

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

NEWSLETTER



October 2012

Mothers' Union Objectives

-  *To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding.*
-  *To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church.*
-  *To maintain a worldwide fellowship Christians united in prayer, worship and service.*
-  *To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.*
-  *To help those whose family life has met with adversity.*

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe or the life I live. Amen

From our Diocesan President, Chris writes



Dear Friends

Summer is but a distant memory such as it was but it didn't stop many of us from travelling to Llandudno to attend the General Meeting. David and I then toured Wales for a few days what a beautiful country, there were many unforgettable sights such as seeing the Red Kites being fed near Aberystwyth, beautiful birds which were extinct until recently and have now been re-introduced. Seeing the magnificence of St David's Cathedral the beauty of all the churches and Cathedrals that we visited on our travels, one could sense the love of God from those who worship in these beautiful buildings. Time has flown since then and much has happened in and out with the diocese.



The theme for the General Meeting was 'The Seeds We Sow' which was also the title of the report that was handed out. Much was made of dwindling membership in our country and we are all being encouraged to invite one new member to join us. Most of you will have received a copy of this report, it is a great resource and it is hoped that you will all read it but please pass any spare copies on to others to read.

Then we had the visit of Rosemary Kempself our Worldwide President in August this was an opportunity for many of you to meet and greet her, it was a busy time but very worthwhile. Some of you were able hear Rosemary speaking about the work of the Mothers' Union at our Festival Service in the Cathedral and the following day in St Mary's Ellon. She had much of interest to say about the work, but one thing has remained with me, the story of a man in Africa who told her that at one time he would grow one bunch of bananas which would feed his family but with the help of the Mothers' Union he was now able to grow more bunches of bananas the remainder of which he sold and he was able to send his children to school with the money he earned, as she said simple but effective, this is so often the case with Mothers' Union. May I take this opportunity to thank all the folks who helped to make it such a memorable weekend; I know Rosemary was surprised to see how much so few of us were able to do.

We then greeted 'Mothers on the Move' who were travelling through Scotland on Public transport. Some of us accompanied Rosemary into the bus station in

Aberdeen where we were met by †Bob and Graham our Chaplain and more of our members. There we met Hilary our Provincial President and Linda our Provincial Secretary for a coffee break before four of us joined them to travel on to Elgin with Rosemary where we were invited to join the Elgin members for lunch, then we four returned to Aberdeen by bus while the others went on to Inverness. The trip was completed and the progress can be seen on the Mothers Union website along with lots of photograph.

Four of us attended the Scottish Gathering in Tulliallan, as one who was a bit of a sceptic regarding this event, I now have to report that it was a great success and with the future of the Mothers' Union in Scotland being discussed at great length, those of us who did attend came away with a lot to think about much of which will be discussed in the diocese in the future.

I mentioned in our last newsletter that we had a number of Trustees standing down at the end of this triennium and we would be looking for others to take their place, hopefully the right people will be found to carry these roles forward. We can only function if we have a strong committee to carry on the work that has already been started. and I hope and pray that these people will be found.

Finally can I remind you all of our **Advent Quiet Day** which takes place at St Mary's Carden Place on Saturday 1st December starting at 10.30 am. This will be taken by our Chaplain, Graham, who stands down at the end of this triennium, he will be greatly missed by us all but I am delighted to be able to tell you that the Rev. Paul Watson of St Devenick's, Bielside has consented to be our next Diocesan Chaplain. We will all be given the opportunity to welcome him at our Lady Day Service on 25 March 2013.

Love and Blessings

Chris

Christmas 2012



Dear Friends

The year 2012 has been an amazing year with celebrations for the Queen's Jubilee followed by the excitement of the nation for the Olympics and the Paralympics. Most of us have been caught up in a wave of fervour and patriotism that will remain with us for a long time to come.

A further joy for me is becoming a grandmother for the first time, when my daughter and son in law produced a gorgeous set of twins. They are now 3 months old and have given my family so much fun and delight.

As I write to you we are approaching the time of Advent and Christmas and the anticipation of the birth of another baby: Jesus. The four weeks of Advent, translated as "coming" are special as we prepare for the arrival of Jesus once more this year. However, it is a challenge to avoid the commercialisation of Christmas as played out in the secular world of the High Street. A display of Christmas puddings and mince pies at the entrance of my local supermarket bore "best before" dates in November! It seems we are now expected to eat our Christmas fare before the beginning of Advent and Christmas itself. We do live in a topsy turvy world. To counteract this I have found a good Advent study guide.

