

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Moray, Ross & Caithness

Newsletter Christmas 2019

Dear Friends,

In the season of Advent, it gives us time to reflect and think about Christmas. Mary, heavily pregnant with a long way to travel with Joseph, did she worry about what lay ahead of her. No Mothers' Union or National Childbirth Trust parenting classes for her. In September, I became a grandmother. My daughter went to her NCT classes, just like I did, I went on to go to the Practical Parenting course, which was my introduction to Mothers' Union. After they came into the world, I had twins, a boy and girl, I took them to the Wednesday toddler service, where, as one of three MU members I helped lead the services. When they were ready the two children went off together to Mothers' Union play group. I loved the help and support I had from those who were not only parents, but grandparents. Even though our children grow into adults, we do have a role to play still supporting young parents.

Membership

Our Zonal Trustee and Provincial Treasurer has been very involved with Mary Sumner House developing paying our membership by direct debit. If, as a Province we join this way of paying our membership this year then Mary Sumner House will cover the costs of getting it set up, if it is left for another year we would have to pay. This being the case it was agreed that the best course of action was to do it this year, the agreed subs for this coming year will be £23, this is a reduction for some Dioceses, and not as much as the £30 elsewhere in the Britain and Ireland Group. Another advantage is that the treasurers will not have to process all those cheques. Paul is working getting it set up at the moment, so we can also have the option of Gift Aid for those who pay tax. Keep an eye on the Mothers' Union website.

Mothers' Union in Britain and Ireland are working towards having a membership package, so that when you pay your subs in the future the magazine will be included, and maybe some kind of annual membership card (this would be in addition to the one when you first join). This year we have to subscribe to the Families First the same as last year.

Mission

Our skills are still required to while away the long winter evenings. You can knit hats for the Mission for Seafarers, make pencil cases for school children. If you cannot make things you can always add a pack of children's knickers/pants or socks to your

shopping, or a pencil case with a few items. These can be passed on to the Provost Rev. Sarah Murray for the children they help.

Merging Update

Chioma was Commissioned Diocesan President in Aberdeen, for the Aberdeen and Orkney Diocese. Since then others have come forward as trustees, and Julie is their treasurer. Therefore, there won't be a merger.

Retreat

The Provincial MU Retreat next year is to be held between Tuesday 21st and Thursday 23rd April 2019 at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, Perth. I hope you would like to come and encourage others to come too (they don't need to be members or resident in Scotland). St Mary's, Kinnoull offers a high standard of accommodation. Most of the bedrooms are single with en-suite shower rooms. There is lift access to all floors. Level access to the lift at lower car park level is available through the door to the basement on the right of the steps that lead up to the main entrance. The lift entrance is across the hall from the kitchens. The cost of the Retreat will be the same as 2019, £160 full-board for those in a single en-suite room. I went back in April and had a lovely time, you can spend as much time as you wish in silence, or meet others for a chat, maybe a walk. The grounds are beautiful.

The website has been updated with all the information available at present. The link to the page is <http://muscotland.org.uk/Retreat.htm> There is a link to the online application form on the Retreat page. As before, if you are willing to act as the email contact for others, you are welcome to apply on their behalf. If you have any questions, please feel free to phone Pat Hindle on 0141 776 3237 or email at retreat@muscotland.org.uk .

Exciting News

In March as the Provincial Representative at the Britain and Ireland, I will be escorting the World Wide President on a tour of our Province. She will be in our Diocese on Thursday 19th March. I will be working with our trustees to plan showing her our wonderful Diocese. I will send out another newsletter at the beginning of March, hopefully you will be able to join us at some stage.

I wish all of you a happy, peaceful, Christmas and we look forward to 2019.
Love and blessings,

Mrs. Deborah L. Munday

Diocesan President, Lothlorien, Dalwhinnie, Inverness-shire PH19 1AB

01528 522206