

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families



NEWSLINK

Spring 2016

Scottish Charity SC023885

A LETTER FROM OUR DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Dear Friends,

It is with much excitement and I admit, some trepidation, that I have become the new Diocesan President for Glasgow and Galloway. As a diocese we have to thank Ann Glenesk and the former members of the trustee Board for their prayerful leadership over the past few years.

2016 is a very special year for Mothers' Union as we celebrate 140 years of faithful service to families and communities. So we want to take every opportunity to celebrate the faithfulness of God to us through the years; the faithful witness of our members, past and present; and our determination to continue to trust in God for all that lies ahead for us in the future.

On a personal note I also am celebrating the marriage of my daughter Emily to Gary in March. It is a very exciting time for us as a family. I'm not quite sure which title: of Mother of the Bride or Diocesan President, causes the most stress!!! Hopefully neither.

As we begin our journey of service in Glasgow and Galloway, some of our trustee board will attend Trustee training with the other dioceses in Scotland. This will be supplied by Mary Sumner House. In May we hope to send delegates down to Swanwick for the MU Conference entitled Equipped to Serve. By sharing our projects and ideas for the future we should be able to move forward with our vision of a world where God's love is shown through loving respectful and flourishing relationships.

As a diocese we have been asked to feature in the Families First Magazine, later on in the year. This is a very exciting opportunity to showcase the wonderful area in which we live, and more importantly, the work which we undertake.

We are extremely blessed to have a Trustee Board who are so committed to the aims and values of the Mothers Union. I ask you to be patient and pray for us as we begin this journey.



Matthew 5:16

"Let your light shine before men in such a way that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father who is in heaven."

With love and prayers,
Jill Cameron.x

**Praying in the shoes of others.....
another idea for a meeting.....**

Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfil the law of Christ. (Gal. 6:2)

Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep.
(Romans 12:15)

I am delighted to hear that some people found the meeting idea in the last Newslink useful. Here is another idea - again I have to give full credit to Les, my husband and the Rector of St Cyprian's, Lenzie. It is an idea he has already used and found people responded to positively.

Prayer is the responsibility of all of God's people, and praying together part of our life as the church. This idea aims to help us to pray together and to share in prayer with our brothers and sisters in Christ all over the world. As we experience praying "in the shoes of others" so our understanding of, and love for each other grows. Before the meeting you will need to find plenty of pictures of people praying. If you have access to the internet and a printer this is relatively easy - put the words "Individuals Praying" into Google images and you should find a wide variety of ages, genders, cultures, and settings. Try and choose about a dozen different pictures. Print these out making more than one copy of each picture so everyone has a good choice. If you have no access to a computer, you may still be able to find suitable pictures in magazines from the MU and various mission organisations. A photocopier would help to provide several copies of each picture.

At the meeting, start by spreading the pictures on a table. Ask everyone to take a picture that 'leaps' out at them. Then ask people quietly to reflect on what sort of prayer the person on their picture

is making. What might be the struggles they are facing and putting into their prayer? What might be the joys, longings, fears or hopes?

(This part can be done in a number of ways. You could get people who have chosen the same picture to do this together. You could play some quiet music while people reflect individually. You know how your group might be most comfortable doing this.) Now ask people to write the prayer they think this person might be making. Give them a reasonable time limit! Emphasis the fact that this is NOT praying FOR the person but trying to put ourselves in their shoes and pray as if we ARE that person

Finally have time together for people to pray the prayers they have written. Again you will know how your group might manage this best; no-one should have to pray out loud if they don't want to. You might have a chorus, a simple reading, and then allow people to read their prayers, finishing with the Lord's Prayer and another chorus.

Rev. Lucy Ireland, MU Chaplain

ROUND THE BRANCHES

Holy Name, Cumbernauld

Many thanks to all who are contributing to our knitting projects. I am pleased to report we have had excellent feedback in the form of thank you letters from them Princess Royal Maternity Hospital Glasgow from both Neo-Natal and Maternity Wards for the hats, baby jackets, gowns and angel pockets we donated. Our first parcel of Bonding Squares was also well received. Can I remind knitters that we require 2 squares of the same colour and pattern for the Bonding Project. We have also received odd squares of different sizes and colours which have been sewn together for blankets for Malawi. We hope to send 4 boxes of 'New Baby Parcels' to Malawi in the next container. It is amazing that each time we are able to send a larger amount of parcels. I recently took some fiddle muffs to our local care home, where they were very well received. Our congregation joined with us in donating hats, scarves, gloves and socks as well as our usual food donations, to the Glasgow City



Mission, for distribution over the winter months. We also have a much larger than usual box of toothpaste and toothbrushes to send to Malawi via the Raven Trust for the 'Smileawi' project. We are now starting to collect underwear in order to support another Scottish charity called 'Smalls for All' and their work in helping women and children in several African countries.

