

From the President

Dear Friend

It has been a delight over these past weeks to hear of branches meeting together again for the first time, many around Mary Sumner Day. I hope that, before long, this will become the norm again. Meanwhile, over the Autumn, we have a number of events which we can attend either in person or on Zoom, making them more accessible than usual to members: I hope you will take the opportunity of 'tasting' some events which, perhaps, you do not usually attend. These are described in more detail in this Newsletter. I hope especially that you might 'attend' the Virtual Annual Gathering.

As I come to the end of my six years of office, I am filled with gratitude for all we have been able to achieve together, and particularly for the support and fellowship of Trustees and other officers, and the imaginative way in which they have fulfilled their roles – as well as for the love and hard work of



members. I am delighted that nearly all Diocesan roles have been filled for the new Triennium, and the new officers will be introduced at Council on 8th October. A special welcome to Margy Tasker-Brown, my successor! Our Thanksgiving Service on 3rd December will be the time to thank those who are finishing their terms – and will be linked with Shoe Box Day and receiving printed Journals, after a long gap.



Later this month you will receive the new edition of 'Connected'; this will include a letter from me inviting you to pay your Mothers' Union subscription by Direct Debit from 2022: I hope you will consider taking this step, which will strengthen our organisation, and save on administration at Branch and Diocesan level.

With love and prayers for all your life and work together

Barbara

Virtual Annual Gathering on Saturday 25th September from 11 am – 2.30 pm (with a break for lunch)

Barbara would very much encourage you to take part in this event, which will be available on 'Mothers' Union YouTube' and 'Mothers' Union Facebook'. As it is the replacement for an actual gathering, why not consider getting together – either in the Branch, or just by inviting someone to your home (particularly someone who cannot access the Internet)? It will broaden your understanding of Mothers' Union, with its unique opportunity to hear many of those who are at the heart of Mothers' Union, like our Worldwide President, Sheran Harper, and CEO Bev Jullien, and to join in worship with our Chaplain, Bishop Emma. We will see video clips of projects throughout Britain and Ireland, and worldwide – including two clips of work in this Diocese.

Provincial End of Triennium Service

in Liverpool Cathedral on Saturday 6th November at 3 p.m. The preacher will be Paul Bayes, Bishop of Liverpool. More details later.

Diocesan Council

Friday 8th October at 7 p.m.

We will meet at St. John's, Kingston Park, and the meeting will also be accessible by Zoom – the link will come to all Council members in good time, to enable other members to join. The new office holders will be introduced, and after the business meeting, our Provincial President, June Houghton, will talk to us about special projects in some of the Dioceses in the Province of York.

Thanksgiving Service and event on Friday 3rd December at 10 a.m.

The service of Thanksgiving will be followed by a buffet and the collection of Journals. Then at noon, we will bless the shoe boxes and gift bags, and share in Midday Prayers. As last year, we are looking to collect about 130 shoe boxes, so Branches can choose to make up boxes (for the Peoples' Kitchen) or gift bags (for the refuges, by arrangement with Sylvia Hickey), or to send money to our Treasurer, Dorothy Henderson, for the Peoples' Kitchen to buy the larger items they most need, such as trainers and jogging bottoms.

ACTION AND OUTREACH

A warm welcome for wellington boots.

When Carr's Billington, a major seller of agricultural supplies, closed one of their outlets in Berwick they decided to donate their surplus wellington boots to Mothers' Union. This most generous donation consisted of over 80 pairs of brand-new boots. The photograph shows Sean Tasker-Brown from the company even helping to load the boots ready for delivery to needy projects aided by next Triennium's Diocesan president Margy Tasker-Brown.



So far, the wellington boots have been delivered to Harbour Refuge for families escaping domestic abuse. They were especially delighted with the children's "wellies".

Peter Dade, the superintendent of the Fishermen's Mission was pleased to accept the larger green and blue boots. These were handed over after the church service at Christ Church North Shields on August 15th. The service had been to celebrate 140 years of the mission supporting deep sea fishermen. As Peter said "I'm sure the fishermen will



appreciate them."

The asylum seekers and refugees from "Walking With" were given several boxes of wellingtons. The staff said they would be most welcome and were really pleased to receive them. They will be given out over the coming weeks as they are requested.

A very small selection of the wellington boots donated by Carr's Billington

Thank you Carr's Billington for supporting these worthy causes in such a useful and practical way.

Linda Benneworth



Supplying Fresh start backpacks for newly released prisoners.

May 2021

Rev Lorna Beadle is pictured with the four backpacks which her branch members at Holy Sepulchre, Ashington, kindly donated. They bought and filled the packs with items which will help the prisoners on their release. On the prisoners' behalf, I thank Lorna and her branch members for their generosity.

Linda Benneworth

CALENDAR

September

17th Trustees meet by Zoom 10 am

25th Virtual Annual Gathering 11am – 2.30 pm

October

8th Mothers' Union Council at Kingston Park, and by Zoom 7.00 pm

21st A&O and F&P meeting by Zoom 10 am

22nd Copy deadline for Winter Journal

23rd Diocesan Members' meeting at Church House or on Zoom 10 am

November

6th Service at Liverpool Cathedral 3.00 pm

21st White Ribbon service at St. Andrew, Newgate 11 am

25th – 10th Dec 16 Days of Activism against Gender violence

December

3rd Thanksgiving Service and Shoe Box Day 10 am – 12.30 pm

Congratulations to Sheila and Cecil Smith,



who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary in May. Sheila, a member of St Cuthbert's Blyth branch, was Diocesan Indoor Members Contact for over 10 years.