

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney
NEWSLETTER



EASTER 2014

Mothers' Union Objectives

- 👉 *To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding.*
- 👉 *To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the church.*
- 👉 *To maintain a worldwide fellowship Christians united in prayer, worship and service.*
- 👉 *To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.*
- 👉 *To help those whose family life has met with adversity.*

The Mothers' Union Prayer

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.

We pray for families around the world.

Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.

Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world.

In Jesus' name. Amen

From our Diocesan President, Chris writes



Dear Friends,

Where does the time go it's hard to imagine that we are into the second year of this triennial and my 5th year as your Diocesan President. A role that has brought me lots of joy especially when I get the chance to meet up with you at events such as our Lady Day Service on Friday evening. Many of you took part in the service and I always give a sigh of relief that so many of you are willing to give of your time especially on Friday evening to help make this such a happy event. The picture shows † Bob with Victoria after her commissioning as a General Trustee.



It doesn't seem that long ago when I was talking about Christmas and the coming of our Lord Jesus and here we are journeying through Lent. I can't help wondering what it is that God wants in our lives as we prepare for Holy Week and Easter when we think about what our Lord Jesus did for us.

The Mothers' Union theme for this year is 'Together We Grow' I can never tell if this is in numbers or as I like to think in 'spirituality'. Certainly numbers growth is important if hard to achieve, not only here in our diocese but throughout the United Kingdom. Never the less what we fail to do in numbers we make up for spiritually, I am always delighted to meet so many of our members who prayerfully commit to Christ's teachings noticeably through our Prayer Circle but also those who give so much of their time living out the 'Aims and Objects' of the Mothers' Union by their actions.

Further on in this Newsletter you will see a little poster telling you about a day headed up 'Reaching Out' please have a good look at it and plan to attend, as it should be very interesting and well worth going to. The staff coming from Mary Sumner House are very committed and well informed and I am sure we could all learn a lot from them.

Lynne Tembey our Worldwide President is also coming to Scotland in September when she will visit the Cathedral Branch with Jean Richardson our Provincial President. Wasn't it fortuitous that the Cathedral Branch had asked Jean to come and talk to them on the 23 September and they have been able to move their meeting forward by one day. It will be a good opportunity for you to meet Lynne and Jean so why not plan to be at the Cathedral on Monday 22 at 2.00 p.m. there.

Many of our Trustee Board members have served us faithfully for many years and will be looking to stand down at the end of 2015, please give consideration to joining this board, it is important for the running of the organisation in the diocese that we have some new faces and more importantly new ideas. The work is interesting and very rewarding you get to meet and know such lovely people. Please don't feel you need to be asked talk to members of the Trustees' Board who will be only too willing to tell you about their roles.

Can I thank everyone for the telephone calls, letters and cards of condolence that were sent to David and myself after Peggy's (David's Mother) death. Many of you met her when she visited us in Ellon and some will remember when she came up with her friend Marjory to stay with us for the General Meeting in Glasgow travelling with some of you on the coach to Glasgow. Indeed she continued to exchange Christmas cards with some of her 'friends' in Ellon until last Christmas. However it did come as a bit of a shock to us to realise that we are now the senior members of the Crosley family.

Love & Blessings

Chris



March 2014

Dear Friends and Fellow Members,

I am in my office at Mary Sumner House and thinking about my Easter letter to you all. I look up to see my beautiful wooden cross sitting by my computer on my desk. It is so beautiful, made by the people in Northern Argentina in South America. It reminds me of the two seasons we are about to enter and it also reminds me about selfless giving and sacrificial love.

The penitential season of Lent, is a time for us to reflect once again, a time to journey through the wilderness with our Lord, thinking about whom we are and how we can be what Jesus wants us to be.

Easter follows Lent. And it is here that we have an opportunity to once again be thankful for the amazing gift of eternal life offered to each one of us, through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In my book of daily reflection I read a passage from 1 Corinthians Chapter 13 verse 4: "Love never gives up. Love cares more for others than for self".

