



MU MATTERS AUTUMN 2015

**DIOCESE OF
ST ANDREWS, DUNKELD AND DUNBLANE
WITH THE DIOCESE OF
BRECHIN**

Scottish Charity SC030099

Message from the Diocesan President, Linda Brownlie

Dear Friends,

I had a very different letter prepared for this issue, but then events altered my plans and as I write this I find myself at very short notice in South Africa!!

My brother had an accident and as a result, broke his hip and because he was going to be on his own I am now out looking after him. This made me start to reflect on family. His wife is in New Zealand as their daughter has just had a third child, our sister is about to visit relatives in Australia so I have travelled thousands of miles to look after him. How far flung we all are, as is the case with the families of many Mothers' Union members these days. However one of the constants I have found wherever I am is the Mothers' Union and also God's family through church.

For all members, whatever form their personal family may take, we have these two in common. We, as members, provide support for each other in good times as well as bad and our Heavenly Father is always there for us as well. As Mothers' Union members we also see as important the support of family life for non-members too and this we do through our prison work and AFIA just as a couple of examples. My prayer is that we will always appreciate the blessings of family life in all its guises – our own families, Mothers' Union family and God's family,

Linda x

Glenrothers Branch - Tribute to Una Fidoe

This unfortunately came too late for the Spring edition. Many of us will remember Una as a very bouncy enthusiastic MU member.

Una was born 26th Oct 1938 & died 22nd Dec 2014. She suffered a stroke a few years before she died but bounced back to continue to pay an active part in the Branch. She was a founder member of the Fife Contact Centre, and helped with the crèche at Perth Prison for some years. She was secretary for Glenrothes Churches Together and played a big part in the life of St Luke's being secretary to the Vestry for a number of years. She was also Treasurer of the Glenrothes Branch of the MU. She is missed by all who knew her.

The Mothers' Union General Meeting – June 26th 2015

This year the general Meeting was held in Nottingham . The team from the Diocese, organised two wonderful services in Southwell Minster and St Mary's Church on the Thursday night before the meeting.

We attended the one at Southwell along with at least 800 others and what an uplifting service it was.



After starting the meeting with opening worship led by Mothers' Union's Central Chaplin, Bishop Andrew Proud, Lynne Tembey our Worldwide President took to the stage to

talk about the visits she has undertaken in the past year; recounting stories of transformational work that members are achieving around the world. Our first speakers Bill Crooks and Jackie Mouradian from Mosaic Creative then illustrated the Church and Community Mobilisation process; how it works, what opportunities it gives and some examples of outcomes it inspires. After a lunchtime break where members had the opportunity to talk to one another and become reacquainted with old friends, we



heard from Jane Groves, Head of Action & Outreach (UK & Ireland) and Nicola Lawrence, Head of Action & Outreach (Worldwide). They updated us on some inspiring and

and exciting developments throughout the work of Mothers' Union. Jane spoke about Inspired which is a great way for members to share their community projects while Nicola spoke about how Mothers' Union's work overseas is enabling communities to take control of the



challenges they face rather than being controlled by them. Our keynote speaker, Jane Fearnley-Whittingstall, provided us with a nostalgic account of the role of families.

Reg Bailey then took to the stage for his final address as Chief Executive of Mothers' Union. He spoke about his time with Mothers' Union, he shared how he had been inspired over the years by amazing members - or heroes as he called them. After a lot of laughter and a standing ovation for Reg, we sang and prayed together in closing worship led by Bishop Tony Porter.



Mothers Union's General Meeting really is a wonderful opportunity to find out more about the work we do, our vision for the future and is above all, a time of fellowship with members from around the world. Next year's meeting, celebrating the 140th anniversary of Mothers' Union, will take place where it all began - in Winchester, under the theme for the year 'A Celebration of Faith in September.

Letter from our own member Rector

Dear Friends,



Expect the Unexpected

Recently on holiday my companion and I were walking up a remote valley in Austria when all of a sudden we turned a corner to be confronted with a herd of Scottish Highland Cattle – yes the furry ginger variety with huge horns! On another occasion we were travelling by car on another valley road when we spotted a field of Black Angus cows. On the numerous holidays to Austria, we have become blasé about the gentle velvety doe eyed native cattle that roam the high pastures in

the summer with their orchestra of bells, gently grazing. So you can imagine our surprise to be confronted with native Scottish cattle. Our hosts told us that the Austrian farmers like the Highland Cattle for their resilience and the Black Angus because they do not suffer from sunburn, being black all over. And so it is with God. The Bible is full of tales of the unexpected where God surprises his people. And God continues to surprise us.

