

# Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Edinburgh

**Diocese of Edinburgh  
Mothers' Union Newsletter**



**March 2017**

## Diocesan President's Report

Dear friends,

It is almost 1 year since I became D.P. and it has been a year of getting to know members and visiting branches. We celebrated our 140 years of the work of the Mothers' Union at Musselburgh last year which was a memorable service and lunch. Last year was an opportunity to re-establish ourselves and recognise what we can contribute as individuals and branches to the aims and objectives of the M.U. I look forward to visiting branches this year and continuing to get to know our members.

We are not able to take up every challenge that comes our way, and recognising this in the first step in making progress. We can however acknowledge the areas that we can and do contribute to, for example

Prayer, practical service in the community. Supporting projects and overseas work.

I have attended a variety of events since our last meeting which included an invitation to hear about the work of Care in the Community, which provides resources for families. (website

I attended a meeting of Women's groups in Scotland at 121 George St, representing the Provincial President. After the business meeting, we were given an illustrated talk about the refugee situation in Scotland. This was interesting and highlighted the plight of refugees in Scotland.

I was asked to attend an event to meet MSPs with Church representatives and Faith Leaders at the Scottish Parliament. This was both informative and an opportunity to meet representatives of other Churches and Faith groups.

On behalf of the Mothers' Union I attended the EMMS launch of Religions of the world charter for children's palliative care. We heard from speakers about the need for this charter as many children in different parts of the world do not receive the palliative care that they need, for example in India.

Meeting people from other faith organisations was interesting and stimulating and we need to reach out and join with other women's groups to share our experiences and support each other in the work carried out. When did your branch last invite a group from another women's organisation to join you for a social meeting with your members? This could be one aim for planning the next session of meetings in your branch.

I shall be attending the Worldwide Council in Dublin on 12/13 March which will be my first experience of meeting the other Diocesan and Provincial Presidents.

2017 gives us the opportunity to share our experiences and fellowship with people from other parts of the UK and abroad at the A.G.M on 30 September. As hosts we must make sure that members have a memorable experience and the events which include the service of evensong at 5.30pm on Friday 29 September will be followed by a Gala Dinner at the Roxburgh for members. The A.G.M on Saturday 30 September will be at the Edinburgh International Conference Centre which is a modern and custom built centre with good facilities and should provide members with a memorable experience.

As a Diocese, we may be small in numbers but we all share the same desire to fulfil our aims and objectives to the best of our abilities. Our challenge for 2017/18 is to find ways of engaging with young families and helping them to understand the relevance of our organisation in the world today. This challenge means putting our message over in current formats and reaching people where they are and identifying the needs in our communities. We must act in a supportive and welcoming way to engage with those around us.

What can you do to take this forward in your community?

Through prayer and action, we can take on this challenge.

I look forward to meeting members on Lady Day on 25 March at St Mary's Cathedral at 11am. Followed by a bring and share lunch. Further information will be sent to the branch leaders about the arrangements.

With love and best wishes to you all and your families

*Helen Godfrey Diocesan President 16/2/17*



## Edinburgh MU Chaplain: Revd Christine Barclay

### A Poem for Lent: Lent is not for the faint-hearted

*Lent is not for the faint-hearted. It demands that we, like Thomas, put our hand into the side of the crucified Christ. Lent is a journey towards the cross, journey of enlightenment: from wilderness to feast, from desert to oasis. It's an attempt to identify with the powerless and the suffering in the world.*

*Lent is not tidy.*

*The days grow longer, \* the ground thaws, there's mud and dirt everywhere and the windows need cleaning.*

*Lent is a journey. So at the end of Lent we should expect to find ourselves somewhere different from where we started.*

*Lent can be an opportunity to explore what is the nature of the promised Kingdom of God on earth that we long for; a time to discern how we are called to work for it.*

*No, Lent is not for the faint-hearted! \* 'Lent' means lengthen.*

From Kate McIlhagga's - The Green Heart of the Snowdrop.  
Wild Goose Publication 2004. [- ISBN 978-1-901557-85-5

*with my love and prayers to all readers and congregations for a Holy Lent, Christine.*

**Extract from Jan Inspires re our past Chaplain and Dean, both Mu members.**



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The Rev Canon Frances Burberry has been appointed the Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh, succeeding the Rev Susan Macdonald. Canon Burberry will continue as Rector of St Ninian's, Comely Bank but will relinquish her role as Synod Clerk to the diocese, to which she was elected in 2016.

The Rt Rev Dr John Armes, Bishop of Edinburgh, says 'The role of Dean is a challenging one. I believe that Frances has gifts and experience that will be of great service to our diocese. Last year her clergy colleagues showed their confidence in her by electing her Synod Clerk. Frances will continue to be the Rector of a busy congregation whilst also becoming a key member of our diocesan leadership team.'

