditions.

The Overseas Grants Committee has had a busy year. Grants continue to be awarded for income generating projects, conferences, office equipment (especially computers which makes communication with Mary Sumner House easier) some vehicles (only a few can be bought each year as they are so expensive), training. The bulk of the money is very well spent on the wages and travel grants to over 300 Mothers' Union Workers – the term "worker" is out-dated and being revised – working in Dioceses mainly in Africa.

The staff in London looked at the list of "Workers" and some have done almost 30 years – in Upper Shire (Central Africa) 29 years and four in Myanmar have worked between 24 – 28 years. How is that for dedication!!

The "Workers" are chosen by the local M.U Committee and the Bishop, with whom she works closely, using the usual method of advertising and interviews. These women have usually held very responsible jobs in large organizations, Universities, schools or run their own successful businesses and speak up to 4 different languages/dialects including English. These women are highly motivated and very capable. They also have other skills – craft work, farming knowledge etc which she can pass on to the communities. Once chosen the C.V is sent including the reason for choosing this person – she is popular, has a good grounding of the job and experience etc) to the Grants Committee to approve. Once this is done her salary and travel grant is fixed.

The "Worker" also may run deanery/diocesan conferences on HIV/AIDS, peace and Reconciliation (especially where refugees are returning home, some of whom have been refugees for 20 years.) or any other subject relevant to their circumstances – farming, crop growing, goat rearing, maternity nursing.

Their work depends on the needs of the communities but always includes services, Lady Day, prayer time. Usually she teaches health and hygiene, encourages crop growing/farming, advice on HIV/AIDS, and any other local need.

Travel is difficult as long distances make journeys on rough roads and little or no public transport very long and tiring. Some women walk for 2/3 days to visit the furthest M.U Branch to encourage and support them.

As you see, this is no easy job and all of us must be proud of their achievements in such difficult conditions. They also have their own family to care for, sometimes with young children and depend on family help. It is money well spent and enhances the profile of our organization within the church and communities. Please remember these women in your prayers and pray for their safety while travelling and the work they do.

*Angela Sibley*

## **Annual Meeting in Croyden - 18th June 2009**

The General Meeting this year was held in Croydon and five of us attended from Edinburgh Diocese. (Joyce Jones, unfortunately, was unable to join us because of illness). Joyce Black, Pat Gordon and I had a good train journey and settled into our hotel. Margaret Gibbs and Hazel Davies travelled independently.

We had been fortunate enough to obtain tickets for the evening service in Southwark Cathedral and we had to travel by train and follow all the other hundreds of women. It was a wonderful service and singing. There was a role play based on the woman at the well. The Preacher was Mrs Margaret Sentuma. The Dean gave us some information on the Cathedral. He made us laugh when he said someone he was guiding round the Cathedral said it was a lovely building but a pity they built it so near to the railway!

Next morning, on our way to the Hall where the meeting was held we called into "Greggs" for sandwiches and I felt at home.

Our tickets for the meeting were for Row Z and we expected to be near the back, but when we got there the rows only went to W. On enquiring we were sent to the front and an extra row had been put in and we were very near to the stage.

The meeting was very well attended and after the opening prayers we had reports from four Unit Co-ordinators. We should have had four reports from overseas but the representative from Sri Lanka had not obtained a Visa in time.

After lunch we had a role play by an excellent Theatre Group which was very entertaining, but very much to the point they were trying to get over to us. We had a good journey back home and we had thoroughly enjoyed our time there.

*Marion Rowley*

## **Diocesan Membership**

If any branch knows of a member who would like to join, please contact:

Mrs R. Nuttall, 3 Crammond Glebe Gardens, EH4 6NZ - Tel 0131 312 7444  
OR Mrs M Gibbs, 13 Inveralmond Drive, EH4 6JT - Tel 0131 312 6034.

**OTHER NEWS : RIP: Penny Turnbull - Penny Turnbull 1919-2009** It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of Penny Turnbull (or to use her full baptismal name Annie Gwendoline Turnbull) on September 6th just days after her 90th birthday. For well over half a century Penny had been a faithful and much loved member of the Cathedral branch of the Mothers' Union. Ever active within both the branch and the diocese, she was renowned for her friendly welcoming ways as well as for her welsh cakes which were a regular and popular feature of many a social occasion. With her great understanding and her ability to listen and to chat to absolutely anyone, making the shyest of people feel at home, and with her ever present sense of fun, she represented the Mothers Union at its best. She will be much missed. *Susan Crosfield*

Doris Bilton's memories of Penny – She was Treasurer for the CATHREDRAL branch for many years, excellent branch member and was a Speaker also on many subjects. Penny was Chair of the YWCA for many years and represented them on what used to be the Scottish Christian Women's Ecumenical committee for years, especially when I was chair. She worked very hard for what used to be called Edinburgh Sitters now known as First Hand. The retiring collection at the Service was for this. The service reflected her Welsh upbringing. She served in the Wrens during the war. Her favourite prayer was from the night Compline - O Lord Support us all the day long . . . . etc.

