



Diocese of Edinburgh

Mothers' Union Newsletter



March 2010

The New Provincial President

Commissioning Service – Hilary Moran - in Glasgow Cathedral
13th February 2010 by the Primus



Glasgow Banner



Hilary Moran, Trish Heywood & Sheila Redwood



Provincial Banner



Above: The Primus, The Most Rev'd David Chillingworth Commissioning Hilary as Provincial President



Right: Hilary Moran with Sheila Redwood, retiring Provincial President



Above: Lt: Chaplain of Glasgow MU Rev'd Scott Robertson.
rt: Bishop Elect for Glasgow – The Very Rev'd Dr Gregor Duncan



Lt to rt: Glasgow MU Chaplain, Bishop – elect, Hilary, Sheila, the Provost, Very Reverend Kelvin Holdsworth and The Primus.

Letter from the Diocesan President: March 2010

A New Year and a new triennial, both will bring Blessings, opportunities and challenges – especially to those new to Office. We need to support and encourage them and be patient while they become used to their new work.

We are grateful to and say thank you to those who retired from Office this year. A big thank you goes to Sue for all she did as Diocesan President, Joyce our Secretary and Ian our Treasurer for keeping communications and finance in order..



World wide Council was held in February. The fellowship was great but some of the messages from the Unit co-ordinators and staff were challenging. Like everyone else, the Mothers' Union has been badly hit by the financial crises. New work has had to be shelved and staff vacancies not filled – this is a challenge to all the staff who have planned and striven to keep as much as possible continuing.

The Action and Outreach unit have had their budget cut by a third. Obviously there are certain projects, Literacy and Development (to support but not expand,) the Family Life programme to sustain, the Workers' salaries to pay but their travel allowance has been cut, which will impinge on the work they do with groups some distance from their homes. This leaves little for grants for projects, conferences or equipment.

The message here is that if you have a fund raiser or money for the Overseas or Relief fund, please send it instead of waiting until the end of the year. A little and often is the message. Please contact Vera, our Treasure about sending this.

Many of us met Chrishanthie and were impressed by her talk of the work they are doing in Sri Lanka. They have submitted a proposal for the Bishops on opening a "day care centre in Colombo for children of working parents. Perhaps we can help with some funding for furniture or toys. We will need to discuss this at Diocesan Council on April 28th. (no mention of paying fees, but guess it will be self funding once up and running)

We do not have such enormous problems or projects to plan for but we do have our own local ones which we need to continue and we may even find a new.

We need to continue with prayer and be especially thankful for all our Blessings.

If you wish to bring a topic for discussion at the Trustee Board, please let me know.

Your Trustees are willing to come and speak with you and answer any questions.

With love and prayers ,

Angela.

MESSAGE FROM THE MU PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT SCOTLAND

Dear Mothers' Union friends,

With the long spell of cold weather we are having one does wonder will it ever get better? At present all the electricity is off and it has been snowing all day. It is a bit like our (Scottish) desert, how would we cope in the snow without our warm houses and mod cons, as our ancestors did, let alone for 40 days? Would doing this focus our minds more on God? The Mothers' Union Provincial retreat in Kinnoull monastery beside Perth is a place I look forward to going in a couple of weeks, to try to get closer to God. It is £85 for two nights full board, if you are interested for next year.

I heard recently from a desert region, our linked diocese of Uppershire in Malawi. The Mothers' Union worker Agnes Mkoko who lives there asks us to pray for The Mothers' Union there. There has been no rain at all with the result that maize, their staple crop, has totally withered. Although many are facing starvation she says, "We know our God is a good and a Merciful Father, he will still feed us, only if we trust Him. He feeds birds why not us? He will take care of us. May you please pray for us." She goes on to say that in the north many homes have been destroyed by earthquakes and repeats her prayer requests for them too. They have such faith, let us remember them in our prayers.

