

## **A SURPRISINGLY SMELLY DAY OUT AT THE CATHEDRAL!**

I always knew Mothers' Union members were good at helping out, but volunteering took on a whole new meaning for me when I responded to an urgent plea for help from Mothers' Union Leader, Gwen Taylor! Oh yes, thought I, I'm free on Friday, I'll help staff a school's Tudor Experience day at the Cathedral, that would be fun!

The night before, I was informed I'd be in the Chapter House, delivering Tudor Medicine workshops lasting only eight minutes each to 18 successive small groups of 11 or 12 year-olds! Still more mind-blowing: I ended up presenting "Revolting Remedies", most of which probably belonged more to unfounded old wives tales than to genuine natural cures, and might no doubt have found a place in the popular "Horrible Histories" series!

The pupils had to choose which of eight sickening cures they should use for eight common ailments. Boiled slug-juice, VERY smelly cheese, badger poo, and fried mouse were the worst. Two girls barely recovered from the cheese, went pale, and had to sit down quickly and have a drink!

After the nauseating smells, they then thankfully made sweet-smelling nosegays out of muslin squares filled with lavender and rose petals. These proved popular, and a good starting point for talking about 16th century daily life and hygiene! (Or lack of it!)

There were two other very informative (and more plausible) Tudor medicine workshops in the Chapter House, which they all did, and many other activities all round the cathedral, including birds of prey (outside!), an orchestra with Tudor-style instruments, the wives of Henry the Eighth, and the Christian Faith itself.

Thank you Gwen for the chance to meet so many super young people, and other most interesting volunteers, and to practice once again my convincing knack of bluffing and inventing stories which any teacher acquires over the years! Great appreciation too, to the Education department at the Cathedral for their inspiration, vision and energy to bring young people right in to the building for such a fun and varied day of activity.

**Jill Crofton**, Malvern Deanery Coordinator



## **Worcester Waves (Spring/Summer 2017)**

Welcome to all members

Mothers' Union 140<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year has flown by and it has been a real privilege to travel around the diocese and share in the many different and well thought out celebration events that have occurred over the year.

It was very busy and exciting during the second half of 2016. In October, our new MU Chaplain, The Revd. Nick Kaleniuk, was installed by Bishop John at Stourbridge Deanery Festival and it was wonderful to see so many members from across the diocese who came to celebrate Nick's appointment.

Also in October I attended the Canterbury Province conference for Diocesan Presidents. It was an opportunity to share the visions of other Diocesan Presidents, many who are new to the role.

At the conference, we learnt about the many changes that will be taking place both to the constitution and IT systems. Changes are also taking place in the Diocese with our new website and Facebook page. I must thank Barbara Davies, our communications officer, who has worked so hard to get these programmes up and running.

We must move forward to ensure our sustainability in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Let us, like Mary Sumner, trust in God and respond to his call. The needs and challenges are still as great today as in Mary's time. Our theme for 2017 is 'Faith in Action'. How fitting for our organisation! It represents what we are and everything we do. With love and prayers

**Liz**

**Joshua Mutebe, is co-founder of Hope for Life Katanga, Uganda – a project that Bob and I support following our visit to Kampala. Joshua writes.....**

In Uganda violence against women and girls has many manifestations, namely; physical, sexual, emotional and economic. The most common forms include domestic and intimate partner violence, sexual violence (including rape), sexual harassment, and emotional/psychological violence. Other widespread forms around include: sexual exploitation, sexual trafficking, and harmful practices, such as female genital mutilation, forced and child marriage.

It is evident in many rural and urban communities in Uganda, women fear taking their cases to courts due to their cultural background that does not encourage them to address relevant issues through courts. Even those who overcome the issue of fear face the challenge of paying for costly legal assistance. Many difficulties persist in that the populations are not informed about the gender sensitive laws that have been enacted, nor are they informed about their rights under these laws.

It's important that you join the pursuit of gender equality and women's empowerment too, by highlighting to your friends and family these issues that are detrimental to women and girls around the world.

**Liz – Diocesan President**

HMP Hewell Grange  
Redditch  
B97 6QS

28-12-2016.

Dear Ladies of The Mothers Union,

I was unable to buy or arrange Christmas cards for my wife and children. However, your kindness in supplying us with hand made cards meant I was able to send messages to them after all.

I just want to thank you for taking the time to think of us and the situation not that we are necessarily in but the situation into which we have placed our families. Your support for us is really a support for them, indirectly.

So, from a grateful husband and doting dad, thank you very much.

Happy New Year.

