

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**DIOCESE OF
GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY**



**NEWSLINK
SPRING 2013**

Scottish Charity SC023885

Dear Friends,

I hope this letter finds you in good form and in good spirits.

The Glenesk household has had a period of adjustment since my mother-in-law came to stay with us. The new arrangement has brought its challenges, but most of all joys, with my mother-in-law enjoying the brief chats she is having with members on the telephone.

I am writing this on the first Sunday of Lent – a glorious sunny day, 10°C, with snowdrops proudly appearing from the damp, cold earth. The season of Lent provides us with the opportunity to pause and reflect on our lives and how open we are to listen and respond to God's call. This is also the start of a new triennium, a time to reflect and learn from the past, before planning for the future. Three years ago, during Lent, I became Diocesan President. My first Newslink contribution included the text,

'So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you' (John 13:14-15).

As I now reflect on the links we have with members overseas and also here in the diocese the words from the gospel of Matthew also resonate

'but whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave, just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve' (Matthew 20:26-28).

As a diocese we all pray and share in the mission of giving Christmas cards to prisoners in Kilmarnock, Greenock and Low Moss prisons and supporting local women's refuges. Following this model, trustees would like to invite members to extend this to include supporting local mission at churches we visit for Spring, Autumn Council and Festival Services. This kind of activity would mirror what our sisters are doing overseas – praying, offer-

ing practical support and will also provide activities for branch and diocesan meetings.

The Mothers' Union theme for this year is Help us to Grow and evidence asserts that the best way to do is by invitation. A prayer for MSH -

God of welcome,
Take our mustard seed of Faith
Nourish it with the Holy Spirit,
That confidence will grow within us
To speak your words of invitation
May our vision flourish
Amen

With love and my prayers
Ann X

World Wide Council 2013

This year's World Wide Council began with a service to celebrate the Commissioning of the Trustee Board and Representative Members for 2013-15. It was a great joy to note that the trustees for this triennium represent Zambia, Ghana, Isle of Man, Guyana, Kenya, Rwanda, Uganda, Tanzania, Congo, Liverpool, Canterbury and Scotland. Jean Richardson is the Provincial President of Scotland and Paul Hindle is the Scottish Representative member.

The Worldwide President Lynne Tenby began speaking of her vision for Mothers' Union by inviting delegates to sing

Mayenziwe' ntando yakho— Your will be done on earth, O Lord.

Lynne reminded us that if we trust in God all will be well.

Reg Bailey, reminded members that the vision of Mothers' Union is a world where relationships are loving, respectful and flourishing. Mothers' Union Strap Line is Christian Care for Families, with the emphasis on Christian. The core themes of how members achieve the vision are **PRAYING, ENABLING and CAMPAIGNING.**

Prayer is central to all our endeavours as we believe that our Christian identity is expressed through our worship, work with families and communities, locally, nationally and globally. Members approach encouraged to be effective, accessible, clear and innovative.

Enabling – members nurture relationships, communications and practical skills to foster a sense of belonging, meaning and interdependence within the individual family and community.

Campaigning – members challenge the mechanisms that perpetuate social injustices that adversely affect family life. Members advocate public reform and thereby influence public opinion locally, nationally and globally.

By adhering to these core themes Mothers' Union will have an active, engaged and effective membership and Mothers' Union's voice will continue to be a respected voice.

Mothers' union are moving from a strategy of donor/recipient to mutual-ity, with countries out with the UK and Ireland becoming self-sufficient. Frida Kazembe from Zambia, spoke of how members in the Central African Province have moved, with the support of staff of Mary Sumner House (MSH) from dependency to independence. One of the activities which is helping to bring about this change is the Church and Community Mobilisation Process (CCMB) – using guidance from the bible and mobilising talents. CCMB begins in Zambia in 2013.

Finances – Despite 99.5% of members living out with the UK and Ireland 99.5% of money comes from within UK and Ireland, however, countries like Australia and Canada are now contributing. Despite the period of austerity, it is gratifying that **36% of income to MSH in 2011 came from donations from Dioceses and 28% came from membership subscriptions.** The remainder of funds came from Grants – (Comic Relief), Fund Raising and Marketing, MUE, Rents and investments and General Donations and Legacies.

Staff urge members to embrace 'Help us Grow'.

The Council was a delight with many friends made, and experiences shared. There was much to inspire. I hope these few notes provide you with the spark of inspiration too.

