

The Journal



Winter 2024

Something wonderful
in Benwell: see page 4

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Charity number 249971

Diocese of Newcastle

RETREAT AT SHEPHERDS DENE

MONDAY 23rd – TUESDAY 24th JUNE 2025

Our retreat gives us the opportunity to enjoy the beautiful surroundings at Shepherds Dene, with time for fellowship and fun as well as times of silence and reflection.

Our leader will be the **Reverend Canon Clare Maclaren**, Canon Provost of Sunderland Minster. Her theme is **'Women Bridging the Gap'** – biblical models for a time of change ...' Clare says 'Let's gather together and meet some of the wise, intelligent and courageous women of the Bible who stepped up in times of crisis and changed the course of history! Some, you will have heard of. Others may, perhaps, be new to you. What can we learn from them for the changing times in which WE live?'

DETAILS

The residential cost will be £160. The daily cost will be £46, with an additional cost of £32 for the evening meal on the first day.

For further information please contact Jackie Moore, whose contact details are alongside. Please complete the booking form and return to Jackie (at 30 Cotswold Gardens, Newcastle upon Tyne NE7 7AE) with a £20 deposit for residential or £10 for each individual day (cheques made payable to 'Mothers' Union, Newcastle Diocese').

BOOKING FORM

Name Branch

Address

Telephone no. Mobile no.

Email

Dietary requirements

I require transport / do not require transport

An ensuite room is essential / not essential

I am non-residential and shall attend on
Monday / Tuesday / both days

I will / will not stay for the evening meal on Monday



Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Newcastle

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President's Letter



Dear Friends,

As this triennium ends and we look forward to the next, let me thank you for the huge difference you make to people's lives.

I know I can't quantify our use of prayer, which is our cornerstone, but I know that people I meet are so very glad that we pray for them.

The lives Newcastle MU touches are significant and into thousands. Our recipients encompass a large and diverse section of our communities: they include those in hospitals, refuges, care homes and prison, as well as the homeless, mothers and babies and refugees. Then there are overseas projects such as the literacy campaign; the list goes on. We stand with 4 million others across the world helping others to better lives.

The theme for the next three years is **'Join us, Join in'**. So the focus will be on how to encourage others to join us. I hope that during the first half of 2025 our restructuring will begin.

When I meet with other leaders of the Province of York I am immensely proud to represent Newcastle. We never stand alone.

So it is upwards and onwards to a brighter future continuing to do work that is essential to help those whose family life has met with adversity.

With love, *Margy*

Don't forget to come and pray for our new leadership team at the Commissioning Service at the Cathedral at 11am on 25th January!

A celebratory Eucharist in Blackburn Cathedral

On 2nd November members converged from every Diocese in the north of England to celebrate the work of Mothers' Union during the last three years.

They brought with them their Diocesan M.U. banners, so the service started with a procession of these 12 banners, led by the Provincial banner, which our secretary Sandra Davison was privileged to carry – as we sang the lovely hymn 'Lord, for the years your love has kept and guided... Lord of the years, we bring our thanks today.'

The service was led by the Right Revd Philip North, Bishop of Blackburn, who also preached the sermon. This was based on the Gospel reading of the familiar story of Martha and Mary from Luke chapter 10,

with Martha's heartfelt plea to Jesus 'Lord, tell Mary to help me' and Jesus' reply 'Mary has chosen the better part', which appears to value prayer and listening over service. However, the Bishop pointed out that this reading is like the filling in a sandwich, preceded as it is by the parable of the Good Samaritan, with its emphasis on serving our neighbour, and followed by teaching on the Lord's Prayer, with its emphasis on perseverance

in prayer. Balance matters! Both prayer and service are essential. It was a striking image!

He related this to our MU 'sandwich': on one side we have our very varied acts of service, both to the needy in our Dioceses (for instance through our work with women in refuges),



and overseas (for instance, through the Literacy Project). On the other side is our essential dependence on prayer. We are in the middle. Our 'sandwich' needs to be balanced – neither half makes sense without the other.

It was a joy to meet members from so many dioceses, and to hear their stories. We took the opportunity to say farewell to our Provincial

President June Houghton and Zonal Trustee Catherine Hilton, and to thank them for their leadership over six years – and to welcome their successors Christine Sharp and Deb Lee, as we look to the future.

