

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY



*The photo was taken outside Mary Sumner House. From left to right:
Wendy Sykes-Chester Diocese, Jane Hill-Coventry Diocese, Jill Cameron-Glasgow and Galloway
Susan Baker-Ely Diocese, Catherine Kyte-MSH Staff*

NEWSLINK SUMMER 2019

Scottish Charity SC02388

**2019 Theme: Listen,
observe, act – in step
with God**

**Mothers' Union
'130 years of Mothers'
Union in Scotland'**

Dear Readers, I am Katharine Kilgour, currently Branch Leader of Holy Trinity Mothers' Union, Motherwell. I have been invited to compile this summer's edition of Newslink.

Touching lives is a strong theme in the Mary Sumner prayer, and the Mothers' Union across the diocese have certainly touched many lives over this last few months. This edition highlights local and global contributions from our President, Chaplain, Trustees and local members. I do hope by being able to share the work of our organisation, others too will be inspired to act and to be upheld in prayer to support and make their contribution to the work of the Mothers' Union in their communities.



Mary Sumner's Personal Prayer

All this day, O Lord,
Let me touch as many lives as possible for thee;
And every life I touch, do thou by thy spirit quicken,
Whether through the word I speak,
The prayer I breathe, or the life I live.

Amen

Mothers' Union emphasises the importance of prayer underpinning its work. Each year, Mothers' Union organises a *Wave of Prayer*. Each diocese is given a set day to pray for other dioceses, and within each diocese each branch is given a specific time to pray. This gives to members a sense of unity in prayer for one another as the wave of prayer moves from branch to branch and from diocese to diocese.

Jill Cameron: Diocesan President's Letter

Dear Friends, I was very honoured to represent Scotland as part of a group of Mothers Union Members who were invited to the Queen's Garden Party, at Buckingham Palace on 21st. May this year. Six of us met at MSH on a glorious sunny day. We got to know each other and enjoyed tea and coffee before our photo call. Bev Julien, our MU Chief



Executive, took photos of us outside MSH before the cars arrived to take us to the palace. We were lucky enough to be dropped off at the main palace gates where guests and tourists alike were taking photos. When the gates opened we made our way through the palace into the courtyard in the middle (more photos!!!). Then we ascended the red carpet into the palace and out into the gardens. We were lucky enough to find a

table and enjoyed sipping cold drinks and admiring all the fashions of the guests around us. The afternoon tea was amazing. There were different kinds of sandwiches, wraps and bagels. The cakes were our favourite item, especially the chocolate one with the gold crown on top!



Then the Royal Party arrived to much excitement. I was surprised how close they were and again an opportunity for more photos. The Queen is very petite but looked lovely in pale blue and surprisingly wearing sunglasses. We were close to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Also present were Prince Edward and his wife Sophie and Prince Andrew.

After the Royal Party went to their tent for tea we enjoyed another cup of tea before heading for the gardens. On our way we picked up a delicious tub of strawberry and clotted cream ice-cream. We walked round the lake to the rose gardens joining all our fellow guests for more photograph opportunities. The flowers and gardens were beautiful.

Just before the national anthem to conclude the event, a young man near us got down on one knee and proposed to his girlfriend, who said yes and was presented with a diamond engagement ring. There was much cheering and congratulations by those around them. It was a wonderful way to end the afternoon. Not only did I experience the visit to Buckingham Palace but I also made 5 new friends that day from different areas of the UK. I look forward to keeping in touch with them and hearing about their branches of MU.

Image shows Buckingham Palace, London



Eva Kor's story -A Group Discussion on Forgiveness **By Diocesan Mothers' Union Chaplain: Rev Lucy Ireland**

Eva Kor came to my attention recently when her death at the age of



85 was announced on the national news (*Eva Kor passed away on 4 July 2019*). I heard that she was particularly known for her decision to publicly forgive the Nazis and Dr Mengele who used Eva and her twin sister, Miriam in his infamous twin experiments.

