

Newsletter October 2018

Firstly, my thanks go to Catherine Green for all the work she has put in to looking after us in her role of Diocesan President. As you are probably aware earlier this year Catherine resigned, after a while without anyone offering to take over, I offered to take over. Following a meeting Catherine and I had with Bishop Mark it was agreed that I should become Diocesan President. On Sunday 2nd September during the Evensong in Inverness Cathedral Bishop Mark Commissioned me in the role of Diocesan President for Moray, Ross and Caithness.

Let me introduce myself, my name is Deborah, we moved to Dalwhinnie in February 2010, arriving in a blizzard. Previously we, that is myself along with my husband of 34 years and Duncan and Rebecca now aged 26 almost 27, lived in Long Marston near Tring in Hertfordshire, in the St Albans Diocese. I joined the Mothers' Union when we lived in Tring on April 4th 1996.

When I moved to Dalwhinnie I was pleased to find that we had Mothers' Union in the Diocese and became a Diocesan member, as there wasn't a branch anywhere near me. A few years ago, I became the Faith and Policy Coordinator for the Diocese.

Enough about me; you may be aware that there has been fundraising for AFIA unfortunately, we failed to get any families to take up the offer of a holiday. At our last Trustees meeting, in July, it was agreed that the money could give several families a chance to have a day out away from it all, which is an alternative that can be offered. I met with Rev. Sarah Murray the Provost was pleased to have the opportunity to give the families a day out at the seaside paid for by the AFIA money raised. I left Sarah thinking of places to take those she knows that could benefit from such a day out.

Another reason I wanted to talk to Rev. Sarah was to ask her how all of us, especially those of us who are Diocesan members to help her with the mission work that is being done. For those who can knit; I asked them to knit poppies and get them to the Cathedral ready for Remembrance Day for a big display (Sarah only had 350 when I spoke to her), also I suggested if anyone can knit please can you knit items for the Mission to Seafarers. I supplied copies of patterns with the newsletter. I know not everyone can make things, Sarah has done a lot, providing lunches for children who would otherwise go hungry in the school holidays, she has worked getting school uniform for them, when it became obvious that they didn't have coats in the winter, they managed to work with stores to get coats for them. She has said what we could help with is packs of socks and pants, these are for children from 5 to 18 years, grey or black socks for boys, white for girls. I asked if pencil cases would be a good idea, Sarah thought it would be a great idea. Members can buy or make

pencil cases and pop some pens and pencils in it. Sarah will happily take them at any time. At my Commissioning a large carrier bag of underwear was given to Sarah.

I have met with Bishop Mark, and then Chris Crossley, Bishop Anne and two of their members to discuss the possible combining of the Mothers' Union in the northern dioceses. We have shared our Constitutions, Chris with her experienced eye has come up with a very good combined version. We have a couple of possible names, Grampian, Highlands and Islands or Mothers' Union in the North of Scotland. Nothing has been agreed as to the way ahead, further consultation has to happen with the Bishops and the Provincial President. Once this has happened, we hope to call a meeting for all members to inform them about what is proposed.

Mrs. Deborah L. Munday

Diocesan President