

Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

NEWSLETTER



Issue 10

October 2009

Dear Members and Friends,

It seems a while since I last wrote to you via the Newsletter but here I am now writing to you for the last time as your Diocesan President.

Such a lot has happened over the last six months that I'd like to share some of my experiences with you.

As I told you in my last letter, I visited Costa Rica and Panama in March, nothing to do with the Mothers' Union, but an experience of other races and lives.

The main object of my visit was to sail through the Panama Canal and this was really amazing. However, one day at 5.00am, we travelled three miles in a dug-out canoe up a river to a native village. The whole village turned out to meet us singing and playing music. They took us into their village and were so proud of their homes. The poverty was evident, but these people were happy and content with what they had which was very little. It really gave me food for thought !!

In August I visited Orkney & Shetland, something I have been intending to do over the last 3 years. Again, in a very different way it was a great experience and my first ever visit to these Isles.

I met with our Diocesan members both in Kirkwall and Lerwick which was lovely. I can now put a face to a name.

I addressed the congregation at St. Olaf's in Kirkwall and St. Magnus in Lerwick and I also met with ladies of St. Magnus on the Friday night and showed them the DVD 'Home'.

After morning service at St Magnus, I was whisked up by car and ferry to the Isle of Yell and to the tiny church of St Colman's, Burravoe. The whole congregation of 8 turned up and we had a great time in worship and talk about the MU.

The Rev: Keith Henshall was very kind and drove me to various places of interest on the Mainland and it is all so beautiful

Now, I am almost at the end of my term of office. I have enjoyed it very much and have learnt an awful lot not only about the work of the MU in its' wider aspect but also about people. There have been ups and downs, but we are all God's people and we strive to work to the Glory of our Lord.

I wish Chris Crosley, newly elected Diocesan President every success and joy in the forthcoming Triennium. I'm sure that she, together with the new board of trustees, will take you forward continuing the work of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese.

I thank you all for your generous donations and fund raising which has enabled me to make my journey to Zambia, and I look forward to sharing this experience with you on my return.

My very grateful thanks to + Bob, Graham, the Trustee Board and of course you our members.

With love and blessings

Olga

At the recent diocesan council Graham Taylor, our Diocesan Chaplain, on behalf of us all, thanked Olga for all her work.

Reflections

Be gentle, when you touch bread,
Let it not lie uncared for – unwanted.
So often bread is taken for granted.
There is much beauty in bread-
Beauty of the sun and soil,
Beauty of the patient toil.
Winds and rain came, caressed it.
Be gentle when you touch bread.

Be loving when you drink wine,
So freely received and joyfully shared
In the spirit of him who cared,
Warm as a flowing river,
Shining clear as sun,
Deep as soil,
of human toil,
The winds and air caressed it,
Christ often blessed it.

The World Wide President's Visit to Scotland

In May of this year Mrs Rosemary Kempself, our worldwide president, made a visit to Scotland. Unfortunately a visit to Aberdeen was not possible so on Sunday 24th May, Pat Simpson and I set off for St Ninian's Cathedral in Perth where she was due to preach at the Eucharist service that morning.

Arriving in Perth on a beautiful Sunday morning with 10 minutes to spare we made our way into an already crowded Cathedral. We found seats and looking around we were surrounded by lots of 'weel kent faces' and MU badges galore. We were delighted when three old friends from the Cathedral sat down behind us and we felt very much at home.

Many young families were in church that morning as there were four baptisms following Rosemary's sermon so the Cathedral rang with the happy noise of lots of children. It was against this that Rosemary spoke about her travels to far off places where the MU is active and she gave examples of the work done by the dedicated members in these countries. Her talk about promoting family life was certainly well received.

The service continued with the baptisms of Zara, Annabelle, Kaiya and Millie by Rev. Ann Mazur a great example of family life.

Coffee was served in the Chapter House after the service and a beautiful iced cake showing the logo, a Celtic cross and a welcome to Rosemary was shared with the whole congregation.