As a Christian I do believe that forgiveness can be a very powerful tool for setting a person free from all sorts of hurt and harm that they have suffered but I also know that it can be a very difficult thing to do. This is what made me take notice and want to find out a little more about her. Eva tells the story in her own words on a web site called The Forgiveness Project. You can find it at this link: <https://www.theforgivenessproject.com/eva-kor> It is worth a read

but to give a brief overview: Eva and her twin sister Miriam were born in Romania into a Jewish family (photo as children shown). During the rise of the Nazis her family were sent to Auschwitz; her parents and two older sisters died in the gas chambers. Against the odds Eva and Miriam (aged 10) both survived the experiments and were freed at the end of the war. Miriam died of cancer in her 30's but Eva lived to 85 and became well known for her public forgiveness of the Nazis and of Dr Mengele.



Eva made her decision to forgive publicly at a meeting in Auschwitz with a Nazi doctor called Hans Munch. She had met with him previously and discovered he was haunted by the things he was involved in. This was an eye opener for her.

When Hans Munch agreed to meet her in Auschwitz for a broadcast event, Eva looked for a gift to thank him and decided the best gift she could offer him was a written statement of her forgiveness. Some accused Eva of forgiving in their name and, not surprisingly, felt that was unacceptable. Eva was very clear she was doing it only in her own name and for herself. She said she felt she deserved to be free from the pain she lived with while she continued to hate the Nazis and Dr Mengele for what they did to her. When she forgave them, she was set free from that pain. It did not require Dr Mengele to apologise to Eva, she chose to be set free from him by letting go of the bitterness and anger.

I find it interesting that Eva always said she did not forgive because of any religious belief or obligation – she did it because she believed she deserved to be free from pain and bitterness, free to enjoy life. She said that, for her, forgiving was a matter of self-interest – she did it for her own good. I think Eva was an extraordinary woman to be able to forgive in the way she did but it clearly helped her greatly.

I believe with every fibre of my being that every human being has the right to live without the pain of the past (Eva Kor)'.

Rev Lucy, our Chaplain, offers us an opportunity to use Eva Kor's story as the basis for an MU Group discussion on forgiveness.



Rev Lucy suggests printing copies of the story from the website <https://www.theforgivenessproject.com/eva-kor> noted, then to read the story aloud to start with.

NB: It would be important to agree before any discussion started, that what is said in the group should stay in the group and that views we disagree with may be challenged but not attacked or used to condemn.

The following questions are suggestions only but may provide a way into discussion:

- **How do you react to Eva's story and her choice to forgive?** Can you sympathise with those who were angry with her for forgiving such terrible actions?
- **Should we forgive those who have not acknowledged their guilt or apologised?**
- **What do you think of Eva's motivation for forgiving?** What would/might be your motivation for forgiving someone?
- **Do you believe there are times when it is right NOT to forgive?** If so, why?
- **Does the Christian faith influence the way you make choices about forgiveness or help if you struggle with forgiveness?**
- **What about the need to forgive ourselves sometimes?**

- Another link to explore:

<https://candleholocaustmuseum.org/eva-kor/>

- **Celebrations of Life for Eva Kor**

- **Terre Haute Public Celebration of Life:**

Sunday, August 4th at 2:00pm EDT

Indiana State University

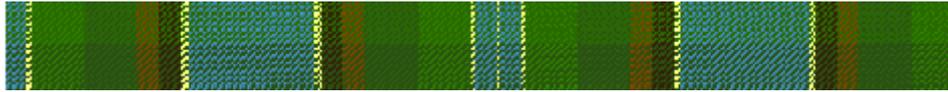
Tilson Music Hall, Terre Haute, IN 47809

- Live stream link: <https://www.indstate.edu/eva-kor-memorial>
In lieu of flowers, the family would like to request donations be made to the **CANDLES Eva Kor Legacy Education Fund** and/or the **WFYI/Ted Green Films "Eva" Education Program:**

<https://candleholocaustmuseum.org/contribute/how-to-give.html>

<https://www.thestoryofeva.com/education/donate/>

Glasgow and Galloway Mothers' Union Diocese News



Our first Sharing and Learning Together (SALT) Day was held at Bishop's Court in Paisley (next to Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church) on Saturday 27th April 2019. The intention of the day was, as it says in the title, to share with each other what we know and to learn from each other. Grateful thanks to all who contributed and participated. Ann Wren led an interactive session where members (see photo) explored the meaning of the parable 'Jesus Heals the Blind Man'.



