

The Journal



Summer 2022

Commissioning Service, see page 4

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Charity number 249971

Diocese of Newcastle

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INTRODUCING TWO NEW OFFICERS**Diana Macnaughton
Action and Outreach co-ordinator**

It is a privilege to serve as your Action and Outreach co-ordinator, following in the inspiring footsteps of Linda Benneworth, like the page in Good King Wenceslas.

Thank you to all members for their help in this role, and especially to Margaret Crawforth, AFIA rep. for her hard work. I have been a Diocesan member since leaving St Cuthbert's, Amble, where Margaret Riches admitted my late husband and me to the Mother's Union at the start of the nineties.

I was born in London in 1954, and taken aged nine days old to the Sudan, where I grew up with my parents, and my younger sister, Oriel, until the outbreak of the civil war. I completed Secondary School in Germany, and studied at Oxford university, where I met my husband, who became a clergyman. We were blessed with three children, Alec, Margaret, and Christa, who are all committed through their Christian faith to serving others, as well as their own families.



After teaching, I was ordained in 1998, serving my title at All Saints, Gosforth, then working in the Willington Team in Wallsend, as Chaplaincy Team leader for the Northumbria Healthcare NHS Trust, and as vicar of St Silas, Byker. In retirement I live in Berwick upon Tweed.

I hope to visit all current Diocesan A & O projects, to keep up to date with their changing needs.

**Elizabeth Dean
Website manager**

I'm Elizabeth Dean - wife, mother and grandma, with an interest in technology!

I joined Mothers' Union in Wath-upon-Dearne, near Rotherham more than 25 years ago! We moved to Wath with a four- and a two-year-old, just as John & Barbara Packer left in 1986 and the new incumbent, Michael Wright's wife Gwen asked me to join Mothers' Union. "I'm sorry I'm too young" was my reply! However I did join a couple of years later. We lived in Wath for almost 30 years and then moved to near Doncaster to be near my daughter who has three young boys. In the meantime my son, also with two young boys, moved to Scotland, near Inverness, and visiting him was a long journey, so we all decided to move nearer! So in 2021 we moved to Alnwick. As you can tell family is very important to me!



I am still a Trustee for Sheffield MU and run their website and Facebook page and am 'right hand man' to the President, my longstanding friend Gill!

We are loving living in Northumberland, with the vast expanse of beach on which to exercise our two Cockerpoos with our grandsons.

I have always enjoyed technology and enjoy new challenges (Google helps!), so I am enjoying the challenge of working with Newcastle MU and the website!



From the Diocesan President

Dear Friends,

I am often asked what the Mothers' Union does, so at the moment I am using these words as my answer

- Strengthen communities all over the World.
- Help the most disadvantaged at home.
- Shape how we advocate for the rights of families.
- Build supportive, loving relationships.
- Develop our own relationship with God.

When engaging with our theme, **'Transformation Now!**', if we keep these in mind I feel sure our founder Mary Sumner can only feel pride in what we achieve.

Talking of pride, can I say how very proud I am of those seven prayers in the Platinum Prayer Book that have been written by Newcastle Diocese members. This prayer book marks Queen Elizabeth's Jubilee. Throughout these 70 years Her Majesty has been Patron of Mothers' Union. We thank her for her example and inspiration and are grateful for her support. She invited us to plant trees to celebrate her Jubilee and that is exactly what we will do. Later this summer we will, with the help of Howick Gardens, purchase and plant a tree. They will then tend and nurture it. We can watch our tree grow whilst visiting this splendid arboretum, knowing it will be cared for by experts.