We were invited to bring and share lunch that followed with the MU members and an opportunity to meet Rosemary in a more relaxed atmosphere. Again we were surprised when the gentleman sitting opposite us asked if we were from Aberdeen as he used to work in the Cathedral and as University chaplain. This turned out to be Rev. John Shone, now retired and living in Perthshire, who both Pat and I remembered from the 60's but would never have recognised. We spent some time catching up and discussing mutual friends.

We were able to speak to Rosemary before we left and pass on good wishes from the members of Aberdeen & Orkney Diocese and said that if she makes a return visit to Scotland she will be very welcome to come to Aberdeen.

We made our way home elated by the great welcome and meeting of old friends again enthused by fellowship of the Mothers' Union.

Moira Middleton



Some members namely Doreen Baillie, Sheila George, May Forbes and I went north to meet Rosemary Kempself in the Moray Diocese. The meeting was to held at Culbokie on the Black Isle on Tuesday May 26th.

We set off by car on the Monday and enroute visited Gerald and Glynis Stranraer-Mull in their new home in Muir of Ord, and were made very welcome.

We arrived at Carol and Martin Roff's home in the late afternoon. Martin is a semi retired clergyman. Their house is set in a beautiful part of the country overlooking the Cromarty Firth. The bungalow is surrounded by acres of wooded grounds with its own small lake. While we were waiting for the evening meal to be served a whole family of little ducklings, at least a dozen came and gathered at the sliding back door along with mum, looking for food. Really they were so tame and delightful to watch. Guess what we had for supper, yes DUCK, we were assured that it had come from Tesco's!

We took a tour round the grounds which had a maze, plus a heated summerhouse, a gypsy caravan which Martin had built, and best of all its own miniature railway. It is Martin's hobby and Carol and he during the summer months loan out their railway and grounds for fund raising events.

Our group stayed overnight and next morning Mothers' Union members began to arrive from Inverness, Elgin, Forres including Carole and Charlie Fox from Ellon. Eventually Rosemary arrived with Sheila Redwood the Scottish President and their respective husbands and Bishop Mark Strange of Moray, Ross and Caithness Diocese.



We had a buffet lunch, the tables were groaning with goodies. It started to rain but we were not put off for long. Several new members were enrolled by Rosemary after Mid-day prayers which were led by the Bishop, and Rosemary also gave a talk.



Well after this Martin got his steam engine going and most of us had a ride in turn on the train which took us all round the garden taking at least ten minutes to complete the circuit. It was great fun and I felt just like a kid again. We had a lovely time, one we shall remember for a long time to come. We are grateful for the welcome and hospitality we received from Carol and Martin.

Margaret R. Murray

Outing for St Mary and St James

Members from St Mary's and St James, Ellon, had a lovely afternoon in Cathy Urquhart's garden. Cathy's garden is huge and really beautiful as you can see from this photograph. taken at the front of her house. The back garden is even more amazing with more flowers and shrubs than I have ever seen in a private garden.



There was much laughter and chat over the lovely afternoon tea that Cathy had prepared for us, her home baking is memorable. I can remember thinking how blessed we are, as we enjoyed the lovely tea, company and fellowship with friends. Thanks to Cathy.

Chris Crosley



Musical Memories

Accompanied by Alison Stephen and Rosemary Lund, Carole Fox will be presenting a programme of Musical Memories at St. Mary-on-the-Rock, Ellon on Saturday 31st October at 3 p.m.

It will last about one hour and there will be refreshments in the hall afterwards. No tickets will be required, but there will be a collection for Christian Aid.

Everyone Welcome

Carole Fox



We continue with our projects in the diocese by filling toilet bags for woman who have suffered domestic violence and sought refuge through Grampian Woman's Aid. Christmas can be a very difficult time for these families who often have to leave home with only the clothes they are wearing. We have heard how important these bags are in helping to restore the self esteem of those women and children affected by violence.

