



Diocese of Edinburgh

Mothers' Union Newsletter



September 2010

Letter from the Diocesan President: September 2010

Dear Friends,

Autumn is approaching and the leaves are turning their unique shades of brown, copper, orange and yellow. For a while the trees will be a blaze of colour.

Our summer break already seems a long time ago and life is back to normal. But, is it? Have we returned from holiday, a rest from weekly volunteering as clubs etc close for the summer, with zest and enthusiasm for life? Our commitment to God and the Mothers' Union renewed? We will need our enthusiasm this year as we prepare to host the 2011 Annual General Meeting.



This was a surprise to us but although it is to be held in Edinburgh in June 2011, it is being planned and owned by the whole Province. The Committee have met twice and the Cathedral visited and plans there are well underway. Jennie Ritchie will keep us informed about that.

We will need Stewards for the service and the meeting – but more of this later. *See p. 3*

Many of us are volunteers in our own community and work with dedication to help others. This is part of our Christian life and Mothers' Union Aims and Objectives.

In June Alan and I were blessed with the arrival of Evan, our first Canadian grandchild. In the congregation of St. James, Penicuik, it has been a summer of new grandchildren each bringing great joy and celebrations. Often it has meant trips overseas to see our new arrivals.

Our link Diocese of Mwapwa is still suffering from drought and the shortage of food. They ask for our prayers for gentle rain which will soak the earth ready for planting and, hopefully, bring a good harvest next year.

Sri Lanka has been working hard to help the displaced Tamil refugees from the north kept in camps. They provided extra drinking water and clothes and are now trying to help students through school and start a Nursery class. We are fortunate that we do not have these problems, but we are concerned about Domestic Violence and the latest campaign on robbing children of childhood called Bye buy childhood. There will be more about this later. (*see p.3*)

We continue to knit for the prem. Baby unit and for the seafarers. For those who receive the knitting it is most welcome. Patterns for these hats and for the seafarers are available, just ask.

In October there is an All Unit Conference and our four unit co-ordinators are attending. This will give everyone a chance to mix and learn from other units and attend cross unit workshops.

Enjoy the autumn colours and the last days of the flowers in the garden. When the leaves fall, don't be afraid to walk/kick your way through them and be happy.

With the good wished from the Trustees and myself, we wish you a happy and healthy time ahead. Remember each other in prayer and give thanks and praise to God for His Blessings,

With love, Angela. (for more news of Angela see p. 7)

Annual Meeting June 2011 June 8th & 9th

The Province of Scotland is hosting this and it will take place in Edinburgh – in spite of my warnings about the trams!

Naturally, there will be some cost to us – the Service the night before, gifts to speakers, ticket printing for the Service etc. so each Branch is being asked to contribute £4 per member. This does not have to be straight out of your purse !! You can have fundraisers and get others involved.

You could have a Quiz, Coffee Morning, Cake and Candy stall, Bring and Buy, have a book stall etc or collect pennies in a jar. Any good ideas please share with others. If you feel energetic, you could do a sponsored walk/swim or Silence!! (Not possible says the men!) The money will be sent to the Provincial Account via the Diocese.

(send cheques to Vera Jones)

We will also need stewards to help at the Service and on the day. More information on this will follow in the New Year and nearer the time.

We are not doing “pack lunches” as there are plenty of places to eat around the Usher Hall.

We are not offering general home hosting but many of us have friends or relatives who will come and stay with us.

We have discussed souvenirs and hope to have some for sale soon (Christmas presents?), this will help with the fund raising. A flyer showing the souvenirs will be available soon and you can order goods through the Diocese. We will obviously try and avoid postage so will distribute through Branches where possible or make other arrangements.

I know you will have lots of questions and we will keep you up-to-date with information.

P.S Of course, I don't need to ask for prayers for this – as I know you will do so.