*Barbara Packer,
photos by Anne Blight*





‘Something wonderful in Benwell’

THIS year the title of our Diocesan Festival was ‘Mothers’ Union does Something Wonderful in Benwell’. This referred not only to our wonderful day together at St James’, Benwell, but to the amazing work done by Church members there, including our Mothers’ Union members, to strengthen the community, in a project called ‘Something wonderful’. The Team Vicar, Chris Minchin, introduced the project to us, explaining its purpose in showing love and inclusivity to the whole community.

Benwell is an area rich in history and in cultural diversity, but with considerable areas of deprivation. All services in Church (including ours) appear on the screen in both English and Farsi. Every week there are sessions in church such as ‘West End writes’ (creative writing), Art Club, Pathways out of Hunger, and many more. The St James Heritage group also meets regularly to tend the graveyard, which contains the graves of many who were influential in the development of Newcastle, as well as 17 Commonwealth War Graves. During our day together many of us took part in a ‘graveyard tour’, which included the graves of Richard Grainger (of Grainger Market fame) and of Bishop Arthur Lloyd, Bishop of Newcastle from 1903 until his death in 1907.

The Festival

With the encouragement of the poster, and with excellent directions for cars and public transport, about 150 members arrived expectantly at St James’ Church. We were joined by our President, Margy, our Provincial President, June Houghton, and by Bishop Helen-Ann, the president and preacher at our service.

The Victorian church was filled with fairy lights, artwork and flowers, as well as pictures of the activities that normally take place in church (see the front cover for more pictures). We spent the late morning visiting the rich array of stalls, as well as having time to sit and catch up with friends from across the Diocese. Soon we were able to enjoy the ‘pay as you can’ barbecue lunch made by the Benwell team. Then it was time for Bishop Helen-Ann to draw the raffle, with a huge number of prizes.

The Service of Eucharist at 2 p.m. was led by Bishop Helen-Ann, with our Chaplain, the Rev’d Anne Marr and Benwell Team Vicar, the Rev’d Chris Minchin. The very vibrant Benwell band led our music, with our Mothers’ Union choir also taking part. The effect was joyful and lively.

The Gospel referred to us as **the salt and light of the world**. It follows on from the Beatitudes, which show what this means in practice.

In her **sermon** Bishop Helen-Ann pointed out that salt and light are not noticeable of themselves but are very noticeable by their absence. They enhance our experience of the world, and our safety in it (as she showed us by a recollection of caving with year 10 children, when the lights were suddenly turned off!). How can M.U. continue to be salt and light? The Bishop referred to our Summer Journal, which showed many examples of the ways in which we do this, including hospital toiletry bags, Away from it All holidays and help for the Refuges.

A huge ‘Thank you’ to Branch Leader Leahan Garratt and all her team for their imaginative and diligent work, which made such an enjoyable and informative day for us all.

*Barbara Packer
Pictures by the Benwell Mothers’ Union team*



Bishop and clergy



Kitchen crew



The music group

Shepherds Dene Retreat June 2024: Hope in a Hot Climate

EVERY MU retreat I've ever attended has given me fresh challenges, spiritual refreshment, bodily nourishment, and great fun, and this year's provided those things in abundance.

Our leader was Revd Robert Lawrance, the Vicar of St Francis High Heaton and a member of the Third Order of St Francis. We assembled in the chapel for the first of two Eucharists and the first of Robert's five talks, entitled "St John the Baptist". Global warming threatens the very existence of some countries. We explored the idea of 'climate grief', the anxiety that has begun to gnaw at our sensibilities. The Baptist's teaching invites us to prepare the way of the Lord in the wilderness so we stepped out into the 'wilderness' of Shepherd's Dene to make an inventory of gratitude using our senses.

After lunch, we wandered in the grounds, or read, or went for a walk; some of us simply enjoyed the sunshine while thinking of things to be grateful for.

Robert's second talk was entitled "St Francis of Assisi". We may live in a beautiful part of the country but do we tend it as God asks? We have ceased to appreciate our relationship with plants and animals, and maybe also with one another. St Francis showed his compassion for the poor and set out to endeavour to point people to Jesus. We sang his "Canticle of the Creatures", the hymn *All creatures of our God and King*, with great gusto, during Evening Prayer which followed the talk.

After our evening meal we spent the evening until Night Prayer in a variety of ways. I think most of us then went to bed and slept pretty well.