During these extraordinary and troubling times I often

**2022 Theme:
Transformation - Now!**

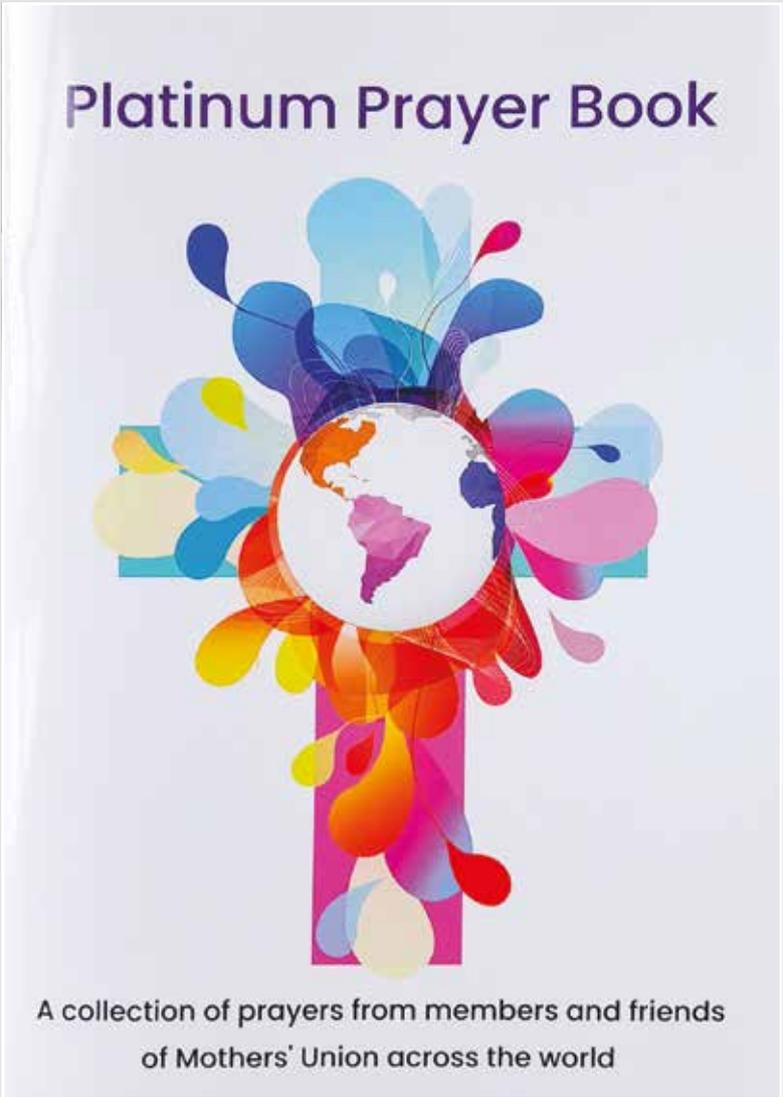
think how lucky I am. I live in a glorious part of the world. I see it changing through the different seasons and it is never boring or dull. I am able to make choices and speak freely, to discuss and debate issues I feel strongly about. I am

surrounded by some wonderful, like-minded people who give of their time and energy to help others. I am a member of an amazing charity who by paying a subscription can make such a difference to other

less fortunate people's lives. So far this year we have helped Ukraine, refugees, schools, hospitals, refuges, homeless and A.F.I.A. Like many other charities we are stretched but we will continue with your help.

Wherever I go I bring MU into the conversation, even in clothes shops! Older people say they have heard of us or they used to know of a branch somewhere, or have seen a banner. The middle aged have never heard of us. Let's not keep MU quiet. Yes, we are a small charity, but we are global and the difference we can make is very humbling. We have the best Patron who is respected throughout the World. Thank you for being willing to be part of this remarkable movement and use your skills to enable **Transformation Now.**

Margy



Mothers' Union Commissioning Service held on Saturday 19th February 2022

AFTER days of storms which caused so much chaos around the country, a clear bright still morning greeted members and their families as they made their way to Newcastle Cathedral.

The "new look" interior seemed spacious, light and airy yet warm and inviting. New technology did not seem out of place next to much older architecture. The splendid colours of the stained glass windows were greatly enhanced by the discrete modern lighting. Around the Nave a display of wedding dresses of the past 100 years seemed rather poignant, in a way that reflected one of the objectives of Mothers' Union, the promotion of marriage.

After the entry of the procession during which the hymn, Guide me O thou great Redeemer was sung, The Welcome was given to all by Canon Clare MacLaren, and what a welcome! Members were so happy to meet up again in this magnificent building after the last couple of years of uncertainty. Bishop John Packer led The Bidding giving his thanks and his blessing for the work of Mothers' Union in this Diocese. Our Choir led by Mrs Lesley Wright were in splendid voice as their dulcet tones resounded around the building, accompanied by the crystal clear



organ played by Mr Ian Roberts. Not to be outdone, the congregation were also in fine voice and spirit.

Following the reading by Canon Clare, Bishop John Packer's sermon reflected that in the face of injustice our faith may lead us to take risks, to find the truth and to break down the barriers, and to challenge conventions and laws for the sake of those in need. Mothers' Union work across the world has continued to raise the needs of young people and the vulnerable and to restore the relationships that may have been damaged during the pandemic due to isolation and fear. Within our own Diocese, Mothers' Union has used

its imagination to continue to meet, members joining together by Zoom and the setting up of an Internet Branch, to maintain our worldwide fellowship united in prayer. In closing, Bishop John reflected that the most sustained changes start at home, as upholding our five objectives we continue to look to the future within the love of Christ.

The Revd Anne Marr presented the new officers to Bishop John: Margy Tasker-Brown as the new President, and Vice Presidents Anne Cairns (Lindisfarne Archdeaconry) and Anne Blight (Northumberland Archdeaconry). They were admitted



Our Chaplain reads the lesson



to office which they accepted, and the members pledged their support and encouragement. The Trustees, Chaplain, Secretary and Treasurer also came forward for commissioning. Members again pledged their loyal support and encouragement.

The Holy Eucharist Service continued and communion was offered to the congregation. After The Blessing the procession departed to the joyous singing of the Recessional Hymn Tell out my Soul. Congratulations were given and were sincerely received by the new officers. We give them our support, trust and prayers for the future.