Violence and the Family

The members of Mother's Union, Scotland, whose vision is of a world where God's love is shown through loving, respectful and flourishing relationships are supporting bills due to be debated at the Scottish parliament, in the autumn. The aim of the proposed legislation will be to reduce violence in the family.

Trish Godman's Scottish bill aims to criminalise the commercialisation of sex by making it an offence to engage in paid-for sexual activity and thereby act as a deterrent to traffickers, pimps and brothel owners. The hope is that legislation will be in place before 2012 and 2014 when London and Glasgow host the Olympic and Commonwealth Games which like any other influx of people will act as a catalyst for trafficking and prostitution.

Rhoda Grant another Scottish member of parliament aims to improve the safety of individuals who are survivors of domestic abuse. The Bill aims to increase access to justice by making Legal Aid non means tested and protect individuals from stalking by removing the need for a course of conduct before a non-harassment order can be granted.

The need both to support the proposed legislation and provide a prayerful response is incumbent on all who believe in the need to protect all God's people from injustice. Support for women's refuges and men in prison indicate that members walk alongside all God's people.

A caption which will form part of an exhibition highlighting domestic abuse and faith communities echoes these sentiments: - 'Domestic abuse is a fundamental failure to respect persons. Christian faith teaches us that all people are made in the image of God and so to be respected. They ought never to be reduced to mere objects of violence and desire. Faith therefore requires us to combat all forms of domestic abuse for the love of God and for the persons God loves' (+Gregor).

Ann Glenesk

Letter from Edinburgh MU Chaplain

I remember reading a Peanuts cartoon strip in which Lucy comes up to Charlie Brown and does something that is very unusual for her. She says, "I love you." But Charlie Brown keeps responding by saying, "No, you don't." And each time Lucy answers a little louder, "Yes I do, I really love you." But Charlie has been rejected so many times he keeps saying, "It can't be true." So in the last square, Lucy has reached the limit of her patience and she screams out in a loud voice, "Hey stupid, I love you!"

I wonder if God has to do that with us sometimes. I mean, what does it take to get through? Does he have to yell out: Hey blockhead, I love you? Why can't we see that God will literally turn this world upside down in his search for one human soul? Maybe you feel like God has been turning your world upside down a little bit lately. Well, that's love at work. And the supreme sign of that love is the gift of Jesus Christ.

There's a strange paradox about the Christian life. Often, it's more about being lost than found. It's more about feeling incomplete than whole, more about feeling excluded than included. And we all need someone there, willing to go and search for us. We're always in the process of trying to turn back, to find our way home again. And it's a struggle.

But it's a joyful struggle, because repentance is a joyful activity. It's the endless way that we turn back to truth and wholeness. And life becomes this process of shouldering one another, of walking each other home. Sometimes we're the carrier, and sometimes we're being carried. And that's what family life is all about.

With love and prayers

Jennifer Edie - Chaplain

INTERCESSIONS

All members are welcome to St Ninian's Church, on Monday 11 October at 12noon for Midday prayers and intercessions followed by a bring and share lunch

Please note change of time and venue During the winter months (October - March) Monday intercessions will be held at 12 noon on 2nd Monday of month at St Ninian, 39 Comely Bank, EH4 1AF.

St Ninian's church is situated between Waitrose and the The Bank of Scotland opposite Flora Stevenson School . Metered street parking nearby or free (2hr limit) at Waitrose when purchase made.

Buses: 24,29,42, stop outside;19,37,47, at bottom of Orchard Brae; 38 Craigleith Rd/Crewe Rd Sth

Please send requests for prayer to:

Julia Mason (0131 343 1165) revdjuliamason@btinternet.com or

Jennie Ritchie jennieritchie@sky.com

Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUE)

Contact Susan Crosfield for information and to place orders.

