

## Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane with Diocese of Brechin

*Dear Friends*

Our MU Matters comes to you in a new way, and we hope that you will like this way of receiving news both of exciting things that have happened and future events to put into your diary. If all works to plan, we hope to be able to produce a news letter every couple of months, so that you are always up to date with what is happening in the MU. And why are we changing things? Partly because it is very expensive to have it printed and although it is free, it has to be paid for from Diocesan expenses, and partly because the news soon gets out of date!

As you will be able to read and see a photo or two, our day at Dunblane to celebrate Mary Sumner day, was a happy and joyful time. We were so blessed to have Daniele as our speaker talking about Cyanguu, our Wave of Prayer link diocese in Rwanda, where she has both taught and worked to support a feeding project for malnourished children, run by the MU.

I was able to represent the MU at the Ordination Service for our new Diocesan Chaplain when Nerys Brown was priested. She is being commissioned by the Bishop in St Ninian's Cathedral on **Tuesday Dec 13th at 11.30 am** and to which you are all invited. Do come and welcome Nerys and meet her afterwards. Details available at Council.



I was down in Winchester for the 140<sup>th</sup> Celebration Service in the Cathedral when the preacher was the Archbishop of Canterbury. It was a busy few days, as the following day was the General Meeting and on the Saturday, I was at Old Alresford Place where Mary lived and had the first MU meeting But more of that anon!

Jean Richardson has asked me to fill in till your next DP is appointed and am so aware how important prayer is – '...more things are wrought by prayer than this world dreams of...' and one of Mary's foundation blocks was that prayer is union and union is strength, the unseen force that moved mountains. And prayer requires no talents, something that we can all do, so as I pray for you, please pray for me.

God bless you all.

*Elizabeth*

## Mary Sumner Day

On Mary Sumner Day August 9th 2016 our diocese celebrated 140 years of Mothers Union by holding a service and lunch in Dunblane. We all met for coffee and chat in the church hall and then went into church for a service conducted by the rector of Dunblane. It incorporated special prayers and readings but will probably be best remembered for the inspirational talk by Daniele from Canterbury Diocese..



The day was organised by the committee under the capable hands of acting president Elizabeth Benton and was a truly happy occasion.

Then it was back to the hall for a delicious mainly homemade lunch prepared by the committee members. Following lunch Elizabeth spoke and then presented certificates and a red or gold rose buttonhole to members of more than 40 or 50 years. Happily there were quite a few of us there. This was followed by members giving 'off the cuff' personal anecdotes from their Mothers Union lives. To end, Les Slater was presented with a well deserved "husband's medal" for all he does to help MU and especially his wife Margaret.

Throughout the day the sun shone with occasional showers and Sue was in attendance with her excellent literature stall. Those of us who were there with "no jobs to do" including quite a few members of less than 40 all enjoyed a day full of friendship fellowship and love. This is such a special part of Mothers Union life.

## Congratulations

Long service certificates were presented to the following members, most of whom were present on the day

**50 years or more** Mary Frew and Sheila Redwood

**40 years or more** Winifred Hutchison; Grete Greive; Irene Burkett; Nancy Bone; Evelyn Tyrell; Christine Berry; Helen Crockett; Barbara Key; and Gwyneth Crawford.

Thank You All for your loyal and devoted service over the years. We salute you.

## Future dates

Tues Oct 11th	Cathedral Prayers 11.30am, Lady Chapel, St Ninian's Cathedral
Sat. Oct 29th	Council at Holy Trinity Dunfermline, 10am for 10.30 start.
Tues Nov 8th	Cathedral Prayers 11.30 am
Mon Nov 14th	Trustees
Sat Nov 19th	Creative Quiet Day 10-4pm South Lodge Auchterarder. Limited places. Apply to Elizabeth Benton <a href="mailto:elizabeth@benton.org.uk">elizabeth@benton.org.uk</a> or tel 01764 662991
Tues Dec 13th	Cathedral Prayers & the commissionings of Rev'd Nerys Brown and Elizabeth Benton by Bishop David 11.30am, followed by a shared lunch.

## And Nerys writes

*Dear friends,*

I am delighted to have been given the opportunity to write this letter to express my delight at being appointed your chaplain. I look forward to getting to know you all better as we worship and serve God together.

Although some of you already know me well, it may be helpful for me to share some of my story here. I suppose that my Welshness is one of my most obvious distinguishing features! Born to a Welsh-speaking family near Aberystwyth in west Wales, I was privileged to receive most of my education through the medium of Welsh. My parents, both teachers, instilled in me a love of learning and of Welsh history and culture so it was no surprise when I became a scholar in the field of medieval Welsh literature. During a year spent at the Celtic Department of Edinburgh University to gain teaching experience, I met Davie, a researcher in medieval Scottish history and a native of Aberdeenshire. We started our married life in Glasgow where Davie still teaches, but our longing to be part of a local community led us to settle in Dunblane. For over twenty years I taught medieval Welsh to students from all over the world at Edinburgh University for one day a week. I am passionate about making the treasures of medieval Welsh literature available to English-speaking students and hope to continue researching and writing in my spare time. My current project is on references to King Arthur which appear in Welsh poetry long before that of England or the Continent.

As our sons, Ewan and Sean, grew up, I became increasingly involved in children's work at St Mary's Church and also in Dunblane Primary School where I helped to run a lunchtime group which gave rise to an ecumenical children's holiday club and events for teenagers. I was encouraged by my rector, Janice Cameron, to become a Lay Reader and when she retired, I found myself leading assemblies and taking classes in all three primary schools and in the High School in Dunblane. Working in the Young Church at St Mary's with a lively group of children and teenagers who had a strong interest in environmental and social issues increased my knowledge of and commitment to Fair Trade, sustainable living and helping local people in crisis. I continue to be a Board Member of Start-up

which provides home-starter packs and runs food banks in the Stirling area, supporting over 150 needy families a week.

The call to ordained ministry came as a bolt from the blue although my family and close friends claim to have known for a long time that this was my destiny! The last few years, as I worked through the selection process, let go of my ministry in Dunblane and embraced the challenges of ordained ministry at St John's Perth, has been a period of great personal growth as I have learnt to trust God with all aspects of my life. I would like to share with you a prayer which I use regularly.

Jesus, give your light through me and remain in me in such a way that every soul I come in contact with can feel your presence in me. May people not see me, but see you in me. Remain in me, so that I shine with your light, and may others be illuminated by my light. Amen

This is the daily prayer of the Missionaries of Charity, the order founded by Mother Teresa, who work among the sick and the dying in the streets of Calcutta. My hope is that as Chaplain, I will be able to support you as you shine with Christ's light in your churches and communities.

With love Nerys

## Faith & Policy

There is an on line petition to support a line in the Digital Economy Bill 2016 that states that on line porn websites will be required by law to have an age verification system. This is to reduce the number of under 18's accessing adult porn sites. The link to the petition is:

<http://citizengo.org/enfm/37310-support-digital-economy-billit-tries-protect-children-online-pornography?tc=ty&tcid=27461727>

and here's the link to the Bill:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2016-17/digitaleconomy.html>

Please prayerfully consider writing to your MP or signing the petition.

## 16 Days of Activism . . .

...starts on Nov.25<sup>th</sup>. This year we will be taking part in a service in St Paul's Cathedral in Dundee. Put the date in your diary and learn more about that and Thursdays in Black at Council. It's all part of a movement supported by the Mothers' Union which seeks to highlight violence against women in all its various forms.

## Old Alresford-Where it all started!