I would like to have this opportunity of thanking you all for the welcome I have received, especially at my Commissioning service on Saturday, February 13th. It was lovely to see so many people had come out of their way to support me, thank you. But I'm here to serve you and help you with the opportunities that you are grasping in your local communities to serve others. Please phone or email me if there is anything you think I can be a help with, my previous experiences have been with marketing and action & outreach in particular.

Having just been at World Wide Council I have been given a lot of ideas, this tends to happen after conferences, but there was one idea that I thought you could help with. The thought was could we have a Mothers' Union Scottish fundraising event, right across Scotland (or just in one place), on one particular day in the year? Some of the MSH staff are going to walk up Kilimanjaro in June and are looking for support. Now I'm not suggesting we walk up Ben Nevis, but wouldn't it be a bit of fun if we could all do the same thing together and raise money for our much deserved overseas fund that desperately needs money just now. This could also attract some publicity for us too. So put your thinking caps on for original ideas and let me know your thoughts. I'm asking for fundraising ideas on the Mothers' Union face book sight if you want to check us out. I hope to be able to meet with you all soon, let me know when your meetings are.

With much love,

Hilary MU Provincial President Scotland –

Tel 01475 686213

email: hilary.moran@btinternet.com



Letter from Edinburgh MU Chaplain

All that we do in the Mothers' Union is grounded in prayer and I find myself increasingly seeing prayer as a relationship with God who accepts anything that I can offer and then more, a relationship in which I ask only to know him better and to please him. Bishop John Spong, the retired Bishop of Newark, New Jersey gave me a definition I was looking for when he wrote:

“Prayer is communion with God, not asking for favours;
it is an expression of one’s whole life.”

What Martin Luther King was to the civil rights movement and what Henry Ford was to the automobile, Thomas Merton is to contemplative prayer. He took an ancient approach to God out of the monastery (he was an American Cistercian monk) and shared it with the world through books and lectures. Every time I read this prayer by Thomas Merton I find some new idea or response to ponder on, some new light is shed on what I think my life is about. I hope it will open some doors in your mind too.

My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going. I do not see the road ahead of me. I cannot know for certain where it will end. Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I am following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.

But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact please you. And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing. I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire. And I know that if I do this you will lead me by the right road, though I may know nothing about it.

*Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death. I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone. *Thomas Merton (1915-68)**

Jennifer Edie - Chaplain

PROVINCIAL RETREAT – March 16th – 18th at KINNOULL



The 2010 Retreat has just concluded. The leader was the Revd. Prebendary Lawrence Price who some of you will know as the husband of Jean Price the MU Central Marketing Co-ordinator. The theme for this year was "Here I am Lord" or more to the point "Why me?" Using examples from his own life Lawrence talked about how important each one of us is to the work of God in the world and how

God may be nudging us (or even prodding us quite hard) to do a piece of work that only we can do. We are unique and we have a unique role to play. Watch this page for more recollections to be added in the near future. In the meantime, please have a look at the photo gallery. We hope those who were there will enjoy the memories they bring back and we also hope they will encourage those who weren't there to make a date to come next year.

One of the photos and account by Paul Hindle see website - <http://www.muscotland.org.uk/>

TRIENNIAL ELECTIONS IN EDINBURGH DIOCESE

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT: Mrs Angela Sibley 17 Rullion Road Penicuik EH26 9HS

Tel: 01968 676607 - email: angelasibley@talktalk.net

4 UNIT CO-ORDINATORS

FINANCE & DIOCESAN SERVICES : Mrs Catherine Pow

39 Mauricewood Rise Penicuik EH26 0BL

- Tel: 01968 679663 - email: catpark.pow@tiscali.co.uk

FAITH & POLICY : Mrs Jennie Ritchie 8a Napier Road EDINBURGH EH10 5BD

Tel: 0131 447 5364 - email: jennieritchie@sky.com

ACTION & OUTREACH : Mrs Angela Sibley - *details as above.*

MARKETING : Mrs Pat Gordon 36/2 Murrayfield Avenue EDINBURGH EH12 6AY

Tel: 0131 337 4088

TRUSTEES :