Most people in our culture have gotten used to the ordinariness of life. We go to work or school every day, come home, relax for a bit, go to sleep, and do the same thing the next day. And we expect to continue following this same pattern until we retire, at which time we establish a new ordinary routine to follow. But we get used to our ordinary routines. They're not too hard, and not too easy. They're just kind of what they are. And we're comfortable with them.

Even in the life of church, we've gotten used to certain routines. We gather on a Sunday for worship, prayer, and the Eucharist. At each of these services, we pretty much know what to expect. But what if God wants us to get out of the ordinary?

God is calling all of us to live a life of extraordinary dependence upon Him. God wants us to live by faith, not by sight. God wants us to stop expecting what we expect to get out of life, and start expecting to see Him move in our midst. He wants us to expect the unexpected on our journeys through life.

With love & prayers

Christine

Our new Chief Executive Officer, *right*, Bev Jullien



With the Archbishop of Canterbury, his wife & Lynne Tembey

I sent her copy of the Spring 2015 MU Matters & she sent back a lovely
reply

“Thank you so much for sharing your spring newsletter with me - I
really enjoyed reading it, and look forward to reading the Autumn
edition in October!

Please pass on my warmest wishes to all in the Diocese of St Andrews,
and I look forward to meeting you in due course

Warmest wishes

Bev”

DIOCESAN MEMBERS BUT EVERYONE WELCOME

On the second Tuesday of every month at 11.30 there are Midday
Prayers in St Ninian’s Cathedral. Everyone is welcome but particularly
Diocesan members who do not have a regular Branch meeting to
attend. Members, who can, stay on for a light lunch afterwards.

Edinburgh Festival highlighting Human Trafficking

Mothers' union member in Glasgow and Galloway diocese, saw an opportunity advertised in the Provincial newsletter to raise the profile of human trafficking. The Scottish Churches anti-human trafficking group decided to hire two of the UN trafficking boxes for use during the

Edinburgh Festival and they were looking for volunteers to work for 4 hours, engaging with the public and encouraging them to sign a petition. Over 30 million people worldwide live in slavery today. It is



not something that only happens in distant lands – it happens here and now in Scotland. People are forced to live in appalling conditions. They are deceived into working long hours in the fishing industry, or in the fields, in hotels and restaurants, in brothels and in private homes. In Luke, chapter 4, we are told that Jesus said that he was here, among us, 'to set the oppressed free.' The Scottish Churches' Anti-Human Trafficking Group, made up of representatives from all the major denominations in Scotland, has been campaigning for years

against the awful crime that is human trafficking.

I would like to encourage anyone to look for the opportunity to get people talking about this, write to their MSP's and pray for the oppressed.

Provincial Retreat 2015



Held in the _____ week after Easter Week and led by Fiona Fidgin, the Retreat challenged and inspired us. It picked up on the MU theme for this year, United in Prayer and explored a wide variety of ways of praying. It encouraged us to find the ways that suit our individual personalities and to recognise that we need to be open to change. Change will help us grow and keep prayer relevant to our circumstances as they inevitably change.

Provincial Retreat 2016

Our leader is Paul Watson, who is the MU Chaplain for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney. He is going to use the MU theme 'A Celebration of Faith' and has suggested a sub title could be 'Living with God in the Every Day'. He has an interesting range of experience to share with us. He spent 10 years in India during his childhood and youth. He studied at St Andrews where he met his wife Ina. They spent 9 years in Glasgow where they started a service to International Students called Friends International which is still thriving today. His curacy was in Pollokshields Glasgow, followed by 5 years in Sri Lanka with CMS where he worked in a large Anglican Church and Ina (who is a psychotherapist) developed a counselling and training service. They have two daughters of 20 and 18 and have been in Aberdeen since early 2009. He was very involved in supporting the work of the MU in their church in Sri Lanka.

TAKE TIME JUST TO BE

Come to the Provincial Retreat

Tuesday to Thursday

19th - 21th April 2016

Theme:

A Celebration of Faith

Living with God in the Every Day

Leader:

The Revd. Paul Watson

**Mothers' Union Diocesan Chaplain
for Aberdeen & Orkney**

at Conforti Institute

Calder Avenue,

Coatbridge

Cost: £165 - full board per person

(£10 reduction for sharing a twin ensuite room)

**More information and online application
form:**

<http://muscotland.org.uk/Retreat.htm>

MEMBER NEWS

Organ Academy at St Andrews 2015

by Emmanuel Patterson BA Hons RSAMD

Ed's note Emmanuel wrote a very full & amusing account of her time in St Andrews . Below is a brief account of her week away.

