

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY



NEWSLINK AUTUMN 2011

Scottish Charity SC023885



The planthouse on Mary Sumner Day.

Greenock Prison Creche
Volunteers



...and on Front Cover Agnes
Mkoko is putting the
jewellery making items we
sent to good use!

Diocesan President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I hope you all had a good summer and were able to enjoy the long days and light nights.

June was an exciting month with around two thousand members meeting up in Edinburgh for the General Meeting. The trustees of Glasgow & Galloway Diocese invited Olu Akitoye, our link in Lagos Mainland, Nigeria, Christine Bernerus from the Church of Sweden and Renatta Andersson from the Church of Germany, both of whom are friends of the diocese via the Porvoo Link. Photographs of the meeting are available on the website. It was wonderful to meet for worship and share fellowship with our sisters and brothers in faith.

The General Meeting reminded us all why we are members of the organisation. Despite reduction in resources the flagship programmes continue. Literacy and Numeracy Development Programmes with the help of funds from Comic Relief in Burundi, Malawi and Sudan continue. Parenting Programmes help women, men and children in Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda and also in UK. The mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo involves helping families in crisis, victims of domestic and sexual violence and children left orphaned.

In this country the concern about children being asked to grow up too early is addressed by the Bye Buy Childhood Campaign which was brought to the public attention, recently by the Government's Bailey Report. As well as this, financial help is given via the Overseas and Relief Funds.

While it was lovely to be part of such a large community it has to be remembered that most of our active life as members of Mothers' Union occurs when we are on our own, listening or speaking to God. However, when we are active in prayer – using Families First and Families Worldwide – we are united as a community of faith by God's love and by God's healing grace. Reading and learning about the issues members across the world face helps us to focus our prayers and can also help us to identify needs in our own neighbourhood. Prayers keep us focused on what God wants of us and for us – God alone is in control and God knows our strengths and our limitations. Fear of failure should not deter, as we remember the strength of Jesus' vulnerability on the cross.

It has been a great joy to witness the development of crèche facilities for children visiting Greenock Prison. A call went out, one person responded and from that a rota of people from all walks of life have offered to give a little of their time. Thanks be to God.

There will be several opportunities for us all in Glasgow & Galloway Diocese to meet together for worship, for fellowship and for mission. It would be wonderful if everyone who is able comes along. For those whose movements are restricted for whatever reason our thoughts and prayers are with you and where possible every effort will be made to share experiences with you either face-to-face or via website or Newslink.

May we always see the world through the eyes of Christ, speak to those we meet with the words of Christ and take with us on our journey the peace of Christ Amen

Love Ann



From the Chaplain :

Dear Mothers' Union Reader, Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

What does this saying mean to you:

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions" ?

When Elsie Murray, your Editor, asked that I should have my Chaplain's insert ready for mid-September my intention was that that was not only possible (this was during August) but no great difficulty to achieve.

It is now past mid-September and having reminded myself that this should be done I have got down to making it a late reality by sitting in my Planthouse (those who came to the M.U. Barbecue know where that is and can imagine me sitting at the table tapping on my laptop) and writing in hope. Firstly I hope that it's not too late for the Newslink and as Elsie has not rung to bring me to attention I live in hope! Secondly, even if it's still in time I will owe Elsie a sincere apology which these thoughts should furnish.

The Planthouse gets me away from the 'phone, but having to return to the House I find the plaintive message from Elsie on my message machine ! I'll finish this tonight, Elsie!

It seems, according to the Oxford Book of Quotations, that this Proverb is from the late Sixteenth Century. It is not from the Bible. I never forget someone quoting the Bible with, "above all, unto thine own self be true" and knowing that this was from Shakespeare as I had studied Hamlet at school (which character says it?). When there are 'wise' sayings many people presume that it must be from the Bible. However, have you pondered the proverb and thought where something similar in intention is found in Scripture ?

Jesus, talking to Jewish leaders says, "What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work today in the vineyard.' 'I will not,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went." Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but he did not go. "Which of the two did what his father wanted?" "The first," they answered. Jesus said to them, "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you. For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.

(Matthew 21.28-32)

This Parable shows we should do what we believe is right and not just 'intend'.

Again, how fortuitous that I've just switched off the radio where I was half-listening to the News. The 'Book at Bedtime' was about to start and it was introduced by the Sixties hit, "I'm just a boy whose *intentions* are good. Dear Lord, don't let me be misunderstood."