Pictured are recipients of the New Baby Packs, Ekwendeni Maternity Unit, Malawi.

If you are able please keep knitting and praying for all our projects.
Jill Cameron, Branch Leader.

Bohemian Rhapsody (Queen) and The Solar Powered Cooker! And the connection is...?

Desert Island Discs in the church on Friday 16 October. The willing victim (castaway!) was Martyn Marshall, our church organist and Kirsty Young was played by Joan Thompson. Martyn provided us with an entertaining evening, telling how he had come to be involved in music, his likes and dislikes and his plans for the future, to name but a few. He chose 7 pieces of music and played two of them on the organ for us – the highlight of the evening! There was surprise at some of his choices of music especially when he picked out Bohemian Rhapsody by Queen as his favourite. His choice of book was about J. S. Bach and his luxury item was a solar-powered cooker. MU thought he should have another luxury so he was presented with a chocolate cake. The evening was the brain-child of Barbara Hoey and thanks must go to the great team who put it all together. A col-

lection was taken for Mothers' Union Overseas Fund and the total came to £300.

Joan Thompson, Branch Leader

VIP tour of Glasgow Central Mosque

Members of Kilmarnock branch visited Glasgow Central Mosque back in December through contacts with the local ladies Muslim group. After a very successful visit, an article appeared in the Daily Record, focussing on one of the toddlers, Fraser Kennedy, as being a shining example of tolerance.

Bishopbriggs—New Member

Bishopbriggs' branch welcomed their newest member, Brenda Smart, at their February meeting.

Dear Friends,



Last week David and I walked beside the Clyde, across from Glasgow Green, there on a bank, shining like a golden globe, a crocus pushed its way into the world, and then we saw more along with snowdrops, nature's lights to accompany us on our Lenten journey. I was reminded that I had written a poem about a crocus, well in fact about more than one, it was entitled Shrove Tuesday, so had obviously been written during Lent. I would like to share it with you.

Shrove Tuesday.

Lowly crocus, herald of spring, purple, gold and white.

Clothed in green, binding, nourishing.

Majestic purple, preparation for his crowning glory.

Gold to signify our King, white, his raiment lying in the tomb.

Lowly crocus, but more valuable than gold.

Having found more Lenten thoughts I would like to share these with you.

Lent, Easter, Resurrection.

The journey is difficult, sharp stones underfoot.
Hot sun, parched and bleeding.
But you are the oasis in the desert of our lives.

Jesus, precious blood, flowering in the desert,
bloom in us.

Jesus , precious body, broken on the cross,
feed us all.

As the curtain rent asunder, light streams forth,
radiate in us.

Rise Lord, walk with us,
enfold us in your love.

Eternal Lord, stay with us,
'til we reach our rest in you.

On the fourth Sunday in Lent the Church celebrates Mothering Sunday, there is much to say about this special day, but I would like to share some images of Mary with you.

After the shepherds had visited the new born baby Jesus, Mary treasured everything that had happened and pondered it in her heart. (Lk 2.19) I can visualise the young mother and the wonder she must have felt. John's Gospel tells us of Mary, she is near the cross with her sister-in-law, Mary Magdalene and John, the beloved disciple.(Jn 19.25-27)

"Dear woman, here is your Son." Jesus said to her, and to John, "Here is your mother." We know that John took Mary into his home.

At the beginning of Jesus' life we witnessed his mother wrap-

ping her baby son in cloths and placing him in a manger, we can imagine her tenderness and love in that action, now love and tenderness flow from Jesus for Mary, his mother.

From Matthew, (28.20) we hear Jesus' final words to his disciples, " And surely I am with you to the end of the age." May these words echo in our hearts as we journey the Lenten road through the pain of Holy Week and finally the joy of the Resurrection.

May I wish you all a Blessed Easter.

Please pray for Aberdeen Diocese; Chris, Pam, Graham and Doreen. Ayr; Anne and Ron. Bishopbriggs; Betty, Alex, Grace & Yvonne. Cumbernauld; Julie G. Dumfries, Mary & Rachel. Helensburgh; Jeanette, George, Jenny, Susan L, Margaret L, Vicki, Gordon, Jenny S, Janette. Kilmarnock; Helen and Ishbel.