# **FAREWELL TO LONG** **SERVICE MEMBER** ***Phyllis Digger***



**P**hyllis joined Mother's Union in 1955, when she was 29 years old. She had not had an easy start to life as her parents died within weeks of each other when she was about 9 years old. She and her elder sister Doris were placed in The Royal Albert Orphanage in Worcester where they lived for several years. This building later became the WMCA. She told us many tales of her life there which was tough in many ways. (Her story and that of Doris can be read in the book "If Only These Walls Could Speak", which records interviews many of the residents gave in later life). The girls were trained for service and Phyl, as she was known by, was sent out to work when she was 14 years old. Later she married Ray Digger, who she had first met in the orphanage as he too was a resident and they had one daughter, Margaret.

Phyl and Doris originally joined St. Clement's, Worcester Branch and later transferred to St. Michael's, Dines Green where they were members for many years. Phyl was a quiet lady, always ready to help, continuing to make tea and coffee in church until she became ill, just a few weeks before she died. She was a very loyal and faithful member of St. Michael's Church and our MU branch. She was awarded her MU 60 years Long Service Certificate in 2015 at the Worcester Deanery Festival held in St. Clement's Church, where she had originally become a member.

Last year, in July, Phyl celebrated her 90th birthday. She had been disappointed when she was not one of those to be invited to The Guildhall for the Queen's 90th birthday tea so the branch decided to hold a party for her own special birthday. Strawberries and cake were enjoyed by all. We were so glad we had done this as soon after Phyl became ill. She had until then been exceptionally agile for her age, living on her own without help and very often adding a witty comment into conversations. She died on November 19th 2016. She was a lovely lady, much loved and we miss her greatly.

***Jenny Claydon, Branch Contact***

St Michael's MU Branch, Dines Green, Worcester



**SCOTLAND**  
**2017**



## **STOP PRESS.**

**IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO BOOK .....**

**A 2 CENTRED, 5 DAY, 4 NIGHT ADVENTURE  
FROM WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27th TO  
SUNDAY OCTOBER 1st, KELSO TO EXPLORE  
HOLY ISLAND AND NORTH EAST COAST.**

**AN INTERESTING VISIT TO BE CHOSEN ENROUTE TO  
EDINBURGH CITY CENTRE FOR AGM SERVICE AND  
AGM.** (BB dinner is available in Hotel should you wish)

**FRIENDS WELCOME COST £459.50**

**2 SINGLE ROOMS AVAILABLE £80 supplement**

**2 pick up points Worcester & Stourbridge**

**FURTHER DETAILS 01562 883466 JEAN SWIFT  
SHOULD YOU NEED JUST TICKETS FOR SERVICE ON 29th  
SEPT OR AGM 30th SEPT PLEASE ORDER THROUGH ME  
asap.**

## NEWS FROM CLAINES BRANCH

### **Hilda's Propeller**

Following one of our summer evening walks the members of Claines Mothers' Union gathered at Anne Ray's home for cake and cuppa. Anne has been a member of the Claines group for several years and I am sure that she will not mind me sharing this lovely story about her mother-in-law, Hilda, who herself was a member of Claines Mothers' Union for many decades.



Shortly after their marriage in 1934 Hilda and husband, Leslie, holidayed in Devon and during an air show at Haldon Aerodrome took a short flight in a twin-engine air liner. On landing back at the aerodrome after the flight Hilda alighted from the plane, walked towards the front of the machine and was struck by the still moving propeller. So great was the impact that the propeller snapped and hit the side of the plane. Hilda sustained a severe head injury and was treated at Teignmouth Hospital, but thankfully she recovered well and suffered no great lasting effects.

But this was not the end of the encounter with the propeller. The owners of the aerodrome contacted Hilda and offered her, as a "memento" of her visit, the damaged propeller! Hilda, of course, did not turn down the offer and brought it to her home in Claines. After her death in 1999, at the age of 91, her son David made sure that the item found a permanent home above their sun house. Hence the photo call of our members under the propeller in memory of all the hard work and devotion Hilda gave to the Mothers' Union.

***Gwen Clifford*** Claines Branch

## THE PILL

Mary Jane was feeling ill.

Mother said "you must take a pill".

The pill heard this and shoots with fright.

He didn't want his life to end that night.

His friends around him began to fear.

That their time was drawing near.

To save them from the human race.

The meeting got very heated

They didn't like the way they were being treated.

At the meeting no solution could be found.

The pills thought that they must stand their ground.

Now Mary Jane was still feeling ill.

She really should have that pill.

As night drew near, it became quite clear.

That all the pills had lots to fear.

His life was soon to come to an end.

As it would help Mary Jane's illness to mend.



# COLOURS

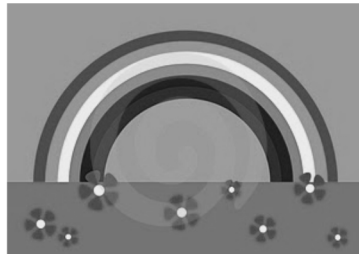
The white daisies on the green grass surround the flower bed.  
Where yellow daffodils hang their head  
Roses, yellow white and red  
Are centred in the flower bed.

