

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

DIOCESE OF GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY



NEWSLINK SPRING 2014

Dear Friends

I hope this edition of Newslink finds you all in good spirits! The snowdrops and crocuses are reminding us that despite the downpours the joys of Spring are on the way!

Like many of you the Glenesk household has been challenged over the last few months. My brother died in November and Elliott's Mum is in hospital at present. Again, like you the love the family have received has been wonderful from the church, +Gregor, yourselves, and from unexpected places - HMP Lowmoss and my local women's refuge. Thank you.

Recent events evidenced the joy of being a member of a team! I well remember when walking along the canal with our dog Murphy witnessing two swans working in harmony. One would break the ice to allow their progress, and then when tired, would settle behind while the other took over the lead. When I was unable to attend Worldwide Council last week, Wendy Petrie, our Newslink Editor at very short notice rearranged her work schedule to go in my stead. Within the diocese we are a great team! Wendy's report is included in this edition. Thank you, Wendy.

The Mothers' Union theme for this year is Sowing the future together, which builds on last year's theme of The seeds we sow flourish. The three key words for all members remain **PRAY, ENABLE, CAMPAIGN**. There is no doubt that our energy's need to focus on the future and to ensure our future we need to both encourage new members and to ensure all of our existing members unite together in our mission to respond to the call to advance God's Kingdom. Prayerful, talented members abound across the diocese and by us sowing together, learning, sharing and reaching out to others our future will bring many blessings.

An example of sowing together is apparent every weekend in Greenock Prison where Isabel Cameron and her team of volunteers provide a crèche service. It is a delight that this service developed from Isabel responding to a call and with others have developed a team who celebrate their 3rd anniversary in June this year. Similar stories come from across the diocese.

Another anniversary of particular note is Galloway South Region who celebrate their 65th anniversary. In order to celebrate this event appropriately our Festival service will take place in St John's Dumfries on May

10th. Not only will we all have the opportunity to join in the celebrations with members, families and friends from across the diocese we will also meet Lynne Tembey the Worldwide President, Jean Richardson the Provincial President, our overseas links and invited guests. Plans are underway to make this a day to remember, so please keep the day free. Every effort will be made to provide transport for everyone who wishes to attend.

From our diary dates you will see there are lots of delights to come before and after May! Further on in this edition you will read of examples of mission in which members are engaged. God is to be found lurking in many unusual places so please share your stories so that together we Sow the future together.

With love and my prayers

Ann x

Memories!

There was nothing unusual on the morning of 9th November. In the afternoon I was going to visit my brother in St Andrew's Hospice Airdrie, but before that I was representing Mothers' Union at the Scottish Baptist Women's Fellowship Presidential Celebration of Kay Murray at Airdrie Baptist Church a few minutes walk from the hospice. As Mothers' Union representative I was to say a few words on behalf of all the guests.

During the short address I mentioned my family connection with the church – my grandfather was a deacon and my mother and her brother learnt about Jesus there.

At the end of the service I had the great pleasure of meeting an elderly lady who remembered my grandfather, showed me where he used to sit in church and took me up to the attic to show me a photograph of deacons which included William Pinkerton, my grandfather. Then I met some ladies whose Sunday school teacher was my mother. Someone then said, Ann I think you know this woman – my step cousin, whom I have had no contact for a long time. Following the service we both visited my brother.

The 9th November was a memorable day for Kay Murray, but I too was left in no doubt that like all days the 9th was a day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:23

Ann

Working Together Respectfully

Members in Glasgow & Galloway support families made homeless by domestic abuse. We learn weekly from our Families Worldwide that domestic abuse is also a concern for families across the globe.

It was therefore a pleasure for Mothers' Union to work alongside the Diocesan Team for Prayer and Spirituality in developing resources to help address domestic abuse.

Bishop Gregor writes: I am very happy to commend these materials provided jointly by our Diocesan Development Team for Prayer and Spirituality and the Mothers' Union. The incidence of domestic abuse in our communities must be cause of grave concern to us all, denying as it does the respect due to all people made in God's image and likeness. I very much hope that the prayerful materials offered here will help our church to engage creatively and sensitively out of our scriptural and liturgical traditions with people suffering this trauma.