Next morning in warm sunshine we assembled in the garden for Morning

Prayer and were serenaded by many songbirds; when Robert invited us to pray in silence, remarkably, not a single bird even chirped! That quite brief time surrounded by nature emphasised the fragility of the world in which we live, and I found it very moving.

In Robert's third talk he told us that early depictions of St Francis often show him holding a handkerchief to dry the many tears he wept over the sufferings of his fellow beings. The phrase "climate grief" (the title of this talk) describes our dread of losing particular places and species and the destruction of ecosystems. But grief can change our behaviour, making us more aware of our sins while remembering we are loved. The Resurrection gives us hope.

In his fourth talk, "Active Hope", Robert said that hope is the fruit of our conviction that every dark place can be transformed by God's love demonstrated in Christ Jesus. In this sceptical age we do have hope. A breathing exercise, visualising our breath as a ribbon connecting us to the world's suffering, and



The Revd Robert Lawrance

surrendering it to the healing resources of life's vast web, gave us a larger view of time, a richer sense of community; we need to plan with hope for a future far ahead of our own generation.

So after our second Eucharist, another excellent lunch and some free time, we had Robert's fifth talk entitled "Laudato Si"; this is the title of the 2nd Encyclical of Pope Francis and the opening words, in Italian, of *The Canticle of the Creatures*. The encyclical highlights the impact of consumerism, laments environmental degradation and global warming and calls us all to take action. The Pope says that global warming is a symptom of the developed world's indifference to the suffering of poorer nations, the result of our 'throwaway culture'. But all creation is a universal family, what must change is ourselves.

These were challenging talks; we all echoed Jackie's thanks to Robert as she gave him a card and book token, and a St Barbara's Spear plant as a symbol of our gratitude.

Lesley Wright



Celebrating the work of Mothers' Union at Diocesan Council

AT our Council meeting on 11th October, as we celebrated the work of our units and branches, President Margy reminded us that, as we come to the end of this Triennium in December, a number of important posts will come vacant – including coordinators for Action & Outreach, Away from it all Holidays, and Faith & Policy.

We are also looking for a new Treasurer and Gift Aid Recorder and for leaders for some Deaneries. These are exciting opportunities for us all to consider and are crucial to our continuing work with those in need in our community. Do get in touch with Margy to volunteer or make a suggestion.

Following our last Council meeting, where we heard about 'The Gift of Life' provided by organ donors (as reported on page 4 of the Summer Journal) it was a delight to welcome Andrew Davison, son of our Diocesan M.U. Secretary, who recently received a new kidney: he spoke of the way in which it has transformed his life.

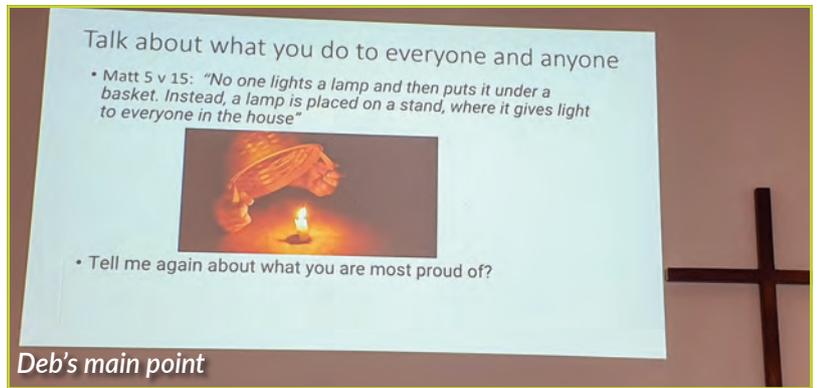


Andrew Davison

Our speaker was **Dr Deb Lee**, our Zonal Trustee Elect to the Worldwide Board. Dr Lee said she was no stranger to the Northeast, having lived with her husband in Leam Lane, Gateshead, for five years following his ordination in Durham Cathedral. She now lives in St Bees and is Diocesan President of Carlisle. She invited the meeting to consider in

small groups what recent achievement in their branches people were most proud of; this generated lively discussion. Deb then asked how many people had been informed of these achievements, stressing that it was important to raise the profile of

Mothers' Union in every way possible; outlining some of the successes in Carlisle Diocese, she said that what everyone was proudest of was the commitment of MU members, and commended the opinion of **Kate Snow, World Wide President Elect**, that we are STRONGER TOGETHER.



