



Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

NEWSLETTER



Our Chaplains: Rev Ali Harvey & Rev Paul Watson

October 2013

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

From our Provincial President, Jean writes



Why the Mothers' Union

Have you ever wondered why people join the Mothers' Union?

Some join because previous generations of their family have belonged and they have grown up in the Mothers' Union family; others are invited by a member to a meeting or event while some are impressed by the work and beliefs of the Mothers' Union and feel that they would like to commit themselves too.

Each member has their own story to tell – a world-wide membership in fact. Four million stories of why the Mothers' Union is so special and so different that they want to belong.

So what do I think it is that makes the Mothers' Union so special?

As a third generation Mothers' Union member, I was one of those who grew up surrounded by family involvement in the Mothers' Union. I just assumed that it was a natural part of women's life in the church – baptism – confirmation and then eventually Mothers' Union membership! In those days membership was restricted to married women who were mothers. Today it welcomes ALL who are baptised in the Trinity and who support the aims and objectives of the Mothers' Union.

We have moved a long way from the days of being perceived as the church tea ladies who shunned divorce and refused membership to men and single people! But that was in the past and is no more.

Today we are the front-line responders to social need in our society. We bring Christ's love and compassion to all our projects and ventures, helping those who need our help, regardless of their colour, creed or faith.

What makes the Mothers' Union particularly special is that all this is underpinned by prayer. At meetings; for each other in times of stress (so we are never alone); in our daily lives with our prayer diaries and across the world at 12 o'clock in our world-wide wave of prayer. God is with us all the way.

What sustains me is a quotation from a late, very dear friend of mine, Betty Campbell who declared that "The Mothers' Union is the practical manifestation of my faith". I cannot think of a better reason for being a passionate and committed member of the Mothers' Union. Can you?

Jean McPherson-Richardson

From our Diocesan President, Chris writes



Dear Friends,

What a wonderful summer we have had, our gardens have certainly benefitted from the warm weather. Although I just can't believe that we are almost half way through October and starting to think about our Advent Quiet Day.

In our last newsletter, I mentioned ideas that came from the Scottish Gathering and since then Pam Dench, Sheila George and I having been asked to discuss ideas for different types of groups and ways of joining the Mothers' Union. We met twice and came up with some ideas, which were put forward to the Provincial Meeting in Perth. I am grateful to Pam & Sheila for doing this in my absence. Our ideas were met favourably, but putting them into action may be a different story. You will be able to hear about this at Diocesan Council on Saturday 30th November, more details after the Trustees Meeting on the 2nd November.

I feel as though David and I have been away more than we have been home this summer first in June when we took three weeks to travel the long way round to Bath for the General Meeting. Our first stop was Lindisfarne always a favourite with us then on to meet up with Moira Hamilton an Ellon Mothers' Union member from a distance, she lives in Hutton Rudby, Yorkshire. How can we forget drinking Pimms in her garden on a beautiful sunny afternoon, before lunch, there was lots of chat and catching up with all the news. We drove through some amazing scenery met up with lovely family members before we got to Bath where it was raining and continued to do so all the time we were there. The General Meeting was very good, Adrian Plass (you may have read some of his articles in Families First) was one of our speakers with stories to make you laugh and cry, he was followed by Fedis Nyagah who is the Church and Community Mobilisation Process facilitator for CAPA (Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa) she talked eloquently about the future and self help in her country as the way forward, Mothers' Union still has a part to play in this but in a more practical way. The welcome from the Mothers' Union members in Bath was very warm as one would expect and it was good to meet up with some others in the Province although I didn't think the venue lent itself to meeting and greeting.

Since then I have visited the Cathedral Branch and visited St Clements on several occasions. I also visited Rev Ali Harvey at Peterhead Prison to hear about her plans for her role as Prison Chaplain for Grampian and how she would like us all to get involved. Our Quiet Day took place at the end of August at St Devenicks and it proved to be an excellent day for those of us who attended. You can read Sheila George's very good article further on. Sadly our second Salt Day (Sharing and Learning Together) was cancelled as not enough people responded to my letter. This enabled me to spend a few extra days with David's mother.