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**NEW YEAR HONOURS:** Many congratulations to Ann Glenesk in Glasgow for her BEM to recognise her work in Low Moss prison.



The British Empire Medal in my name represents the willingness of a host of folk to come together, to have fun and at the same time do a wee bit of good - often difficult to quantify, but reassurance comes in spades from the most unlikely sources. Victims of crime deserve justice, perpetrators of crime deserve punishment from courts. Rehabilitation, support for families in prisons can be aided by a friendly smile, chat and a willingness of us all to notice and respect our neighbours in whatever context.

Thanks to Scottish Episcopal Church, Mother's Union and the amazing Low Moss Volunteer Group and staff of HMP Low Moss.

### Resources for Mothering Sunday 26th March

Ideas for Intercessions, Sunday schools, service outlines and talks on Mothering Sunday? Well the Mothers' Union has it organised to save you some time. Just go to their Mothering Sunday resource page on their website.

<http://www.mothersunion.org/resources#overlay-context=our-focus/mothering-sunday>

If you would like to 'Make a Mothers Day' by buying an ethical gift for your mother or any family member or friend (who is like a mother to you) or in memory of your mother, here is the link. When you donate you will receive a card to pass on, or have your mothers name written in a book in the chapel at Mothers' Union headquarters.

<http://www.makeamothersday.org/>

See also next page.



# Make a Mothers' Day 2017

Gifts that put mothers at the heart of everything



## Choose a Gift



### Soar on wings like eagles

£6 will help a mother attend a Bible course and learn to use God's gifts to lift her family out of poverty.



### A powerful voice

£24 will give mothers the confidence and skills to speak out against inequality and gender based violence.



### Learn a livelihood

£10 will help a mother learn a skill to start a business and earn a living for her family.



### Gain parenting skills

£40 will help a mum gain confidence in her skills to care for her children.



### Literacy and numeracy

£15 will help a mother learn to read and write, opening up a world of opportunities.



### Salt and light

£100 will support a church self-help group as they lead their community to solve its greatest challenges.

**Catherine Kyte - Faith Support Officer**

Please could you now use [faith@mothersunion.org](mailto:faith@mothersunion.org) for all faith-related issues.

## Round the Diocese

**Pat Gordon** Her Rector, Revd Dean Fostekew writes: "Patricia Gordon a member of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Murrayfield will be presented with the Bishop of Edinburgh's St.Cuthbert award later in the year. Pat has been given the award for her commitment to her congregation, the Diocese and the Province. At the end of 2016 Pat stepped down from her role as Hall Caretaker and Bookings manager at the church and as Lay representative, posts which she has held for many years and as a member of the vestry. She also previously stepped down from her positions on Diocesan Synod and General Synod and on the Executive of the Mothers' Union again responsibilities she has fulfilled for many years."

**St Peter's, Musselburgh:** Below left:

Ruth Wogan, Kathryn Mackenzie and Marion Rowley. **Edinburgh Diocese Mothers' Union** celebrated 140 years of MU in the UK with a meeting at Musselburgh on Oct 5<sup>th</sup>.

The new arrangements for running MU in Edinburgh were explained by Diocesan President, Helen Godfrey. The cake below was made by Ruth Wogan, Branch leader of the MU at St Peter's.



**St. Peter's Musselburgh have had a season of parties this year!**

October brought us hosting the celebration for the 140th anniversary.

We took ourselves out of our comfort zone to produce a lunch for so many people and with help from prayers and willing hands we made it. To those who attended and those who helped I would like to thank you all for a most enjoyable afternoon.

St. Peter's church celebrated 150 years in December with a weekend of celebrations, a ceilidh and service with lunch which starts a

whole year of celebrations.

In December we held our usual lunch at The Ravelston to celebrate Christmas, a good time was had by all!

The 15th February meeting we have Betty Dunlop's granddaughter speaking to us about her exploits whilst training to become a police officer.

In April we will be venturing out to visit Rosslyn chapel and in May Christine Barclay will be visiting us!

At St. Peter's we welcome visitors with open arms we meet at 2pm in the church hall so come along anytime!

*Ruth Wogan*



**The Livingston branch** continue to meet once a month in members homes. We enjoy the fellowship and our time together. At the end of the summer we enjoyed a meal at a hotel in midcalder we look forward to a new session and hopefully some new members. I gave a talk at Livingston United parish church about the mothers union and our 140th anniversary. Two people came forward at the end of the service and asked for more information. *Fay Edgar - The above report was received too late for the last Newsletter.*

At the end of January, Angela received an email updating her re Fay's husband, David's progress and saying. He is still In St John's and is now breathing without help of a ventilator trying to talk - so things are improving slowly David, Kathryn and Fay wish to thank the mothers union for keeping them in prayer. 5



**St James' the Less, Penicuik. –**  
**MU Lunch on Jan 18<sup>th</sup>**



Members and friends enjoyed their annual Post Christmas Lunch at Giovannis, High Street Penicuik. A venue to be recommended.