Some of our members knit hats for sea farers, Linus blankets and tiny caps and shawls for premature babies. Little gowns are also made for stillborn babies and knitted teddies that go to Moldova.

The Mothers' Union Chaplain's Collation as Rector at St Clement's, Aberdeen.

On Thursday 10th September 2009 I left Worldwide Council in London at lunchtime in order to return to Aberdeen for the special service of Collation of the Reverend Canon Graham Taylor as Rector of St. Clement's, Mastrick, Aberdeen and I felt very privileged to have been invited join in the procession as Diocesan President. It was a great joy to see the Church restored and looking so lovely.

It was a colourful procession of Lay Readers, Clergy, the Dean, Bishop Fred, Bishop Bob and of course Graham who wore a lovely Mothers' Union Cope which had been presented to + Bob by members of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Mthatha in South Africa on his recent visit.

We sang the opening Hymn 'I the Lord of Sea and Sky' during which +Bob noticed that part of the Church was in semi darkness, he asked for more lighting the provision of which he duly supervised. Tongue in cheek he pointed out that Jane Ross, Graham's new Curate is an electrical engineer and her services may be required to operate the lighting!!

The Service continued with The Dean reading the Deed of Collation before handing over to the Bishop. The readings were taken from Isaiah 6, Corinthians 13 and Luke 5, followed by an address given by +Bob the theme of which was 'Love'

Graham was then asked to pledge himself to the life and ministry of St Clements, and was presented with symbols of the ministry by representatives of his congregation.

Bishop Bob led Graham to his stall so completing his installation as Rector of St. Clement's.

Intercessions were led by Graham and the Eucharist followed.
After the Blessing the final hymn was 'We have a gospel to proclaim'.

Everyone was invited to refreshments in the hall after the service (the tables were groaning with delightful food) and it was a time for celebration and interchange of news.

Altogether a splendid service and evening and I'm sure we all wish Graham well with his new responsibilities.

Olga.



You will all have seen the beautiful Mothers' Union Cope Graham is wearing on the front of this issue but we thought this photograph showed it off beautifully. One can just about imagine the love and skill that went into the embroidery.

General Meeting in Croydon

Seven of our Mothers' Union members were amongst the 1500 (including overseas Provincial Presidents) who attended the General Meeting on the 18th June. Hosted by the Diocese of Southwark, the meeting was held in Fairfield Halls.

After a welcome and opening prayers led by Ann Wright, Southwark Diocesan President, we were made welcome by the Mayor of Croydon and then by Rosemary Kempself our World Wide President.

Under the title "Threads of Blue", Rosemary gave a report on her very extensive travels during the past year. She had seen the impact of M.U. projects in numerous places including Uganda, Kenya and the West Indies.

Then came a shared presentation given by the Unit Coordinators. There were many good things to report (including the increased amount of money raised by the "Make a Mother's Day" scheme), but on the negative side was the declining membership of M.U. in the U.K. If this trend continues, in thirty years time there won't be sufficient income to maintain our projects. A sobering thought.

After mid-day prayers, led by the M.U. Diocesan Chaplain and the inevitable notices from Reg Bailey our Chief Executive, it was time for lunch.

After lunch, Olga Robertson, Doreen Baillie and I returned to the hall and were able to have a few words with Celia Dodds, who comes from one of our linked Dioceses, New Westminster, and is also the Provincial President for Canada.

An hour of the afternoon session was taken up by a satirical presentation by the Saltmine Theatre Company. It was entitled "When I'm Calling You", and began with a rendition of a duet of that name from "Rose Marie". This was followed by a series of monologues by four of the "stock" characters in a church:- the vicar, the musical director, the guitar playing Sunday school teacher and the chair-lady of the welcome committee. It was all very tongue – in – cheek, but gave much food for thought about church life. What is God calling us to do?

Reg Bailey then interviewed some of the Provincial Presidents. This year they were from the West Indies, Tanzania, The Southern Cone and Sri Lanka.