Anne & Malcolm Cairns



Diocesan Council Meeting



Tea, served by Vice President Anne Blight

One highlight of the afternoon was the excellent demonstration of the recently updated MU website and its Facebook links by Elizabeth Dean and Anne Blight. Elizabeth talked of the advantages of the new technology but reminded members of the importance of getting permission to use photos. Elizabeth showed just how easy it is to access information and to upload posts from branches. **Please do send Elizabeth your news and pictures, using the contact details on page 2.**

FORTY-SIX people attended the afternoon meeting on Friday 8th April at St John's Church, Kingston Park; everyone seemed delighted to be back to meet and chat face to face. Revd Anne Marr led the opening worship in which she praised the generosity of spirit of MU members.

President Margy Tasker-Brown welcomed us all and then Anne commissioned six project leaders.

Following the business of the meeting, Margy welcomed four members who were attending for the first time. Attendees had already been given access to the unit reports but there was time for questions. Firstly, Julian Brown discussed the problems he has faced concerning membership and tributes, and stressed how important it was for replies from branches to be sent in promptly.

Diana Macnaughton for Action and Outreach praised the crafting abilities of members and highlighted the progress made in projects. She ended by thanking Margaret Crawfordth for her continuing work arranging holidays and Awaydays.

Jackie Moore talked of the inspirational happenings in Faith and Policy, including the special midday prayers on the first Thursday in August for Mary Sumner day and the link in December to the 16 days of activism against gender violence. She was delighted to tell members of the forthcoming intergenerational family day at Kirkley Hall and hoped more volunteers would join the thriving prayer writing group.

Revd Anne Marr said closing prayers and the meeting ended with the saying of the Grace. It was so good to have the opportunity to share fellowship and exchange views even after the end of the meeting. Perhaps after the meeting too, members will try out the new technology and keep up to date with all the news for Newcastle diocese and from MU dioceses all over the world.

Linda Benneworth



Six Project Leaders are commissioned

Trees, Bees and Grandchildren



ON the third day God created trees and vegetation of every kind. And 'God saw that it was good'. On the fifth day, bees were amongst the winged creatures God brought forth. And God saw that the balance of nature was good. On the sixth day he made two people in his image and commissioned them to safeguard the earth. Grandchildren took a few more years...and God saw the partnership was good. Which is why my passions include TREES, BEES AND GRANDCHILDREN.

Summer is the season when they all come out to play. Bees are as busy as bees can be – hives buzz, honey overflows and we are assured of wax for our Easter and Christmas candles. Tree sap is rising, leaves unfurl in vibrant greens and the Chestnut trees display their own version of 'Candles', destined to delight children in the autumn when the conkers rain down.

'The Bee Garden' is a well-known painting, featuring a thatched cottage, trees and bee-hives. The artist, famous in the Arts and Crafts movement, was Mary Sumner's son, George Heywood Sumner. He designed and built his own ideal

family house and garden in which Mary's grandchildren grew up.

Without trees and bees in our gardens and landscapes there would be no grandchildren. The loss of so many trees in recent storms has awakened us to the urgent need to replace them and to restore ancient and lost woodlands across the world, where civilisation has cleared vast areas for 'development'.

Our grandchildren will inherit the planet as we leave it. Their generation are now leading us in environmental awareness. 'Transformation – NOW!' may be calling us back to God's first command to be 'gardeners' of the environment. Amidst the social and political turmoil across the world and in our Patron's Platinum Jubilee Year, one thing we can do is to help safeguard God's creation for families of the future by planting trees, bee-friendly borders and seeds of hope.

MU Newcastle will be planting a tree later this year in Howick Hall Arboretum, described as 'A United Nations of Trees and Shrubs'. We will be able to take our grandchildren to visit Howick Hall, one-time home of Earl Grey, to see the tree and enjoy a cup of Earl Grey tea (or juice) in the famous tea-room.



So, let's raise a cup of tea at our MU meetings to 'Trees, Bees and Grandchildren', and thank God for them.

Anne M (Chaplain)

Prayer

Prayer is at the centre of all Mothers' Union work. At the membership service all new members promise to continue to plan their life to include prayer and Bible reading and worship in church. Each day at midday, Mothers' Union members all over the world pause to pray. We approach God with confidence. Knowing that He hears us and values our prayers.