I stand down from my role as Worldwide President at the end of December and hand over to my successor Lynne Tembey. Please pray for her and anyone who is taking on a leadership role in Mothers' Union in 2013.

I have enjoyed our communications together over the last 6 years. May God bless you and keep you safe and well.

I wish you Advent greetings and a joyful Christmas.

With love

Rosemary Kempell

Worldwide President
Mothers' Union

Heather Ferguson from Westhill writes

I could never have imagined when we were in the early planning stages of our sabbatical, that our trip to Mthatha this summer would have had such an impact on our lives.

The Diocese of Mthatha is an amazing place! The huge area of 'Park', situated on the outskirts of the town, is a settlement created by Nelson Mandela for the poor and homeless. No one knows the exact numbers who live there but there are tens of thousands. The homes are very basic! Huts and manmade shacks fill the area. There are no street lights, in fact no streets to speak of, simply uneven tracks full of potholes. You will find no NHS here, health clinics or social services. Wherever we travelled throughout the Diocese, in the rural areas was much the same.

Many children are left as orphans, due the high level of Aids / HIV and associated deaths. Many older children have to look after their younger brothers and sisters. The elderly are too often left struggling to care for whole families affected by disease and death. Who looks after them? Yet in the midst of the darkness of poverty and deprivation we experienced the church of God, rising to this challenge by putting their faith in to action. The church is growing at a phenomenal rate. The priests are amazing in all they do. They are often putting their lives at risk and ministering some very difficult and challenging conditions.

The Mothers' Union plays a significant part in the pastoral care and outreach in every parish we visited. They have over 5000 members throughout the Diocese! I am certain that Mary Sumner would be so proud of these wonderful women! Everywhere we went we met large groups of Mothers' Union representatives. These women are so full of love and compassion and faith. They work hard and are not afraid to get their hands dirty. I am quite sure, in my own heart, that the work of the Mothers' Union in Mthatha has been truly blessed by God. We met many people whose lives have been touched and transformed simply by these women coming alongside these folks and loving them unconditionally. They have fed and clothed the poor as well as giving wise counsel, just as Jesus told us all to do!

Yet, in spite of the poverty we saw, many are simply full of the joy of the Lord as well as showing such deep faith in their Master. They have nothing materially yet are so rich spiritually! I would love to visit Mthatha again. Next time I would like to shadow some of these wonderful women in the Mothers' Union and work with them and learn from them as they reach out to the needy with the love and compassion of Christ.

I say to God – SIYABULELA - thank you so much for such an amazing experience!

Heather Ferguson.

Faith and Policy

The General Meeting took place on the 16th June in Llandudno and our diocese was well represented. The services on the eve of the meeting were enjoyable and uplifting.

The rest of June and July was busy preparing for the visit of our Worldwide President, the four day visit went very well and our thanks go to †Bob and Graham for their spiritual input during Rosemary's visit.

The monthly Prayer Group meeting has recommenced after the summer break and all are welcome to join us at St Mary's Carden Place on the third Tuesday of the Month at 2.30 p.m.

Our Advent Quiet Day will be held on Saturday 1st December at St Mary's Carden Place and taken by Graham our Chaplain. Everyone is welcome so please plan to come along and join us at 10.30 a.m.

As I am now due to step down I would just like to say that I have enjoyed my time as your Faith & Policy Unit Co-ordinator, it has been challenging at times but interesting but some times requiring deep thought and patience.

I hope I have served our members to the best of my ability knowing that it was what the Lord was asking me to do.

Olga Robertson

Social Policy

We, as Mothers' Union members in Aberdeen & Orkney Diocese, have responded to various questionnaires, including ones on Parental Awareness of Children's Television viewing, appropriate Cinema Advertising and the suggestion of Videos and DVDs being age rated as is the case with films.

A new Mothers' Union booklet has been published as part of the ongoing 'Bye Buy Childhood' campaign, called 'Labelled for Life – managing the commercial world as a family.' It costs £2 and outlines all the ideas and guidelines from the campaign to help parents, grandparents, carers and those involved in children's or youth work.

The questionnaire on Violence against Women and Girls is being used to form our Mothers' Union statement to next years 'United Nations Commission on the Status of Women'. I spoke to our Grampian Women's Aid Link, as some questions related to Domestic Violence were more relevant to what happens in local communities as well as global aspects of the problem.

We have Mothers' Union representatives going to gatherings in Nairobi and there were also members at the Liberal Democrat Conference to speak about the work of the Mothers' Union.