Deb's main point

After an explanation from Karoline Wellborne about the campaign against Domestic Abuse, Deb presented **Rise Up** Bronze Award Certificates to representatives from 1st Internet, Holy Nativity Chapel House, and St Bartholomew Benton branches, and Margy hoped that next year some branches would be receiving Silver Awards.



VP Anne Blight presents flowers to Deb Lee, supported by President Margy



Packing bags for the People's Kitchen
(Christmas 2023)



Action and Outreach in 2024

THE organisation that recruits, trains and supports volunteers supporting prisoners, or helping in the visitor centre at Northumberland prison is called NEPACS.



Julie Lingham with premature baby and other knitted items

Mothers' Union members have helped in the visitor centre at HMP Northumberland at Acklington for many years. Now there is only one MU volunteer, helping with admin for family members applying to visit loved ones in prison, or serving tea during visits.

Our Newcastle MU has also contributed rucksacks with warm clothing for men on the day of their release if they have no family to go to. We donate jogging bottoms, T shirt, a fleece or jacket, socks, boxer shorts, toiletries for men such as shower gel, deodorant, disposable razors, hats, gloves, scarves, and tissues.

Jesus challenged his followers: **'When did you visit me when I was in prison?'** We are committed to helping families stay together through hard times. Supporting wives, partners often with children, or mothers, travelling by bus for a couple of hours from Tyneside to Acklington to visit can make the difference between a prisoner being motivated to get back on track, or feeling abandoned.

If you are able to donate items for prisoner rucksacks, contact Norma Willmott (pawillmott@doctors.org.uk). If you are able to volunteer time to help with the admin of applications for visitor passes, or serving tea at the visitor centre, please contact tyoung@nepacs.co.uk

Newcastle MU through **Away From it All** has provided caravan holidays for thirteen going on fourteen families with children in 2024. Some of the children or the adult live with additional needs, and they would otherwise have not been able to afford a break from their ongoing strains. We also encourage another Christian organisation, **ReNew North East**, who run holiday clubs,

children's holidays and activity days for children from difficult areas of Tyneside and Northumberland.

MU have continued to supply **hospital toiletry bags** in great numbers to all the major hospitals in our area, to support emergency admissions, and to send **knitted items for premature babies**. They are much appreciated.

This year Action and Outreach will again be involved in bringing Christmas cheer to four domestic violence refuges, and we partner with **Changing Lives** who run three hostels for homeless or troubled people, some with children, and participate in the Christmas party for **Girls Are Proud**, women at risk of sexual exploitation. We bring them Christmas gifts. We plan and organise throughout the year for our Christmas **gift bags** for the **People's Kitchen** for homeless people. Preparations are in full swing.

Thanks for all you do, both individually and in your Branches.

Diana Macnaughton,
A&O Coordinator



Hospital bags from St Barts



Children's clothes for the local refuge, from St Barts



Diana Macnaughton



CHAPLAIN'S PAGE

FUTURE FOOTSTEPS IN FAITH? GOD IS WITH US.

REVD ANNE MARR

THREE years ago, I was invited to consider being MU Chaplain. 'Who? Me? Why?' I recall asking. As the first retired minister to serve as chaplain, I had much more to learn than I could possibly give. My 'feet of faith' have hardly touched the ground since.

Over these three years I have been amazed at the energy and commitment of members, regardless of age or circumstances. The projects and initiatives at branch level, as well as across the diocese, in addition to the support given to worldwide campaigns and funds, are truly remarkable. MU is undoubtedly a significant and active wing of the church's ministry in Christ.

What has struck me repeatedly is how important each member is – a significant part of the whole body of Christ. The simplest idea, the smallest offering, the most tentative initiative, each grows and bears fruit. Through MU our seemingly small contributions can make a big difference when we work together in the love of Christ.

Our local website has undergone amazing transformation, thanks to Elizabeth. It is a helpful resource for news, prayer, worship, activity ideas and chaplaincy reflections. We now have a QR code and easy-to-carry pocket cards about MU.

Belfast and York were two outstanding MU gatherings, with Newcastle well represented. The torrential rain in York had us huddled into a bookshop where our badges opened up conversations with several tourists, including people from America. Weather, it seems, can be God's way of opening an opportunity. Badges too are useful talking points.