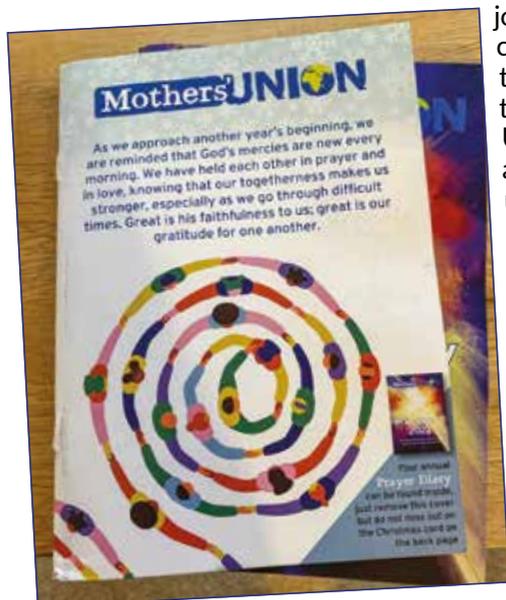
All members receive a prayer diary with daily prayers. This year it also includes a monthly theme and reflections. These prayers are written by members around the world, and a small group from Newcastle write and contribute prayers for this publication. If you would like to contribute prayers, please contact Jackie Moore.

Throughout the year members pray daily for other members in every diocese throughout the world. By joining and sustaining this Wave of Prayer we pray for others, but know that we, too, are being prayed for. Mothers' Union have live midday prayers daily on Facebook.

Mothers' Union have had links with Newcastle Cathedral since it started in this diocese. Over many years, groups of members from all the deaneries in the diocese have joined together on the first Thursday of each month to help with dusting the pews and sweeping the floors. This group became affectionately known as the 'Holy Dusters'. The group always stopped and joined together for midday prayers. The 'Holy Dusters' stopped 3 years ago but midday prayers continue.

All members and friends are invited to come along and join us on the first Thursday monthly, 12.00 at the cathedral, for midday prayers – a time of unity, fellowship and prayer for our members and the work that we do for Mothers' Union.

The Cathedral Eucharist follows midday prayers at 12.30 and some choose to stay and join this service. At this service the work of Mothers' Union is prayed for in the prayers of intercession. Our chaplain Anne Marr has



joined the team of clergy who lead the service and at times the Mothers' Union vestments and chalices will be used.

The Cathedral café is also open and meeting before the service for coffee or after for lunch is always popular.

*Jackie Moore,
Faith & Policy Co-ordinator*



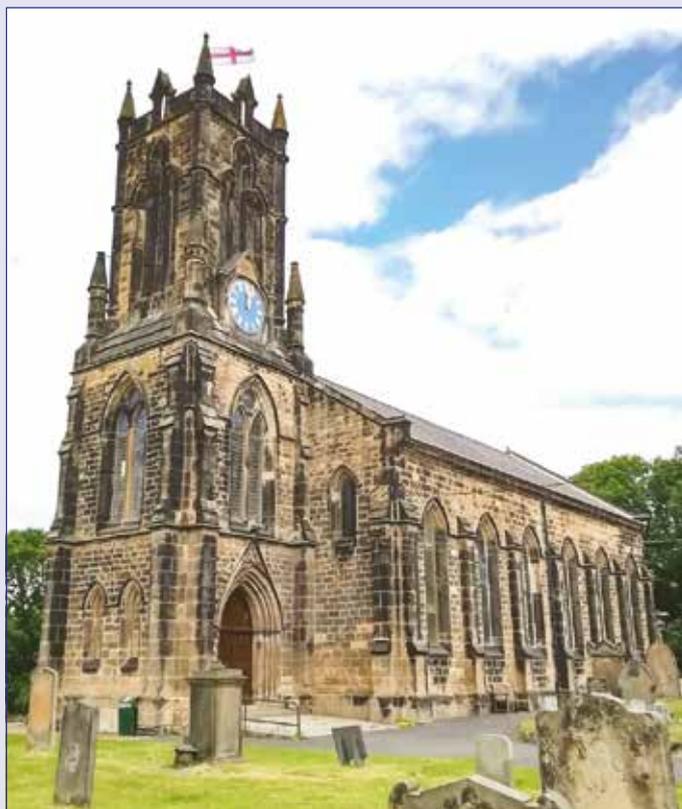
Thy Kingdom Come: Global Moment Mothers' Union Online Service 2022

The period between Ascension Day and Pentecost (May 24th – June 6th) is designated each year as a time of prayer for the coming of God's kingdom.

Christians all over the world join in a global wave of prayer, asking for more people to experience the love of Christ. This year Mothers' Union celebrated this in an online service, first shown on 27th May, but still available online, on Facebook and YouTube, and through the central Mothers' Union website.

The service was led by the Right Revd John Packer, Assistant Bishop of Newcastle (and Barbara's husband!), in his role as Mothers' Union Chaplain for the York Province. He recorded his contribution in St Alban's Church, Earsdon (pictured), and there are contributions from all over the world. The service also includes stories of transformation, fitting our theme for this year 'Transformation Now'.

Do take time to access this service, if you are able!



SAFEGUARDING AND YOU



RECOGNISE - RESPOND - RECORD - REFER

To assist you with this, Mothers' Union produced a small trifold card which was included in the Autumn edition of "Connected".

It is recommended that at least one member from every branch completes Safeguarding training, but we would be pleased if many more did this.