There are more questionnaires in the pipeline and it would be good if each Branch could have some input even if it is done in small groups.

Doreen Baillie

**Mothers'
Union
Enterpris
e**

I continue to get orders although mainly from Ellon but some from individuals. The diaries sold well this year, I thank everyone who has ordered gifts and cards in the last six years that I have been MUE rep. I am pleased that Agnes Robertson is taking over from me as I am sure she will do a very good job.

Christine Horrocks.

I would like to thank Christine for the sterling work she has done in these six years, carrying lots of cards and Mothers' Union stationery to various events so that we can all see and buy what is on offer.

Chris Crosley

A & O

REPORT

All braches continue to be busy with our two main ongoing projects, namely the knitting and sewing of garments for the Neo-Natal Unit at the ARI and the filling of toiletry bags which are handed onto the Grampian Women's Aid.

As the Christmas period approaches so does one of the busiest times for the Grampian Women's Aid with a large increase in women seeking shelter, help and aid. Sadly, with the loss of a job or a cutback in working hours bringing a shortfall in finances into a household, along with feelings of inadequacy that all this can bring, abuse within a family or relationship is on the rise, with the added possibility of physical violence.

All branches in the Diocese support this project and I do know that the Ellon branch will have 60 toiletry bags ready to donate in time for Christmas, and other branches with similar numbers. This year, for the first time, the Charity have asked if we would be able to give donations of money, so that food vouchers can be bought to be given to the women so that they can buy bread, milk and sweets for their children etc. I am very grateful to all branches who by their generosity have enabled the Diocese to give to Grampian Women's Aid a cheque for £160.00 for the purchase these vouchers. Thank you all.

Pam Dench

News from the Branches

Saint Andrews Cathedral

We have had a very busy and varied programme this year and some of the highlights have been our Family Fun Day when we were joined by mothers and their children for two hours of fun and food, our Bring and Share Lunch that included tasting a selection of African food.

This was followed by two speakers, Mrs Pam Dench who gave an interesting talk on 'Her Various Hats' and Mrs Audrey Park a friend of the branch who spoke about her 'Desert Island Discs'.

In August we welcomed Rosemary Kempzell our world Wide President who was visiting our diocese. My grateful thanks must go to everyone who worked so hard to show the Cathedral at its best and decorate it so beautifully with floral arrangements in Mothers' Union colours.

Every summer the members of the Mothers Union at St. Andrew's Cathedral arrange a summer outing. This year we decided to go on a cruise! However it was not on one of the Superliners but on a Clipper! We cruised around Aberdeen Harbour, the historical quays, and the working ships. We listened to a very interesting narration telling us about the history, and improvements that are being made on the many quays to accommodate the larger ships that want to use Aberdeen Harbour. We were able to watch safety training that the inshore life boats were practising and the preparations that were being made on the off - shore support vessels to return to the oil fields. We saw it at its very best on a beautiful sunny, summer afternoon and all enjoyed the experience. Afterwards we returned to the J S C where we were joined by other members and ended the afternoon with a fish and chip supper - very apt for the afternoon spent at sea!



In September we had an illustrated talk given by two young ladies from Ellon on their visit to the Holy Land. They were so inspiring and enthusiastic that we felt as if we were on tour with them. We then had an 'In House' afternoon when members were asked to bring an item of food which was referred to in the Bible. This really made us think to find something different, and I must own up to cheating because I turned to the Internet where I was really surprised with the answers.

We are looking forward to the rest of this years programme – our 'Quiet Morning and our Advent Service both of which will lead us nicely into Christmas.

Sonia Hudson

Saint Mary-on-the-Rock

Apart from a break in August our meetings on the third Saturday of the month continued, varying from quiet times and informal discussions but always with prayer.

In June we welcomed Judith Stones to a very crowded meeting, when she gave an illustrated talk on her work as Lead Curator of Local History and Archaeology in Aberdeen.

At our next meeting in July we welcomed residents from Ellon's Sheltered Housing Units to our annual 'Songs of Praise' followed by tea in the hall.



This was followed by a visit to the house of Beryl Mason when we were able to enjoy her very large garden and the wonderful tea and cakes she very kindly provided.



In September we welcomed Kathleen Wilkie from 'Mission Aviation Fellowship' to our meeting she gave an informative talk on the work being done and members were able to purchase some of the books she brought along. October saw some of our members gathering at St James Cruden Bay for a 'bring your own picnic' lunch. The closing worship was enhanced by having Rosemary Lund come along to play the organ.