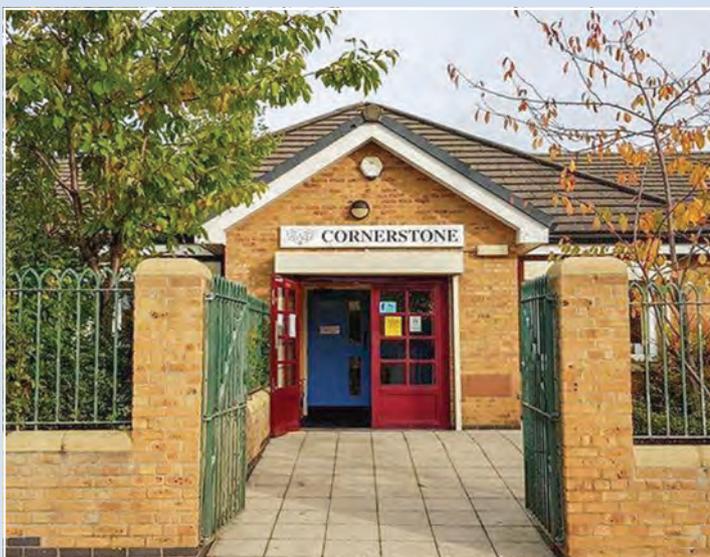
We focussed on 'Footsteps in Faith' this year, which took us to 'Something Wonderful in Benwell' and also to Morpeth for a fun gathering, as well as lots of local explorations and initiatives by members. As people of prayer and action, I wonder where our footsteps of faith may lead us during the next three years.

Newcastle Diocese has set itself a three-year challenge of '**Seeking, Sharing, Sending**'. How might MU engage with these intentions? As Kathleen Snow, our WW President elect, has said: '**We are Stronger Together**'.

2025 will be a year of '**Seeking**'. What should we seek as MU? What needs our prayers and action? One item on our collective agenda will be celebrating 150 years of Mothers' Union in 2026 – including planting more trees! Let's seek out some creative ideas, and step out in faith, in the faithful company of God-with-us, the star-maker and Light of life.

May Christmas blessings encompass you, whatever your circumstances.

Anne Marr



Left: Shoes from the Footsteps in Faith gathering are finding new owners through the Cornerstone charity shop in Benwell.

AROUND THE DIOCESE

A Garden party for the Hexham Deanery on 26th June

A 'Garden Party' was held at the home of Mrs Anne Brunton.

About 30 people attended with guests from four other branches of the Hexham Deanery. Following the service Anne introduced a very novel way of getting everyone to introduce themselves to each other in a very relaxed atmosphere, new friends were made and the company of old friends enjoyed.

Branch Leader Judy Potts



The proceeds from the raffle and donations will be given to good causes supported by Mothers' Union. A donation of £100 will be given to Summer of Hope 2024, an initiative of the MU which this year will support the lives of women and children in sub-Saharan Africa.

Yvonne Hewitt



Bishop John speaks to St Peter, Monkseaton MU about Bishops in the House of Lords

A Bishop in the House of Lords

The Autumn's budget has drawn attention to a number of issues crucial to the work and prayer of Mothers' Union, and the support of marriage and family life. These will include welfare support for children, proper pay for those on minimum wages, and health care through the NHS.

It is an opportunity for our Bishop, Helen-Ann, to contribute to thinking and policy through her membership, as a diocesan bishop, of the House of Lords. My own eight years in that role were a time when I learned more of the way Parliament affected the lives of our citizens, and especially those in most need, and was able to contribute to debates on such issues as Universal Credit and the 2-child limits on welfare. All of us can, by prayer and through our MPs, as well as our bishop, influence the way our country responds to the needs of families, and so fulfil a part of Mary Sumner's dream.

John Packer

Deaneries Are Better Together!

Hexham Deanery welcomed Bellingham Deanery to join them in 2016. Humshaugh had the only Mothers' Union Branch in Bellingham Deanery.

This arrangement was beneficial to both Humshaugh branch members and the members of the branches comprising Hexham Deanery. The Advent Service and Mary Sumner Day celebrations were always joint affairs.

Unfortunately, Humshaugh Branch closed in 2020, but the remaining members still meet annually and welcome some Hexham Deanery members to join them; they continue to be invited to Hexham Deanery events.

