

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway



NEWSLINK
Autumn 2017
Scottish Charity SC023885



**A LETTER
FROM
OUR**

DIOCESAN PRESIDENT

As I mentioned previously Gil and I have now also experienced a new beginning! We are looking after our darling little granddaughter 3 days a week while her mum and dad work. I'm sure we'll get used to the early morning starts again and crawling around floors playing with her, but for now we're finding it absolutely exhausting!!!

Dear Friends,

This is a time for new beginnings both in my personal life and also for some of us in Mothers Union. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new branch leaders and wish you every blessing as you continue in your new role in the Mothers Union. Please remember that you are supported by not only fellow members but by the trustees and we are only a phone call (or text message away) if you need to speak to one of us. Hopefully by the time you read this our new MU branch in Hamilton will have opened. It is wonderful to be able to welcome a new MU branch into our diocese.

Most of the trustees have been involved in preparations for the MU General Meeting in Edinburgh. This has involved a considerable amount of work, travelling and organisation. Hopefully we will have been able to welcome our many MU visitors and friends to Edinburgh and show them what an amazing province we are. We may be few in number and widespread in location but in enthusiasm and energy we are second to none. I hope those of you who were able to attend the General Meeting enjoyed yourselves. For many of us it is a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with old friends and indeed make new ones.

Once again we have to

thank David and Sue Brough for their wonderful generosity. David has produced another beautiful children's book and will be donating some of the profits from the sale of it to the work of the MU. If you have young children in your family it is a lovely and special gift for them.

As we continue with our meetings and many outreach projects I think it is important to reflect on the impact we have throughout the diocese and even worldwide. On a visit to the neo-natal unit in Crosshouse Hospital to see how the Bonding Squares are being used, I was amazed to talk to, not only staff but young mums and dads, who spoke confidently about The Mothers Union Bonding Squares! We are now also reconnecting with Malawi to produce our New Baby Parcels for the maternity hospital there. We will resume our support of the Smileawi project again through the same new charity. After the Raven Trust closed we worried that our work there was at an end. However God has answered our prayers and the new charity is delighted

to transport our baby parcels, toothpaste and toothbrushes.

Jesus said, 'For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.'

It is not important whether your branch has two or twenty members, what is important is your prayer fellowship and support of each other and the work of the Mothers Union.

Wishing you every blessing,

***Jill Cameron,
Diocesan President.***

RIDING ON THE REGGAE BUS

I recently attended the World Flower Show held in the beautiful island of Barbados. Whilst walking around the exhibition (which was fabulous, may I say) I noticed a lady carrying a bag with a MU badge affixed. Naturally I approached her and identified myself as a member. She told me that there was a big MU service in Bridgetown on the Saturday following and I decided that if I could I would attend. The service was to be held in St.

Michael's Cathedral at
5.00pm.

I studied the road map of Bridgetown and decided that I could catch a bus outside my hotel and ride all the way to the terminus alighting at the bus station, just a short walk to the Cathedral.

I left the hotel in my best dress and sunhat and waved down the first bus going into town. There are two main bus services on Barbados, one blue and one yellow. The blue service is run by the Government, stops only at designated stops, doesn't give change and has hard wooden slatted seats. The yellow service is privately run, stops where you indicate, gives change (the fare anywhere is two Barbados dollars), has soft padded seats AND plays very loud reggae music as it charges along at full tilt.

I chose the yellow bus and climbed aboard, paid my 2 dollars and enjoyed the breeze coming from all the windows as we rushed noisily towards Bridgetown. I had never been there before so I watched

carefully as we travelled through the suburbs into the busy streets and larger buildings of the centre. Passengers came and went, squeezing in with their bags and packages, sitting beside me and nodding – it was too noisy to have a conversation.

Gradually I noticed that the larger buildings were giving way to smaller houses again and we still hadn't crossed the river bridge which leads to the bus station. I looked up to see the "conductor" looking at me, "Where do you want to go" he said and I explained "to the bus station". He said something to the driver and then beckoned me to come forward. He stopped the bus and saw me across the road, halting a black and white bus as we went and said "Get on this bus and they will take you to the bus station". I did as I was told, no one spoke and I travelled in faith to the bus station. Thanking the driver I alighted asking to be directed to the cathedral. "Just follow that road" he said and so I did. However consulting my road map I could see that

there were two bus stations and I was in the other one!