Carole Fox

St Clements, Mastrick



On the Sunday during Rosemary Kempzell's visit to Aberdeen we were privileged that the WWP joined us for a service of Celebration and Praise. Afterwards we all shared refreshments.

The picture shows the Fellowship Group with Rosemary.

St James', Holburn Place

On Sunday 7 October we heard that our founder member Mrs Hilda Boothby had died on the previous Friday, Hilda it was who started the Young Wives Group in the early 60's which eventually became the Mothers' Union Branch.

In August we held a coffee morning for members to meet our Worldwide President, Rosemary Kempzell, this was quite well attended.

Sadly Mothers' Union is struggling with one member Ann Penhale leaving but we do have another joining, Mrs Freda Broadbent will be enrolled at our December Meeting.

Christine Horrocks

I attended two branch meetings at St James both of which were quite well attended, the



first one was when Hilary Moran our Provincial President came and gave an illustrated talk on the work of the Mothers' Union and the second one was when Christine's daughter Rachel gave a very moving talk on the issues one encounters when raising an autistic child. Although I have met some children with autism I had never given any thought to how this impacts on the other members of a family. I was extremely moved by what Rachel had to say and I hope more tolerant when I see a child that appears to be behaving badly!!! One never knows.

Chris Crosley



Buy a Mothering Sunday gift and help transform a life.

Sunday 10th March

Make a Mother's Day

In 2012, thanks to your support, Make a Mother's Day raised over £150,000. This year, with your help, we can raise even more. Contact us to order a catalogue and the Mothering Sunday church resource.

www.makeamothersday.org

+44 (0)20 7222 5533

fundraising@themothersunion.org

“ I'm supporting Mothers' Union this year with a gift for my mum Helen. ”



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

“This is a fantastic opportunity to make my mother’s day”

Serena Aylward was delighted to come across Mothers’ Union’s *Make a Mother’s Day* ethical giving catalogue, and to discover that she could give her mum, Helen, a gift for mothering Sunday that would benefit another mother too.

“I think the chance to give a gift to my Mum which helps other mums is brilliant!” Serena said. “I’ll definitely be buying her a gift from *Make a Mother’s Day*.”

The catalogue includes ten gifts, ranging in price from £4 to £100, all of which go towards helping mums, parents or carers to overcome issues they face in everyday life. Rather than simply giving handouts, Mothers’ Union uses the gifts to give beneficiaries the opportunities they need to learn skills that will help them build a better life for generations to come.

“Mothers’ Union is all about enabling families” said Emily Petty, head of fundraising for the charity. “Our role isn’t about supplying water or telling parents how to bring up their children. Our focus is to equip families to be able to develop their own skills to meet their own needs – so our funding is significantly geared towards providing the training that enables families to earn a living, or facilitating a group where parents can share their experiences and ask advice. And of course when people really are struggling we’re right there, at the heart of communities, to bring practical support and to speak up on their behalf.”

Now in its seventh year the campaign aims to raise £150,000 for programme and advocacy work with Mothers’ Union. For each gift ordered, whether for a mum or in memory of a mum, a lovely card or with details of the gift can be provided. Alternatively, new this year, you can order right up to the day and still receive a card. Simply go online, buy your gift and print off a card to give straight to your mum.

Catalogues are available from 1st January 2013 either from your Branch Leader, or purchase online from www.makeamothersday.org

Annual General Meeting Llandudno N. Wales



St Asaphs Cathedral



Bangor Cathedral

I am not intending to give a report on all the proceedings at the annual meeting just a general impression and some of the anecdotes.

On the Friday evening there were three services held as there was not a church large enough to hold everyone wishing to attend. I was at St. Paul's Church, Llandudno for the Celebration Eucharist. There were about 200 of us in this lovely parish church, beautifully decorated with flowers. The choir of some 20 people sang hymns and anthems some in Welsh. I was rather taken by surprise when the first hymn on the service sheet was printed in Welsh only. I am sorry to say that I couldn't remember all the words of "Guide me oh thou great Jehovah" sung to the tune Cwm Rhondda, what else!

Most of the service was conducted by the Revd Prebendary Bob Griffiths in both languages. The address was given by the Venerable Canon Bernard Thomas who told us since he had retired and was now helping as a parish priest he had fallen in love with the Mothers' Union, had become a member and praised all the good work it is doing. He said he had even got on the tea rota.

Altogether it was a very memorable service.