Our Overseas Links. Malaka (S.Sudan)
All Saints Cathedral (Kenya)
Kontagora & Osun North East (Nigeria)
Pune (India)

Yours in Christ, Sue.
Susan Brough, Prayer Chain Co-ordinator

This year, 2016, will mark the 90th birthday of the Patron of Mothers' Union, Queen Elizabeth II.

We have enjoyed royal patronage for over 100 years, and The Queen has been our patron for over 60 years. We would very much like to send our greetings to Her Majesty on the occasion of her birthday in June. We would like your help in obtaining for us signatures, and photographs if possible, of members who will also be celebrating their 90th birthday in

2016. Please could you ask our dioceses around your province to find members who share this 90th birthday year. Then please can you:-

Ask them to sign their name on clean, smooth white paper, in black ink with clear white space around the whole signature. Please give us an electronic image (.jpg please) of the member concerned.

Send these to

Fiona Thomas
Communications Manager
Mary Sumner House
either by post

Or

As High Res scans if you have a scanner,
to my email Fiona.thomas@mothersunion.org

Also we are looking for photographs of the Queen visiting Mothers' Union's work, or attending a service, during her time as patron and as Queen. Please could you find what you can in your province and let me know. Obviously you may not want to part with original copies, but we would be happy to receive scans, or we will receive the photos, and then return them to you after scanning at Mary Sumner House.

The deadline for the signatures and the images is by end of April 2016 please. This gives us time to prepare the card to give to Her Majesty in June when she will celebrate her official birthday.

I look forward to hearing from you,
With best wishes,

Fiona Thomas
Communications Manager

Memorial

At the end of July 2015, we in St Michael's Helensburgh were saddened to hear of the death of Robbie (Roberta) Cornish. She and her Husband Maurice had moved south to Scaynes Hill nearer their daughters, knowing that her illness was terminal. She was very grateful for the prayers of Mothers Union Members throughout. Robbie was a very special person who during her 20 years at St Michael's always met life with a smile and a sense of grace. She was an indefatigable worker for the Church and was our Mothers' Union branch leader for 7 years, she served on the MU Trustee Board and was the clergy contact for the MU for many years. Her faith in God shone through everything she did whether church cleaning or as a lay minister of Communion, visited the infirm and organised the donations of Christmas cakes to our elderly members. We miss her very much but God has gained an angel in Heaven.

Elizabeth Pendleton, previously a member of Bearsden Mothers' Union, has also died. She had been suffering ill health for some years but worked in Roseneath to further God's kingdom. A member of St. Michael's church we were very sorry to lose her.

Bishopbriggs' Branch mourn the loss of Maimie Hammerton who passed away in late November, Maimie was a true disciple of Jesus, who will be remembered for all that she gave of herself, especially for the young members of her family and the young people of St James the Less, not forgetting the BB. Maimie was a loving sister, aunt, great aunt and friend, she will be remembered with affection.

Your prayers are asked for the family and friends of Letitia, known as Lettie, Currie, an MU member at Holy Trinity Church, Motherwell. May they know God's peace and comfort. Lettie passed away on January 6th 2016 at the age of 95 years, she had been the oldest and longest indoor member. Having joined MU approximately 60 years ago, Lettie was given the 40 years certificate, attended services and meetings, helped at events, attended MU services in the Diocese, until age took its toll.

Four wonderful ladies, may they rest in peace and rise in glory.

Dates for the Dairy

21st May, Ayr — Festival Service
12th November—Autumn Council

Editorial: Contributions should be sent to:

Email: petriecw@virginmedia.com or post to Mrs W Petrie, 120 Meadowburn, Bishopbriggs G64 3LX.

Thank you to all who have contributed. Items for the **next Newsletter** should be with me by 8th October 2016 to enable distribution at Diocesan Council in order to save on postage. News of branch activities, special birthdays, anniversaries etc. plus photos would be welcome.



The Mothers' Union Tartan

The Mothers' Union fabric is available to order. The minimum order is 4 metres, so if a group of people got together it would be more cost effective at £65 per metre 70cm width. They can also make it is silk, if you had a special dress you wanted to make but that would be a minimum order of 5 metres and a lot of money, £130 per metre 75cm width! They are selling it to the public in three different styles now Ancient, Modern and Reproductive Colours.

The company that is selling it is called Scotweb. The company is Internet and call centred based. Telephone number is 0800 634 8640 www.scotweb.co.uk . At present in their clearance section they have a scarf for sale at £18 and two ties for £6.



Margaret Gilbert handing a chocolate cake to Martyn Marshall as his luxury on the Desert island!

MOLLY WON THE DOLLY

Thank you to all of those who took part in guessing Matilda's birthday. Molly guessed correctly and won Matilda, the doll. £120 was raised for the Wheels Appeal.