The Gospels are full of "Go" and "Do" and, although on this occasion I will have to rely on Elsie's forgiveness for the need to remind me (sorry for putting you through the uncertainty, Elsie), there are one or two things that sometimes work for me to make the intention a reality. What do you think ?

I believe there is a Chinese Proverb, "The palest ink is better than the most retentive memory", and I can find this most useful. Should I have written a future reminder in my Diary? or should I have started the heading to my article (or would I have thought I had done it because I had started it?!)? I am rather reluctant to hem myself in with a declared commitment and so I sometimes forget or get out of what I should do. I therefore ought to make a solid date, stick to it and initiate it - "go" & "do".

I think I'm beginning to sound like Paul in Romans 7.14-25 (your homework to look it up - don't 'intend', DO IT!)

I constantly have to rely on that other parable of the son whose father was full of forgiveness. True repentance will always lead to forgiveness and not to hell !
Do enjoy your "Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness"

The Lord
give us
grace to
continue in
Him and
feel and
know His
forgiveness

Love, in
Christ.
Peter



Lady Day at Castle Douglas

We were very pleased to be given the opportunity to host Lady Day in Castle Douglas this year. Some members, including Ann Glenesk, our Diocesan President and others from Dumfries and Kirkcudbright came as our guests. Many of our local organisations and Churches were represented and it turned out to be a truly "Blessing Day"! ... such a friendly, relaxed gathering. First of all the tone was set at a lovely service by our Rector, the Revd Canon Bayne, assisted by the Revd Peter Douglas, our new chaplain. A delicious "Soup and Sweet" lunch followed, all provided by our members, many of whom had also brought books and 'bits and bobs' for the Sales Table and Raffle.

Speaking for myself, I have never witnessed a more relaxed and convivial company. I do know that, like myself, most of our members went home feeling very uplifted. We all felt that it had been well worth the effort.

Jessie Lockhart

Lady Day Service Ardrossan

Ardrossan branch provided a great welcome when they opened their doors to celebrate the Annunciation of our Lord on 29th March 2011. Members travelled from as far afield as Bishopbriggs and Helensburgh, together with more local branches such as Kilmarnock and of course Ardrossan.



We gave thanks for the call and obedience of Mary and gave thanks for the call we have obeyed to follow her son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We gave thanks for the relationship he has with us, more than the rules we try to follow by our own strength. We also gave thanks for the new member joining Ardrossan branch.

Rev. Peter Douglas led our joyful singing and the final hymn, "I, the Lord of sea and sky" held a special resonance as Ardrossan church has the enviable position of being situated on the sea front.

The service was followed by a delicious lunch in the hall, laid on by Ardrossan members.

Susan Groves

Festival Service at Knightswood

It was indeed a Festival Day. Holy Cross was transformed by the presence of Bishop Gregor, President Ann and her band of happy helpers. We at Holy Cross say a big 'thank you' to everyone for the prayerful love and kindness so evident, a wonderful day reminding us that we are indeed a part of the vineyard.

Much love,

Mary Reynolds

MUe News

In April this year the Diocese received news of our related grant for Enterprise sales. This is £420.94 which is really superb as it means we had a spend of £16.13 per capita of membership. This is, in fact, more than any other **Diocese in Britain**. Many more have much larger memberships but they do not support their Enterprise Rep as well as Glasgow and Galloway does. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone and please keep up the good work ordering from the catalogue, goods as well as cards.

God bless you all.

Margaret Horrell - *Enterprise Representative*

Congratulations, Margaret for being the top Enterprise Rep in the whole of Britain. Many thanks for your sterling work. Ed.

Ardrossan Opening Service.

On 24th August we held an Opening service to mark the start of our new syllabus. It was a wonderful celebration conducted by Rev Sandy Montgomerie. We were very fortunate that Ann Glenesk our Diocesan President could join us. We followed the service with a lunch. It was great to share fellowship with our friends as we look forward to a varied syllabus which we hope will deepen our faith and continue our work to support each other, our community and the work of the Mother's Union.



