



The Scottish Mothers' Union  
Charity No. SC036459  
Provincial Newsletter  
Winter 2009



The Provincial Presidents with Rosemary Kempzell at Canterbury Cathedral for PP's Conference 2009—more inside

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activity at the Parenting Facilitators Course

## Provincial Presidents Conference 2009

The Provincial Presidents Conference in June 2009 was held in the international Conference Centre in the Precincts of Canterbury Cathedral. 26 Presidents from all over the world met there for eight days to consider the conference theme Pilgrimage; Journeying Together. It was a great joy to study and work together so near to a cathedral that has been a place of pilgrimage for so many centuries.

We were divided into small family groups, each given the name of a saint. Appropriately I was leading the group named St Columba. In these group sessions we took part in bible study, discussed various topics together, responded to input from the speakers, expressed our opinions and were able to connect and share with one another. I was blessed in having four wonderful women in my group. Edidah Mary from Uganda, Rosemary Bent from New Zealand, Margaret Appia Tufour from West Africa, and Helen Yeo from South Korea who had her own translator with her, a young man named Paul. Sadly one member could not come because of difficulty in obtaining a visa.



Saint Columba's family group

Each day began with prayer and bible study in our family groups. Midday and evening prayers and a wrap up of each day's presentations were presented by each family group in turn while each president was given fifteen minute spotlight to share the achievements and needs of her province by means of a talk, photographs or PowerPoint presentation.

During the week we were joined by the unit co-ordinators from Mary Sumner House who spoke of their area of expertise and directed us where we should be going. Their presentations revolved around the theme of pilgrimage. Reg Bailey spoke about the *Route Map* using St Paul's journeys as an analogy, and *Visas Required*, listing the numerous barriers to membership. Jean Price used *Traffic Lights* and *Signposts* to illustrate her message on marketing. Faith and Policy Unit named their talk *Following in his footsteps one at a time*, while for Action and Outreach the theme was *Mapping for the future*. All of these sessions were informative and gave everyone enthusiasm and plans for their future journey as PP.



the winners—building a tower

We heard stories from African and Asian delegates about poverty, disease, starvation, drought, flooding, genocide, domestic violence, mutilation, illiteracy, unclean water—difficult listening for those of us from affluent countries. It was gratifying to hear that Mothers Union is helping those countries in their distress.

On Sunday morning we attended the Sung Eucharist in the Beautiful Canterbury Cathedral where we were joined by many MU members from the Canterbury area. Jane Williams, wife of Archbishop Rowan Williams hosted conference participants at a buffet supper in the Old Palace, assuring us that her husband would have been with us had he not been in Russia at the time.

One highlight of our stay was a candlelit pilgrimage around the cathedral once all the visitors had left. After lighting our candles we gathered round the Compass Rose in the nave. The Vice-Dean of the cathedral was enrolled as a member of Mothers' Union as were Patricia Menendez who was representing the Southern Cone, and the two young people who had acted as translators. During the pilgrimage we each lit a votive candle for a special person before quietly processing back to the nave. All too soon the conference was over and we returned to our own Provinces. We keep in touch remembering our time together. This conference happens every three years in different parts of the world.



All the Provincial Presidents from around the world at the Conference in Canterbury—2009



## A Letter from the Primus

I am delighted to bring greetings to Mothers' Union members on behalf of the wider community of the Scottish Episcopal Church

This is an important moment of change in the life of Mothers' Union. Sheila Redwood has given wonderful service as our Provincial President.

She has provided encouragement and support across our church and she has been an able ambassador for us in the wider circles of MU. As we express our thanks to Sheila, we welcome Hilary Moran as our new Provincial President. Hilary will be in our prayers as she takes up this new ministry of leadership and encouragement

When I think of Mothers' Union, I always reflect on two things which I believe are particular strengths in the life of MU. One is that MU has a world-wide vision - a view of the church as binding together all people in all places. The other is the way in which MU is rooted in prayer. Those two strengths mean that MU plays a significant part in linking together the life of the Anglican Communion.

I wish you well as you enter a new triennium in your life together.

+David

## President's Letter



Dear Friends

I want to thank you all for giving me the opportunity to be your Provincial President of Mothers' Union in Scotland over the past three years. It has been an extremely enjoyable and enlightening experience for me and I have gained a great deal of insight into the running of the MU worldwide and into the hard work and dedication of all our members here in Scotland.

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to visit all the dioceses and to know that MU in Scotland has the support of all our bishops.

I see the Mothers' Union in Scotland in good shape with new branches opening and new members taking up office. There is such a lot of talent in our members and I look forward to watching the MU move forward in new ways. Most of all I have great confidence in handing over to Hilary who will take the Mothers' Union on to new heights.

May God bless you all as you further his work through the Mothers' Union.