I walked through a market, avoiding the cabbage leaves and the stray dogs, through a park with orators declaiming and on and on for at least a mile, in the heat and in sandals! At last I could see the cathedral standing in the middle of a large churchyard. It was built in 1784 but a church had existed on the site since 1641. The doors and windows were open and I could hear the ladies singing. I walked into this huge church filled with ladies in their MU uniform of bright blue and lime green, it looked amazing. I had come to the 104th Anniversary service of the Barbados Mothers' Union and was delighted to sit at the back and join in the singing of familiar hymns and to hear the addresses from the President of Barbados MU and the Provincial President of the West Indies. Presentations of Fifty Year Awards were made to two ladies, one of whom had unfortunately just died, so the award went to her son.

The sun sets at 6.15 coming down like a curtain so when

I decided that I must leave in order to get back for my evening meal, I found myself in the dark. I followed the way I had come but when it came to the darkness of the park I hurried to catch up with a lady walking in front of me. I told her where I was going and she accompanied me to the bus station and put me on the right bus. She even travelled part of the way with me although she needed to go another way. The yellow bus rushed along picking up passengers until all seats were taken and the aisle was filled with at least 20 people all clutching a handhold and their packages. I peered out into the dark not recognising the route and was just beginning to wonder where I would end up, when I recognised the hotel next to ours and as we rushed by our entrance I yelled "STOP". The driver put on all his brakes and dropped me 100 yards past the entrance and then went on his noisy rackety way. What an experience, and what kind and friendly folk I found!

Carolynne Sorrell

FESTIVAL SERVICE

Members gathered at St. Cyprians Church, Lenzie for their festival Service on the 13th May. The diocesan banners were paraded up to the sanctuary at the start of the service. The Diocesan MU chaplain, Revd. Lucy Ireland led our service on the MU theme for 2017 called Faith in Action. Prayers were led by Maxine Gow the branch leader.



During the service we enrolled two new members, Ruth and Ian Hart. It was an honour to be able to add to our membership. Provincial President, Jean Richardson

joined us for our service, followed by afternoon tea, very kindly provided by members at St. Cyprians. We had a stall with some of the souvenirs which will be sold at the General Meeting in September in Edinburgh. We all enjoyed the worship and fellowship and are very grateful to our members in Lenzie for providing this for us.

PROJECTS

Members have produced a booklet, entitled "Flavoursome Food on a budget". It provides recipes for people who like to cook, but have a very tight budget. It requires minimum utensils (generally one-pot cooking) and minimum ingredients to make great-tasting meals.

It is particularly suitable for giving to food banks or including in starter packs and cookery programmes for people on very limited means.

It is available through branches or can be downloaded from <https://www.muscotland.org.uk/projectwork.htm>

GENERAL MEETING

Canon Sarah Snyder, the Archbishop of Canterbury's Advisor on Reconciliation, called on Mothers' Union members at our General Meeting in Edinburgh on Saturday to be Ambassadors of reconciliation.

In her keynote address she spoke about her work around the world and brought it home by explaining that "one of the most powerful tools for reconciliation is to show hospitality – not just to our friends, but to those outside our comfort zone."

Canon Snyder, a member herself, went on to encourage fellow members and described the movement as being wonderful at hospitality, "How can we build on this strength, to extend our reach, in ways that move us beyond our comfort zones, and help us to live out the call to be ambassadors of reconciliation?"

Finally, she asked members how they can be ambassadors of reconciliation in their families, community and beyond. How they can be a

voice for women around the world serving as ambassadors of reconciliation in risky places and "How can we as a worldwide network of women and mothers, answer God's call, to every one of us, to serve as His ambassadors and His ministers of reconciliation?"

In response, Mothers' Union's CEO Bev Jullien, proposed two pledges to members. Firstly, they voted overwhelmingly to support the following call to action:

"We, a global movement of four million members, many of whom have experienced directly the impact of conflict on the lives of women and children, and are actively involved in peacebuilding, call for women's voices to be heard, and their needs represented, in all areas of peacebuilding and conflict resolution."

Members, who attended from as far afield as Uganda, Trinidad and Tobago, and throughout Britain and Ireland, also wrote down their own personal pledges of what they planned to do when they returned home.

“Much of what we do in our communities is the work of reconciliation, but we don’t put a name on it,” explained Bev Jullien. “We just get on and do it. We are out on the front line. Canon Snyder has encouraged us and inspired us today to build on what we are doing,” she continued.

In her speech, Worldwide President, Lynne Tembey, talked about the many ways Mothers’ Union is at the front-line all over the world. She described the work of Mothers’ Union groups in Truro Diocese who give children starting school their very own little “Teddy Horsley” and share with them his adventures, linked to Bible verses. “The aim is to encourage trust and a sense of security for the children, saying you are not alone, someone cares for you and you have someone to care for,” she said

Next year’s general meeting will be in Swansea , 17-18 September. Watch out for further details.

