

**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. Canon 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 Sonia Hudson
St James, Holburn Junction	Mrs Christine Horrocks
St Mary's & St James	Revd. Carole Fox

**Scottish Website: [www.muscotland.org.uk](http://www.muscotland.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity No. SC036627**

*Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney*

# Newsletter



**Issue 11**

**March 2010**

### Mothers' Union Objectives

- ◆ *To uphold Christ's teaching on the nature of marriage and promote its wider understanding.*
- ◆ *To encourage parents to bring up their children in the faith and life of the Church.*
- ◆ *To maintain a worldwide fellowship of Christians united in prayer, worship and service.*
- ◆ *To promote conditions in society favourable to stable family life and the protection of children.*
- ◆ *To help those whose family life has met with adversity.*

### **Mothers' Union Prayer**

Loving Lord, we thank you for your love so freely given to us all.  
We pray for families around the world.  
Bless the work of the Mothers' Union as we seek to share your love through the encouragement, strengthening and support of marriage and family life.  
Empowered by your Spirit, may we be united in prayer and worship, and in love and service, reach out as your hands across the world. In Jesus' name. Amen

### 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*

### **What's the News from your Branch?**

Is your branch planning any special events this year?

Is anyone in your branch celebrating a special birthday or anniversary?

Memorable holidays past – and it doesn't have to be a far flung destination. A 'day here and there' holiday can be just as interesting to hear about. Why not share your memories with us all.

What things do your children, grandchildren (and maybe even great grandchildren) say and do that make you laugh, weep or maybe even cringe (ever so slightly of course...)

Why not have a think (but not for too long), put pen to paper or hands to keyboard and share your news, thoughts, and reminiscences with your MU family in the Diocese.  
Contributions for the next newsletter should be sent to:

Mrs Thelma Milne  
Burnley, 21 Leggart Terrace  
Bridge of Dee, Aberdeen, AB12 5UA  
Email: burnley21@talktalk.net

**by Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

## *Why I joined the Mothers' Union*



I had known about the Mothers' Union for a long time as my mother-in-law was a member in the Truro Diocese, but I had never even considered joining because I was a working mum with two small daughters who were involved in lots of different activities that took up all my time, and I thought I didn't have time for MU and anyway they were all old and spent their time making tea and cakes!! I was soon to find out how wrong I was.

Dorrie Firmin approached me one day to tell me The General Meeting was being held in Edinburgh and a coach was going down from the Diocese of Aberdeen, she said there were still some unoccupied seats and would I like to occupy one and perhaps do a little shopping, so never one to pass up the opportunity of a shopping trip in Edinburgh, I paid my fare. It was a nice journey down with much laughter and fun and I remember thinking what a happy bunch of ladies the MU members were. When we arrived in Edinburgh, Dorrie mentioned there was a spare ticket for the meeting and wouldn't I like to use it, just go to the morning session, she said and see what you think. My memory is a bit vague but I do remember Pat Harris was World Wide President and when she got on stage I was amazed by what she had to say. This organisation was dynamic with workers involved in numerous programmes at home and abroad.

I was so caught up in the atmosphere that I stayed to listen to the rest of the proceedings and have never regretted doing so. The worship was spiritual and uplifting, presentations were amazing and thought provoking but most of all the fellowship was my biggest surprise, here were woman from all over greeting one another as friends which is what most of them were. I left full of enthusiasms for Mothers' Union and encouraged to do more and nothing has happened to change my mind.

Sometime later Carole Fox who was then the Enrolling Member at the St Mary and St James Branch asked me if I would like to join and I was enrolled in the 1980's. I wasn't able to go to the weekday meetings due to work but found the Saturday hour once a month invaluable as it gave me time for prayer and thought and also to get to know some of the other members. I soon found out a lot about the work of the Mothers' Union, very little of which had anything to do with serving refreshments. Yes there is a place for this but not at the heart of the organisation. I have never regretted joining, as I believed then that it was a dynamic organisation and I still do.

