



## From the Diocesan President

Dear fellow-member,

### A visit from our Worldwide President

In November we had the privileged of hosting our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, as part of her visit to the Province of York. She spent an evening with our Trustees, hearing about our MULOAs experiences and the difference that was making in the way our Branches reach out to people in the community. Her words to us were full of encouragement, and appreciation of the difference we make.

The following day, many of us went by coach to Leeds Minster, where we met with members from all over the North of England for an inspirational service. Sheran spoke most movingly of her experiences, reflecting particularly on her time as Diocesan President in Guyana. 'We were born to serve – to be Jesus' hands and feet', she said. Look out in the next Journal for a much fuller account of her talk!

### Future events

This Newsletter includes information about a host of events planned for the next few months, as we pursue this year's theme '**Growing in Hope and Confidence**'. For your own branch meetings and services, there are excellent resources for the theme on the Mothers' Union website ([www.mothersunion.org](http://www.mothersunion.org)) under 'Annual theme'. Even though your programme is probably planned, you may be able to use the ideas for services, and for branch activities, for instance.

Our first main event is **Diocesan Council** on Friday 3rd April at 10 for 10.30 am. **All are welcome!** The meeting and AGM give us a wider view of all that is happening in our Diocese. Your Branch Leader will be able to give you the papers for the meeting, so that you are in a better position to appreciate the meeting, and to ask questions. Our guest speaker is Mrs Kathleen Wilson, Diocesan President for Durham. A few years ago the Chaplain at Low Newton women's prison asked Mothers' Union to start a branch there for the women. This has since grown and developed in exciting ways. Those who attended the General Meeting last year heard a little of it, and I, for one, am looking forward to hearing more!

Do consider coming to Council, or to any of the other events.

### Thanks

Thank you for all you do in your Branches! It has again been a delight to visit you in your Branches, and at Deanery events. Thank you for the warmth of your welcome. Do continue to invite both me and other Trustees to speak.

As we enter the season of Lent, may we all **grow in hope and confidence** as we follow Christ's journey towards the cross and then celebrate the empty tomb.

*With love, Barbara*

## Safeguarding

Thank you to all the Branches who have been in touch with me about Safeguarding, the majority of branches have contacted me and I look forward to hearing from you all soon.

The safeguarding of Children, young people and vulnerable adults is of prime importance to the Mothers' Union, so it is important that each branch has one or more members trained to be aware of these issues, to promote the welfare of those who are at risk and to respond well to those who have been abused.

*Sheila Walker V.P.*



*Canon  
Barbara Packer*



*Kathleen Wilson*

## Diocesan MU Retreat 2020 Reminder

This year the retreat, on Monday 18th and Tuesday 19th May 2020 at Shepherds Dene, will be led by our Chaplain Sarah Moon. The residential cost is £100 or separate costs if you want to attend for one or both days. The booking form was printed in the Winter journal.

### Please note the following email addresses:

[actionandoutreach@munewcastle.org.uk](mailto:actionandoutreach@munewcastle.org.uk),  
[financeandcentralservices@munewcastle.org.uk](mailto:financeandcentralservices@munewcastle.org.uk),  
[journalandnewsletter@munewcastle.org.uk](mailto:journalandnewsletter@munewcastle.org.uk) and  
[faithandpolicy@munewcastle.org.uk](mailto:faithandpolicy@munewcastle.org.uk). Messages sent to addresses including the '&' symbol will bounce back.

## Lindisfarne Archdeaconry Festival

11th July 10:30am

### St James Church in Morpeth

We meet at 10:30am for tea and coffee, break for lunch about 12 noon and at 2pm there will be a Festival Eucharist, led by the Rector, Rev'd Simon White, Preacher Bishop John Packer.

Unfortunately for family reasons, June Houghton is unable to come to speak to us however we are delighted that Steve Forster, from The Clewer Initiative, is coming to speak to us about Modern Slavery. Steve Forster is a Mothers' Union member and we have had links with him through Changing Lives and Together Newcastle.

We look forward very much to hearing him speak about a subject which is of great interest to the Mothers' Union.

## Diocesan Eucharist 2020

This will take place in St Nicholas Church, South Gosforth at 11am on Saturday 16th May.

It is a very convenient venue as there is a bus stop at the Church gate which is also right opposite South Gosforth Metro. With regard to church parking there is space for 16 to 20 cars if sensibly and considerately parked.

Currently this parish has no MU. (it closed a number of years ago though there are still a few ex-members) so this is an opportunity to raise the profile of MU and invite the parish to join us. The celebrant is their new Vicar Revd Jane Natrass, who is also Area Dean for Newcastle Central Deanery, and our MU choir will lead the singing.

Please make a special note in your diaries, it would be wonderful if at least one member from each Branch was able to attend, so making this service a truly Diocesan event. Please come along, the venue is central and very accessible.

## Calendar of Events

### March

- 5th** Faith & Policy meeting at Cathedral am, and Action & Outreach pm  
**12th** Trustees at Church House 10 for 10.30am  
**25th** Lady Day – local services

### April

- 3rd** Diocesan Council at St. John, Kingston Park 10 for 10.30am  
**4th** Diocesan Members' Day at Church House 10 for 10.30am. Speaker Revd Peter Sinclair  
**25th** Friends of Mothers' Union AGM and meeting 10 for 10.30am

### **Copy deadline for Journal**

- May**  
**11th** Delicious spuds of May at Newbiggin Church Centre 12noon  
**14th** Afternoon tea at St Columba, Wideopen, 2pm, £5 per head in aid of AFIA and Overseas

- 16th** Diocesan Eucharist at St. Nicholas, Gosforth 11am  
**18th** Alnwick Deanery Day at Rothbury All Saints starting at 10.30am including music, trail and a visit to a wonderful new house

**18th – 19th** Retreat at Shepherds' Dene

**22nd** 'Global moment' at Coventry Cathedral

- June**  
**6th** Trustees at Church House, and delivery of Journals 10 for 10.30am  
**10th** Alnwick Deanery Festival at Howick Church at 6pm; an opportunity to see the amazing kneelers and glorious gardens.

## Mothers' Union General Meeting 2020

This year's meeting is to be held in Belfast on Saturday 26th September 2020.



The following quote has been given from Urquhart Coaches Travel Co. From Thursday 24th September to Sunday 27th September (4 days/3 nights) with dinner, bed & breakfast staying at the Park Inn, Belfast. £369.00 per person, £14.00 per person holiday insurance, £99.00 per person single room supplement (subject to availability).

A service will take place on Friday 25th, in Belfast Cathedral. The meeting on Saturday 26th will be at the magnificent new International Convention Centre (pictured), and there will be at least one trip. A wonderful opportunity to see the full breadth of Mothers' Union.

Please contact Margaret Riches (tel. 01665711943 / email mriches3@pobroadband.co.uk) ASAP if you are interested.

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Join the service of Holy Communion in St George's Chapel at the Cathedral, every first Thursday of the month at 12.30pm, where there will be special prayers for Mothers' Union.