Our next Sharing and Learning Together (SALT) DAY
Will be held at **St John's, Dumfries, DG1 1JE**
On 12 OCTOBER 2019,
10 am until 4pm.
Bring your own lunch teas and coffees provided



St John's Dumfries, has a lively branch of the Mothers' Union, despite the title, you don't have to be a woman or a mother to be part of it!

Some of the activities of St John's members include support for Dumfries Women's Aid, provision of toiletries and help to people in hospital, participation in a network of prayer and work with the Mothers' Union in our twin Diocese of Byumba. They also have a lively programme of meetings and worship see website for more details. <http://www.stjohnsdumfries.org/groups/mothers-union/>

Mothers' UNION

LOCAL and GLOBAL MOTHERS' UNION NEWS



This year marks the start of a new triennium (2019-2021), and the Mothers' Union worldwide have appointed a new Worldwide President Mrs Sheran Harper and a new board. We are delighted to announce, the appointment of Mr Paul Hindle, one of our Diocesan MU Trustees, as the new Zonal Trustee for Mothers' Union Zone J, Scotland.



Paul is a retired chartered engineer and Member of the Energy Institute. In his professional career, he developed skills including direct marketing, financial modelling and development of legal contracts. He is an active volunteer in the Church and with other charities, is a Treasurer for two and has developed skills in website developing and management, online databases and desktop publishing. Paul joined Mothers' Union in 2006, and has been Treasurer for MU Scotland for six years. In this role, he has proposed changes to the Constitution for Scotland which were accepted, and is the lead contact for the Charity Regulator in Scotland. Paul also manages our MU Scotland webpage as Mothers' Union webmaster. The group photo above shows our new worldwide president Mrs Sheran Harper and the Mothers' Union 2019 Worldwide Council who met together in Kigali, Rwanda at the beginning of June (3-6th). In Mothers' Union's 142 year history this was the first time that MU leaders from 30 countries across the world met together outside of the UK.

Mothers' Union is an interconnected, global movement, sharing with, and supporting one another to achieve our common goals. We recognise the need for a central charity to support and coordinate this work and agree to contribute towards the associated costs.

The Mothers' Union worldwide board of trustees, all of whom for 2019-2021 are volunteers elected from the membership. The Board meets at least twice a year and comprises the Worldwide President as Chair of the Board, and members from across the world. In 2019, their skills are complemented by two non-voting co-optees providing expertise on finance and property and business leadership to the Audit and Risk Committee. A Bishop holds the office of Honorary Chaplain to the Board and the movement.

The MU **worldwide board met together to** shape the global vision and strategy to transform lives. The MU 'Making a Global Impact' video was shortlisted for the Charity Film Awards earlier this year. The link below leads to a clip of the film, this shows work being done in Scotland in addition to other projects worldwide.



<https://youtu.be/XkvqvyGVWoM>

Key decisions from the Worldwide council, held in Kigali, are reported here:

Our identity: *Mothers' Union is a global, women led, volunteer movement. United in our diversity and living out our faith, we support individuals and families to transform their lives. Embedded in the Church and community, we have unprecedented reach that gives a voice to the stigmatized and vulnerable around the world.*

The four overall global changes we aspire to make are in the areas of

1. Gender justice
2. Peace and safety
3. Self-reliance
4. Restored relationships with God, each other, the environment and the stigmatised.

A shortlist of seven strategic areas (see insert) was developed by the council. These were identified during the week in Kigali, with reference to data derived from MULO.A.

Three key strategic priorities will be formed from these seven areas, by the central charity staff team, for programme, policy and advocacy work.

The values which determine how we work are: being non-judgmental, loving and compassionate, persevering and bold.

A shortlist of seven strategic areas

1. **Stable livelihoods**
2. **Reconciliation and conflict resolution**
3. **Strengthening women and girls' voices to influence change**
4. **Literacy and education**
5. **Positive gender roles**
6. **Gender based violence**
7. **The environment.**

Our Mothers' Union approach to working in all our communities is

**Our values are:
being non-judgmental,
loving and
compassionate,
persevering and bold.**

first to listen and observe, then to mobilise our own and surrounding resources. We will work to equip those around us to meet the challenges they face, and where appropriate seek to partner with others enabling us to reach more people, more effectively.