Mrs Rose Nuttall 3 Cramond Glebe Gardens EDINBURGH EH4 6NZ - 0131 312 7444

Mrs Susan Crosfield 21 Biggar Road, Silverburn Penicuik EH26 9LQ - 01968 676607

Mrs Margaret Gibbs 13 Inveralmond Drive EDINBURGH EH4 6JX - 0131 312 6034

Mrs Marion Rowley 28 Newhailes Cresc. Musselburgh EH21 6EG - 0131 665 3530

Mrs Betty Dunlop 6b Downie Place Musselburgh EH21 6JW - 0131 665 8263

Mrs Betty MacKenzie 264 Sutherland Way, Livingston EH54 8JD - 01506 439599

Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUE) New Office Bearer -

Mrs Susan Crosfield, 21 Biggar Road, Silverburn, Penicuik EH26 9LQ

Tel: 01968 676607 - Email: sue.crosfield@btinternet.com

Chaplain:

Rev Jennifer Edie Burnbank House Foulden Berwickshire TD15 1UK

01289 386338 email: rev.jennifer@gmail.com

Treasurer: Mrs Vera Jones 3 East Caiystane Place Edinburgh EH10 5QR

Tel: 0131 445 2745 – email: verajones@btinternet.com

Secretary: Mrs Catherine Pow – (*See Finance & Diocesan Services*)

Diocesan Membership – *meet in St Mary's Cathedral from time to time*

If any branch knows of a member who would like to join, please contact :

Mrs Rose Nuttall 3 Crammond Glebe Gardens, EH4 6NZ - Tel 0131 312 7444

Mrs Margaret Gibbs. 13 Inveralmond Drive, EH4 6JT - Tel 0131 312 6034.

Editorial

Items for the next Newsletter should be with me by **early September** 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.

Email: jean@jrhindle.co.uk – Tel 01968 674591 or post to

Mrs J Hindle 24 Mauricewood Park, Penicuik EH26 0BP

OTHER NEWS :

Re Penny Turnbull - the following was received from Revd Dr Anne Tomlinson,
Ministry Development Officer for the Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway

I have just received a copy of the latest edition of the Edinburgh Diocesan MU Newsletter from Rose Nuttall and simply wanted to say thank you to you and to those who wrote therein for such kind tributes to my mother, Penny Turnbull.

The MU was an important part of my mother's life (as indeed of her own mother in The Church in Wales) from when she first arrived in Scotland in the 50's and found a welcoming spiritual home first in St Ninian's and then in the Cathedral. Friday afternoon meetings were always pivotal dates in her diary, and she worked hard to ensure that the tradition was passed on to her own daughter. I well remember meetings in the Cathedral in the 60's when I was a small girl - the kindness and friendliness of dear people like Mrs Clark and the wonderful annual MU garden parties at the Townhills' garden (complete with tortoise as I remember!)

I also remember my childhood awe at hearing my mother speak in public at MU meetings in the diocese - she was such a fluent speaker on a variety of topics - and now realise what a huge part seeing her confidence in sharing her Christian faith played in my own journey of faith. So I give thanks for that example. In her Prayer Book given at Confirmation were inscribed the words 'Be thou faithful'. She was indeed a faithful servant of God all her life.

Thank you, Edinburgh Diocesan MU, for all your care of her and of me; it was a great comfort to have the MU so well represented at her Funeral. *Anne*

Sad news from Doris Bilton – Doris' husband Alan died at 8am on 11th January 2010. Alan was the Inspector of Mines and quarries for the whole of Scotland from 1972 - 1986.. There was a private cremation followed by a Service of Thanksgiving in the Village Church. Alan had suffered with Alzheimers and arthritis for a number of years. Many people will remember Doris and Alan from their Edinburgh days before they moved south to a flat attached to their daughter's house. On Feb 14th, they would have celebrated their 57th Anniversary.

Alan was very supportive of the Mothers' Union and Doris' work in the church and community. Doris was awarded the MBE in 1998. She worked with Leith Old People's welfare and the Eric Liddell entre at Morningside. Doris served as one of the six Central Vice-Presidents of MU at Mary Sumner House in the days before the post of Provincial President of MU in Scotland was created and was also a Past Diocesan President of MU in Edinburgh, active as a MU speaker, on Synod and much involved in the election of Bishop Brian.