Ann
24th February 2013

United Nations
57th Commission on the Status of Women

UNCSW 57 takes place at the United Nations in New York from March 4 - 15, 2013. The priority theme is the Elimination and Prevention of all forms of Violence against Women & Girls, and the review theme is the Equal Sharing of Responsibility between Women and Men in Caregiving, in context of HIV/Aids.



I have the responsibility and privilege of representing The Scottish Episcopal Church at this event, I would appreciate your prayers and especially of your mercy I ask your prayers for all women, girls, men and boys who are victims of violence.

Ann X

For more information, visit: <http://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/csw/57sess.htm> and secatcsw57.wordpress.com

An Extract from Mothers Union facebook page: 16th March 2013
written by Ann Glenesk

Agreed Conclusions reached at UNCSW57 - Great news. Let's hope civil society hold their governments accountable to ensure implementation of conclusions to address the issue of violence against women and girls. I represented the Scottish Episcopal Church at the event. There are many things I take away from the experience, but an important one is hearing of the grassroots work being carried out by Mothers' Union members across the globe. The one man that attended the MU parallel event commented after hearing a video from an MU worker in Papua New Guinea that he didn't realise MU members were at the cutting edge on issues such as violence against women and girls. In many other events MU members shared their work with others. Many with no recognised status, in society or within the organisation, but wonderful, inspiring advocates and ministers of God's love.



MOTHERING SUNDAY

Mothering Sunday this year was celebrated in a very special way for me. It began on arrival at church with mum as usual. I was standing talking in the Narthex when the door opened and in walked Emily, my daughter. It was a wonderful surprise as she normally cannot attend church on Sundays due to work commitments. I was so thrilled to see her, as this was the day I was to be enrolled in the Church of the Holy Name as Mothers Union Branch Leader. It was so special to watch our priest Canon Barnabas bless the little bunches of flowers we'd made up. In our church Mothers Union provides flowers to distribute on Mothering Sunday. Unusually for me I felt very calm as we progressed through my part of the service, enrolment as Branch Leader and I even managed the Intercessions, which I had adapted from the Mothers Union website. We sang beautiful hymns and it was a very moving service. Tea and cakes afterwards certainly rounded off the occasion. And now I am following in my mum's footsteps! Many of you will know her, Ethel Shaw, who has represented Holy Name and The Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway in various positions within the Mothers Union for many years. I have a hard act to follow, but with God's help I may be able to achieve my own goals to promote the work of Mothers Union both here and beyond.

Jill Cameron.
Church of the Holy Name, Cumbernauld.

(Photo on front cover, from left to right: Canon Barnabas, Emily Cameron, Jill Cameron and Ethel Shaw)

Prayer Diary

'Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.'
Romans 12 v 12

We pray for Peter Douglas our chaplain that he will make a full and swift recovery from his operation.

We pray for Ann, our Diocesan President attending the UN Commission for Status to Women.

We remember the family of Peggy Smith from Kirkcudbright who died on 21st February and Jacqui Stother and her family following the death of her mother last Monday. May they know God's presence and comfort in their sorrow.

We continue to pray for our friends in Helensburgh;
Jenny Adam, Jeanette Laing, Judy Harbour, Margaret Lewin,
Trish & Struan Robertson, and Barbara Hoey,

our friends from Kirkcudbright;
Mary Scott and Betty Burn,

our friends from Largs;
Anne Bills, Ann Guthrie, Margaret Cuthbertson,
and Maggie Veriod,
and finally we pray for Pam Bentley.



Please can you also pray for the Scout and Guide Unit at Low Moss Prison.

'May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit' Romans 15 v 13.

Love and Blessings to you all
Lilian.

Moments with Members

Bishop Gregor

has accepted the invitation

to answer the questions



1. Who or what has made a lasting impression on you?

My long-standing spiritual guide and confessor has been a golden thread running through my life.

2. Name a poem, or song, or hymn or piece of music which inspires you?

I never cease to be inspired by listening to JS Bach's St Anne Fugue - very ordered music but with tremendous forward impulsion and so much to hear in the interlocking of all the parts.

3. 'Hindsight is a wonderful thing' it is said. What might you have changed with hindsight?

I would love to have learned to read music - but maybe that can still happen!

4. Has political correctness gone too far?

I fear so.

5. What could you not do without?

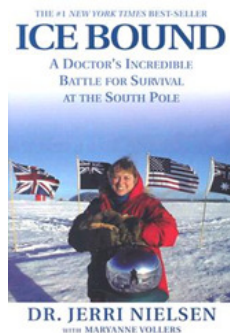
I am tempted to say something like the consolations of religion.

6. What are you doing to minimise your carbon footprint?

I try to use public transport whenever it is practical.