Travel began again in September with a visit to Istanbul, a beautiful city, there was so much to look at and do that we ran out of time however my lasting memory is of the Moslem call to prayer that started in one part of the city then reverberated round the whole city what an amazing sound it made, although a 5 a.m. start on a Friday was just a bit early! The remainder of our time away was spent in Cornwall with David's Mother and catching up with some old friends including some time for me in Exmouth, what would we do without friends!! How I remember my visit there last year when the journey back was disrupted by flooding and one of our meetings had to be postponed.

The Trustees meet again on the 2nd November in the John Skinner Centre and Diocesan Council is on the 30th November.

Sue Begg and I have started discussing our Advent Quiet Day on the 7th December. You will be notified of the venue at Diocesan Council as we are hoping to do something a little bit different this time so please plan to come. It is always a lovely breathing space before the frantic preparation for Christmas.

I leave you with the following prayer that I found in a very old Mothers' Union publication.

Dear Lord, remind us that -----

Happiness comes from loving,
Happiness comes from giving,
Happiness comes from caring,
Happiness comes from sharing,
Happiness comes from working,
Happiness comes from worshipping

The One who has shown the world the only way to true HAPPINESS.

Love and Blessings

Chris

Seen on the Internet!

An exasperated mother, whose son was always getting into mischief, finally asked him 'How do you expect to get into Heaven?'

The boy thought it over and said, 'Well, I'll run in and out and in and out and keep slamming the door until St. Peter says, 'For Heaven's sake, Dylan, come in or stay out!''



Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

I am writing this letter to you as I travel home following a week spent in London at Mary Sumner House.

I had the great joy during the week of spending time with members who are Passionate about Parenting - one of Mothers' Union's wonderful outreach initiatives. Our day together gave those present: facilitators, coordinators and those interested in possibly starting a parenting programme in their diocese, time and opportunity to share the many joys, amazing experiences and any challenges they have faced.

At the end of the day, those present were asked to complete the following sentence - not publicly but to themselves and to God - "because of this day, I will...."

As we know, our founder, Mary Sumner, began our organisation because she saw a need in society; she put her faith into action. Her hope "to win homes for Christ" is one that I pray we may still strive for today. Prayer is at the heart of all we do. I thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to a life of prayerful support for an

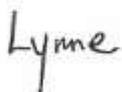
organisation that has Christ, family life and supporting others at its heart. I pray that we shall never lose sight of this.

Over two thousand years ago a young mother answered God's call by giving birth to the baby Jesus. Mary was so brave, away from family and friends, giving birth to her first child in difficult circumstances, with no place to call home.

As we once again prepare to welcome our Lord and Saviour into the world as a baby, may we thank God for our own families; for the love we have shared over the years, the care and protection we have been able to give, the memories we treasure.

Christmastime for me, is about love, giving and receiving. The Christmas Carol "Love came down at Christmas" is a timely reminder that each one of us are loved - because Jesus is Love. May I wish you all God's richest blessings this blessed and holy season.

With my love and the assurance of my prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne".

Lynne Tembey

Worldwide President

Faith and Policy

Is it worth going all the way to Swanwick for a Mothers' Union Conference? Well, 1 taxi, 1 plane, 1 monorail, 2 trains, a bus, a very warm welcome, a super room and a restorative cup of tea and even before the conference proper started, I could say – YES! I had already met some enthusiastic members whilst travelling to the conference and to be in the company of other people with the same aims and passion for the MU is very energising.

The theme of the conference was 'Together we Grow' and in our joint meetings where we looked at the foundations for growth and our discussion groups where the theme was continued and our last session, before communion, where we discussed in our Scottish group – 'Growing Together in Scotland', all re-enforced the importance of working together, not just within our own diocese, but working with the wider community.

Sue Begg

**FIND OUT THE MOST
IMPORTANT THINGS WE CAN
OFFER OUR CHILDREN**



Visit Mothers' Union's brand new website today where our top tips for Mums and Dads help you do the most rewarding job in the world.

www.mothersunion.org/practical-support/parents

A & O

REPORT

This year the Mother's Union in this diocese have been able to send two families away on a one week's caravan holiday at the Haven Holiday Site at Seaton Sands and one family away on two, one day outings, one day to Blair Drummond Safari Park the other to Landmark Adventure Park. Blair Drummond Safari Park very kindly donated a complimentary pass for the family to the value of £52.00, which was a great help to offset the costs for the day.