Saturday

The Annual Meeting was held in a very modern conference centre on the sea front at Llandudno. Because it had been over subscribed the main theatre couldn't hold all of us. I was with 30 or so other members in the adjacent arena where the proceedings were televised on a large screen which did not have the same atmosphere as being in the main hall.

However we had our own excitement. During Rosemary Kempzell's report the screen slipped and swung around dangerously. The maintenance man was called for in haste and he drove into the hall on his trolley with a bleep-bleep, which raised him up high enough to secure the screen. We clapped the hard hatted man and he gave us a bow. Needless to say this took our attention off some of what Rosemary was saying about not hiding our gifts, un-wrapping them and using them.

All the presentations from the Unit Co-ordinators were accompanied by excellent videos of the work of the Mothers' Union in the UK and abroad. The general theme of the conference was 'Help us Grow'. Unless we grow in numbers in the UK the outlook is not good. We were given many ideas on how we can make this happen.

In the afternoon session Reg Bailey interviewed four members, one by pre-recorded video and asked them to tell how they came to join the Mothers' Union and how they were inspired. Each was asked to sum up in 2 minutes what the Mothers' Union is.

Rosemary and Reg also shared ideas on how the Mothers' Union might grow. Like a garden it needs to be tended. 71% of members joined because they were invited. We were all given a leaflet and a packet of salad leaves to take home and grow. The leaflet says 'Sow a seed to flourish Sow a seed to grow'. We are being encouraged to grow into something fruitful and useful. The more we grow as a society the more we can help families to be supported. We sow our seeds and when they grow share our leaves with someone and invite them to join us.



At the end of the conference thanks were expressed to Rosemary whose 6 years in office finishes at the end of the year. She was given a lovely bouquet of blue, white and yellow flowers. It was a good and interesting conference as the reports were presented in an interesting way. We did not have a key speaker this year so I felt we had more

time to learn what the Mothers' Union is doing. It was just a pity the weather wasn't more kind to us.

Margaret Murray

The Scottish Gathering

A brilliant sunny Autumnal day enabled the long car journey to Tulliallan to be an enjoyable foretaste to the Gathering itself. Close on 100 members, both men and women from all corners of the Province were greeted by Hilary Moran, Provincial President, who guided us through the arrangements. Armed with a folder with details of our groups, the locations of our meetings, meals etc and where our bedrooms were we set to work.

We were delighted to meet old friends and make new ones. Jean Richardson, our incoming Provincial President, Marian Pope, from Mary Sumner House, Trish Heywood, a former World Wide President, and Lynne Tembey our incoming World Wide President, were all there, as was Bishop Mark Strange. Several other members acted as group facilitators, or provided feedback.

Many aspects of the work and organisation of the MU in Scotland were discussed. As we are a small Province there are good reasons to think that we could run the Province as a single large Diocese, especially as the smaller Dioceses such as Moray, Argyll, Aberdeen and others too, find it difficult to get members to fill all the different positions such as the Unit Co-ordinators. It is a financial strain to send so many to the many Unit Co-ordinator's Conferences. With the ease of modern communication, information could be shared and the money saved, better used. Each Diocese would still have Trustees and officials and the Branch structures could be more streamlined. This is of course only at the consultation stage.

We were asked to consider other forms of membership, and other patterns of meetings. It was suggested that we should look beyond our Episcopal roots and try to meet the needs of our members by providing them with opportunities for discussion, sharing time together to chat, listen to music, providing companionship etc it was thought that many Branches become "trapped" by their programmes.

Many members would enjoy being more active and involved rather than passive in meetings.

Bishop Mark suggested that we should endeavour to meet the needs of our churches and our communities which we need to identify and many issues with which we should be concerned.

We are in exciting but difficult times. Many Branches are closing, and fewer people are joining but there are many needs to be found amongst young and old alike in our churches and communities. With prayer, open minds, flexibility and a willingness to look again at what we do and how we do it, we might attract others and our Branches could be transformed and invigorated.

There were many other topics discussed and we await the feedback.

The Gathering ended with The Eucharist. Bishop Mark's talk was both challenging and inspirational. I wish you had heard it.

Sheila George

The above was some of the feed back from the Scottish Gathering, but there was much more besides.