We extend our sympathy to Penny's family especially to her daughter, Anne Tomlinson and Anne's husband, Fred and their daughter.

*Editor*

**RIP Ruby Foster:** Ruby was a member of Falkirk MU before moving to Inverurie. She was also a Cursillista. The funeral was at Christ Church Falkirk, attended by both her minister from Inverurie and Rev Duncan McCosh, past Rector at Falkirk.

**Maori MU:** After the MU Residential Central Council at Swanick in 1988 a group of 18 Maoris were hosted by members of St James. Those of you who remember or hosted this visit will remember Dennis Urquhart, who accompanied them as Chaplain. During this visit we had an outing to Urquhart Castle, (*Dennis's Ancestral Home!!*. *Left: Dennis pictured with Vi Hamilton.*) Several social events were organised by Edinburgh Diocese MU. I remember Dennis telling me that his Grandmother came from Bolton, Lancs. Canon Dennis John Urquhart, celebrated his seventieth birthday on 8th August 2009, at a function on Kareponia Marae.



### **Diocesan Events**

**Intercessions** in St Mary's Cathedral – 2nd Monday in the month\* – 12.30<sup>pm</sup> followed by Communion Service and lunch. \**not in Jan or Aug 2010*

### **Editorial: Deadline for Feb. 2010 Newsletter**

Please let me have any items by then. This will enable distribution at Lady Day/Diocesan Council in order to save on postage.

This issue is in black & white, since I will not have time to print the colour outer cover myself this time. However, it will be available to read on the MU Web page or I can email to anybody who would like to receive it in that format. (*around 900KB*)

This is your Newsletter, so it is important to supply me with News of branch activities, special birthdays, anniversaries etc. Photos are especially welcome.

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

## **Families First – Families Worldwide**

Subscriptions are now due - £9 – NB The cost per magazine remains the same for 2010 / 2011, but you get 6 copies per year instead of only 4. Families Worldwide will also be posted direct to all subscribers. Others will be handed out separately. 50p per copy goes to MU funds from the revenue received through advertising sales. Many members have opted to pay for Families First by Direct Debit, which makes payment so much easier. Each branch should have received a copy of the letter from Mary Sumner House and a copy of the Direct debit Form, which can be photocopied. These forms go direct to Mary Sumner House for confidentiality, but you should notify your branch/group leader that you have done so. Your name and address need to go onto the branch/group form. A new option, if you have no objection, is to supply your telephone number and/or email address.

Below is an extract of the salient facts from the letter sent to branch leaders:

Once again it is time to start the process of renewing subscriptions for Families First. The new magazine is reaching its first birthday and the team has been encouraged by the positive feedback we have received about Families First and Families Worldwide both from members and from those who have not been aware of Mothers' Union in the past. It is also encouraging to know that the magazine is able to contribute significantly to Mothers' Union funds from the revenue received through advertising sales. Every copy sold contributes around 50p.

The members' price has remained at £1.50 per issue and will continue to do so for 2010 and 2011, making the members' subscription £9 for the year. This will be the same for those paying by cheque or direct debit. This means an increase of £3 for the year, but for this increase you will receive 6 copies instead of only 4 copies per year.

As of September of 2009, all Mothers' Union members who subscribe to Families First will receive their copy of the members' supplement and prayer diary *Families Worldwide* direct to their door three times a year as part of their subscription. All members who do not subscribe to Families First will still receive Families Worldwide through their branches.

All branch lists are to be returned your Diocesan Families First Co-ordinator, Betty Dunlop, by 1 November 2009 and not direct to us at Mary Sumner House. Thank you for your continued support.

Betty's address is:

Mrs Betty Dunlop, 6b Downie Place, Musselburgh, EH21 6JW - Tel 0131 665 8263.

## **AROUND THE BRANCHES**

### **St James the less Penicuik**

Congratulations to Margaret MacLennan on her 80<sup>th</sup> birthday – 8<sup>th</sup> Oct 09.

'The Advertiser', (Midlothian Newspaper) published a shortened extract of the following, which is taken from the MU page in St James church magazine 'Outreach' **Treats for Troops** – Margaret Coull writes: I have had a letter from Padre David Anderson of 3 SCOTS (Black Watch) thanking us for the "wonderful" parcels which we sent. They are grateful for our support. They have had R&R and are now back policing what they hope will be a peaceful election. They come back to Scotland in November. It

is nice to know that our gifts can make a difference.

**Kenya:** My apologies for the delay in saying "thank you" on behalf of 1 SCOTS for the contributions of clothing and toys which some of you donated to their collection for the children of Kenya. The Battalion are still there and will return at the beginning of September. The training is in preparation for Afghanistan. As you see your generosity is greatly appreciated.