- **Safeguarding Basic Awareness**, which does exactly what it says, it gives basic awareness of the issues involved.
- **Safeguarding Foundations** which gives more detailed advice.
- **Raising Awareness of Domestic Abuse**

This training needs to be refreshed every three years.

Safeguarding training is available on-line: <https://safeguardingtraining.cofeportal.org>

If you find it difficult to access on-line training, please contact me, there may be provision of face to face training but this will be limited.

If you have any questions about Safeguarding, I can be contacted by phone or email, details below.

Sheila



Sheila Walker
sm59walker@gmail.com
Tel: 01434 322369
MU Diocesan
Safeguarding Contact

It may be an overused phrase "Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility", but it is very true.

Many people are not sure what Safeguarding means

- Some think it is very complicated, they don't understand the term and they shy away from it.
- Others think that nothing untoward has ever happened in Mothers' Union, nor is it likely to, **so they need not worry.**

Please think again, Safeguarding is about promoting a safe environment and culture. Protecting and caring for children, young people, and vulnerable adults, including ourselves.

It is important to **BE AWARE**

- Have you ever felt that something is not quite right, either because of something you have seen or have been told?
- Has someone said they feel uncomfortable with the inappropriate behaviour of a relative or carer?
- Has someone not attended meetings or Church and not been in the usual contact?

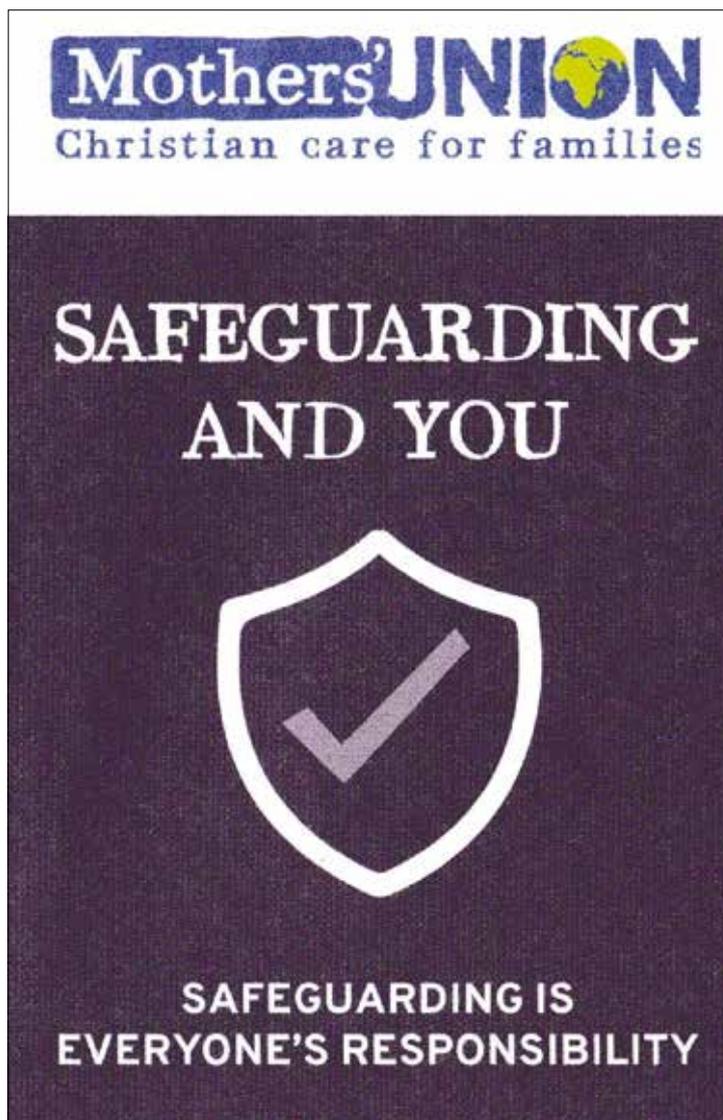
Perhaps you would like to visit that person in their home, it is good practice to follow some basic visiting guidelines to keep yourself and the person you are visiting safe.

- Visit in pairs, if possible
- Leave a note with the date to say that you have visited.
- If you are offered money as a donation to Mothers' Union funds,

Diocese of Newcastle

leave a note saying how much you have been given and what it is for - make sure it is recorded by the branch and a receipt is given. Never put the money in your purse, take an envelope, just in case.

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please pass them on to your Parish Safeguarding Officer and the MU Safeguarding contact. Record the facts that you have observed or been told.



DIOCESAN MEMBERS' MEETING

I'VE never been a Branch member. When I joined Mothers' Union in 1987 I was working in the Cathedral which had a thriving branch, but living in the parish of St Columba Wideopen which also had a thriving branch, and I couldn't decide which branch to give my loyalty to. But when I discovered that I could be a Deanery Member I quickly signed up as a member of Central Deanery and have valued my MU membership ever since. Deanery members soon became Diocesan members instead, and over the years I've attended quite a lot of Diocesan Members' meetings. I can say with confidence that last Saturday's meeting was definitely one of the best ones.