Violence Abuse Leaflet: [http://glasgow.anglican.org/media/downloads/Violence Abuse leaflet.doc](http://glasgow.anglican.org/media/downloads/Violence%20Abuse%20leaflet.doc)

Violence against Women liturgy: [http://glasgow.anglican.org/media/downloads/Violence against women Liturgy.doc](http://glasgow.anglican.org/media/downloads/Violence%20against%20women%20Liturgy.doc)

These resources are a welcome addition to all the work that is being undertaken to end the injustice of domestic abuse.

Ann

HOLY CROSS KNIGHTSWOOD

The final service at Holy Cross, Knightswood, Glasgow took place on Saturday 14th December with the celebration of the Eucharist and the deconsecrating of the church. The members of Holy Cross received a blessing from +Gregor as they said farewell to the church in which they had been faithful in worship and service over many years.

Mothers' Union has had a long association in Holy Cross with most recently our delightful Festival Service in 2011 and the presentation of a Long Service Certificate to Mary Reynolds. The inventory of the church revealed that the Bishop's chair had been donated by members of Mothers' Union many year ago.

Over the years many prayers, many blessings, many memories, much fellowship and much mission has taken place in and from Holy Cross. The final day was a day of mixed emotions, for everyone in attendance, but most especially the congregation of Holy Cross who while saying goodbye to Holy Cross were also being welcomed to be part of

the congregation at All Saints Jordanhill

The Mothers' Union Banners from Holy Cross and from Clydebank were taken formally into All Saints Jordanhill by Jeanette Murray (Holy Cross) and Jenny Morgan (Clydebank). The banners were blessed by Rev The Hon Sydney Maitland and are now displayed respectfully in the Lady Chapel at All Saints Jordanhill (cover photograph).

Ann

LGBT

Following a discussion between staff at Mary Sumner House (MSH) and the Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth, Provost of St Mary's Cathedral, Glasgow a meeting took place between Mothers' Union members in Glasgow & Galloway and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender group at St Mary's.

The LGBT group are unhappy with the response made by Mothers' Union members in Scotland to the government's consultation on the Marriage and Civil Partnership (Scotland) Bill. The responses recorded by Ruth Ashton at MSH revealed that of the respondents 22% were in favour while 78% were against same-sex marriage. The LGBT group stated that the result was disappointing from an organisation whose main aim is to support all families. Sadly, reference was also made to long redundant Mothers' Union practices.

The meeting was amicable with both groups respectful of each others position. It was pointed out that Mothers' Union members are not a homogeneous group on the issue of same-sex marriage and assurances were given that members do not discriminate but rather aim to develop respectful loving flourishing relationships with all whom they meet. Views were expressed that resources produced by MSH should be inclusive of all families.

The LGBT group stated that views on the issue can be influenced by engaging with members of that community. Therefore in the interests of fairness and progress an invitation was extended to the convenor of the LGBT group to write a paper for this edition of Newslink. This has not materialised.

Same-Sex marriage challenges us all. As members of a Christian or-

ganisation, in the diocese of Glasgow & Galloway, as church members we have our own individual thoughts on the issue garnered from a variety of sources. When any change is desired, respect needs to be afforded to everyone, then through prayer, education and testimonies will emerge a willingness to seek God's will which is justice, love and peace.

Ann

From the Chaplain

Dear M.U. Folk,



This will be my final insert for the magazine as I retire from full-time Ministry in the Summer and you will look to your new Chaplain.

Thank you for putting up with me! It has been good being able to meet you at services and events, sometimes in your own Parish. You certainly seem to be good bakers!

I started my Chaplaincy by declaring what a very worthy and, in less advanced societies especially, what a vital use is made of the Mother's Union to assist family life and good personal relationships. It is also a good lobbying organisation to bring the stance of family life to society and governments. It is, indeed, also a worthy leavening part of the Church's spiritual and social life and compassionate outreach. Thank you for being able to be alongside your work even if mostly as a liturgical aid.

And now I think it would be good to share with you what I have been going through and what my future might hold for me in my next phase of my pilgrimage.

For some time now I really have found the Winters here very dif-

difficult to get through. It may not have been helpful that I have lived in a country property on a hill with the Firth of Clyde in view with quite a lot of work to do out of doors! Of course when my dear Margaret died, over three years ago, the dark season was even more difficult to face on my own.

Soon after Margaret died I went away on a two week's holiday in the sunnier island of Cyprus around this time of year. To be brief I ended up looking round a villa for sale (because of a mistake!). When I came back I looked up the Estate Agent's web site (that dreadful internet!!) out of curiosity. That started me on an indulgent hobby of seeing blue-skyed pictures of Mediterranean homes for sale. I finally realised that it was possible to drive to Spain and researched some cheap properties (reduced because of the Recession) and just over a year ago went to Spain for the first time ever with some ideas of some bargain properties.

