

## MOTHERS' UNION – NEWCASTLE DIOCESE

Annual Meeting of Council held in St John the Evangelist, Kingston Park, on Friday 4 April 2025.

Present: Margy Tasker-Brown (President); Anne Blight, Helen Cooper, Karoline Wellborne (Deanery Leaders); Linda Benneworth (Marketing), Julian Brown (Acting Treasurer), Sylvia Hickey (Diocesan Members)(Trustees); Sandra Davison (Secretary) Lesley Wright (Minutes Secretary) and 67 members. Apologies for absence had been received from a further sixteen members.

Margy welcomed everyone and invited the Chaplain Revd Anne Marr to lead the meeting in worship; Anne included prayers for the sick, thirteen deceased and those who had lost loved ones since the last meeting of Council. Three members attending Council for the first time introduced themselves.

**MINUTES** of the Annual Meeting held on 22 March 2024 were taken as read and confirmed. There were no matters arising.

**ANNUAL REPORT** Previously circulated

### FINANCIAL REPORT

Julian Brown reminded the meeting that he had agreed to act as Treasurer on a temporary basis in 2022 following the death of Dorothy Henderson; a replacement Treasurer was urgently needed.

Both reports were accepted and there was no further business.

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(Diocesan President)

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An Ordinary meeting of Diocesan Council followed immediately.

**MINUTES** of the Ordinary Meeting held on 11 October 2023 were taken as read and confirmed. There were no matters arising.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS** Margy stressed that there were many changes in this Triennium and our diocese now had the largest number of vacancies in the Province. She reminded branch leaders of the need to inform her of their activities so that MU Live could be kept up to date; this record of what was done, why and how, by whom, and the outcome, was the means by which trends could be shown and a way for Mary Sumner House to pick items of interest for "Connected". Margy would welcome invitations to visit branch meetings.

### REPORTS

The Reports having been circulated were taken as read.

Margy explained that in the absence of a leader Action and Outreach were being organised differently with the formation of a Projects Team. Anne Marr spoke on working in partnership with other bodies, especially the Cathedral and "Something Wonderful in Benwell" whose vicar had sent a grateful message for support of that project.

Karoline Wellborne on behalf of the Projects Team said that to lessen possible jealousies amongst recipients the team would be asking for cash rather than items for the gift bags for the People's Kitchen; a group would be assembled to purchase the contents and make up the bags. There needed to be similar forethought about provision for refugees and for Refugees. Branches providing emergency bags to several hospitals around the diocese were asked to notify Anne Cairns; a list of items to be included would be circulated.

Margy said that during this year our AFIA support would be given to ReNEw North East, a Christian charity which organised holidays for families in need; she invited John and Lena Stephenson from ReNEw to address the meeting.

John and Lena gave an illustrated and informative talk on the work of the charity which was warmly received by all present.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

Margy thanked Jennifer Snowdon who had agreed to act as Deanery Contact for Bedlington Deanery.

The closing date for copy for the Summer Journal was 28 April.

The kneelers would be blessed in the Cathedral at the midday Eucharist on 7 August.

There was no further business and the meeting ended with The Grace at 2.40 pm.

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(Diocesan President)

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(date)