It wasn't just the speaker, though Liesbeth Langford was the ideal person to speak to us, given the awful situation in Eastern Europe at present; it wasn't the venue, though St Nicholas Gosforth is far easier for me to get to than Church House; it wasn't the excellent lunch provided for us, though a lot of us went back for seconds. It was a combination of all of those things, together with the warmth of the welcome given to us by our new 'Leader', the sincerity of the prayers led by our Chaplain Anne Marr, the smiling faces all round us,

the opportunity to feel part of the organisation in a way that hasn't always been the case in the past.

I'm sure I speak for everyone who was there when I say a huge thank you to Bill Hickey and Karoline Wellbourne for beavering away in the background, to Margy for her enthusiasm, to Liesbeth for her truly excellent talk, to Anne M for the lovely prayer cards she distributed, and above all to Sylvia Hickey for working so hard to make it a special gathering for us all.

Lesley Wright

Sylvia Hickey, Diocesan Members' Co-ordinator, adds:

Liesbeth Langford, our speaker, is herself a Diocesan Member. She spoke about her childhood, growing up in Holland under German occupation, which is the subject of her book 'Written by Candlelight'. So much of what she described was relevant to what the people of Ukraine are struggling with right now, little or no food, no heating or electricity, and living in constant fear. As we sat listening, with the sun pouring through the window, and with the prospect of a good lunch, her talk was most poignant.



Our next meeting will also be at St Nicholas, South Gosforth (next to South Gosforth Metro), on Saturday 22nd October at 10.30 for 11am, and Bill and I will make lunch again. We are not having a speaker then, as the M.U. Choir is preparing a programme of music to entertain us.

I think of Diocesan Members as a large and somewhat dispersed branch, but one that could be a real and positive part of our M.U. organisation. Help me to make it happen!



Newcastle Diocesan M.U. Choir

I AM very happy to report that our M.U. choir has reconvened after a long absence caused by the pandemic. They came together again under new leadership after Sarah Scott had to withdraw due to increased work commitments. Lesley Wright, previously the assistant choir leader, stepped in to fill the void left by Sarah's retirement. It was lovely to hear and see them again at the Commissioning Service at the Cathedral in February.

It is hoped that the choir can perhaps meet and perform more often now – they love to sing together and are keen to increase their repertoire. Sadly one or two members were not able to re-join due to personal circumstances: we miss them and thank them for their previous input.

Our thanks also to Sarah for all the work and effort she put in during her time with the choir. Remember, our choir is open to anyone (M.U. member or not). Come and sing with us, it is fun and it's good for your health! *Sylvia Hickey*

A visit to Inflatanation – inflatable activity space

On Wednesday 22nd December a group from one of our refuges enjoyed an Awayday at 'Inflatanation'. One of their leaders wrote this article.

Seven families attended – 18 children with six mums and Claire Jewson. The Refuge funded taxis to collect and take everyone home, and Mothers' Union funded our trip.

Feedback from those who attended was:

The activity made all of the children feel happy.

They loved the ball pools and the big slides the best.

"I loved throwing the snowballs and balls at Claire"

"It was good when we tried to bury ourselves in the ball pools"

"The slides were big, it was really good"

"We don't ever get to do this!"

Everyone engaged well including a seven-month old.

New mums got a chance to speak to each other and said they were glad to come along.

Mum: "I think having these events means you meet other people, it's good"

Teenager: "I have loved it. I am now worn out"

Mum: "the girls like it here (at the refuge) as they don't have to walk on eggshells – we wouldn't be able to do anything like this at home"

Mums who had been in the refuge a while chatted to mums who had just moved in, gave advice and provided support. This was really nice to see.

A big thanks to Mothers' Union

New families met each other and kids made new friends. This was a lovely activity for getting to know each



other and letting off lots of Christmas excitement.

A return visit!

The first Away Day of 2022 was also a trip to 'Inflatanation' on Friday 22nd April, when 19 children and five adults went, with our AFIA rep, Margaret Crawforth. They absolutely loved it!

Christmas gifts for the Northumberland Refuge

St Cuthbert's, Blyth Branch gave bags full of gifts to families at the Northumberland Women's Refuge.

Each bag contained a dressing gown and slippers for each lady, toiletries, gifts for each child



(chosen by the age and gender given me), selection boxes, mince pies, and much more. The pictures show some the members packing the bags, early in December, and the bags ready to go.

Jennifer Snowdon, Branch Leader



Help for Ukraine

MU members contributed to local collections for Ukraine and for Ukrainian refugees.

They were advised of the nearest collection point from which a van was driven to Poland for the relief of refugees, or to the Ukrainian border from Britain. MU Action and Outreach attempted to help branch leaders source local collection points within the first week of the conflict.

