

Mother's UNION

Christian care for families

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY



NEWSLINK AUTUMN 2014

Scottish Charity SC023885

A LETTER FROM OUR DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

Dear Friends

October 2014



The year 2014 has been a memorable one for many reasons in Scotland. For Mothers' Union members in Glasgow & Galloway the year has brought many delights and much inspiration. For some, however, life has brought its challenges.

Before reflecting on the events of the summer, however, I am delighted to report that Bishop Gregor has announced the appointment of Rev Lucy Ireland as our new Chaplain. Rev Lucy will be with us at Autumn Council and has written a letter of introduction for this Newslink. We look forward with anticipation to Rev Lucy's spiritual support and guidance.

In the summer members bade farewell to our much loved Chaplain Peter Douglas who has retired. A sumptuous BBQ was enjoyed in Peter's garden where he was presented with a set of praying hands carved by MU member David Brough.

This year's Festival Service celebrated the 65th anniversary of Galloway Region being part of Worldwide Mothers' Union. It was a truly uplifting occasion with Lynne Tembey the Worldwide President, Jean our Provincial President and Olu and Angela from our links dioceses, Bishop Idris and Rev Canon Robin Paisley, family and friends. The team from Dumfries and Castle Douglas, led by Carolynne Sorrell did us all proud – photographs enclosed and on website.

The More than Gold Ecumenical Initiative during the Commonwealth Games under the leadership of Rev Cedric Blakely provided opportunities for members to engage in mission. The In Tune with Glasgow 2014 concert at St Mary's Cathedral was a wonderful night – Hilary led the team effort. A real thrill at the end of the concert was hearing from Margaret a coach with the Ugandan team who is also a CDC of Mothers Union! Members served as Clydesiders, provided hospitality and awareness of Human Trafficking was raised at the UN Gift Boxes. You will be able to read more about each of these initiatives in this

Newslink.

Two of our members, Lesley Lucas and Esther Muchena as part of the Porvoo link travelled to Sweden as guests of the Women of the Church of Sweden to their bi-annual conference – please see Lesley and Esther's report.

While there is much to celebrate there is a need to be mindful that the organisation reports a fall in numbers and therefore a fall in income. We are all encouraged to invite people to become members and to retain existing members. The staff of Mary Sumner House have been busy preparing for next year when we say farewell to our existing links and prepare to meet our new links.

I pray that we can all continue responding to God's call as best we can, support one another and prepare for 2015 whose theme is United in Prayer.

With love and my prayers

Ann x

VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN (VAWC)

16 Days of Activism

All during the year members reach out to families in their local refuges, families made homeless as a result of abuse in the home.

Focused attention is given to the issue of VAWC for the 16days from November 25th the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Violence against women and girls up till December 6th.

Resources produced by Mary Sumner House are available online at
www.mothersunion.org

While members will each choose how to mark these days the trustees offer the following suggestion as a means of a collective response from members in Glasgow & Galloway Diocese

On the 25th November or a day during the 16 days

Offer prayers, light a candle – a sample prayer given below

Wear a white ribbon – will be available at council or at
www.whiteribboncampaign.co.uk - wearer pledges never to commit,
condone or remain silent about violence against women and children in
all its forms

Seek Priest/Rector's approval to have white ribbons available for congre-gation

Deliver prayer cards/flowers to local women's refuge

Sample prayer

Lord of compassion, we offer prayers for women and children whose lives are blighted by violence. Lord we pray they know of your love for them as you strengthen guide and empower them.

Lord of life we pray that women, men and children learn to respect one another and in so doing will reveal your presence Amen

Ann



THE COMMONWEALTH GAMES, GLASGOW, 2014

I was blessed and very privileged to be given a job in The Commonwealth Games Village. This role was called a Commonwealth Games Assistant or CGA, which is a fancy name for a ‘gofer’ as in go for this or go for that!!! In training, which took three sessions, we were told that this was one of the top volunteering jobs. My role started a week or so before the teams arrived. I was attached to Team Singapore and was thrilled. As they are one of the wealthier countries they sent over a ‘Pre- Games’ management team to organise things. Our volunteers numbered from 8-12 at various times and we organised our own rotas. Most of us worked 6 days a week in 7 hour shifts. Decorating our part of the village which we called ‘Singapore Square’ involved bribing the onsite firemen to put up our banners. They also let us sit in their fire engine and we took lots of photos!!! We did, however do lots of boring jobs like signing off the rooms ready for the team. Counting coat hangers for 81 athletes was not fun!!!! I was however happy to go to help sign out our 7 cars and even chose my own, white with pink stripes!