BOOK REVIEW

I have been enjoying reading the book 'Icebound' by Jerri Nielsen. This woman doctor, mother of three, mentally abused by her husband, eventually divorced and deciding to rebuild her life applied to be one of forty-one people who overwinter at the South Pole. She took up her post as the only doctor on site on 21st November 1998 which is summer time there.



If you have ever wondered how life is at the South Pole, enduring below freezing temperatures even indoors this is the book to read. Eg how do you wash ? - very quickly - showers have to be timed to two minutes twice a week. Your hair freezes before it can be dried. Fresh vegetables as well as cans of drink have to be kept in building heated up to the normal temperature of a refrigerator . There is also an inside hydroponic greenhouse with artificial lighting.

Everything has to be recycled and packed to be removed from the polar region and one man's job is to make sure everyone obeys the rules. Everyone there has to muck in and do more than one job. They work 6 days a week, Jerri manned the shop two evenings a week and sold various things including sundries soft drinks, cigarettes wine and beer. One of the greatest dangers at the base is fire. There is no water to put out a fire so everyone has to know the fire drill and be well practised. This caused a great deal of consternation when the pig roast for the July 4th celebration caught fire due to the melted fat dripping into the fire.

For entertainment there were regular video showing nights and on Saturday nights there was usually a themed party and birthdays were celebrated with gusto.

Since the Amundsen -Scott South Pole Station was set up during the Cold War era, Jerri found her stocks of medical supplies were sadly biased towards catering for war casualties but not the run of the mill health clinic. The equipment was very basic, the x-ray machine not reliable, doing blood counts very much back to the earliest techniques. She saw patients every day some with frostbite and work related injuries. Wounds do not heal well at the South Pole.

The sun disappears entirely there about mid-March and there is total darkness but wonderful stars and Aurora Australis. Naturally it is bitterly cold and no-one can be outside for any length of time.

About this time Jerri discovered a lump in her breast, hoped it would go away but it started to grow. Can you imagine, only medic there, trying to diagnose oneself and eventually doing a biopsy with primitive resources. They had email and advice was sought, a cancer specialist consulted and eventually emergency treatment chemotherapy dropped by long distance plane. It could not land for fear of being unable to take off again due to the extreme cold the fuel would freeze. When the sun rose again in early September an emergency flight was arranged from New Zealand and Jerri was evacuated to receive hospital treatment. By this time she had lost all her hair and although the tumour was responding to the chemotherapy there were complications. She had had marvellous support from her colleagues at the base but they were no substitute for proper hospital care.

She wrote the book in 2001 became a motivational speaker to cancer survivors. Unfortunately she died in 2009 of brain tumours.

Margaret Horrell

Dates for Your Dairy

Tuesday 9th - Thursday 11th April 2013	Arrive between 2 and 2.30pm on Tuesday	Provincial Retreat	St Mary's Monastery Kinnoull, Perth
Saturday 11th May 2013	10.30am	Festival Service	St James the Less, Bishopbriggs
Wednesday 12th June 2013		MU General Meeting	The Forum, Bath
Saturday 12th October 2013	10.30am	Autumn Council	St. Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow

FRIENDSHIP HOUSE

Friendship House us a “drop-in” for asylum seekers and refugees, it is based in Drumchapel.

Ann and Wendy from Bishopbriggs have volunteered in supporting the crèche held at English classes. Two other MU members Jean Kerr and myself support the drop-in, which is an opportunity for meeting with friends, where children can play together, where a meal may be shared. Craft activities are enjoyed butt favourite of all is bingo.

We have enjoyed Christmas parties and some outings in the summer. Bishopbriggs branch has helped in other ways, providing clothes and household items.

Agnes Mkoko visited us with Ann; she was able to join in making a candle and was most interested in our jewellery making.

Last year's highlights, first of all three baptisms, a family that attends Drumchapel Episcopal Church, a mum, her new baby and the older brother, we have been truly blessed. Then later in the same month, a wedding, pictured in the photograph on next page, Cai and husband Jin, with Daniel and Bowie seated.



What a joyous occasion.

Mary Carrigan meets some of the members at church and Bowie gave her a big smile and hug, when she was shopping with her mum Cai and brother Daniel.

Friendship House is also supported by members of United Reform Church and is very much part of Drumchapel.

Sue Brough
MU Volunteer

Thanks to all the contributors.

All articles for the Autumn edition of Newslink should be sent by 20th September 2013 to me:

Wendy Petrie, 120 Meadowburn, Bishopbriggs, G64 3LX
or by e mail to petriec@talktalk.net