Needless to say those properties needed quite a lot of renovation and I realised that if I wasn't to spend every time I visited working, planning and deciding (often from a distance without much local knowledge) then I might look for other properties. Come along an Agent who I got on with quite well (he had grown up quite near to where I had) with some keys for properties in a village that he had thought of living himself. He stopped outside the village and pointed out a track which had caused him to buy a house in the neighbouring village; that had been the only road into the village. It now has a new smart tarmac road. I had seen properties on the website from this Agency but not the one I finally bought. He hadn't yet advertised it and I felt good and familiar about it as soon as I entered. However it was 10,000 above my budget. My mother had left me part of her house and I had saved. The agent managed to get it down 5,000 and I went up 5,000. From returning from my first holiday in Spain I had returned with a deposit

securing a house and making me what is usually called 'skint'! I had prayed that the Lord would not make it happen if it was not in tune with His will. The sale went through with rude and surprising haste, even cutting certain corners which all thought were impossible except the Notary who was fully up to date with recent legislation. I had upped my offer on the understanding that the sellers would leave it furnished including the pink leather 3-piece suit!!

I must admit that Spain was attractive for me, especially the area with hills and small white villages where my little Olive Village was located. There's about 2,300 inhabitants and all have shown friendship and help.

The breadman delivers at my door each morning at 8 ('cept Sunday). There is a gas delivery service each Wednesday and the little market is every Tuesday up at the top of the Village. The big general waste bin near my house is emptied every day except Sunday!

On Sunday I have found the small Anglican Fellowship meeting in a neighbouring small town (just half an hour away) worshipping in the Chapel used for funerals next to the Cemetery. At the moment they do not have a Chaplain? As the Chapel doesn't have tea-making facilities all retire to a very nearby café after the Service. They put an adequate number of tables together, sit round and dominate the outside area!

Although there are very few expats in the village (they live in villas around: German, Scandinavian and English) there is a Glaswegian teaching couple that I've never met due to holiday times. However one newly-retired English couple have been praying for more English-Speaking Christian folk to come into the village and they are quite near neighbours!

When I retire at the end of July I shall go out to Spain to experience the heat of August for the first time. I have neither a pool or even air-conditioning so we shall see and feel like a native!! That is my little story - isn't it exciting? All I need to do now is get past my very faltering and little Spanish. They are very patient and try hard to understand me. I'm not bad with the amateur dramatics!



Here's a picture of Casa Pedro:

< Roof Terrace

<BEDS & BathRoom

<Dining Rm & Kitchen

<Sitting Rm & rear Patio

Whether I actually settle out in Spain is not yet decided, but when & if I sell my home here I would seem likely. I hope you don't mind me sharing possibilities with you. Perhaps the MU of Malaga/Gibraltar may invite some of you to pay a visit

and I'll see you there.

Meanwhile, let us go in Peace to love and serve the Lord

In the name of Christ. AMEN !



St Ninian's Castle Douglas have been busy, the branch has expanded with the enrolment of three new members in July. Their outreach projects, Women's Aid, Little Fishes Canteen, Healing Blankets, and Hospital Aids continue to be well supported.

Dear All



'Let me hear of your steadfast love in the morning, for in you I put my trust. Teach me the way I should go, for to you I lift up my soul.' Psalm 143 v 8

The steadfast love of the Lord is unceasing and all encompassing so we place our friends into this love.

We continue to pray for Rev. Joyce Pow, Barbara Flinn and Ian Smith in Largs.

We pray for Judy Harbour, Margaret Lewin, Harriet & Gugu, Jeannette Laing, Jeanette & George Abbot, Trish and Struan Robertson, Robbie Cornish, Pam Carter and Jean Carter in Helensburgh. Please continue to hold Morag Carlow and Alison Eaton and their families in your prayers as they mourn loved ones.

In Ardrossan we continue to pray for Linda Whitby and her daughter-in-law Debbie and Susan Barlow, her daughter Catherine and granddaughter Ellie.

Carolynne and her husband have returned safely from Australia thank you for your prayers. Please continue to pray for the recovery of her son Dion O'Toole.

Please add to your lists this month Joyce Jones, Margaret Maliphant, Rev. Les Ireland and Sarah Glenesk, Anne's mother-in-law.