Many years ago, as a young Mothers' Union member, I gained so much through my visits to Ethel. She was an inspiration to me and so many others. Ethel was a wonderful indoor member, and yet someone who was also very much part of our branch and parish life, even though she was unable to attend our meetings or our Church. Priests and laity alike all loved to visit her and her husband.

Ethel was a gentle, prayerful lady. Although bedridden, she had such a passion, interest and love for everyone, she had a real zest for life, and a wonderful sense of fun.

And today, I still thank God for Ethel, for her interest and belief in me and for all the love and care she afforded me.

In these past fourteen months as your Worldwide President, as I have travelled and met numerous members from so many parts of the world, I have witnessed this selfless love in different and amazing ways.

I have laughed with members as they have shared the fun times in their lives. And I have cried too, as they have shared with me the rejection they have faced when their gift of love has been abused or misused.

Throughout our lives, we engage with so many people. I pray that with each encounter, we will raise spirits, encourage and support. I thank you for your prayerful witness, for your willingness to serve God and Mothers' Union through your life of prayer. Please know just how much you are all valued by me and by all members.

May God bless you and those you love this Easter-time.

With my love and prayers,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lynne". The signature is written in dark ink on a light-colored background.

Lynne Tembey

Worldwide President.

From our Provincial President, Jean writes.....



That's the first yearand what a year it has been!

I feel as if I have been catapulted onto another wave-length of the Mothers' Union (MU) world. There has been so much to learn and so many people to get to know; it has been amazing, exciting and at the same time very humbling.

The newly constructed World Wide Trustee Board is working well as a team, especially after spending a week at High Leigh, Hertfordshire in October.

We worked long days (9.30am - 9pm) one task of which was to finalise the Strategy Document 20:20, this will guide us in our working until 2020 and beyond. It was started by the previous Board and Hilary will tell you that they spent days and days on it - so it has been a marathon process.

On the Wednesday of that week we were joined by the new MU (Central) Chaplain, Bishop Andrew Proud. He spent a day with us and provided us with guided reflections and thoughts - what a welcome relief from the intensity of the two previous days!

So what does 2014 herald for the MU in Scotland? I think it will be very exciting as there are two main events coming up.

Firstly we are having a "Faith in Action Day" in May (details from your Diocesan President (DP)); however it will be a day with a difference as we are hoping as many clergy and congregation members as possible will be able to come. This is so that they can learn how the MU identifies and then campaigns for social issues.

Then there will be time for each diocese to explore and discuss how they can identify such situations in their communities, devise strategies for highlighting these and bringing awareness of them to the community at large. So it will be learning about one aspect of what the MU does and at the same time how we can help our local communities.

You may well wonder why it is being opened up to clergy and congregations. This is because we want to emphasise to the Scottish

Episcopal Church that as their main Mission organization, we want to work with them. So a starting point is to raise awareness of just what the MU has done, is doing and are willing to do. Hopefully this will help us to work more closely together in the future as we support the clergy in their work.

It will be led by the Faith and Policy Team from Mary Sumner House and they have already been to each of the other UK Provinces, so it is a pretty high profile venture.

As this is technically a training day there will be funding to assist with travel; so there's no excuse - please come along - with your clergy too!

The second exciting event is that the World Wide President, Lynne Tembey is officially coming to Scotland in September. She came as an observer to The Gathering in 2012 and was very impressed by our aims and ambitions so now she is eager to meet many more of us. The dates are September 20th - 23rd so it will not be long but it will be action-packed! If you have any events which you would like her to share with you, why not tell your DPs or Trustees about it, as they are working now on a programme which will enable her to see as much as possible (without the use of a helicopter!)

On personal note I was stunned to have my name drawn out of the hat to go to the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Six MU members go each year and they are made up of one Provincial President from GB, one DP from each of York, Canterbury and Wales/Scotland Provinces, a new member of staff and a long serving member of staff. The DP from Wales/Scotland is Linda (the DP from St Andrews' here in Scotland) so we will be representing Scotland in force! The big decision of course is "what to wear"!!! I am absolutely thrilled to bits and will wear my MU tartan with great pride!