Our team was very young. They were kept to very strict rules, until after they’d performed, even having to hand over their mobile phones to their team manager. We first met them at the opening ceremony in the Village. I was asked to lead the team in, which was a great honour. The Scottish Youth Theatre performed and there were speeches and exchanges of gifts. Then the hard work began. My first job was to help co-ordinate the visit of the President of Singapore. He was an elderly man with walking difficulties so this caused chaos trying to get him and his security round the village. I managed to organise golf buggies and we decorated them with flags. However he had a wonderful time and we had difficulty getting him out of the village before end of visiting time. During his visit I met with our own Royal Protection Team who had been ‘hired’ out to him. This meant that when Prince Harry, Prince William and Kate came to visit I was able to be there and see them. After that I was assigned to The Sports Minister for 3 days. I took him to a Commonwealth Meeting with Prince Charles, which was pretty exciting. The Sports Minister was staying in a Glasgow Hotel with his security team and they always had to check the car before we

left. This caused a lot of funny looks and comments in the middle of a busy Glasgow Street. One group of builders said it was like a movie scene!!

During my 3 weeks in the village I met many famous people, although at the time I had no idea who any of them were!!! I was able to attend a service at the multi-faith centre, which was so special. The village was a special bubble where everyone spoke to each other, no matter what role, culture, able bodied or disabled. I don't think I'll ever be in such an environment again, unless I head for The Gold Coast in 2018!! It was an amazing and very special experience and I wore my MU badge with pride all through it.

Jill Cameron

IN TUNE WITH GLASGOW 2014

On the second evening of the Commonwealth Games, Thursday 24th July, the Diocese held an evening of light music and traditional tunes at St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow to celebrate the work of the Mothers' Union across the commonwealth.

With the Glasgow Senior Citizen Orchestra and the Clyde Coast Strathspey and Reel Society with Scottish Country Dancers, we had a very enjoyable evening of music and dancing while raising money for the MU Overseas Fund. There was also a special appearance by members of the Ugandan games delegation.

LEGACY OF COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Margaret Auma Okuda a Community Development Co-ordinator from Karamoja Uganda is also an athlete. Margaret came to Glasgow as a coach with the Ugandan Team. On arrival in Glasgow Margaret attended the Multi-Faith Centre at the Games village where she asked to be put in touch with the Anglican Church in Glasgow and Mothers' Union.

Rev Andrew Richardson from the East End Team was the Scottish Episcopal Church's Chaplain in the Games Village. Andrew con-



tacted Mothers' Union to start members on a wonderful journey. Thanks to Rev Andrew Margaret and the Uganda Team Chaplain attended our Fund Raising Concert 'In Tune with Glasgow 2014' at St Mary's cathedral. Both were thrilled to be in the cathedral, hearing the glorious music where they both joined in the Scottish dancing and joined hands for Auld Lang Sang. A real treat for the audience was hearing from both of them.

Before they went home Margaret and her friend Zahara a shooter with the Ugandan Team joined members at the DP's home where a very special Mary Sumner Day was celebrated with our new sister in Christ.

A request from Margaret to take clothes back home resulted in members amassing two car loads of goods. Margaret was overjoyed and has been in touch to offer sincere thanks on behalf of the hundred people who benefited. We hope and pray that members will find a way to continue this mission.

Members started on a journey during the Commonwealth Games and God's Grace resulted in flourishing relationships with the East End Team and Uganda. A cause for thanksgiving, great giving

Ann



UNITED NATIONS GIFT BOXES

The Gift Boxes were situated in Sauchiehall Street and at Glasgow Cathedral during the Commonwealth Games. The aim was to raise awareness of Human Trafficking and also to provide contact details where help was available.

The brightly coloured boxes with their gift tags displaying the promise of a better life on the outside revealed on the inside the realities of Human Trafficking. The bright colours were replaced by black and grey with the images of people trapped behind bars. The words of the victims made chilling reading. The victims come from all countries including Scotland. Here is the lived experience of one victim

Amira from the Middle East was eager to explore the world and learn English. The dream turned into a nightmare when she was exploited and abused for 6 months. Forced to work in a family home for 19 hours a day with no breaks, or days off, she was repeatedly abused after refusing her captor's advances. Amira fled and someone took her to the police.



During the Games volunteers at the Gift Boxes raised awareness of the issue by engaging with the public and gathering over 17,000 signatures to exhort Scottish legislators to ensure the companies with which they have trade agreements do not use trafficked people

Ann

Following MU members meeting with members of the Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual and Transgender Group at St Mary's Cathedral in January Dr Alan McManus has responded to our invitation to write an article for Newslink. Thank you, Alan.