Up against the garden wall.  
The mauve buddleia grows tall  
The Blue Canterbury bells ring out a tune  
While white delphiniums arc in bloom.

The cream pampas grass waves in the breeze  
Undereneath the silver birch tree  
Beneath the golden chain  
The rain softens the brown earth.

The ginger cat lies in the sun  
While the kittens are having fun  
As the day begins to pass away by  
Black clouds form in the sky.

There are the colours of the rainbow  
with the pot of gold at the end  
yet to be found.



## STROURBRIDGE DEANERY NEWS.... ( or what a surprise )

I wrote a piece about 7 Branches, each so different yet linked together in love and service, based on the River Stour and the bridge, actually a very wide viaduct spanning a now very narrow river .Somehow it was lost in the ether!

I had read several exploits of the Branches in recent Worcester Waves editions and then I remembered the Deanery had not shared the story of finding a new MU Chaplain. The Revd Andrew Wickens had finished and in thanking him we wish him and his family every happiness in his new Parish in Stoke on Trent

The Revd Nick Kaleniuk had moved from Claines to Stourbridge Deanery. Sometime in 2015 President Liz had asked Nick to become our Chaplain. Not a no and not a yes but "I am quite new here and need to settle in, MU means a great deal to me so I will pray for God's guidance."

Now over the years Stourbridge Deanery Festival has been held in May. In 2016, by rotation we were due to be at St Andrew's Wollescote but The Revd Sarah Northall had only just arrived there. So we decided to move the Festival to October. Little did we know, but God did, the extraordinary consequences that would lead to much excitement and a rewrite of the Festival Service.

Revd Sarah found herself for the second time in the year meeting the Bishop of Worcester in her Church. Why?

In July at a Branch Communion Service at St Michael's Norton to which Liz and I had been invited for an enrolment, The Revd Nick, during the Peace whispered to Liz that after a year of thought and prayer he was happy to accept the appointment as MU Chaplain for the North Archdeaconry; The Peace became Praise! Liz decided to arrange his commissioning at our Festival, and asked the Bishop to come, he too said 'yes'!

October 18th. What a joyous, fun filled MU family occasion it was as 120, including several past Presidents and a 'surplice' of clergy, came to welcome Nick and hear Bishop John speak so openly on how families come in many forms. Those there will remember too the odd changes to the script! Nick suddenly elevated to a Bishop being one! I will let the words of Judy Plant, the Hagley Branch Leader, say what so many thank you letters said: ***Dear Jean, Thank you very much for the wonderful service yesterday. We were saying on the way home how the atmosphere was full of love and also an inspirational as well as thought provoking address from the Bishop. Thank you and Wollescote for being so welcoming. Judy.***

Yes thank you all at Wollescote MU, what a feast. Thank you to everyone who came. We truly celebrated our faith and 140th Anniversary in splendid style.

So now you all know! Nick is on the Speaker's list, so get to know him for yourselves. He will be leading the Diocesan Festival at St James', Wollaston Church, 2.30pm, June 21st. Good parking!

Every blessing,  
*Jean Swift*, Stourbridge Deanery Coordinator.



## **BEOLEY BRANCH NEWS**

On 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February, our church, St Leonard's held a Snowdrop Weekend which was a success, being attended by several hundred people.

Our branch was able to promote the Mothers' Union with a display using boards and material provided by Barbara Davies. This was up to date and had lively information which attracted a number of enquiries.

The branch was the lead in the refreshments, serving coffee and biscuits, then soup or ploughman's lunches followed in the afternoon by tea and cake.

On a separate display we showed items made in our Mothers' Union led Craft and Chat Group. Knitted nativities which had been blessed and supplied to more schools and we now seem to have supplied all schools who wanted them in our Team. Happy Bags for children during services, were renewed and refreshed with new appropriate books, crayons, and knitted toys. Whilst still continuing in knitting for the Teenage Mum project, we have a new venture for the group which is knitted twiddle mitts for those patients with dementia. These were requested by our link with the Alexandra Hospital. All in all the event raised a nice amount of money, but the over-riding feature was the outreach which saw us meeting many who would not, otherwise, have entered our church.

***Norma Walters***

*(Continued from page 10)*

Our second concert was at Leasowes High School Christmas Fayre, where we sang a few traditional carols and some more modern pop songs. The crowd just stopped and stared when we began to sing and I couldn't have been any prouder than the moment when I saw the smiles on the faces of those who were listening. Our next concert will be Music for Meditation followed by afternoon tea on Holy Saturday".