*Photographs of MU lunch taken by Gillian Little*



Karen Topham, who is Danish was granted UK citizenship on 29<sup>th</sup> September. Karen is a member of St James Mothers' Union, as is her Daughter-in-Law, Kathryn, who is married to Nigel, standing behind his mother. Representing the MU is Margaret Coull, Branch leader and Angela Sibley. The ceremony in Dalkeith was conducted by the Lord Lieutenant, Sir Robert Clerk, after which refreshments were served.

Sadly, Karen died recently and her funeral at St James was on Friday, Feb 10<sup>th</sup>. St James' MU provided refreshments in the hall after the service.

We have had visits from our new Diocesan President, Helen Godfrey and our new Chaplain Rev. Christine Barclay of Bathgate and Linlithgow. Lynsay led us at our Advent lunch, at Sue Croafield's home. We also prepared a hamper for a family in need. On Friday March 3rd we shall be hosting the World Day of Prayer. St. James now has 3 trustees, Sue Crosfield -Diocesan Secretary, Jean Hindle and myself. *Margaret Coull.* Sue Crosfield attended the General Meeting in Winchester held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.

**Diocesan Members** continue to meet at Waterstone's coffee shop roughly every 4 weeks, depending on how many can make that date. Contact Angela for details, also see calendar on p.8.

## Labelled For Life

The updated version of our Labelled for Life booklet which has been produced to offer advice and support to parents and carers on managing the influence and impact of the commercial world on children was launched on 14th November in UK Parliament and was hosted by Fiona Bruce MP. The event involved the presentation of a collection of essays by Mothers' Union and other experts.

Read more about Labelled for Life and how to order our updated resource

**Marriage Week:** Tuesday (7th Feb.) marked the start of Marriage Week - the time of year where we come together and celebrate the benefits that healthy marriages can have for individuals, their families and society as a whole.

Mothers' Union have, from day one, been supporters of those preparing to take their vows as well as those journeying through married life. Several Members shared pictures of themselves with their spouse plus the length of their marriage. During the week MU shared these wonderful photos on our Twitter feed (@MothersUnion).

**March will be a busy month as leaders of Mothers' Union come together** in Ireland for Worldwide Council and an international Provincial Presidents conference. A select delegation of members and staff are set to attend the UN Commission on the Status of Women in New York. Therefore a special prayer request to all of our readers - please do keep in your prayers all those travelling in the coming months, we pray for safe passage for all those involved. Amen. *Extract from article from Rachael Arding - Newsletter Editor.*

### **Annual Theme - Faith in Action - our theme for 2017 (from the MU Website)**

We follow on from our year of celebration in 2016 when we gave thanks for God's faithfulness to Mothers' Union over 140 years and acknowledged that: Thus far the Lord has helped us. 1 Samuel 7:12

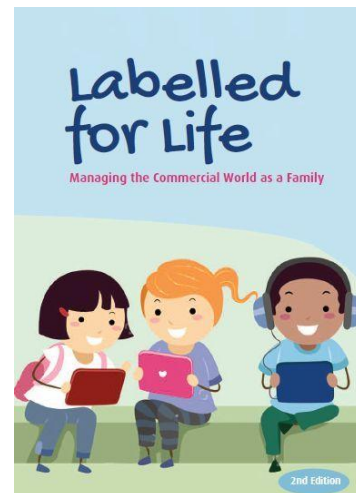
We now look to the future trusting that God will continue to help us as we share his love in the world through our Christian care for families and communities. We do this by actively putting our faith into action to serve God and his world. This is no new concept for us as Mothers' Union; rather it has always been at the heart of our mission and outreach. So 2017 is a year for us to highlight the ways in which we already live out our faith through action; it is also an opportunity for us to consider new ways in which to do so, being ever aware of the changing needs of society, and always looking to God for his guidance and provision.

**Hazel Treadgold** - Mothers' Union received the sad news just before Christmas of her passing. Hazel Treadgold was Central President of our organisation from 1983 - 1988. She passed away peacefully at home on Monday 19th December 2016, surrounded by her loving family. A private funeral service took place on Friday 30th December. A Thanksgiving Service to celebrate Hazel's life was held in Chichester Cathedral on Friday 27th January 2017 at 3pm. Current Worldwide President Lynne Tembey said "I was very sorry to hear of Hazel's passing and extend to her family our deep sorrow, love and sympathy at this time. Hazel was an inspirational lady, she travelled to many parts of the world on behalf of Mothers' Union, she was a great encourager. Before becoming Central President, she was Central Young Families Chairperson, as "family" was very important to her. Hazel was fun to be around, and a real bubbly character. She was also on the working group which helped with the planning of the 1988 Lambeth Wives Conference. I pray that members will remember with love and great affection Hazel's leadership, faithfulness and commitment to Mothers' Union, and especially remember Marcus, Joanna and their families at this time. I pray that Hazel may she rest in peace eternal and rise in glory".