Tel 01968 676607 - (sue.crosfield@btinternet.com)

MESSAGE FROM THE MU PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT SCOTLAND

10th August 2010

Dear branch leader / member,

I do hope you have had a lovely break this summer, if you were holidaying in Scotland we didn't get the driest weather but getting away is what I enjoy. I was sailing up the west coast and got to the islands of Vatersay and Barra, which I have never been to before.

I am very pleased to tell you that next year's General Meeting 2011 will be held in Scotland in the Usher hall on Thursday 9th June. We are very excited that we have this opportunity to host this event in our capital and hope to be able to give those coming, a great Scottish welcome. There will be a service the evening before on Wednesday June 8th at St.Mary's Cathedral, Palmeston Place, Edinburgh with its famous choir, which is within walking distance of the Usher hall.



The Usher hall holds 3,000 people so everyone will be able to attend who wants to, but St.Mary's Cathedral, although the largest ecclesiastical building in Scotland, will be a ticketed service as it will only hold about 800. We will announce the opening of the ticketing for the service across the country, most likely at the beginning of the New Year and it will be on a first come first served basis.

If you intend to come and bring your friends, (bring along some non members too), and are travelling a great distance, then I would recommend you book accommodation early, so you can get the best price and make a holiday of it together. Practicalities are on a separate sheet.

Above all we are looking for your support and prayers to make this a happy memorable event. Details will be kept up to date on our website.

With love from,

Hilary x, *MU Provincial President Scotland* –

Tel 01475 686213

email: hilary.moran@btinternet.com

To make contributions to the Website contact Paul Hindle: webmaster@muscotland.org.uk

To view website go to: <http://www.muscotland.org.uk/>

PROVINCIAL RETREAT

Paul's wife, Pat, is to succeed Charmian Paterson as Retreat organizer:

The Mothers' Union Provincial Retreat will take place at St Mary's Pastoral and Retreat Centre, Hatton Road, Kinnoull, Perth from Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th April 2011.

The cost will be £97 per person and the Leader will be the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Gregor Duncan.

To help give an idea of what the retreat is like to those who haven't been before, there is a link below to the MU Web page where reports and photos from the last three retreats are posted. Pat would also be happy to answer any questions, either by email or by phone (0141 776 3237). Application forms are available from Angela Sibley – Payment not needed until your place has been confirmed. The tear off slip which needs to be sent by 17th January 2011 to: MU Retreat, c/o Mrs Pat Hindle, 40 Garngaber Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow G66 4LL or email these details to retreat@muscotland.org.uk -

AROUND THE BRANCHES –

St James, Penicuik –

In May the Branch members enjoyed a visit to Emmaus House. We were warmly welcomed by Andrew Bain who explained the ethos of the House and why it was set up. He then led us in a short Communion service in the Garden Chapel. A wonderful lunch was then enjoyed by all. It is a visit to be recommended.

On Saturday 28th August the Branch had a book stall at the Penicuik Street Fair in aid of the Overseas Fund also selling some cards made by Rose MacKenzie.

We raised £43.30. Sue Crosfield joined us with some of the MU cards and had a successful morning, selling some Christmas cards to our local M.P., David Hamilton. He read the file which I had prepared about the work of the MU and was impressed by the range of work done. David had been in South Africa last year looking at HIV/AIDS work so took a particular interest in that aspect of MU work. Another visitor was the Enrolling Member for the Deanery branch in Lancaster. She was thrilled to see a Mothers' Union stall and was wearing her MU badge.

Thankyou to Joyce Black and Gillian Little for their help and to Alan Sibley who transported the books. *Margaret J. Coull*

In April, Elizabeth, Lady Clerk, a member of St James, celebrated her 90th birthday in St James Church Hall with flowers and birthday cake from the congregation.



Diocesan Membership

If any branch knows of a member who would like to join, please contact Mrs Rose Nuttall or Mrs Margaret Gibbs.

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

Editorial

Items for the next Newsletter should be with me by **FEB** to enable distribution at Diocesan Council/Lady Day in order to save on postage. News of branch activities, special birthdays, anniversaries etc. plus photos would be welcome.

