



From our Diocesan President

Dear Friends,

We welcome our new World Wide President Kathleen Snow and those who have joined our WW Trustee Board for this Triennium: please pray for them. We are delighted that Sophie, Duchess of Edinburgh, has agreed to be our new patron. We are privileged to be members of MU whilst it celebrates 150 years of service to the whole world. This is no mean feat when we remember our founder's shy and timid nature. She overcame some very large hurdles using her faith and fellowship to inspire others to carry the baton. Prayer and Fellowship has always been the key to our success.



WWP Kathleen Snow (l) and Patron Duchess Sophie

There will be many changes for us during the next 3 years. As we no longer have Leaders for Action & Outreach and Faith & Policy we will be working in partnership with other charities to help with our families in need.

This year AFIA will be shared with ReNew, a small charity working to give residential holidays to families and young people. The Founders of ReNew will be speaking to us at our Spring Council meeting on April 4th.

We will be re-evaluating all our projects during the year to make sure they are the best use of our resources. We have a new Project Team who have made a start. We would like to expand this group to include all those who are interested. Please speak to your Branch Leaders, Deanery Leaders or any Trustees if you would like to join.

Remember we have moved on to **Join us, Join in** as our new theme.

MSH is holding a Leadership Conference at Liverpool Hope University 27th/28th June '25. This is designed to support future leaders and trustees. If anyone would like to join me at this event, please let me know ASAP.

Our kneelers for the Cathedral have been completed: thank you to those who have used their skills to achieve this. We look forward to dedicating them on August 7th at our Mary Summer Middy Prayers.

Thank you for your continued support. The lives we improve are testament to all our hard work. I look forward to seeing you at Spring Council.

With love, Margy

Hospital bags Some MU branches in Newcastle have begun to supply emergency hospital bags directly to the emergency departments at the RVI as well as to the chaplaincy. Here is their response:

"Many thanks for the 'brilliant' emergency toiletries bags – this is such a great service to our patients"



Right: the **People's Kitchen** Christmas party, where many of our backpacks full of gifts were distributed



Easter message from our Chaplain, Revd. Anne Marr

Easter tide reminds us of the expense of God's endeavour to enfold us in gifts of love and invite a response. The cross and empty grave shape the final chapter in the salvation story – a story of tragedy and triumph and one which endures to eternity. It is a love which does not count the cost. It is a love which will not let us go. As Christians and as MU members we are called to reflect God's love in prayer and action. May the joy of Easter warm you and radiate from you as we journey through this year.

Morning glory, starlit sky,
soaring music, scholar's truth,
leaves in springtime, swallows' flight,
memory's treasure, grace of youth....
Open are the gifts of God,
gifts of love to mind and sense,
Hidden is love's agony,
love's endeavour, love's expense.
W.H. Vanstone



RISE UP – for those branches working on the silver award level of Rise Up: a Mothers' Union bible study on Ruth is available. The chaplain is willing to engage with branches if invited.



On 17th November Ponteland Branch celebrated their 10th Anniversary. The picture shows President Margy, Branch Leader Lynne Henderson, and Revd Diana Macnaughton, retiring A&O coordinator



St. Gabriel's, Heaton hosted our Triennial Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving for the Newcastle Diocese Mothers' Union on 11th December

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Calendar

Fri 21st March at 10 a.m. Trustees meet

Friday 4th April at 1.30 p.m. Diocesan Council and AGM at St. John, Kingston Park. All welcome

Sat April 26th at 11 a.m. Diocesan Members Day, St Nicholas Church Hall Annex South Gosforth

Mon April 28th Deadline for Summer Journal—items to Barbara Packer, please

Fri May 16th 7p.m. First Internet Branch, Quiz Night St Nicholas Church Hall South Gosforth. All welcome.

Sat 7th June Trustees' meeting at 10.30 am & delivery of Journals
23rd – 24th June MU retreat at Shepherds Dene, led by Canon Clare Maclaren (details in Winter '24 journal)

M.U. midday Prayers at Cathedral every 1st Thursday: come and meet others and stay for lunch!

Do visit our website munewcastle.org.uk