CONSIDERATION

Across a crowded room, at the staff-student mixer for my first degree in Theology, fresh out of a Franciscan Friary, I fell in love. The object of my affection was pretty, feminine, intelligent, warm, critically committed to Liberation Theology – then all the rage – and lesbian. I say “critically” because her painful experience of not being affirmed either as an autonomous woman or a lesbian in the Roman Catholic Church made her very wary of some of the sexist assumptions of otherwise good people – people who in all good conscience were trying to make the world a better place. A month later, I told her of my feelings, six months after that, she told me of hers.

I was shocked. Although entry into the Franciscans had provoked a peace of mind that favoured the contemplative aspect of my spirituality, my years previous to entry had been blessed by involvement in Charismatic Renewal. I say “blessed” because, despite my mixed feelings now – and to some extent even then – about this enthusiastic spirituality, I had experienced deep healing of emotional hurts and the joy of belonging to a demonstratively loving community in those years. The Franciscan brotherhood I had subsequently belonged to was also a loving community, but was certainly not demonstrative.

I told her that she was perhaps possessed and asked if she'd like me to attempt an exorcism. This kind offer was, very politely, declined. After this initial, and expected, reaction – she was a shrewd judge of character and had given me six months to get to know her before dropping the bombshell – I began to think and to pray about her situation with a little more charity and a lot more consideration. During this time I also started going out with an American Episcopalian studying for the priesthood (who later took me to my first mass with a female celebrant) and became friends with a Scottish Episcopalian

who seemed to his many fans to be the very embodiment of Oscar Wilde.

My girlfriend's attitude to gay and lesbian love was more open than mine but meeting real people rather than judging behaviour in the abstract meant that I had to face a difficult question: could I really condemn these good people, these good friends, to a life of unchosen celibacy? The part of my vocation spent in the Friary was no less valued by me for being temporary and I believe now that the road I chose on leaving was both very difficult and very human – and that has made all the difference. Had I stayed, it may have taken me longer to get over my intense spiritual pride. Perhaps not. Those who run into the cloister to get away from themselves come smack up against the very thing they are fleeing. And there are fewer distractions.

I remember thinking that the option of chastity before marriage was simply not open to those who shared the love which – very often in those days of Section 28 – “feared to speak its name”. This year, I was moved to tears when the majority of citizens of my country asked our government to provide our ministers of religion with the legal competence to celebrate such marriages. In the course of my theological education it became clear to me that I may one day find myself considering marrying a man, as then I considered marrying a woman.

Although I look on the legacy of the late Lady Thatcher with mostly negative feelings, I acknowledge that her election was a tremendous breakthrough for women. There were, and still are, those who oppose women raising their voices in religious assemblies where men are present, or in any assembly where men are present, or women uncovering their heads where men are present; and those who oppose women uncovering their faces where men are present – all on religious grounds.

Most of these judgements about women can be argued for with the backing of isolated verses from scripture, or even from a combination of verses. All of them would be acknowledged I'm sure, by the majority of members of the Mother's Union, as outdated. In my little book, *Only Say The Word*, I offer arguments but I also offer my experience



and that of others of daring to speak our love's name. I don't think arguments carry much weight against prejudice. What carries weight is acknowledging that our enthusiastic convictions may be due for more mature consideration, admitting that "it's time".

Dr Alan McManus, author, theatre-maker and life coach, attends St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow and was very happy to meet with Ann Glenesk and other MU members there recently.

PROVINCIAL RETREAT

Our annual silent retreat provides an opportunity to be quiet and feel God's presence. Normally, it is held at the welcoming and comfortable setting of St. Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull beside Perth, but in 2015, due to a major refurbishment project at St Mary's, the retreat will be held at Netherurd House near Blyth Bridge in the Scottish Borders.

The retreat is run mid-week from Tuesday afternoon to Thursday after lunch in the Spring of each year. The next retreat will be held from **Tuesday 14th to Thursday 16th April 2015**. This is in the week following Easter Week.

The silence is maintained in the buildings from around 8pm on Tuesday to around 12 noon on Thursday, though there will be areas reserved for those who want to talk during these times. Wednesday afternoon is free time to explore the grounds or use as you wish. There will also be an opportunity to talk to the leader on a one to one basis during this time.

The retreat leader will be Fiona Fidgin, who is Outreach Project Coordinator at [St Anthony's Priory](#) near Durham. Previously she worked

for the Church of Scotland. The Priory website says “she has a background in education and is renowned for her ground breaking youth work. Amongst other things she is trained in Godly Play and was the UK’s first Veriditas trained Labyrinth facilitator”. There is a labyrinth in the grounds of Netherurd, so Fiona may be able to give retreatants some guidance on making the most of it.