Since then I have received thank you cards from the parents and children of one family and a card from all the family who went on the day's outings, all saying that they had benefited very much from their breaks. The other family has spoken with Chris saying they enjoyed the holiday enormously but on returning home the father was admitted to hospital to undergo a serious operation on his back, so life has been rather stressful for them as he recovers.

Once the holidays were over I sent e-mails of thanks to Landmark Adventure Park and Blair Drummond Safari Park who replied saying they were so pleased the family enjoyed their day. I have also emailed Haven Holidays, thanking them in particular for all their help with the bookings and for the companies most generous discounts which were given with our bookings. I then received a telephone call from Haven to say how delighted they were to hear from us and to know that the holidays were a great success.

We received an anonymous donation of £500.00 towards AFIA holidays which was an enormous help. Since then I have also received a Diocesan grant from the Balgownie Fund of £700.00 for AFIA funding.

Pamela Dench



Diocesan Quiet Day @ St Devenick's Church

August 31st 2013

On a bright Saturday with a touch of Autumn in the air, a small group of Mothers' Union members joined women from St Devenicks, St Mary's, Inverurie and St Drostan's, Inch for what proved to be a very inspirational and thought provoking experience during our Quiet Day.

Our chaplain, Rev Paul Watson, led us on a journey in which he urged us to notice and discover God in the everyday. He suggested that we should try to find moments of quiet and stillness where God would find us as opposed to us seeking God. Focussing on the psalms we sought verses which seemed to be an appropriate response to experiences, both positive and negative in our lives.

Paul enabled us to heighten our awareness of God's presence in nature when we took time to explore his garden or to walk along the former railway line appreciating the freshness of the wind, the scudding clouds and the variety of greens in plants and trees.

Sue Begg led us in Imaginative Contemplation. She used the story of the blind man at Bethsaida (Mark 8 vs. 22 to 26) and asked us to imagine that we were one of the characters in the story, and what Jesus would say to us.

Prior to lunch we introduced ourselves to each other, giving our names, where we lived or worshipped and what was happening in our lives 20 years ago! Such was our feeling of trust that we were able to share some of our more sensitive details. We enjoyed some interesting feedback and comment on the experiences of the day so far.

During lunch we were encouraged to chat and share with others. This was important as there were people there who we did not know and who perhaps did not know some of the others from different churches. It was a good time of fellowship.

We then gathered in a circle for the Eucharist. Paul used a liturgy from Sri Lanka which he had visited recently. We administered the sacrament to each other, which I found very moving and meaningful. Paul used the story of the woman's mite, and a gift he had received from Sri Lanka to illustrate God's delight in receiving our gifts, however small if they represent all that we can afford.

St Devenick's Church has been transformed and opened up to provide comfortable and usable space for quiet contemplation, discussions, sharing and

working, for socialising and of course for worship. It proved to be an excellent venue for our Quiet Day. Although beyond the city, it was very easily reached by bus or car.

We thanked Paul for his guidance as we continue on our personal Christian Journey.

Sheila George

News from the Branches

Saint Andrews Cathedral

Our Branch has had a busy, but interesting summer season. We have had talks about a visit to the Holy Land, the General Meeting at Bath and we have made the most of the beautiful weather by having a members walk in Seaton Park.

One of our latest meetings was an illustrated talk by Mr Athol Jermieson on 'Working Offshore'. It was very interesting as Athol told us about the changes he had seen during his 27 years working on the oil rigs and the hazardous conditions endured. The illustrations showed the height of waves beating against the rigs and the precarious walkways and working conditions that oil workers have to endure.

This meeting was followed by our 'Summer Outing', when we visited the Maritime Museum in Aberdeen, where we were able to see a model of the rig, wander through some of the cabins, watch films of work on the rigs and other aspects of life on the rigs. It was a very apt follow up, especially as the visit took place just a few days before the latest helicopter accident where 4 workers lost their lives.

After leaving the Museum, we walked back to the JS Centre where we all enjoyed a traditional afternoon tea and closed the meeting with prayers for all those involved with work on oil rigs worldwide.

Sonia Hudson



St Mary-on-the-Rock, Ellon.

2013 is proving to be a year of special dates for several of our members! Charlie & I celebrated our golden wedding anniversary in June, Eddie & Joyce Ellington celebrated theirs in July, David and Betty Cross's was in September and Mary Baskeyfield had her 90th birthday in August. I know that we all give thanks for loving families and friends.