Other members gave financially through one of the major charities. All such donations are needed and welcomed.

Diana Macnaughton, A&O Coordinator



Easter Gifts for children in the Refuge

The First Internet Branch provided 30 Easter Eggs one for each child in the Refuge at Easter.

The employer of one branch member also donated two age related Easter story books for every family in in the sixteen units that make up the Refuge. All these gifts were delivered in Holy Week.

Sylvia Hickey, Branch Leader

AROUND THE DIOCESE

Three generations in one Branch



Our Parish of Delaval Mothers' Union has resumed with an enthusiastic approach to endorse this year's Transformation theme.

I was commissioned as Branch Leader in February and, in addition, three new members have joined. Our new members bring youth to our group (the youngest, Charlotte is only 21) so we can now reflect on learning from the past and living in the present, and look to bring new shoots of life for our future, growth.

During the Jubilee Summer Of Hope our Church Mothers' Union will provide afternoon tea for fifty to end our Community Celebrations.

Vivienne Scott, Branch Leader



Delaval M.U., three generations - Vivienne with daughter Andrea and granddaughter Charlotte

Enrolments at Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

On Lady Day, Holy Saviour Tynemouth celebrated with a lovely Eucharist led by our vicar Steve Dixon. During the service four new members (listed on the back page) were enrolled into Mothers' Union and we rounded off the morning with a delicious fish and chip lunch.

Liz Parr (Branch Leader)



Lady Day at Ponteland

St Mary's, Ponteland welcomed West Deanery MU to a Lady Day service. Our Chaplain, the Revd Anne Marr led the service, and the curate, Revd Rosemary Harrison celebrated the Eucharist using Mothers' Union robes and vessels. Our Chaplain enrolled Rosemary as a Mothers' Union member. *From left to right: President Marge, Curate Rosemary, MU Chaplain Anne, Branch Leader Lynne Henderson, and Vice-President Anne Blight*



Angela Baker, enrolled to Seaton Hirst Branch by Joan Howard, Morpeth Deanery Leader



Amble's response to 'No more 1 in 3'

We were asked to submit details of how the branch participated in tackling women's safety issues during the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. Our branch, Amble, had a stall in church for the week and at the Christmas fair in the church hall at the end of the week. One member made purple scarves for all those involved and two members manned the stall during the fair. I hope by this small act we raised awareness of this issue and showed how we as MU play our part in combating this shameful treatment of women and girls. Best wishes.

Elizabeth Swales

Special invitation



I was invited by the Lord Lieutenant the Duchess of Northumberland to attend the County Service of Commemoration and Reflection to mark the Pandemic at Hexham Abbey on the 7th April. Cramlington Hospital put my name forward for the Emergency Bags that Sheila Walker and I put together in the name of the Mothers' Union.

A piper played whilst we all assembled. The service was conducted by the Bishop of Berwick and the choir sung beautifully. The Duchess read the reading.

It was a lovely service and I feel honoured to have been chosen – something I will always remember.

Edna Maddison



St Cuthbert's Blyth MU rose bush planted in memory of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

Anne Cairns presents long service awards at Wylam MU

Certificates were awarded to four members of St Oswin, Wylam on 7th April (from left to right):

Karen Webster (30 years); curate Revd Lynne Dean; Vice President Anne Cairns; Janet Baillie (50 years); Christa Harrison (57 years); Pam Douglas (30 years) – giving the grand total of 167 years.

Karen Webster





What's been happening in Upper Coquetdale?

We started meeting again, slightly hesitantly, just before Christmas in the Church as it is ventilated and gives us plenty of room to Socially distance.

With our branch leader becoming Diocesan President, Alison Ball has taken over as Branch Leader. She has been an MU member in Essex before moving to Northumberland in 2019. With a teaching background she revamped the notice board so it could be taken out to events e.g. a Christmas Sale in Thropton Village. We also participated in a Climate change day in Rothbury.

More recently we celebrated one of our members reaching 65 years as a member! Helen Tarren joined the



Mother's Union in March 1957.

Helen is shown here with the Easter window hangings we made at our March meeting. This was

our first meeting back in the Parish rooms – though we have moved to the larger room so there is more space.

Alison showed us how to make a window hanging and Liz Cummings, our secretary, challenged us with a cross that she had cut up and we had to put back together. It gave us all a chance to chat and catch up with each other after so long when we have not been able to meet in person.



Mothering Sunday Flowers Wallsend MU

Branch contact Christine Hall and Branch member Doreen Jackson make up posies of flowers to be given to mothers and carers on Mothering Sunday. The photographer was Margaret Crawforth.

MOTHERS' UNION IN A RURAL AREA

THE Norham Group branch was formed after two newcomers to the area were introduced to each other in May 2000, by the then Bishop, who noticed that each was wearing an MU badge. One attended Branxton Church and the other Cornhill Church. They decided to try to form a new branch in their Norham Deanery. After much work the new branch convened in November 2000 when a number of ladies were invited to meet in Branxton Village Hall. It was agreed that meetings would be held on the second Monday of each month at 2pm. and the branch would be called 'The Norham Group' to encompass the surrounding area of churches.