Netherurd is Girl Guiding Scotland’s training centre situated about 25 miles south of Edinburgh close to the Edinburgh to Moffat road, the A701. It offers accommodation of a high standard in the original mansion house and in the modern Garden House situated in its extensive and beautiful grounds. There are lots of walks and beautiful views of the surrounding countryside.

Booking is now open, the preferred method is to go to <http://muscotland.org.uk/RetreatApp.php> and complete the online form. This keeps the administration work and costs to a minimum. Alternatively you can obtain a booking form from your branch leader or contact Pat Hindle at 0141 776 3237 or email her at retreat@muscotland.org.uk.



Please book early to increase the chances of being allocated your first preference room location. **The all-inclusive cost of the Retreat is £150.** This includes accommodation along with all meals and snacks.

MU Fundraising and Communications Conference **A summary of information for all**

Income from Fundraising

Harvest Appeal, this is new and happening just now. We informed the staff that it was too short a time for most members to do anything about it. But they have received £10,000 already in the first week.

There will be a **Christmas Appeal**, but targeting at non-members for donations.

Wheels Appeal is going to be finished up this year as it only targets the funding of transport. It has made £54,000 this summer so far. They hope you will continue to have tea parties, but for more general funds.

MAMD continues to be our major donation appeal. Following on from research, they will be reducing the number of items quite considerably 2015, this should lead to a high donation as there are fewer choices. They will be producing more targeted giving, going on what you have donated previously.

Celebrate with Us has raised £1,451 in 2014, not much, but they haven't been publicising it and Christmas is usually when it is used. It is an Ethical giving catalogue, similar to MAMD.

Direct Debit Giving is an area that they want to develop. The staff have gone out to central members and asked if they would donate regularly and 20 came back and are giving monthly, by DD totalling £150 a month.

Membership

28% of income comes from subscriptions and 28% from members donations. So 56% of income comes from members.

Expenditure

Details on expenditure are in the annual review. The percentage we spend on Governance is 3%, which is very low compared to other charities, this is because of our subscriptions going to MSH. Now the General Fund is very low.

Applying for Grants for projects

I can help with this if you have a project you want funding for.

Hilary Moran

MU CHAPLAIN

On Saturday June 14th, MU members met at Rev Peter Douglas' home for a final time as Peter relinquished his role as MU Chaplain, prior to retiring from his ministry at Holy Trinity, Kilmarnock, in July.



This was no sad time, but a joyous occasion as all present, including Beth the dog enjoyed worship, a wide ranging and delicious BBQ and fantastic company

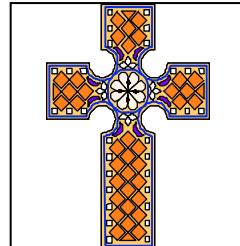
Peter's chaplaincy has inspired members through his worship, spirituality hospitality and joyful exuberance. Ministry in Africa with MU gave Peter insight into what is possible when a Christian organisation focuses on being God's witnesses. In G&G we try to follow that ethos.

Members would not be surprised if an MU branch opens up soon in Malaga!

Thank you Peter!

I am delighted to inform you that +Gregor has confirmed that the Rev Lucy Ireland has agreed to be our new Mothers' Union Chaplain for the next 3 years.

Rev Lucy is a non-stipendiary minister in the East End Team and her husband Les is Rector at St Cyprian's Lenzie.



LETTER FROM OUR NEW CHAPLAIN

Hello, as a relative newcomer to the diocese, now taking on the role of Mother's Union Chaplain, I feel I should tell you a little about myself.

We moved to the diocese of Glasgow and Galloway in November 2012 when Les, my husband, was licensed as Priest in Charge at St Cyprian's, Lenzie. Before that we lived and worked in Manchester Diocese for 25 years. I ministered alongside Les in 3 different churches and spent the first few years bringing up our son and daughter. As they got older I also did some part time work as a hospital chaplain which was both challenging and rewarding and combined well with parish ministry. Since moving up here I have become involved with the churches of the East End Team Ministry, assisting the Team Rector, Andrew Richardson.

The early years of my life were spent on a farm in Zimbabwe, the oldest of six children, with parents who took their Christian faith very seriously and did their best to encourage us to pray, read the Bible and go to church. As well as giving us a loving and secure home life my parents helped me to become aware of God in my own life and to develop my own relationship with Christ and I am extremely grateful to have had that foundation on which to build.