Sat 25th July to Aug 1st

The week started with a performance with musicians from the Choral Course which just started this year, at St Leonard's Chapel. Bach's 'Actus Tragicus.' Directed by Professor John Butt. We had dinner most nights at the Byre Theatre. Followed by a concert or lecture.

Up at 7am. Breakfast from 7am-9 30am each day. On Sunday there was a reconstructed Leipzig Cantata Service, including *Jesu, der du Meine Seele* by Bach from 11am until 1 30pm in St Salvator's Chapel. The Service was similar to Leipzig in 1724. We had lectures most afternoons given variously by Chris Bragg, Concerts Administrator at St Andrews University; Craig Cramer, Professor of Organ at the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, USA; Nicholas Wearne previously the organist of St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral in Edinburgh. More recently he has been organist at St Martin in the fields in London, and teaches at the Birmingham Conservatoire.

Most mornings we had Masterclasses or organ lessons and there was time to practice in the afternoons. My lunch often consisted of a cappuccino at Costa coffee with a read.

One day we all boarded a coach to Dundee. We had a lovely seminar masterclass with Nicholas Wearne at Lochee Parish Church including Elgar's Vesper Voluntaries and Franck's L'Organiste. After this, we had a lovely meal at an Italian Restaurant on the Perth Road. We were almost late for the concert at 7 30pm. Tom Wilkinson who coordinated the Organ Academy thought that our ice-cream was more important than tardiness!

We had the end of Course Concert on Friday We started with the choral music, then the individual contributions, which I kicked off with Mendelssohn Sonata in C minor (2 movements). Varying degrees of aptitude, and a great experience for us all. We then went to the Younger Hall for our reception. Juice and wine and nibbles. I got a lift back to the Halls, and we had drinks in the bar. I was in bed by about 12 midnight, which is very late for me.

Sat 1st Aug Up at 7am. After breakfast said goodbye to everyone, and a lot of people said that they would be back next year. That was my 9th year in a row at the Organ Course. I look forward to next year, God willing.

CORNTON VALE WOMENS PRISON

By Patricia Roberts, Chaplain

In March 2010 I was asked by our Governor to think of ways in which the women in Cornton Vale might contribute to projects outwith the prison, under the umbrella of "Citizenship". This more-or-less coincided with my introduction to Mr Charles Fawcett, who was engaged in setting up twinning projects between secondary schools in North Lanarkshire and Mulanje District, Malawi. Mr Fawcett had told me about a Franciscan Sister (Anna Tomasi) who was serving as a prison chaplain in Malawi, of the work that she was doing to try and improve the terrible conditions for prisoners there, and in particular for the fifty or more women imprisoned at Chichiri, near Blantyre. An opportunity appeared to have presented itself for the women in Cornton Vale to make contact with the women imprisoned in Malawi via the chaplain, Sister Anna.

In April 2010, I gave a short presentation to a group of women to try and gauge the amount of interest. The response was fantastic. Our women were keen to find out more about life in prison in Malawi, and to be involved in any projects that might offer practical, moral or spiritual support to the women imprisoned there. I contacted Sister Anna straightaway offering the hand of friendship on behalf of the women in Cornton Vale, and seeking advice regarding how we might proceed. During the five years since our initial contact, the women in Cornton Vale have given generously of their time and efforts to nurture and strengthen the friendship with the women in Chichiri.

In November 2010, as a result of seven months' sustained efforts, our women had made, and hand-embroidered, a shoulder bag for each of the sixty women imprisoned in Chichiri. We had also made friendship bracelets and small purses, and enclosed a hand-written letter for each prisoner. These were presented to Mr Fawcett for delivery to Sister Anna in Malawi.

Since then, I have visited Malawi six times. Every year, and with great support and encouragement from staff, the women in Cornton Vale fundraise in order to provide much needed help. Events have included Prize Bingo (£190) and a Cake-Baking and Easter Egg Raffle (£180).

In March of this year, we held a special celebration to mark five years of twinning, to impress upon our women the great difference that their efforts and generosity of spirit have made to the women in prison at Chichiri. They have every reason to be very proud of what they have done, and the spirit of Global Citizenship that they have embraced.

MARY SUMNER DAY 2015 - Isobel Thomson

On Saturday August 8th MU members met at St Ninian's to "Walk with Hannah". This was inspired by Margaret Slater who tasted this during a joint unit MU Conference in 2013.

This is a Prayer walk based on Hannah's Prayer(1 Samuel 2: 1-10) Seven stations were beautifully set out, one for each colour of the rainbow. People moved from one station to another spending time at each place in action and/or prayer. We were all given book marks which collected the ribbons collected at each station.

Blue - God brings Life

Remembering our Mothers' Union objectives, dream about new opportunities. Here we wrote our responses on a cloud & put them on a board.