Susan Groves Branch Leader

**Dear Lord of Mercy and Father of Comfort,
You are the One we turn to for help in moments of weakness and
times of need. We ask you to be with your servants in their illness.
Psalm 107:20 says that you send out your Word and heal. So then,
please send your healing Word to these your servants. In the
name of Jesus, drive out all infirmity and sickness. Amen.**

Please pray for:

Ann Hainey [Ayr MU]

Lucy Toner [Dumfries MU]

Maggie Veriod [Largs MU]

John & Caryl Haglington

Angela Muir [Helensburgh MU]

Nessie Rankin [Largs MU]

Doris & Jean Smiley [Ayr MU]

Ann Young [Pollokshields MU]

May Barclay [Ardrossan MU]

Ann Guthrie [Largs MU]

Ann Bills [Largs MU]

Sue Cobb [Bishopbriggs MU]

Pauline Thompson [Ardrossan MU]

Alison Bailey

**“And their prayer offered in faith will heal the sick, and the Lord
will make them well.**

**And anyone who has committed sins will be forgiven. Confess
your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be
healed. The earnest prayer of a righteous person has great power
and wonderful results.”**

James 5:15-16

**Please pray for Kirsty Gusterson who died recently. May she rest
in peace and rise in glory. Pray too for all who mourn her, may
they find comfort in Christ. Please remember all our members at
Largs MU who have lost a friend.**

love & prayers

Susan Groves

Faith & Policy Coordinator Glasgow and Galloway Diocese

Please let me know of anyone who needs our prayers

REMEMBERING AS WE MOVE TOWARDS CHRISTMAS

How quickly the time passes! Preparations are already being made for Harvest Festivals, and then soon will come the solemn time of Advent when we change to a more challenging discipline that will lead us to the wonder of the Christmas celebrations. The latter can lead to such a hectic and busy time, often in adverse weather, and it is all too easily then that the mystery and wonder of the incarnation can escape us.

In the manger, the 'Creator of the ends of the earth', the maker of the trillions of stars in galaxies and constellations, is born as 'that Holy Thing' of his mother Mary. He who is the source of her life, and of life itself, relies, helpless, on her loving care for his very life and existence. The 'heaven of heavens' cannot contain him', yet he lies in the narrow confines of a manger in an animals' shelter.

The limitations imposed upon him in his humanity are amazing – he who is 'from eternity to eternity' accepts for us all the limitations of time and space, and the exigencies of our day to day existence. He who is the Word has to learn to speak; he who 'walked on the wings of the wind' has to take his own uncertain infant steps. He came from the 'house of many mansions', but here had nowhere to lay his head. He who 'slumbers not nor sleeps' falls asleep in a little storm-tossed boat; he who gave ravens food to eat, knows hunger in the wilderness, and the source of 'living water' cries from the agony of the cross 'I thirst.' In his presence is 'fullness of joy, but we see him weep at the grave of Lazarus and weep with deep longing over a Jerusalem that refuses the shelter of his loving wings. He who had 'purer eyes than to behold evil', who 'knew no sin', is to be 'made sin' for us, and he who dwelt in light unapproachable is to know the unimaginable sufferings' of the hours of darkness of Calvary.

So, when we come again to think of cards and gifts and all the inevitable preparations we gladly make at Christmastide, let us remember again the wonder it celebrates; down the Christian centuries thousands of paintings have tried to share this wonderful showing of the love of God for each one of us. At the manger we glimpse something of the glory of the Father, 'full of grace and truth' in this 'unspeakable gift' – the Word made flesh. May God bless and encourage each one of us.

Barbara Jeffries

Moments with Members



Joan McKechnie - IMPC Correspondent - has kindly answered the following questions .

1. *Who or what has made a lasting impression on you?*

The weekend I spent at St. Andrew`s with the Episcopal Church, where Archbishop Desmond Tutu was the guest speaker. We had inspiration from the speakers present, music and fellowship of the others with us.

2. *Name a poem, song or piece of music that has inspired you.*

O God, help me to live one day at a time, not to be thinking of what might have been, not to be worrying about what may be. Help me to accept the fact that I cannot undo the past and I cannot foresee the future. Help me to remember that I will be never tried beyond that I can bear, that a father`s hand will never cause his child a needless tear, that I can never drift beyond your love and care.
William Barclay. 1907-78

3. *‘Hindsight is a wonderful thing’ it is said. What might you have changed with hindsight?*

I would have learned to play a musical instrument, when I think of all the time I waited for my son having lessons I could have spent my time wisely.

4. *Has political correctness gone too far?*

Yes. The clumsiness of speech and the fact that everyone has rules they have to adhere to even if they are so silly.

5. *What could you not live without?*

My garden. It takes me into the fresh air and I can watch the seasons change. Also a good book to read and a cup of tea, when the weeding is finished. The hill in the background and the birds` song are the only music to hear. Peace at last.