After going to university I worked for a time as a dietician then began to sense a call to some kind of full time Christian ministry. This led to a move to the UK in order to study at theological college for a year. During that year I went to a Church of England selection conference and was recommended for ordination which meant a further three years of training, one of which was a year long placement with a church in Halifax – another important time of spiritual development. I met Les during this time and we married a couple of years later after we had both been ordained. Looking back I think that both marriage and being a parent gave me new insights into my own relationship with God and helped me appreciate God's love and grace more fully.

I have known and respected the work of MU for a long time but only recently become an actual member. It is likely that I will learn as much from meeting and working with you all as you will ever learn from me. Les and I have always believed in going through the doors that God opens for us so it will be exciting to see where the next few years take us and I look forward to sharing them with you all.

Lucy Ireland



GLASGOW CHILDREN'S HOLIDAY SCHEME

Thank you for your donation of £575 which paid for the rail travel of children and their escorts.

The arrangements were for 17 young folks aged 10 to 16. Two children went for the first time; in addition William at 19 makes his own arrangements now. Williams has been supported by his host family since he was aged 9 and they enjoy a strong relationship. So much so that thanks to their support William completed both a Princes Trust and Hospitality training courses recently and is now enjoying independence working in a lovely hotel. He visits his family in Ruchazie regularly but sees his training and employment as his ticket out of Ruchazie and the negativity that surrounded him there.

Last year when asked why he didn't get a job William, a gentle young man, replied, "What's the point of earning money? Someone with a knife will just come along and take it off you". William's words were a reminder of the daily pressures many young folk have to deal with and help us rejoice with him that he has found a way round these barriers thanks to a caring and committed host family.

The caravan holidays are booking up even faster than last year, despite the Scheme having an addition caravan at Blair Atholl this season. 180 families and over 450 children will benefit from a week or long weekend break at the caravans by the end of the season. They are all looking lovely, with the oldest having been reupholstered and re-carpeted, a new disabled ramp and balcony on another which is popular with grandparent carers or those with disabilities.

Thank you all so much on behalf of all the families who will benefit.

BALMORE COACH HOUSE

Once again, Balmore Coach House has agreed that all profits raised on **Wednesday 19th November 2014** will go to the Mothers Union.

So why not pop along, do some Christmas shopping and have a bite to eat. Open 10:30 am to 5pm.

Balmore Coach House, Viewfield, Balmore, Torrance, Glasgow
G64 4AE

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY—2015

- | | |
|---------------|--|
| 21st March | Lady Day Service and Spring Council <u>St John the Evangelist, Union Street, Greenock</u> |
| 14-16th April | Provincial Retreat Netherurd House, Near Blyth Bridge, Peeblesshire |
| 16th May | Festival Service |

FESTIVAL SERVICE MAY 2014

Members from across the diocese travelled to St John's Church, Dumfries on Saturday 10th May to join with members from the Galloway region as they celebrated the 65th anniversary of being a part of the Worldwide Mother's Union.



The service presided over by +Idris and Revd Canon Robin Paisley took the theme of 'Sowing The Future Together'. Lynne Tembey Worldwide President gave the address and readings were done by Jean McPherson Richardson (Provincial President) and Ann Glenesk (Diocesan President). In addition the many Glasgow and Galloway members who were present along with all the banners from their branches we welcomed Olu Akitoye from Lagos, Nigeria and Angela Klabou from Chester – two of our linked dioceses.

After a most joyful service we headed out into the church grounds where, dodging the rain showers, Lynne Tembey planted a commemorative tree (*Cornus controversa variegata* – The wedding Cake Tree). Elsie Murray one of our trustees had written a blessing that we all sang to the tune of 'Ye Banks and Braes' (most appropriate given the Burns connection to Dumfries).

Lunch then followed in the church hall, all provided by MU members from the region, and truly delicious.



After lunch, entertainment had been laid on. Two very talented young men from St John's congregation along with their pianist sang a selection of arias and ditties.



(From left to right) Margaret Horrell, Mary Reynolds,
The Honourable Mrs Maitland, and Ann Glenesk.

HARVEST APPEAL QUIZ

Name starting with initial letter

| Vegetable/Fruit | Flowers |
|-----------------|---------|
| H | H |
| A | A |
| R | R |
| V | V |
| E | E |
| S | S |
| T | T |

designed by Mary Reynolds

Thanks to all the contributors.

All articles for the Spring edition of Newslink should be sent by 28th February 2015 to me: Wendy Petrie, 120 Meadowburn, Bishopbriggs, G64 3LX or by e mail to petriec@talktalk.net



'Singapore Square' (above)



Jill Cameron in her Clydesider uniform holding the Commonwealth baton.