Orange - God lifts up

Pipe cleaners were available to create bowed figures and we were asked to pray & imagine God lifting them up.

Red - God rekindles burnt out lives with fresh hope

Here MU resources were supplied to read. This gave us an opportunity to acknowledge before God the projects which were special to us.

Pink - God puts poor people on their feet again

Here we wrote on a footprint the ways in which the lives of the poor can be changed & laid them on the steps to the altar.

Yellow - A Place in the Sun

This was a holiday station with letters of thanks from AFIA recipients. We prayed for those not fortunate enough to have a holiday as well as our own holiday & added one of our thoughts to the seaside picture.

Purple - God protectively cares for his faithful friends.

How do we experience God's care? Here we chose a picture that represents God's care for us.

Green - God will set things right over all the Earth.

Bread & wine. Here we had the bread & wine to celebrate being bound together in Christ. We also added a link to a paper chain.

This was a wonderful experience. At lunchtime we were joined by a MU member from Bolton and her husband who just happened to be looking round the Cathedral! After lunch we celebrated with a Celtic Eucharist led by Jeanette Allan. Thank you to Margaret Slater, Sue Hoare & Elizabeth Benton for all their hard work.

Walking with Hannah - editor's comments

The creation of the "Walk" was a lot of fun and hard work BUT a journey for the 3 of us in itself AND we now have it and would be very happy for Branches to pick one or two themes to do locally for which Margaret Slater jmargaretslater@hotmail.com & Sue Hoare suehoare@btinternet.com can provide the materials.

Dates for your Diary 2016

Lady Day Sat March 19th.

A speaker is being arranged for the morning.

Mothers' Union Provincial Retreat 2016

See advertisement page 9

Daffodil Coffee Morning Thurs April 14th 10.00- 12.00

This annual event kindly hosted by Charmian Paterson, Gartlochbank, Coupar Angus, PH13 9EE is always well attended. Home baking and an extensive range of MU cards will be available. All are welcome.

Commissioning of Provincial President April 30th 2016

This will be held at St Ninian's cathedral & will be followed by a celebration of the 140th anniversary of Mothers' Union.

Mary Sumner Day Saturday TBA

We will be celebrating with those members who have served Mothers' Union for 40 years & over.

General Meeting September 22nd -24th 2016

This will take place at Winchester. Venue yet to be fixed.

Charity Shop 20156

More about this in the months to come.

ON THE WAY - Provincial Conference Perth, Sept 24th 2015

The conference, which was held at the National Christian Outreach centre, was a follow-up to The Gathering which we had had in 2012. We continued the theme of being on a journey together, but this time we were **on our way!**

This was attended by about 40 people from all over Scotland. Also we had the Provincial President from Northern Ireland and Rev Thomas Brauer our Diocesan Missioner. Jane Groves and Catherine Kyte came up from Mary Sumner House.

Jean Richardson gave us all a warm welcome, some people had travelled a long way. The day was interspersed with prayer from Catherine. I found "sharing the bible together" quite inspiring and helped us to focus. We meditated on God's love 1 John 4 7-12 and shared with our fellow travellers on our table. God's love being beyond limits but giving us strength to do anything, trusting and taking risks.

From there Jane helped us to think about and celebrate how we are currently supporting families in Scotland. It was helpful to share with our fellow members what we do in our own dioceses, many things overlapping.

After midday prayers and an excellent lunch Jane helped us to look at how we are supporting and working with the clergy, our closest allies. In some congregations this can be quite difficult but it is so important that we get on with the clergy and work alongside them not against them. Also make them aware what the Mothers' Union do and also that it is not inclusive, we welcome men, single and divorced people. From the interview that Jean and Jane had with Thomas we were amazed that he knew so little about the Mothers' Union. No one had told him that men could join. He said that he would be happy to do God's work – a mission from God, and would be happy to work alongside us.

Then we went on to hear about what is happening in other provinces in the UK, learning from each other's *Inspired* journeys... This was very enlightening and encouraging, new ways of doing MU!

This really spoke to me. If we listen to what God wants and give up trying to do everything, he can work wonders in our lives. Plan of destiny - using ordinary people to do extraordinary things. In natural destiny you soon tire but in divine destiny you become energised. Wow!

We finished sharing the Eucharist administered by Rev Thomas Brauer.

Provincial President

Jean Richardson



Diocesan President

Linda Brownlie



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My sincere thanks go to all the contributors. Apologies to those whose articles I have not managed to include.

All articles for the Spring 2016 edition of MU Matters should be sent by 29th February 2016 to Sue Hoare suehoare@btinternet.com