With love,  
Sheila

## The New Provincial President



Dear friends,

As yet I don't know all the 'new job' will entail, but I realise it is a great privilege I have been given. I will be a General Trustee on the board at Mary Sumner House with all the responsibilities that go with running a worldwide charity. Then I will be in Scotland supporting the Diocesan Presidents in their work and visiting all the diocese and branches, which will be a pleasure. It is at branch level that all the good work that the Mothers' Union stand's for, happens, I hope I can encourage members in their work and spiritual paths too.

I need to thank Sheila for her dedication these last three years. She has packed a lot into them. There are eye catching yellow signs in all our churches in Scotland showing how to get in touch with the Mothers' Union, we have had trustee training days, a few days away for the Diocesan Presidents to get to know each other, we have run a stand at the Christian Resource centre in Glasgow, organised the Stirling Roadshow, started parenting facilitating training in two diocese, toured around Scotland, hosted our Worldwide President in Scotland, spent ten days in Cambridge with overseas Provincial Presidents, spoken to our Scottish Executive on Malawi and last but by no means least is getting together this new style Newsletter. This are just the things I know about!

I wish her all the best for her future and well done!

With love to you all and looking forward to meeting you,

Hilary

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Hilary will be commissioned at the chapel at Mary Sumner House on Tuesday December 8th by Mothers' Union Chaplain Bishop Richard Inwood. Please pray for her.

Her commissioning in Scotland will be on Saturday February 13th at 11am in St Mary's Cathedral in Glasgow by our Primus The Most Rev David Chillingworth—you are **all** invited to attend this.

## Visit of World Wide President to Scotland in M



The photo above shows her (centre) at St Cyprian's Lenzie for the Glasgow & Galloway Festival Service with (L-R) the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church, Rt Revd Dr Idris Jones, Sheila Redwood, Provincial President, Revd Dr Scott Robertson, Diocesan Chaplain, Enid Scobie, Diocesan President, and behind a part of the display of banners from around the diocese.



*Rt Rev David Chillingworth with Rosemary after the service in St Ninians Cathedral , Perth*



Cutting the cake at Lenzie

# Ms Rosemary Kempzell May 2009

Lunch in Jill's garden at Dunfermline with member of Holy Trinity Branch—Dorissia Forsyth, Branch Leader on left



Sue Crosfield, Diocesan President; Rt Rev Brian Smith, Bishop of Edinburgh; Rosemary Kempzell; and Sheila Redwood, Scottish Provincial President at a lunch party at the Bishops House in Edinburgh..



At the Contact Centre, Kirkcaldy with Una Fido a director (left) and Sue Mowat who chairs the Board of Directors



Bishop Mark Strange with Lynne Taylor, DP, Rosemary and Sheila at the garden party at Culbokie in the Black Isle



Rosemary enrolling 3 new members at Culbokie in the Black Isle

## **Around the Dioceses**

### **Aberdeen**

Olga Robertson, diocesan president has been to Zambia to represent Scotland at the Special Regional meeting

She paid a visit to the northernmost part of her diocese in Orkney and Shetland where she met Mothers' Union members. There is the hope of a new branch opening in the diocese.

The new Diocesan President is to be Chris Crossley. 01358722007

### **Argyll and the Isles**

The baby changing facilities at the games in Oban have been a great success. Fiona Rice hosted the provincial president from New Zealand, Rosemary Bent from their link diocese. Congratulations to Fiona for being elected to the Faith & Policy Unit Committee. Fiona continues as Diocesan President 01546886674

### **Glasgow & Galloway**

Enid Scobie is in Australia visiting Mothers' Union branches while she is on holiday. The diocese is looking forward to the new diocesan president Ann Glenesk taking over. Congratulations to Enid for being elected to the Action and Outreach Unit Committee and to Hilary Moran to be the next Provincial President. New Diocesan President Ann Glenesk. 01415632140

### **Edinburgh**

A new branch was opened at St Ninian's, Comelybank with a membership of 19 with much enthusiasm. The new diocesan president is to be Angela Sibley. 01968674211

### **Moray & Caithness**

Great progress in that there are now 60 members. A new chaplain will be commissioned in Inverness Cathedral in November. Lynne visited 3 members in Thurso the northernmost part of her diocese. Lynne Taylor continues as Diocesan President. 01343835861

### **St Andrew, Dunkeld & Dunblane with Brechin**

The charity shop made over £1,000 and most of it will go to the Contact Centre in Kirkcaldy. There is talk of the Contact Centre being merged with Family Mediation Tayside and Fife but Mothers' Union would remain on committee. The new Forth Valley Branch is progressing well. Lesley Brooke continues as Diocesan President. 01738710726

## Mothers Union at the Scottish Parliament

At the Scottish Parliament's Cross-Party Group on Malawi on Wednesday 28th October the Mothers' Union gave a presentation on the Literacy and Development Project that they run in Malawi. The Mothers' Union Senior Central Development Officer, Naomi Herbert, spoke about the learning process used by the trainers and how many women and men it had enabled to become literate. This has led them to take better control of their lives and become active in their communities.