The day was summarised by Rosemary and Reg and this was followed by votes of thanks. Our closing Worship was led by Bishop Richard Inwood, who is nearing the end of his term of office as our Central Chaplain.

I came away from the Fairfield Halls feeling thankful for having had the opportunity to meet a number of old friends, and also having learnt more about the marvellous work of the M.U. worldwide. However, there was also that nagging thought about U. K. membership. What a challenge! Let us all pray that many more people will want to join our great organisation - and soon.

Carole Fox



Obituary :- We remember those who have died in the faith of Christ

Ina Gardner and Freda Smail of St Andrew's Cathedral.

Fred Rutter of St Mary on the Rock who died tragically in a car accident our thoughts and prayers go with his wife Elizabeth who was injured in the accident.

Time to Fly

The philosopher Kierkegaard gives us a great lesson for life.

A Flock of geese lived together in a courtyard. Once a week, they gathered in a corner of the yard. An eloquent member of their group mounted the fence to tell the wondrous legacy of their forefathers, who mounted on wings and flew the trackless sky.

He spoke of the creator who had given these geese the urge to migrate and the wings to fly.

As he spoke, the other geese would nod and marvel at his words. But they did not fly. They returned to their waiting dinner, for the corn was good and the barnyard secure.

All of us have our own call to fly. God gives each of us the gifts of risk. Leaving the barnyard to soar, Whatever that means to you – is a profound leap into the high calling of our daily work.

“I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17 v 22 – 23)

This was part of Lenten Reflection done for St Mary's Branch of MU by Mari Manders and we thought it was so beautiful that we wanted to share it with you.

Old Age

Just a line to say I'm living
that I'm not among the dead,
though I'm getting more forgetful
and mixed up in my head

I've got used to my Arthritis
to my dentures I'm resigned
I can cope with my bifocals
but ye Gods I miss my mind.

Oft times I can't remember
when I'm standing by the stair,
if I'm going up for something
or have just come down from there.

And before the fridge so often
my mind is full of doubt,
now did I put some food away
or come to get some out.

And if it's not my turn to write
I hope you won't get sore,
I may have written twice today
and once the day before.

Just remember that I love you
and wish that you lived near,
but now it's time to post this,
so cheerio my dear.

I stand before the post box now
and boy is my face red,
instead of posting this to you
I've opened it instead

.Rita and Ivan Malyon

Our New Diocesan Officials.

| | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diocesan President | Mrs Chris Crosley |
| Diocesan Vice President | vacant |
| Diocesan Secretary | Mrs Sheila George |
| Diocesan Treasurer | Mr Charles Fox |
| Finance & Central Services | Miss Mary Allardyce |
| Faith & Policy | Mrs Olga Robertson |
| Action & Outreach | Mrs Pam Dench |
| Marketing | vacant |
| Enterprise Rep. | Mrs Christine Horrocks |
| Chaplain | Rev. Cannon Graham Taylor |

General Trustees

| | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| Mrs Christine Horrocks | Mrs Moira Middleton |
| Mrs Agnes Robertson | Mrs Pat Simpson |

Branch Leaders

| | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|
| The Buchan Branch | |
| St Andrew's Cathedral | Mrs Pearl Bulloch |
| St James, Holburn Junction | Mrs Christine Horrocks |
| St Mary's & St James | Mrs Sheila George |

We do not have all the details of new Branch Leaders but this will be made known at a later date.

Dates for your Diary in 2009 & 2010

- 14th November - Trustees Meeting J.S.C.
- 5th December - Quiet Day at St John's Crown St.
- 16 – 18 March - Provincial Retreat, Kinnoull
- 24th June - General Meeting Preston

Thank you to everyone who has sent pictures or articles, please send news of your branch or information on activities in your branch. Items from all members will be considered by the editing team as we want this to be your newsletter!

Copy for next issue

**Please send to Thelma Milne no later than 15 February 2010 on
thelmamilne@aol.com**