So all in all, I think the MU in Scotland has a lot to look forward to in 2014; I hope you feel that too.

With love and prayers

Jean



REACHING OUT....

Explore with us how we can impact social policy through faith in action.

For: Clergy, congregation and Mothers' Union.

Led by: Mothers' Union Faith and Policy Team.

Where: St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth.

When: Tuesday 27th May, 10.30 am – 3.00pm.

Tea and coffee provided, bring your own lunch.

Book your place, by 25th April please, from:

Jean Richardson - richardson147@btinternet.com

Chris Crosley - chris@crosley.org.uk

Please give this day some serious thought because it is a wonderful opportunity to meet members of staff from Mary Sumner House who I feel sure will give us all much to think about.

Travel may be arranged if we have enough interest because you will see from Jean our Provincial President's letter some travel costs will be met. You will see from the flyer that it is important to book your place by the 25th April so can you please email me and let me know if you wish to go by Wednesday 16th April so that we can arrange transport should it be required.

Chris

Hello Everyone,

First and foremost I would like to say a big thank you to all of you who held myself and family in prayer over what was a particularly stressful and worrying time last year during which our first grandchild, Brook, underwent open heart surgery at just 3 months old.

I am happy to say that she is growing in health, strength and attitude and loves to bounce and play. She will be one year old on 9 May - what a celebration that will be! She has brought us all so much joy and we are truly blessed. Here is a picture of Brook and I at Christmas.



With love and gratitude

Jan Brooks

News from the Branches

St James', Holburn Place.

We held our opening meeting on the 11th March which was a celebration of Holy Communion, led by our Chaplain, Paul Watson.

It was made even more special as we welcomed Freda Broadfoot into the Mothers' Union as an official member after several years of her attending.

This was well timed as Paul brought along Chris, who was shadowing him as part of her Reader's training. Chris is from Orkney and had never been to an MU meeting before.

It was a privilege and pleasure to welcome her to our celebration and hear about life in her church, St Olafs' – a small congregation with similar challenges and joys as our own.

Rachel Officer

Who's who

World Wide President

Lynne Tembey

Provincial President

Jean Richardson

Diocesan President

Chris Crosley

Diocesan Secretary

Sheila George

Diocesan Chaplains

Paul Watson & Ali Harvey

Diocesan Treasurer

Charles Fox

Co-ordinators

Action & Outreach

Pam Dench

Social Policy

Doreen Baillie

Faith & Policy

Sue Begg

Finance & Central

Services

Vacant

Fundraising &

Communication

Vacant

General Trustees

Florence Cal-Anglia

Victoria Angoe

Laura Heatherington

Agnes Robertson

AFIA rep

Pam Dench

Diocesan Member rep

Blanche Beattie

MUe rep

Agnes Robertson

Branch & Fellowship Leaders

St Andrew's Cathedral

Sonia Hudson

St James', Holburn Junction

Joint Leadership

St Mary & St James

Carole Fox

Diocesan Members

Blanche Beattie

Dates for your Diary in 2014

- 26th April - Diocesan Council - John Skinner Centre @ 10.30
- 20th – 21st June - General Meeting in Belfast
- 26th July - Trustees only Meeting St James, Holburn Junction @ 10.30
- 30th August - Quiet Day - T. B. A.
- 27th September - Diocesan Council – St Devenicks @ 10.30
- 1st November - Trustees Meeting – 66 Snipe St. @ 10.30
- 22nd November - Diocesan Council – St Mary-on-the-Rock @ 10.30

Thank you to everyone who has contributed pictures or articles.

We would love to have news and photographs from ALL branches as well as information on activities.

Items from ALL members are most welcome, this is your newsletter!

Copy for next issue - please send to David Crosley at:-

muaberdeen@gmail.com

or by post to:

66 Snipe Street

ELLON, AB41 9FW

NO LATER THAN 31ST AUGUST 2014