6. *What are you doing to minimise your carbon footprint?*

We have 4 bins to separate our refuse which I do all the time. I try to buy loose vegetables and fruit to cut down on packaging.

DVD Review

'Of Gods and Men'

Recently released on DVD, this compelling French film, directed by Xavier Beauvois, charts the true story of French Cistercian monks who lived in a monastery in the village of Tibhirine in Algeria during the escalation of civil conflict in the 1990s. At once both a testament to the horrors of violence and religious intolerance unleashed by civil war and a beautiful meditation on the meaning of community and Christian discipleship, the film explores the heartfelt anguish of the monks as they struggle to discern what they must



do: leave Algeria and return to France, or remain with the local people whom they have befriended. It is perhaps, in this rather agonising process of discernment that the power of this film resides - here we see played out the difficulty, the very struggle of knowing what is the 'right thing to do.' This is by no means a 'dark' film, but it is most certainly a profoundly moving exploration of the cost of Christian discipleship and love and well worth watching! It will stay with you.

Andrew Richardson - *Rector East End Team Ministry*

Important Dates for 2011/12

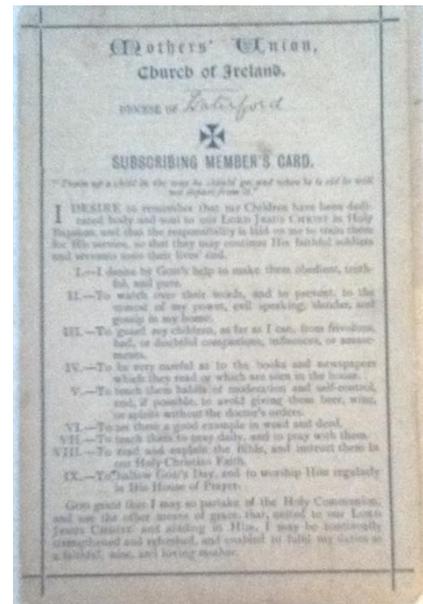
Date	Place	Event
11 th November 2011 At 7.30pm	St James the Less Bishopbriggs	Fund Raising Concert by Heester Gowdie
2 nd March 2012	Services held locally	World Day of Prayer
24 th March 2012	Holy Trinity, Ayr (provisionally)	Spring Council and Lady Day

Thank you for your contributions to this edition of Newslink. Articles for Newslink Spring 2012 should be sent to Mrs E.B. Murray, 1 Comrie Street, Sandyhills, Glasgow G32 9TU or by email to elsieburray@btinternet.com no later than 1st March 2012

MU of Yesteryear

Recently, when I opened my Grandmother's bible, there fell out of it her Mothers' Union membership card. It is very different from those of today. Members expressed their desire to bring up their children on the Christian path of life by word and example, the undertaking laid out on the card in 9 detailed points (see below). They are well worth reflecting on in our day too. And on the reverse are prayers to be used by the member daily, for herself and all MU members, for her children, and before bible teaching.

1. I desire by God's help to make them obedient, truthful and pure.
2. To watch over their words, and to prevent, to the utmost of my power, evil speaking, slander, and gossip in my home.
3. To guard my children, as far as I can, from frivolous, bad, or doubtful companions, influences, or amusements.
4. To be very careful as to the books and newspapers which they read or which are seen in the house.
5. To teach them habits of moderation and self control, and, if possible, to avoid giving them beer, wine, or spirits without the doctor's orders.
6. To set them a good example in word and deed.
7. To teach them to pray daily, and to pray with them.
8. To read and explain the Bible, and instruct them in our Holy Christian Faith.
9. To hallow God's Day, and to worship Him regularly in His House of Prayer.



Judith Chavarre, my grandmother, was born in 1867 into a Church of Ireland family (the French surname came from an ancestor of the husband) and lived all her life in the south of Ireland: she bore five sons, the first my father. Her second son died tragically at about 18mths old; I have the letter to her mother telling of his death from an ailment which could be today cured quite easily, but then there was only the local G.P. riding out on his horse from Waterford. She was a wonderful and spiritual mother, writing prayers for each her sons to say at her knee (these too I have, within the leaves of her bible) and are full of thanks to God for the love and happiness and safety of the past day. But I give the words of one that would specially come from the pen of a mother who knows

that the early years of life can be treacherous, and who is being very true to what she undertook when she joined the Mothers' Union:-

'O Almighty God, please make me Thy tiny little boy. Help me to be good, obedient and truthful. Make me trustworthy and brave. Help me to fight against sin and lies. Give me Thy Holy Spirit and if I grow up, make me a good useful man, and when this life is over, let me and all I love, live with Thee forever.



For Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Gabrielle McCracken

FAITHFUL IN PRAYER

Mary Sumner Day

Mary Sumner's birthday, 9th August, was identified by the staff of Mary Sumner House as an opportunity for members to meet together, to be Faithful in Prayer. Members of Glasgow & Galloway were invited to Rev Peter Douglas' plant house for worship and to enjoy the delights of a BBQ. Due to the completion date of the plant house being delayed the meeting took place on August 30th.

The first Eucharist in the newly rebuilt plant house was a delight with all those present taking part in both silent and open prayers. The rain which had been noisily beating against the roof, fell silent and the sun appeared during prayers! A wooden cross in memory of Peter's wife, Margaret, graced the wall and plants were in full bloom.

Peter's preparations which had prevented him getting any sleep the night before were greatly appreciated by all. The turkeys and the rest of the food contributed by members were thoroughly enjoyed. A feast, indeed!! After thanks were offered to Peter and the saying of the Grace members left for home.

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**

Ann

News from Castle Douglas

A meeting was held on the 24th May in our hall. Members and guests were invited to dress up as a character from one of the "Rogers and Hammerstein" productions. Everyone sat down to a light lunch of homemade soup and cakes and then the musical part of the afternoon began. Between the solos there was a competition to name the characters portrayed by those who had come in fancy dress and it was quite hilarious at times and not too easy either, though as you can imagine, there were several Marias from "The Sound of Music", including Canon Bayne! In between the solos Hilda Wallach accompanied everybody in songs from that musical while Marion George accompanied the soloists. It was a most popular and enjoyable day for everyone concerned. We all went home in high spirits!

Jessie Lockhart

(Photograph of this event on back cover)

CHIKANKATA SALVATION ARMY MISSIONARY HOSPITAL.

As many of you know the Mothers Union has been involved in supporting the Neo-Natal unit in the Princess Royal Maternity, Glasgow. We continue to support them with our knitting and prayers. However it is now time to extend my interest in this type of support for new lives. My friend, Lyndsey and her husband have recently given up their careers and home lives here, to do God's work in Zambia. As members of the Salvation Army they have undertaken a two year missionary contract in Zambia. Their hospital Chikankata is run and funded jointly by the Salvation Army and by the Zambian Government. Lindsey, who formerly worked in the Glasgow neo-natal unit, is now in the premature baby ward in Chikankata, while Simon, her husband, is hospital administrator. His main job just now is trying to improve internet communication, as well as get a water supply to all parts of the hospital. Life is very different for them now. Below are a couple of quotes from them:

Lyndsey - "The one thing that is not really comfortable for us is the way that we can be treated because of Simon's role, it's part of the culture though. When he was introduced some of the workers were bowing! I am regarded as the wife of Mr Ledger-you can imagine how much fun Simon is having with that and how much I am not enjoying that title!

We went to meet the Chieftainess of the village last week and had to go down on one knee after we did a strange clapping thing. She then waved some stick with horse hair around our heads and it was all I could do to keep from laughing! She sat on a big chair which had dead animal skin draped over it (nice!) and she had a couple of guards and spears around the house/palace. Thankfully we were accepted and can stay, though it was a strange experience."

Simon - “Things do move at a slower pace here which I need to accept and be more patient when trying to resolve things quickly. Meetings generally take longer than they are supposed to, normally because people don’t arrive on time and then everybody has to have their say on every issue. The other ‘amusing/irritating’ thing is that everyone has their mobile phones on during meetings and it’s not just the fact that they are on, they actually answer them in the middle of a meeting!!! Once someone’s mobile went off playing ‘Jingle Bells’!”



I already have my first piece of work to do for them. I need to organise some people to sew some little bumpers for the incubators to stop the tiny babies wasting valuable energy moving about in the heat. Unfortunately the unit there never has many babies but we would like to help those who do make it there.

I feel very honoured to be able to extend the little project I started a couple of years ago from our Mothers Union group here at Holy Name, now reaching out to Zambia. I ask that you pray for Lyndsey and Simon in their challenges ahead.

Jill Cameron.



Former Diocesan President Barbara Elliott cuts the cake after a Service of Thanksgiving for the 50 years of witness at All Saints, Bearsden.



Lady Day at Castle Douglas



Two Canons searching for the other eight bottles....

And who are they?