We move on to 2022, when Mothers' Union in Corbridge and Hexham Deaneries merged. This has been a great success; Deanery meetings are quite lively when we share ideas (and sometime problems) but always with cooperation and good fellowship. The Advent Service in Hexham Abbey is very special and greatly appreciated by all the members. We come together for fund raising, various Mary Sumner events and we sometimes visit one another's branches.

We firmly believe that we are better together, working together, praying together and often having fun together.

Sheila Walker

Past President Helen Brunton spoke to the Newsham Branch about her time as President. Here Branch Leader Myra Turner presents her with flowers.

St Peter, Monkseaton's Mothers' Union 100th anniversary celebration

The celebration service and party took place on Monday 13th May, with Deanery members invited. The day before, the congregation also celebrated with a wonderful birthday cake after church.

The party was very much appreciated and the Service beforehand was lovely. There were about 55 people attending.



St Gabriel's, Heaton, Newcastle

The last four meetings before our summer break have been interesting, varied and enjoyable. Jane, a friend and florist came in April to show us how to arrange flowers in a teacup. Each of us made an attractive display to take home and many insightful conversations took place during the process.

Paul Knox, a former member of our congregation who has recently been ordained as a priest, returned in May to tell us about his life in north Northumberland as he ministers in the rural parishes of Bamburgh, Belford and Lucker, each bringing its unique challenges and opportunities.

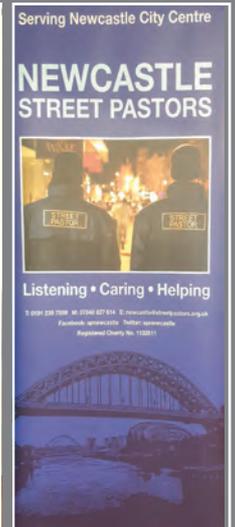
In June, we explored the Footsteps in Faith theme. Members talked about their Mothers' Union journey as we drew round our feet to make card footsteps and wrote our thoughts

and prayers on them. Revd Sheila Auld, Branch Leader, compiled and distributed some prayers centred on Music in the Garden, At Garden Gates and Doors, Flourishing in the Light of the Lord, Heaven and Earth; they inspired our reflections, thanks and praise as we moved around in our church's beautiful grounds.

Our last meeting of the season in July offered time to discuss recent meetings and fundraising alongside our aims and hopes for the future as we begin to compile our programme for the next twelve months. We were delighted Anne Blight was able to join us. We concluded with a delicious afternoon tea and further conversations. The picture shows Sheila Auld deep in conversation.

*Anne Pickering
Branch Treasurer*

Diocesan Members' meeting on 19th October



A lovely couple of hours today with Diocesan Members hearing all about the work of The Street Pastors in Newcastle.



Val Woodman's MU talk

Following my talk to a Methodist Ladies Club at Stakeford on the History of the Mothers' Union a raffle was held, and with the generosity of the group, £200 was raised. This is to be sent to the Worldwide Literacy Fund. The prize Food Hampers were provided by members of St Paul's, Choppington Mothers' Union.



Val Woodman

Gifts from St Cuthbert's Branch

The St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge with Beltingham and Henshaw branch brought gifts for clients of NDAs, Domestic Abuse Charity. The branch has also given shopping vouchers to be distributed to clients in need at Christmas time.

Sheila Walker



Tynemouth Deanery thanks VP Anne Blight for her leadership.

Footsteps of Faith at Christ Church, North Shields

Our branch met yesterday for the first time since our summer break. Some members were on holiday but seven of us decided to mark the Footsteps in Faith by walking around the church stopping at places which had meaning for us.

- The first was the foundation stone for the Parish Centre which opened forty years ago. We remember fundraising and the excitement when the centre finally opened allowing us to welcome more to the fellowship of the church.
- We stopped at the west door through which we enter for worship and have done for many years as we journey together in faith
- At the south door below the sundial which commemorates the history of the church from its beginnings in 1668 we considered all those who have worshipped over so many years
- We paused again at a gravestone -part of a wall of stones gathered after the renovations of the church yard in the fifties thinking of all those whose remains were interred in this place.
- Finally we walked into our beautiful garden of remembrance where the ashes of many former MU members who contributed so much to the life of the church are interred.