### **Domestic Abuse law to change following Mothers' Union campaign**

In Nov., a petition for changes to the statutory Child Maintenance Service, signed by 4,500 of its members and supporters was delivered to Downing Street by Lynne Tembey and Bev Julien. The aim is to prevent survivors of domestic abuse from being forced to re-engage with their former partner, often the perpetrator of the violence against them. Mothers' Union, which represents over four million members worldwide, welcomed the announcement by Prime Minister Theresa May that current legislation governing domestic abuse in England and Wales is to be overhauled. Mothers' Union is

campaigning for survivors to be exempt from the 'collect and pay' charges imposed for using the statutory Child Maintenance Service. They may have no other option to receive or make payments for their children without further risk of control, abuse or violence. Currently, one in three applicants to the child maintenance service have experienced domestic abuse and MU strongly urges that the government puts the safety and welfare of the survivors of domestic abuse at the core of its proposals for change.





## Taken at the Trustees meeting held on Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> February



Left:  
Jean Hindle,  
Margaret Coull and  
Jennie Ritchie

Right:  
Sue Crosfield, Sec.  
Helen Godfrey,  
President of  
Edinburgh MU



### Faith in Action

**Extract from - MU Facebook.** Life is strange. The older one gets the more one seems to reflect on life. Mary Jones, who lost her older sister Ann to cancer, got married a week before Ann's 21<sup>st</sup>. Ann passed away a month after her 21<sup>st</sup>. Mary writes; "I missed her at my wedding and came home from my honeymoon early to help celebrate her 21st birthday it was very special and she was so brave, she taught me that life goes on right up until the end and you really do need to make the effort so that everyday is meaningful. My life has not been plain sailing, quite the opposite in fact, but if you allow Jesus to be at your side to support and guide you it makes the journey easier. Our theme this year is Faith in Action, surely all our lives reflect this. I am a Christian, am I a good one?, I don't succeed all the time but I do try. That is all we can do, we can try to be the best we can in this journey of life with Jesus. One of our elder members was disappointed because she could no longer do more for our branch, I explained to her how important she was to the group, how her prayerfulness and concern of others helped so much, her knitted items and her support in even turning up for meetings was enough for it showed her own Faith in Action at this time in her life. It is good to remember that every step no matter how small each one of us takes in our Christian journey is very important and is very much an action of Faith.

Never underestimate yourselves, each journey is very special.

I wish everyone an inspiring and spiritual journey in life, especially during this season of Lent.

### CALENDAR: Diocesan Meetings

**March 6<sup>th</sup>** - Next Diocesan Members coffee morning at Waterstone's - 10.30 or so.

**Sat. 25<sup>th</sup> March** - 11.00<sup>am</sup> Lady Day in St Mary's Cathedral.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> and Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> April Provincial MU Retreat** at St Mary's Kinnoull is full with a waiting list.

**15<sup>th</sup> June** - Diocesan Meeting 1030<sup>am</sup> for 11<sup>am</sup> - Christ Church centre, Morningside. Bring and Share lunch.

**9<sup>th</sup> Aug** - Mary Sumner Day 2<sup>pm</sup> at the Church of the Good Shepherd - tea afterwards.

**29<sup>th</sup> Sept** - General Meeting hosted by Scotland MU Province in the Conference Centre in Edinburgh.

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**15<sup>th</sup> - 17<sup>th</sup> October** - **Wave of Prayer** - contact Janet Goody for your date & time.

### Literature MUe:

#### Greetings Cards For Sale: Birthday, Sympathy, Get Well, etc.

Mothers' Union cards are very good value - you pay twice as much for cards in the shops.

Easter Cards available. If you have not ordered already, do not delay in case supplies run out.

We no longer get 10 complementary copies of the magazine. I think this is because some members rely on getting one free! Please let me know if you want to order cards or I can come and visit you. We still have our regular very good customers.

Thank you to all who have bought cards over the year.

See you at Lady Day - keep shopping with the M.U. *Angela*

**Contributions for the Autumn Newsletter** needed by early September and should be sent to: Email:

[jean@jrhindle.co.uk](mailto:jean@jrhindle.co.uk) or post to me at 24 Mauricewood Park, Penicuik EH26 0BP - Tel 01968 674591 *Jean Hindle*