Please keep Doris in your prayers.



CALENDAR 2010

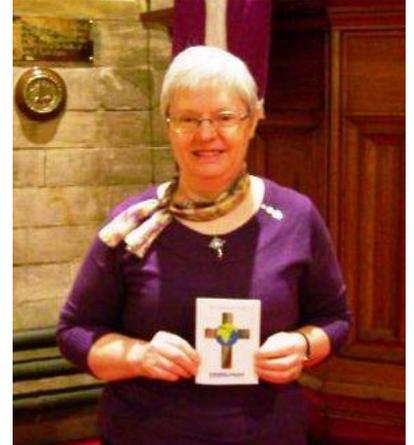
28 April Wed – 10.15 for 10.30 Dioc.Council at Christ Church Centre Morningside

18th June Annual Meeting in Preston - Details from Catherine Pow

AROUND THE BRANCHES – There are 7 branches plus 1 Diocesan Members Group, Christ Church Morningside; Christ Church Falkirk; St Peter's Musselburgh; St James' Penicuik; Livingston Ecumenical; St Ebba's Eyemouth; St Ninian's, Comely Bank; and the Diocesan Members Group at St Mary's Cathedral.

Livingston Ecumenical: Hi Jean have sent a copy of your email to our branch leader Linda Marshall she has just done her annual report for 2009 so may have some info for you. But just to let you know that we had our AGM recently (nearest Sunday to Shrove Tuesday and some of our members cooked us pancakes for tea, which were very tasty. We only have 3 more guest speakers till we finish up for the summer and hope to plan our annual trip at our next meeting -Sunday 21st March. regards, *Fay Edgar*

St James -Sunday 21 February was a busy day for the Mothers' Union with two special occasions happening: The first was the enrolment of Gillian Little as a full member of the MU. Gillian has been attending our meetings for the past few months and was enrolled our Rector, Rob Warren. As a result of Chrishanthie's visit and talk to Edinburgh members, a Fellowship lunch in aid of the work of our link diocese in Sri Lanka was held in St James' after the service. The MU there has been working with the displaced persons in four camps since the end of the civil war. The MU is respected by officialdom and other religions alike for the work they do, which enables them to go where others may not be welcome. At first they supplied one of the camps with fresh water every day but the government has taken this over. Now the MU are planning a new preschool group for younger children and the money we have raised will go towards providing equipment and/or materials needed. The money goes via Mary Sumner House straight to the MU ladies who will be setting up the project. The total raised to date was £220.



A big thank you to all who contributed by attending the lunch or gave donations. Also a huge thank you to the ladies of the MU who provided the food and tidied up.

Diamond Anniversaries at St James –

Hopefully, there will be 3 more couples celebrating in 2012

Congratulations to Cathie & Alex McIlwhan:

Catherine Agnes nee Menzies and Alexander McIlwhan were married on 14th April 1950.at St. Pauls and St. Georges in York Place Edinburgh. They have 3 Sons and a Daughter, 4 Grandsons, 2 Grandaughters and 2 Great Granchildren (1 of each).

Cathie is the new treasurer of St James MU and has, for many years, been president of the Churchwomen's Fellowship.

Congratulations to Elizabeth, Lady Clerk, who will be 90 years young on April 19th.

St Ninian's Comely Bank - INSIDE THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT

The March MU meeting was a visit to the Scottish Parliament building at Holyrood, so on March 8th we enjoyed a guided tour of the building. We were fortunate to have a guide whose knowledge and enthusiasm provided us with an appreciation for the beauty of the interior, and of it's symbolism and significance. Many of our group had not previously been inside the building, and were pleasantly surprised and impressed. We left with a sense of pride and a better understanding of our Scottish Parliament and how it works. So, if you have only seen the outside, think about taking a look inside. It is well worth a visit.*Ellen Gibson.*