The photos above and right, taken by Margaret Coull, show the display boards used in the Africa Fair in Penicuik Town Hall on Sat 26<sup>th</sup> Sept. Penicuik MU was one of 17 local exhibitors.

Prizes of £25 each were awarded for the two best displays, which were - the Army (Glencorse) and the MU displays. Angela is sending the £25 to the Central Overseas Fund.



£300 was raised for the Chitambo Midwifery Project. Neville Suttle thinks that over £1000 was raised at the Fair for Africa Projects.

Margaret Coull has worked hard to develop contacts with Glencorse Barracks in Penicuik and this contact has resulted in Stephen Macaulay, the Anglican Chaplain there joining the clergy team at St James, Penicuik and St Mungo's West Linton.

**AROUND THE BRANCHES** - Welcome to a new branch – St Ninian's, Comely Bank, whose Rector is Rev Andrew Bain. Total membership 20: includes (a) 2 diocesan members who had belonged to a former branch at St Ninian's which closed over 20 years ago, (b) 6 who had joined MU in previous congregations + (c) 12 new members. During the Eucharist, on Sept 6<sup>th</sup> the original Banner, restored by Christine Mathewson was dedicated by Revd Andrew Bain, Priest-in-Charge and a former chaplain of MU. Ten new members were admitted by Provincial President, Sheila Redwood. Angela Sibley represented the Diocese A celebration lunch for the congregation followed. See also photos on p.2

**Commemoration Service at St Ninians - Reggie**

On July 6th 1941, Reginald Earnshaw was killed when the merchant ship on which he was serving was hit by a bomb. Reggie was 14 (he lied about his age to enlist), making him the youngest service casualty of



the Second World War. Somehow, he came to be



buried in an unmarked grave at Comely Bank Cemetery in Edinburgh. But a former shipmate of Reggie's, now 86 years old, had never forgotten him. He researched records, found the grave and



contacted the Commonwealth War Graves Commission to provide a headstone. So, on July 6th 2009, exactly 68 years after his death, a commemoration service was held for Reggie, with the unveiling of the headstone, and including prayer, piping and a guard of honour. The ceremony was well covered by the media, both press and TV. However, St Ninian's Church, Comely Bank, was made aware of the event several days beforehand, when the chaplain of the Leith Sailors' Society called at the church to request the use of the hall as a gathering place for the attendees, following the ceremony. Members of the newly formed St. Ninian's M U immediately volunteered to provide refreshments for the occasion. Several members of the Mothers' Union attended the very moving service, while



others prepared tea, coffee, cake and biscuits for the expected guests. These included the 86 year old former shipmate who kept Reggie's memory alive;



the family of another shipmate who died with him; the

Sailors' Society Port Chaplain; the War Graves Commission representative; and, touchingly, the Sea Cadet Guard of Honour, teenagers, as Reggie was when he died. They all seemed to enjoy the opportunity to sit down together, to talk about the ceremony and about "old times". Our Mothers' Union members felt honoured and privileged to be a part of such an occasion, which was both historic and very meaningful to those participating. *Ellen Gibson*



*Photos: 1<sup>st</sup> Lesley Hatherley, 2<sup>nd</sup> Captain Norman Jones, the other 4, Eric Bower*

## News from our Linked Dioceses - Columbo and Kurunegala in Sri Lanka.



*Left: DP. Sue Crosfield with Chrishanthie*

*Susan Crosfield writes below about the Tea Party held at 2pm in Christ Church Centre, Morningside on September 17<sup>th</sup>*

The visit of Chrishanthie Nayagam, our link diocese president from Sri Lanka, was a fascinating and sobering experience. Most of the time the Mothers' Union over there follows much the same pattern as ours, though on a far larger scale.

There are branch meetings, fund raising efforts, projects large and small to help families and uphold Christian values, and much emphasis on prayer. Then along comes a major disaster, something quite outside our experience, and the Mothers' Union is there to help in what are often life and death situations. First there was the tsunami, - then now the huge problem of displaced persons following the end of the war against the Tamils.



*Left: Chrishanthie with Jean Hindle and Betty Storey*

Chrishanthie's description of her visit to a hospital of 100 beds caring for nearly 500 people was indeed harrowing. She saw so many people many of them young with horrific injuries, some blinded, many having lost limbs, orphaned children, sick babies, many staring into space having lost all hope. She and her fellow MU members were able to bring some small relief to these sufferers, but they knew they were just

scratching the surface. They will continue to do all they can to help and of course we must do our very best to support them. A good start was made at the tea party at which Chrishanthie addressed us when a collection raised £135.

*Right::  
Chrishanthie  
with a group  
of Edinburgh  
members*

*(St James MU hope to hold a Fellowship Lunch at St James on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2010 in order to support this work.)*