The official opening service was held in St Cuthbert's Church, Norham on Lady Day, 26th March, 2001, in the presence of the then Diocesan President, Helen Brunton.

In 2003 the branch, which lies beside the English-Scottish border, began 'Crossing Borders' into Scotland to regularly donate gifts to their local hospital, The Borders General in Melrose, Scotland. These gifts of emergency toiletries in bags for the Admittance Ward (bought with money from branch fundraising events); knitted teddy bears for the Children's Ward and knitted baby clothes for the Special Care Baby Unit, including Premature Babies, are greatly appreciated.

In May 2003 we were honoured that the then Worldwide President, Trish Haywood, came to the branch to celebrate with us when a new Branch Leader was commissioned at St Cuthbert's Church, Norham.

This photo is of the recent Lady Day Service held there, when Anne Cairns, our new Diocesan Vice President, visited us. She gave a badge and Membership Card to our new member, Jane Easton, whom she admitted. The photo shows Jane (centre) with Judith (left) and Anne (right).



Our new curate, Mothers' Union member the Revd Margaret Sentamu, was also present.

It reminds us of the photo taken at our Lady Day and official opening service 21 years ago. Who knows what can be achieved when we wear our MU badges!

Judith Knight (Branch Leader, The Norham Group)

Congratulations to Linda and Chris Benneworth on their Golden Wedding



CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022

JUNE

10th Trustees meet on Zoom 10am
20th-21st
Retreat at Shepherd's Dene

AUGUST

9th Mary Summer Day - local events
31st Closing date for items for
September Newsletter -
copy to Barbara Packer, please

SEPTEMBER

16th Trustees meet at Church House
10 for 10.30am
22nd-25th
Trip to Belfast for Annual
Gathering and Service

OCTOBER

14th Diocesan Council at St John's,
Kingston Park at 6.30pm

Every 1st Thursday of month, in the
Cathedral: Midday Prayers, followed
by Holy Communion in the
St George's Chapel at 12.30pm,
with a Mothers' Union focus.

22nd Diocesan Members' Meeting
at St Nicholas, Gosforth, with
entertainment by Mothers'
Union Choir 10 for 10.30am

DECEMBER

2nd Shoe Box Day and collection of
Winter Journals

BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES • DEATHS •

BIRTHDAYS

40th Kelly Roberts

St Alban's, Earsdon

80th June Norton

Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Dorothy Steward

Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Anna Roxburgh

Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Kathleen Charnock

Seaton Hirst

Brenda Cox

Holy Nativity, Chapel House

Brenda Ross

St Alban's, Earsdon

Margaret Crawfordth

St Luke, Wallsend,
AFIA organiser

90th Alison Hudspith

Earsdon

Mary Watson

Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

GOLDEN WEDDING

Dorothy & Brian Steward

Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Linda & Chris Benneworth

Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Barbara & John Packer

St Peter, Monkseaton

Anne & John Harker

Amble

Jen and Brian McNally

St George, Cullercoats

DIAMOND WEDDINGS

Dave and Betty Gray

Amble (*sadly, Dave has since died*)

DEATHS

Anne Otter

St Mary, Monkseaton

Audrey Beckham

St Mary, Monkseaton

Lilian Kirby

Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Rachel Mennim

Holy Nativity, Chapel House

Helen Bishop

Alnmouth & Lesbury

Pat Rayne

St Paul, Seaton Sluice -
former Branch Leader

Doreen Goodfellow

St Alban's, Earsdon

Joy Stocks

Amble

Carol Gregor

Amble

Elizabeth (Betty) Carr

(aged 104) formerly of
Humshaugh Branch

Muriel Knox

Chevington

Rev'd Dorothy Weetman

Indoor Member, Ovingham Branch

Dawn Stephenson

Seaton Hirst

Selina (Lena) McCready

Holy Cross Fenham

Irene Stafford

Mothers' Union in Newcastle Diocese is a charity formed to serve families either in a family group or as individuals and walk with them by support through challenging times in their lives.

The charity is 100% volunteer led, all monies raised go into the many projects Mothers' Union develop and deliver. If you would like to contribute to the work that Mothers Union is active in both in Newcastle Diocese and Worldwide you can contribute to our Virgin Giving site:
www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1008779

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members, including:

HEXHAM ABBEY

Louise Weaver

Vivien Drydon

Marjorie Worrall

Gail Logan Chapman

Valerie Awdry

Pauline McCabe

NORHAM

Jane Easton

PONTELAND

Revd Rosemary Harrison

SEATON HIRST

Angela Baker

Caroline Waddell

HOLY SAVIOUR, TYNEMOUTH

Valerie Anderson

Judith Clark

Wyn Portway

Revd, Malcolm Railton

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Newcastle

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