Sue Ogden, Branch Contact, Christ Church North Shields Mothers Union



Long Service award

At the meeting of Seaton Hirst Mothers' Union on Monday 28th October, Joan Howard, Morpeth Deanery Leader, presented the Long Service Award to Ken Boynton that his wife Linda was due to receive for 33 years on 22nd of April. Sadly she died suddenly the day before on the 21st. He was thrilled to receive it.

Sandra Davison



St Bart's MU visit the Howick kneelers

Following an inspirational talk by Helen Cooper at our March meeting we organised a visit in May to see the Howick Kneelers.

What a wonderful day we had. Not only did we see the kneelers in all their glory, but Helen and Avril told us about the significance of individual kneelers and why those images had been chosen. In 1914 Howick Hall was the first stately home in the North East to be used as a convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers, depicted here in one of the kneelers. We also heard about the rescue of some French fishermen. After a lovely lunch in the café, we enjoyed a relaxing walk around the gardens. A great day out! If you haven't visited Howick, we would definitely recommend it. You will be made most welcome.



A visit to Hexham Abbey

A group of our members from St Cuthbert's Blyth Branch enjoyed an outing to Hexham Abbey to see 'Threads through Creation' recently.

After the amazing tour of the huge silk hangings they were delighted to join in a scheduled Eucharist service. This was all rounded off with Afternoon Tea at Hextol Tans Cafe.

Jennifer Snowdon



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 2024

11th at 2pm. Diocesan End of Triennium Service at St Gabriel, Heaton, when the choir will take part. All welcome.

JANUARY 2025

11th Trustees meeting at 10am.
25th Diocesan Commissioning Service at the Cathedral at 11am. Preacher Bishop Helen-Ann. Do come!

FEBRUARY

6th Pay in Day at the Cathedral from 10am-12 noon, followed by Midday Prayers

28th Deadline for Spring Newsletter. Copy to Barbara Packer, please

MARCH

21st Trustees meeting at 10am.

APRIL

4th Council and AGM at 1pm for 1.30pm at Kingston Park

JUNE

23rd-24th MU Retreat at Shepherds Dene, led by Canon Clare Maclaren

Mothers' Union lead Midday Prayers at the Cathedral on every first Thursday, in the St George's Chapel. Come and meet others, and perhaps stay for lunch!

• BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES • DEATHS •

BIRTHDAYS

80th Brenda Harrison
Holy Nativity, Chapel House

80th Margaret Shield
Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

80th May Meilleur
Christ Church, North Shields

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

GOLDEN WEDDING

Elizabeth & Mike Shipway
Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

DIAMOND WEDDING

Barbara & John Bailes
Holy Cross, Fenham

DEATHS

Marie Waters
St Peter, Monkseaton

Frances Bromham
Alnmouth & Lesbury
(*Treasurer until recently*)

Sadie Gelrard
Holy Cross, Fenham
(*aged nearly 100*)

Angela Walton
Earsdon & Backworth
(*who has held many MU roles, and over 45 years a member*)

Norma Lumsden
Earsdon & Backworth

Joyce Paterson
St George, Cullercoats

Dorothy Stewart
Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Jean Cuthbertson
Holy Nativity, Chapel House

Noreen Hodson

Holy Nativity, Chapel House

Lillian Hume

St James', Shilbottle
ex-Branch Leader

Jennifer Daws

St James, Morpeth

Vera Reed

St Columba, Wideopen Indoor
Member

Angela Baker

Seaton Hirst, Ashington

Norma Lumsden

Earsdon & Backworth

Jean Fellowes Prynne

Indoor Member

Dorothy Simpson

St John, Whorlton

Olive Clark

Diocesan Member



Call out to crafters

Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Chaplains are looking for volunteers to help complete part-finished twiddle muffs used to support dementia patients and to sew together knitted squares to make lap blankets.

The chaplains also have a regular need for: cross-stitch crosses (about the length of a biro); palm-sized hearts or crosses (knitted or crocheted); shawls; lap-blankets;

and more twiddle muffs or twiddle matts.

If you could help, please contact Revd Elizabeth Brown on 07768 075803 or email: Elizabeth.Brown3@northumbria-healthcare.nhs.uk

Do visit our growing website at www.munewcastle.org.uk



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 develops and delivers.

If you would like to contribute to the work that Mothers' Union does 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

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Newcastle

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