Our branch has had a variety of meetings during the summer months. In July, Sue Begg led us in some serious discussion on the subject of "Exploring identity and relationships". A couple of weeks later, at the MU hour which we have on a Saturday morning once a month, we had our usual times of prayer but also shared memories of hot weather days in the past. Some of the stories were hilarious!

6th August saw about fifteen of our members going out to Formartine's Visitor Centre (on the edge of the Haddo Estate) for afternoon tea and an opportunity to look around the shop. Charlie & I did not arrive home from our American holiday until nearly 1pm that day, but fortunately I wasn't affected by jet-lag and was able to drive out and join some of the group for a "cuppa".

On the Sunday nearest to Mary Sumner Day, our branch had a stall in St Mary's hall following the 11am service. There was a selection of cards and other goods marketed by MU Enterprises, and also display boards showing the range of MU projects. Thanks go to Agnes Robertson, Pam Dench and other members who helped organise all that.

We now look forward to our autumn meetings which started in September with our Diocesan President, Chris Crosley, giving a power-point presentation on the MU worldwide. We also look forward to enrolling a new member, but the date for that has yet to be fixed.



Jan Brooks has since been enrolled at a Wednesday morning Eucharist, held in the hall of St Mary's.

Shown are Jan, Carole and Rev Canon Peter Mander.

Carole Fox

Who's who

World Wide President

Lynne Tembey

Provincial President

Jean Richardson

Diocesan President

Chris Crosley

Diocesan Secretary

Sheila George

Diocesan Chaplains

Paul Watson & Ali Harvey

Diocesan Treasurer

Charles Fox

Co-ordinators

Action & Outreach

Pam Dench

Social Policy

Doreen Baillie

Faith & Policy

Sue Begg

Finance & Central

Services

Vacant

Fundraising &

Communication

Vacant

General Trustees

Florence Cal-Anglia Margaret Finch Laura Heatherington Agnes Robertson

AFIA rep

Pam Dench

Diocesan Member rep

Blanche Beattie

MUe rep

Agnes Robertson

Branch & Fellowship Leaders

St Andrew's Cathedral

Sonia Hudson

St Clements, Mastrick

Melanie Finch

St James', Holburn Junction

Joint Leadership

St Mary & St James

Carole Fox

Dates for your Diary in 2013

Wave of Prayer is from 21st – 25th November when we will be praying for our Links Diocese and the Mothers' Union throughout the world and we will be being prayed for please try to remember this special time.

Diocesan Council is on Saturday 30th November in St Ninians in King Street starting at 10 for 10.30. Please plan to come as Dorothy McDonald of Grampian Women's Aid is coming to speak to us and it would be nice to have a good turnout. Many of you will remember that we have provided toiletries and toilet bags for this charity for a number of years now. I look forward to seeing you on the 30th November.

Advent Quiet Day is on Saturday 7th December in the John Skinner Centre from 10.00 am, more details of this will be given out at Diocesan Council but please put this in your diary and plan to come.

Provincial Retreat is at St Mary's Pastoral and retreat centre at Kinnoull, Perth from Tuesday 25th March to Thursday 27th March and costs £110 per person. If you wish to go, applications can be obtained from your Branch Leader or Diocesan Rep Leader. Or you can go on line to <http://muscotland.org.uk./RetreatApp.htm> these must be in not later than Monday 13th January 2014.

Our Lady Day Service has been moved from Tuesday 25 March 2014 to Friday 28 March to avoid clashing with the Retreat.

Mothers' Union General Meeting 21st June 2014 in Belfast

It is hoped to arrange a similar coach trip to Belfast following on from the success of the one to Bath. The coach will leave on Thursday 19th, returning on Monday 22nd June, if there is enough support. Unfortunately once again it is leaving from the Central Belt and there will be no hospitality. A rough guide to cost including single room, coach and ferry crossing is £360 or £290 if sharing a room. There will be room for 40 and Doreen Esnol is prepared to help Linda Brownlie organise the trip but she needs to know how many people will be interested ASAP.

**Thank you to everyone who has contributed pictures or articles.
We would love to have news and photographs from ALL branches
as well as information on other 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 31ST MARCH 2014

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