BRANCH NEWS BISHOPBRIGGS IS 20

The branch was started by Nancy Devine in 1987.

Today it is run by a committee of 5 people, and has 24 members.

Meetings are held every second Monday of the month for the whole group. A devoted craft group meet who do sewing/knitting workshops for outreach to the community and fundraising for MU projects.

Last year in association with The Coach House a day was held for members, friends and family to purchase fair trade goods. The profit from that day was given to the MU Relief Fund. The Balmore Coach House has now closed, but a new venue has opened at Gavin’s Mill. We are hoping that a similar link can be established with Gavin’s Mill. MU volunteers help at HMP Low Moss and support East Dunbartonshire Women’s Refuge practically and with prayers.

LINK DIOCESE - KENYA

Active in Kenya for 95 years, Mothers’ Union Kenya now has a membership of over 450,000 and a presence spanning the whole country.

Over the last few years a major focus for Mothers' Union Kenya across the country has been community reconciliation. Mothers' Union members and the Church have been helping heal the wounds of conflict by training hundreds of community-based facilitators who facilitate discussions and activities on reconciliation.

All Saints Cathedral are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year with various events. The country is also voting for its new presidential leader.

All Saints Cathedral Mothers Union have a brand new 33 seater bus, which can be hired out. "The bus and driver are NTSA certified which ensures that all the rules of the road are observed for a safe journey. The Mothers Union bus provides a comfortable and secure experience at a reasonable price in comparison to other modes of private and public transport."

PRAYER CHAIN

Summer is beginning to become a memory, there is beginning to be a chill in the air. Brodick. Distant peaks covered by cloud, waves gently lapping, washing away the heat of the day. Peace descends, boats rocking provide a lullaby, as a flight of ducks wing their homeward journey across the evening sky. Sue Brough.

There is a warmth in the foliage and fruits. Fire weed has flowered but the fire remains in the leaves and stems. The acers now turning red are a sight to behold, as are the red leaves of the turkey oak, so very aptly named. The leaves are falling, some are blown down by the wind and the burnished bronze carpet seen in the reservoir walk has arrived again.

A Sponsored walk around Mugdock Reservoir. Lithe limbs streaked with shining water, bright gold cascading down, burnished bronze carpet underfoot. Silence. a disembodied four legged creature, reflected in the water, part of a distant world.

Look. A partial skeleton, the leaves are falling, waiting to die. Ready to rest, ready for peace, ready to be part of the burnished bronze carpet. Sue Brough.

One of my trees in a pot, a

horse chestnut, has lost its leaves and looks a little sad, but the 'sticky buds' will remind me of the tree's readiness for new life next spring. The nights are drawing in and my evening gardening is being curtailed. I began to feel overwhelmed as I lay in bed planning my next moves. I asked for God's help and the next morning all was well, my mind was clear.

Ps.28. 1-2. 'To you I call O Lord, my Rock; do not turn a deaf ear to me,.....
Hear my cry for mercy as I call to you for help, as I lift up my hands towards your most Holy Place. 6-7.
Praise be to the Lord, for he has heard my call for mercy. The Lord is my strength and shield; my heart trusts in him and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song.'
The night can be a difficult time, insignificant problems seem nothing during the day, but with the end of daylight and the gathering darkness they become magnified. Untitled.

Darkness, difficulty,
loneliness, hardship, pain,
but in the night sky, a light

will appear. The dawning of the day, be patient, until the dawning dispels the darkness, with the glow of Love. Sue Brough

Matt.11. 28-30. "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me , for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."

Please pray for our Link Dioceses. Malaka, S.Sudan. All Saint's Cathedral, Kenya. Kontagora and Osun N.E. Nigeria. Pune, India. For Ayr. For Anne and Ron. Bishopbriggs. Betty, Grace and Alex. Dumfries. Agnes and Jackie. Kilmarnock. For Helen.

Please pray for Diocesan member Irene, her son Andrew, Ashley Craddock, husband of Lesley-ann.

Yours in Christ,
Sue Brough.



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SPRING COUNCIL and LADY DAY SERVICE

Will be held on 24th March 2018. The service will begin at 11am followed by lunch and council meeting (members to bring own lunch but tea and coffee provided).

Thanks to all the contributors.

All articles for the Spring edition of Newslink should be sent by **24th February 2018** to me: Wendy Petrie, 120 Meadowburn, Bishopbriggs, G64 3LX or
E-mail: petriecw@virginmedia.com

Cover Photo shows members at Spring Council in Dumfries.

Back page: All Saints Cathedral, Kenya, MU bus. Afternoon Tea following the Festival Service at St Cyprians, Lenzie.