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

On 22nd May 2010 The Penicuik Citizen of the Year Annual Award was presented by Bill Fernley, Chairman Penicuik Community Council to our Diocesan President, Angela Sibley. In an extract of his tribute he said: *“Many work quietly behind the scenes to do good in their local community and beyond To talk to Angela is to appreciate the sincerity, enthusiasm, commitment and sheer energy of someone who believes in the importance of serving others. It stems in the first instance from her affiliation, over several decades, to the Penicuik Branch of the Mothers Union. I happen to know from personal experience what a*

strong force for good that is in the community”.

Bill’s mother-law was a member of St James MU. Bill spoke of Angela’s Volunteer work for the Broomhill Day Centre from its beginnings 27 years ago. She is Chairman of its management committee. Before its closure, Angela was a Volunteer, of the creche for the young children of mothers visiting their husbands and partners in Edinburgh Prison. Bill was once a member of the Scottish Prison Service and so knew at first hand the vital importance of that kind of service in helping to maintain family links at a time of great stress for those



concerned and expresses the sheer humanity which underpins it. Bill said, *“The motto of the Scottish Prison Service is "Dare to Care". Take it beyond the Prison Service and it personifies all that Angela does and has done. That includes a long list of other things, not only in Penicuik but nationally and, with her committee work, internationally too. Meals on Wheels, the WRVS, Christian Concern for families worldwide, the Bethany Trust for homeless and vulnerable people. . . . Angela, you are a person whom Penicuik people are glad to call one of their own.”*

Tribute was paid to the support which Angela’s husband, Alan, gives to Angela to enable her to do the many things she does And also of the gratitude of Angela for that support when she returns home from a busy day to find a meal ready or the ironing done.

Angela’s new grandson in Canada. Left: Angela’s son, Andrew with his wife Charlene and their new baby, Evan – 14 June.

Below: Evan in his Christening robe – 22 Aug. Angela was in Canada for this happy occasion.



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

OTHER NEWS :

On 4 August 2010 – Doris Bilton wrote in response to the item in the March Newsletter::
Find enclosed my reply to the lovely piece in your newsletter.

My family and I were very touched to read the tribute to Alan in the last newsletter. I have so much to be thankful for, our long life together, Alan's support in my many interests and especially his support for the M U. The many lovely cards and letters that I received from so many places brought back memories of Alan being with me visiting so many groups in particularly in Scotland. They were such happy events.

May I take this opportunity to say a heartfelt thank you to you all for such love, support and prayers. The day of Alan's cremation and thanksgiving service was a day we will long remember we all had such a feeling of love and support, as we walked to church we were greeted by a wonderful peal of bells by our ringers, it really was uplifting.

The service included Alan's favourite hymns prayers and bible readings. The Ladies choir sang 'Be still my Soul' a hymn loved by Eric Liddell.

My love and thanks to you all for past happy memories and your prayer support over the last years, Many blessings for your continued work for the MU. *Doris.*

Doris also said that the news of David is better, he is in the middle of his chemo and will have another scan next week, but he is eating better with less discomfort. we just pray for a good result. Please pray for all the family.

CALENDAR

Monday 11 October at 12noon for Midday prayers and intercessions
followed by a bring and share lunch.

During the winter months (October - March) Monday intercessions will be held at 12 noon on 2nd Monday of month at St Ninian, 39 Comely Bank, EH4 1AF.

See p.4 for details of buses etc.

Provincial Retreat: Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th April 2011.

To be led by the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Gregor Duncan.

Thursday 9th June 2011 – **The General Meeting** in the Usher Hall Edinburgh. *See p.3*

There will be a **Flower Festival at St James, Penicuik**

Sat 2 October 10am-5pm - Sun 3 October 2-5pm

All welcome. Theme: The Church Year in Music,