In all we do we are committed to operating in line with good financial management, governance and monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Creating safe spaces for the vulnerable is a key part of what we do, so we commit to a collective policy on safeguarding, and developing and implementing contextually appropriate procedures consistent with this policy and in line with the guidelines of the Anglican Church.

The 2019 Mothers' Union General Meeting will be held at Portsmouth Guildhall on Wednesday 18th September (Guildhall Square, Portsmouth PO1 2AB). The keynote address will be given by the Worldwide President, Sheran Harper.

Celebration Services will be the afternoon and evening of the 17th September at Portsmouth Cathedral. **Both of these events will be ticketed.**

For more information please check the website link

<https://www.mothersunion.org/.../whats-on/general-meeting-2019>



MOTHERS' UNION NEWS FROM HOLY TRINITY MOTHERWELL

This year our branch welcomed different speakers from several organisations which gave our members insight into services available in the community for families and children many of whom suffer from loneliness and long term chronic conditions such as dementia and diabetes. Frances McKay from North Lanarkshire Carer's Together (<http://www.carerstogether.org/>) gave us insight into carer's rights and provided members with Carer's packs to share in their community.



Over 90,000 people are living with dementia in Scotland In April, Deborah Edgar from Alzheimer Scotland gave us a wonderfully enlightening and interactive talk on 'how to live well with Dementia'.



We all took away '5 key messages about Dementia'. Alzheimer's Scotland believes '**nobody should face dementia alone**'.



Alzheimer's Scotland have a 24 hour Dementia HELPLINE with a freephone 0808 808 3000 and an email helpline@alzscot.org . Photo shows Deborah Edgar pictured front row, beside Jill Cameron, with members of the group awarded with Dementia Friends certificates.

In May, Agnes Cleland from **Elim Befriending Service (EBS), Motherwell** explained how their service, launched in 2015, aims to



www.ebsmotherwell.org.uk



provide a befriending service for anyone aged 18 years. 'Befriending is an act to become a friend to someone, especially when they are in need of help and support'. The

aim is to provide respite for carers and help service users become more independent and self-reliant in community.

(www.ebsmotherwell.org.uk)

MU recognise: 'Diabetes presents a serious health challenge for



Scotland'. Mr Allan Kirkwood, Volunteer Development Manager for Diabetes Scotland gave an excellent talk in Motherwell in June, when he explained the work of the organisation, much like the Mothers

Union, relies entirely on public donations to be able to provide their services. Diabetes Scotland, in addition to providing support for Diabetic sufferers to live well, the organisation petition for improved services at governmental level and raise awareness of patients' needs with Healthcare managers and donate money for research.

Holy Trinity Mothers' Union stall at the VANL conference

The photo (left) shows Holy Trinity MU stall at the VANL conference (4.6.19) which was held in Freedom Church Cumbernauld. The



conference was attended by our Rector Reverend Richard Kilgour and representatives from Holy Trinity Mothers Union, Katharine Kilgour, Branch Leader and Hazel O'Hara secretary along with Joe Wilson Table Tennis coach Colette Martin. The day began with an opportunity to learn about the 'Plan for N Lanarkshire' introduced by Des Murray

the Council Chief Executive. A pdf version of the plan can be downloaded using this link

<https://www.northlanarkshire.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx...>

Workshops and speakers shared information on existing and



developing programmes in the community.

Katharine Kilgour (Branch Leader Holy Trinity Mothers' Union) contributed to the discussion on the 'Lanarkshire Mental Health strategy' at one of the workshops. Katharine is pictured to the right with Kate Bell, Head of Service Change and Transformation NHS Lanarkshire.