Some of our members thought that we should leave the Diocesan Structure as it is because to have one Diocese in the whole of Scotland would make communication almost impossible. They also thought that we need to streamline office bearers; did we need to have so many from each diocese? Or could these be drawn from across the Province? Four Unit coordinators was the suggestion to begin with one for each Unit but after much discussion we agreed that two for each unit would be better, all of whom will be encouraged to go to conferences. As communication will be paramount, it was thought that two heads were better than one when it comes to reporting back. Careful thought will need to be given to the implementation of this if it is to reach all of the members but many thought this could be done if the will was there. This structure would also save money which could be used more productively for the work of the Mothers' Union.

Branch structure was also a cause for concern and to quote one delegate we should have 'fewer Chiefs and more Indians' this group thought members would be more likely to join if they didn't feel they were going to be coerced into taking on a 'role'. Many commented on Mothers' Union being treated like a cosy little club and others thought that more use could be made of Mothers' Union literature at branch level. Time should be given to open discussion and we should try to be aware of what is happening at home and abroad.

We also need to tell everyone about the wonderful work Mothers' Union does both at home and abroad and not be afraid to speak out if we disagree with something that we see or hear. We felt that Mothers' Union needed to be seen to be more pro-active and become more involved in church life and our local community. We were challenged to spend more time with young families wherever possible and to think of interesting ways to interact with them. There was a lot of very interesting discussion all of which needs to be given careful consideration but we all hope that some positive changes may come as a result and that they won't be pushed aside and forgotten about.

These were the thoughts of another group and as there were nine groups, you can imagine the number of ideas that have to be considered before decisions can be taken.

Chris Crosley

Memories of Hilda Boothby R.I.P.

Hilda was a dedicated Mothers' Union member. In the early 1960's she had moved from England with her husband Ken when he had been appointed Export Manager at the Crombie Mills in Aberdeen. Hilda began by starting a Young Wives group which became a Mothers' Union Branch in June 1964 at St. James's Church Holburn Junction. Under her leadership the branch grew. At this point I joined the church and it was Hilda who first spoke to me about joining the Mothers' Union which I did in 1968.

Hilda also helped with running a shopping crèche for young mothers and their children at the Cathedral on a Friday organised by the St. Andrew's Branch.

On Mothering Sunday who could forget Hilda's Simnel cake baked by her and beautifully decorated. As time went by Hilda encouraged the branch to start a sewing class on a Tuesday evening. We were all delighted when she brought along a suitcase full of pieces of Crombie cloth off cuts at a reasonable price which we turned into skirts etc. Several times we held a fashion show in the church hall, showing off what we had made.

After Ken retired from the mill Hilda and he moved to a house in Bielside. In the summer months Hilda would invite us to have tea in her garden with its view across the River Dee to Blairs. It was through Hilda asking me to take opening prayers at MU meetings that set me on the road to becoming a Lay Reader.

Hilda spent the last 10 years of her life at Simeon House in Bielside where she was very well cared for. I visited her a few times and she seemed very happy there. Latterly she became very frail and passed away in her 95 year on

October 4th. Her funeral was private and attended only by her son and daughter and her carers. May she rest in peace.

Margaret Murray.

Who's who

Diocesan Officials

Diocesan President	Chris Crosley
Diocesan Vice President	Vacant
Diocesan Secretary	Sheila George
Diocesan Treasurer	Charles Fox
Finances & Central Services	Vacant
Faith & Policy	Olga Robertson
Action & Outreach	Pam Dench
Marketing	Vacant
Enterprise Representative	Christine Horrocks
Diocesan Chaplain	Rev. Canon Graham Taylor

General Trustees

Christine Horrocks	Moira Middleton
Agnes Robertson	Pat Simpson

Branch & Fellowship Leaders

St Andrew's Cathedral	Sonia Hudson
St Clements, Mastrick	Melanie Finch
St James', Holburn Junction	Christine Horrocks
St Mary & St James	Carole Fox

Dates for your Diary in 2012 & 2013

- 1st December 2012 - Advent Quiet Day – St Mary's, Carden Place
- 25th March 2013 - Lady Day Service – either St Andrew's Cathedral
or St Mary's, Carden Place
- 9 – 11th April 2013 - Provincial Retreat - Kinnoull, Perth
- 12th June 2013 - General Meeting - Bath

**Thank you to everyone who has contributed pictures or articles.
We would like to have news and photographs from all branches as
well as information on activities.**

**Items from all members are most welcome,
this is your newsletter!**

**Copy for next issue - please send to David Crosley at:-
muaberdeen@gmail.com**

**or by post to:
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no later than 28th February 2013**

**Scottish website: www.muscotland.org.uk
Scottish Charity No. SC036627**