I think our motto is: ***if you like to sing, then sing, even if you don't think you can or your family says you can't, as singing is good for the soul!"***.

oo00oo

**Articles for**  
**WORCESTER WAVES**  
**Autumn/Winter 2017 edition**  
**hilaryroffey@yahoo.co.uk**



**Snail Mail accepted**  
**M Roffey 5, Cornmore,**  
**Pershore, Worcs.**  
**WR101HX**  
**CUT OFF DATE**  
**Autumn/Winter edition**  
**Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October**

**The Revd Hazel Charlton**, Vicar of St. Peter's, Lapal in the Halas Team couldn't find a local choir in which to sing, so decided to set one up! She tells us all about it:

“About a year ago, I felt that a choir would be a good idea for our community in Lapal, as even though the people are really nice, other than perhaps the pub, hairdressers or the co-op, sadly there's no gathering - it's certainly not in either church in the district, despite dedicated members.

So, I like to sing, wanted to sing but couldn't find a choir close by that fitted within my schedule. Then inspiration came in a chance meeting with a former member of St Peter's Lapal, who is a music teacher in Leasowes High School. I wanted to create a link for her to come back to church, a restoration back into community as such, so I said two words to her - 'Community Choir', she bit my hand off!

We started on 1st Oct last year and put on what we now know to be a scratch choir, meeting to sing songs from the shows as we felt people would already know those. It was a great success and we rewarded our participants families by putting on a concert that very afternoon followed by a fish and chip supper. So many people came - over 40 to sing in the choir and we'd not advertised. Out of this we set up two practices a month and have between 45-55 people each time.

We sing what we want to sing - requests are welcome, we meet in St Peter's Church, as it's warm and we have fun. That's our only rule! All are welcome - our youngest member is five and it wouldn't be polite to say how old our eldest is!

The choir has reunited old friends and neighbours and given some lonely people an excuse to come out of the house - only to find they know someone at Choir. We haven't got an official name, a few have been suggested!

*(Continued on page 11)*

## PRAYER TOWER

### *Susan Price*

#### *THE TWO GREAT COVENANTS ...*

A covenant is a binding agreement, or contract between two people or parties, so we can't really class the account in Genesis 8: vv13 – 14 as a covenant, although a rainbow is a magnificent show of God's promises!

Genesis 12: 1 – 3 is God's first covenant with mankind, when the Lord said to Abram, “Get thee out of thy country into a land that I will show thee: I will make a great nation of thee and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.” Abram agreed and kept his side of the covenant – as did God – but it was not so, after hundreds of years.

Currently do we keep our promises, our covenant with God, mankind and the universe?

*O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder,  
Consider all the works Thy hand has made,  
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,  
Thy power throughout the universe displayed.  
Then sings my soul, my Saviour God to thee.  
How great thou art, how great thou art.*

Almighty God in giving us dominion over things on earth, you made us fellow-workers in your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence so to use the resources of nature that no one may suffer from our abuse of them, and generations yet to come may continue to praise you for your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*(Continued on page 8)*

*Let there be respect for the earth,  
peace for the people,  
love in our lives,  
delight in the good,  
forgiveness for past wrongs  
and from now on – a new start. Amen.*

Let us pray for all M.U. members in our diocese, but especially  
for our Co-ordinators and Branch Leaders.

*God gives us sunshine, birds, and trees.  
The star-filled sky above.  
He gives us beauty, flowers, and friends  
And special people to love ....  
And then because each life would bring  
Its share of stress and care.  
He gives to us a wondrous gift –  
The miracle of prayer.  
How good it is to know.  
His love is always there.  
To conquer, help and guide us.  
Through the miracle of prayer.  
oOo*

### **PRAYER CHAIN**

If you would like to be included on the Prayer Chain circulation  
list or if you have a name you would like us to pray for please  
contact me. You can receive the Prayer Chain by email  
or Royal Mail.

Janice Hickman. 62 ,Occupation Street, Dudley, West Midlands  
DY1 2RF

01384231832 07751492213 hi@jhickmanh.demon.co.uk

## **WORCESTER DEANERY NEWS**

**Deanery Festival is to be held on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> July in  
Claines at 2.30pm - all are welcome.**

**Mary Sumner Day - Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> August.** Quiet Day to  
be held at St George's from 1.00 to 4.00pm. Tea and cakes will be  
served at 3.30pm. A retired nun is to be invited to lead the  
afternoon.

**16 days of Activitism Nov/Dec 2017.** It has been suggested  
that a Service in the Cathedral would be held in the Lady Chapel  
rather than the Crypt. Invitation will be widened to the whole  
diocese.

**It was lovely** to have a nearly full Church last night when we  
hosted an ecumenical service to mark the end of the week of prayer for  
Christian Unity.



Part of the service was the commissioning of Victoria Barlow, a  
member of St George's Church Barbourne, and Claines Church  
Mothers' Union, Victoria is now a new City Centre Chaplain.