Colette Martin the Development Officer from Joe Wilson Table Tennis, Motherwell reports on a new development supported by Community partners Voluntary Action North Lanarkshire (VANL), Active Schools and Holy Trinity Church Rector Rev Richard Kilgour, to introduce a New Community Joe Wilson Table Tennis initiative for children and adults, at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Motherwell. **Joe Wilson Table Tennis Club is based in Motherwell.** This club caters to all ages and abilities, and meets twice a week at Taylor High School Tuesdays (6-10pm) and Thursday nights (7-9pm). Many efforts to increase table tennis participation within North Lanarkshire has been put forth by the club. As the club's Table Tennis Development Officer, Colette reports she has been working with Active Schools to provide sessions for school pupils from Primary school up to High School. This is an important part of the club's development plan. **The club committee also placed an important role in the community,** where the club wished to provide opportunities for children and adults to participate in taster sessions and block sessions and give table tennis a go. One such project started within Holy Trinity Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) based in Motherwell, with thanks to the support given to this project by Mothers' Union branch members Katharine Kilgour and Hazel O'Hara along with the Rector Rev Richard Kilgour. The club and the church have linked together over the last few months, where access to table



tennis tables and equipment has been provided by Joe Wilson for use in the Church Hall. *The photo (left) shows Colette Martin coaching the children at one of the first children's community table tennis sessions earlier this summer.*

With the initial success of the children's only sessions, there was an increased interest in providing adults only sessions at the church hall.



A working group met on 12 June 2019 to make provision to host a new mixed ability adult table tennis taster session, which took place at Holy Trinity Church Hall, on 2 August 6.30 – 8 pm.

Following the success of the adult event it was agreed to host regular Friday evening adult table tennis sessions at Holy Trinity church at 6.30pm till 7.30pm from 16th August at a cost of £3.00 per session. (Photo here shows Colette in action at the adult session with Katharine Kilgour MU branch leader having a go at the sport).

Due to the level of interest and support from children and parents from the locality it has been decided to extend the age group to age 13 years and to continue to provide children's community table tennis sessions on Wednesday afternoons throughout August and ongoing into the school term. Anyone interested in table tennis in North Lanarkshire and would like to have a go, either at the club or

within the community sessions, please do get in contact with Colette Martin, Joe Wilson Table Tennis Development Officer, at colettemartin@outlook.com.

Anyone interested in volunteering at Table Tennis sessions then please get in touch to discuss voluntary opportunities in the Motherwell area. All information about the Joe Wilson Table Tennis Club is provided on the club Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/JoeWilsonTT/>) or for any other enquiries please contact Holy Trinity Mothers Union by email: holytrinitymothersunion@gmail.com

JOE WILSON TABLE TENNIS -
COMMUNITY TABLE TENNIS SESSIONS
For BOYS AND GIRLS AGES 8-13 years
At Holy Trinity Church Hall, (behind the church)
Crawford Street, Motherwell ML1 3AD
On WEDNESDAY AFTERNOONS
Table Tennis will continue
Throughout August and the School Term
3.30pm till 4.30 pm, £2.50 per session.
Book by email to coach.colettemartin@outlook.com



Or Turn up in advance on the day first come first served
These sessions are delivered by Colette Martin, (Joe Wilson Table Tennis Development officer) , with the support of a minimum of two volunteers from Holy Trinity Mothers' Union, who have full PVG certification.
Book early to avoid disappointment as numbers are limited !!!!

New Statement about Mothers' Union in the Scottish Dioceses (Adopted at the last Provincial Meeting)

'Members of Mothers' Union in the dioceses seek to advance God's Kingdom by developing loving, respectful relationships with people of all faiths and none irrespective of gender, marital status, ethnic origin, nationality, disability, sexual orientation or age'.

Advance notice of Mothers' Union Prayer Diary Dates

13th – 19th October 2019, 'What does freedom mean to you'? This is a dedicated week of prayer, when Mothers' Union will be an official partner in Prisons Week. During this week Mothers' Union branches across the Diocese are encouraged to encourage churches and individuals to pray for the needs of all those affected by prisons and to join with other Christian organisations in prayer at this time.

(<http://prisonsweek.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/PW-A4-POSTER.pdf>)

16 Days of Activism Against Gender Based Violence campaign which takes place each year **from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day)**. Mothers' Union is one of more than 6,000 organisations in 187 countries around the world which participates in the 16 Days Campaign to call for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence.

Please visit <https://www.mothersunion.org> also <http://muscotland.org.uk> for further updates or be in contact with your local MU branch leader.

Please Note: All contributions to Newlink for Winter edition to be sent at earliest convenience by end of October to holytrinitymothersunion@gmail.com