'Hear my prayer, O Lord; give ear to my supplications in your faithfulness; answer me in your righteousness'
Psalm 143 v 1

Grace, Peace and Love to you all
Lilian.

Worldwide Council

The WWC started with a Eucharist in the chapel. The Rt. Rev. Andrew Proud, Bishop of Reading was due to be commissioned as Central Chaplain; unfortunately he was unable to attend.

Lynne Tembey the Worldwide President gave a presentation and overview of the past year.

This year's conference focussed on the importance of prayer. **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.

The wave of prayer is going to be updated. Every diocese will have their links changed. There are over 100 dioceses that are not linked and this situation needs to be remedied. Details of the changes will be sent to each diocese.

Dr. Frida Kazambe did a presentation on Stress Management. Dealing with the signs of stress, she pointed out what to look for in someone

you thought might be suffering from extreme stress. Frida was not asking members to take on the role of a psychologist but to be aware of the signals and hopefully encourage the person to seek help for themselves. We were encouraged to pray for our members, if they do not follow their normal pattern, do not turn up for church, appear to be distressed, or depressed.

Salisbury Diocese had used the story of Hannah in 1 Samuel to use as a model to inspire and pray creatively; for our communities now and into the future. Not much was discussed it was more a hands on approach. We were just asked to visit prayer stations to think and pray about a verse, and link it with something from Mothers Union. Other bible passages could be used in much the same way.

Safeguarding regulations have changed recently and branches should refer to their own church safeguard person (or PVG Co-ordinator as they are now known) in the first instance, to assess if any members require disclosure, whether new or updated.

The General Meeting 2014 will be in Belfast under the “All Ireland” banner. On Friday 20th June there will be a pre-meeting service, with the General Meeting on Saturday 21st June. Tickets went on sale Monday 17th February.

Reg Bailey will retire in 2015. Please pray for the Trustee Board and the future New Chief Executive. Please also pray for Reg.

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The Relief Fund is the appropriate fund to which members should donate if they wish to contribute to help victims of the recent floods.

It was not all meetings and workshops; we did have some time to mingle and get to know others who were attending. Angela Kablou, Diocesan President of Chester diocese, (one of our current link dioceses) was very impressed with Ann's article in Families First and sends her greetings.

Wendy Petrie

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 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 are 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 Stroud. He spent a day with us and provided us with a 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 DP's); 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 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 MSH 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 D.Ps or Trustees about it, as they are D.Ps 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 go each year and they are made up of one PP from GB, one DP from each of York, Canturbury and Wales/York 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!

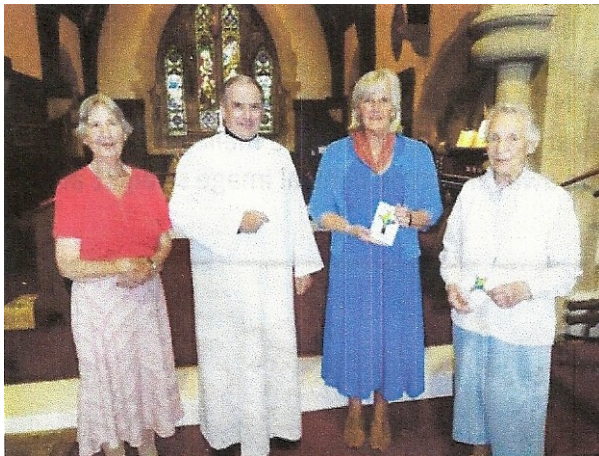
So all in all, I think the MU in Scotland has a lot to look forward to in 2014; I hope you feel that too.

With love and prayers
Jean



At Bishopbriggs branch members took part in the worship and study materials 'Ending the silence on Domestic Abuse', produced by the Development Team for Prayer and Spirituality and the Mothers' Union, both of the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway. The service and the study material were both moving and thought provoking. There was a launch for the material at the Diocesan Centre and each member of the clergy has received a copy. Please let us know what your branch did, or are doing to promote "Ending the silence on Domestic Abuse".

Thanks to all the contributors.
Please send your articles and photos for the Autumn edition of Newlink by 20th September 2014 to me: Wendy Petrie, 120 Meadowburn, Bishopbriggs, G64 3LX or by E-mail to petrie@talktalk.net



**Kirsty, David, Judi and Gill
at the Service of Enrolment**



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

Ann Glenesk – ann.glenesk@ntlworld.com