Naomi Herbert giving her presentation



Naomi with Joyce Phimi



Sheila Redwood, MU President for Scotland introduced Naomi and there was another speaker, herself a Malawian, Joyce Phimi, a vice chair of the Cross-Party Group, spoke of her concern for the girl child in Malawi who were abused very early in their lives. Both presentations were well received and discussion followed.

MSP Karen Gillan with Naomi after the presentation

### Special Regional Meeting, Zambia

On 16 October 2009, 14 Mothers' Union members gathered at London Heathrow with excitement and anticipation to start their journey to Lusaka, Zambia to attend the third Special Regional Meeting. On arrival at Lusaka we were welcomed by a 40 strong choir, locally known as the Mary Sumner Choir. They sang and danced for us for a good half hour before we were transported to the Commonwealth Youth Programme Centre which was to be our home for the next week.

On Sunday we were taken to Lusaka Cathedral for morning Eucharist and again we were serenaded by the choir. Later in the day delegates from Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Sudan began to arrive.

The conference opened on Monday with the Eucharist celebrated by the dean of the cathedral, and it took place in an open marquee in the grounds of the centre. Afterwards we were welcomed to Lusaka by the diocesan Mothers' Union chaplain.

Midweek we were taken to see local projects. We were transported in two mini buses and nearing our destination we were led in by a brass band and majorettes and of course the Mary Sumner Choir,

This is to be a very big project. At the moment the land is rented and it is their dream to include a clinic, gardens, workshops and a children's play park. Rosemary was asked to unveil the foundation plaque and prayers were said. After a service in the open air, but under cover, we from the UK had to stand up and say who we were and from where we came.



There were about 200 members there, or so it seemed.

Every day midday prayers and morning worship took place, each animal family taking their turn to organise these. Singing always took place with everyone joining in. Bible study took place each morning in our family groups.

On our final day we again went to Lusaka Cathedral for the Eucharist which was celebrated by the bishop. This was followed by lunch served by members in the grounds of the cathedral.

All week the weather was excellent, perhaps too hot for some – in the upper 30s - but we were well catered for with cold bottled water. We travelled back to the UK during the day on 24 October, tired but knowing that we had made new contacts and friends.

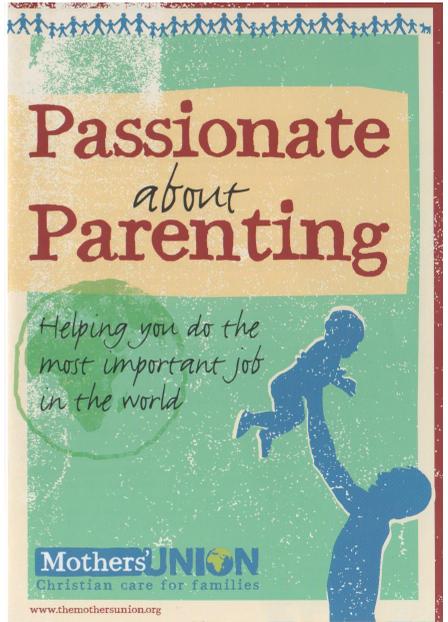
My overall thoughts are that our friends and members in Africa can teach us an awful lot. They are dedicated, enthusiastic, hard working and very devout Christians who always wear their blue and white uniforms with pride. I like to think I put Scotland and Aberdeen on the map and my grateful thanks to members in my diocese who helped make this possible for me.

Report by: Olga J Robertson (Diocesan President, Aberdeen & Orkney)

## Parenting Facilitators Course

Six Mothers' Union members came to Scottish Churches House for three days in October training to be able to take a parenting course. The trainer was Joan King who guided them through the stages of group development and family relationships. The activities ranged from the balloon bursting one on the front page to intensive discussion and study. They worked very hard and they are not yet finished.

In order to obtain accreditation from the London College they will continue with assignments for some weeks and at a follow-up day on 5 December they will come together again.



The Mothers' Union regards parenting as the most important thing that a woman does and provides excellent support to enable us to train these leaders. We will have parenting facilitators in nearly every diocese in Scotland ready to run a parenting course. We are *Passionate about Parenting*.

The group in training at Scottish Churches House



Lusaka Cathedral of the Holy Cross



Rosemary unveiling the plaque at the foundation of the area project

Keep your eyes on the  
Mothers' Union Web Pages  
[www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk)



### Representative Member



Linda Brownlie has been elected to be our new representative member for Scotland and will attend World Wide Council. Linda was Trish Heywood's personal assistant in Scotland and is well qualified for this new roll. Linda has also agreed to be the new

### Provincial Dates for 2010

Provincial Retreat  
at Kinnoull Monastery 16th—18th March  
Conducted by  
Rev Laurence Price

Annual Meeting  
at Preston 24th June

Trustees Training to be arranged

Provincial Council  
meetings 22nd April & 19th Oct

World Wide Council 11 and 12th Feb



Theme for 2010:  
Relationships not Rules

### Provincial Committee 2010

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