*Chris Crosley*

**Footnote: Why did you join the Mother's Union?**

**Want to share 'your story' with us? Individual contributions are welcome but why not get together, pool your thoughts on what brought your members into your branch, and then send your group contribution to the editor.**

# To Zambia and back.....

On 16<sup>th</sup> October 14 Mothers' Union members and staff, including our Worldwide President (WWP) Rosemary Kempself, travelled overnight to Lusaka, Zambia, to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Special Regional Meeting (SPR3) We were met at Lusaka airport by a choir of MU members in their blue & white uniforms who sang and danced their welcome for about half an hour, before we were transported to the Commonwealth Youth Programme Centre (CYP), part of Lusaka University, and our home for the next week.

On Sunday we were taken to Lusaka Cathedral for morning service. A lovely, modern, light and airy building. Again we were serenaded by the choir. They called themselves the Mary Sumner Choir. Later in the day delegates from Botswana, Malawi, Zimbabwe and Sudan arrived.

The Conference opened on the Monday with Eucharist, celebrated by the Dean of the Cathedral. This took place in an open marquee in the grounds of our residence. We were welcomed to Lusaka by the Diocesan Chaplain. Delegates were put into 'Families' named after African animals, and this is when we were able to get to know and respect each other.

During the week we had presentations, discussions and 'Spotlights' when each country had to speak about their members and projects. Every day Mid-day Prayers and Evening Worship took place, each Family being responsible for these. Bible Studies took place every morning, again in our Family Groups. On our final day we again went to Lusaka Cathedral for Eucharist celebrated by the Bishop, followed by a lunch prepared and served by MU members in the Cathedral grounds.

All week the weather was excellent, perhaps too hot for some – in the upper 30's, but we were all well catered for with cold bottled water.

We travelled back to the UK on the 24<sup>th</sup> October, tired but knowing we had made new contacts and friends. Our friends in Africa can teach us a lot. They are dedicated, enthusiastic, hard working and very devout Christians, who always wear their blue and white MU uniform with pride.

I like to think I put Scotland and Aberdeen on the map and my grateful thanks to members in this Diocese who helped to make this possible for me. My grateful thanks also to Judith Paterson for the lovely tartan prayer cards she made for me to give to my Family Members.

*Olga J Robertson*



I wish to thank you all for the lovely MU tartan stole and generous cheque which was presented to me at the end of the Advent Quiet Day last December and at the end of my six years as your Diocesan President. I shall have much joy wearing the stole and am searching for something to buy with the cheque something to remind me of my time with you all. I enjoyed my time as President, meeting you all and joining you at your meetings etc and I wish Chris every happiness and blessings in her new office as Diocesan President.

Thank you all and God Bless you

*Olga*

From Ellon, Carole Fox writes.....

I received a Christmas letter from Celia Dodds, the Provincial President for Canada. (As mentioned in a previous edition of our newsletter, Charlie and I met Celia and her husband when we were in Vancouver some years ago). Celia sent greetings to all our members, and said how pleased she had been to meet the Aberdeen contingent at last year's Annual Meeting in Croydon. She had also much enjoyed the Provincial Presidents' stay in Canterbury, and had got to know Sheila Redwood quite well.

I attach a photo taken on 16th January in St. Mary's hall, Ellon, of Canon Peter Mander, Teresa Probert, myself, Olga Robertson, Doreen Baillie and Chris Crosley



Our 5th January Branch meeting had to be cancelled because of the snow, so on Saturday the 16th we combined several things: Peter commissioned me as Branch Leader, and we enrolled two new members (Moira Milne and Charlie, my husband). Our annual business meeting was held, and many thanks were expressed to Sheila George who had been Branch Leader for the past six years. We were delighted to have with us our former Diocesan President, Olga Robertson (as well as our new one, Chris Crosley who is a member of the branch) and Teresa Probert from Orkney. Teresa, one of our Diocesan Members, had been on a trip down to England, and on her homeward journey stayed with Doreen Baillie. It was great to see her!

### **St James Branch**

***Do YOU have a suitable caption for this picture of Dorothy and Maureen caught on camera? Suggestions to the Editor in time for the next edition!***



From Central Buchan Branch Ursula Simpson writes.....

On Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> January 2009 the congregation of St John's Longside, were delighted to have Bishop Bob officiating at morning service and during coffee and a chat it was mentioned that MU members had been missing their Advent Sunday service in recent years. No sooner said than done - out came Bishop Bob's diary and he arranged to return to St John's on 29<sup>th</sup> November to officiate at our Advent Sunday worship.

The day dawned clear and bright and we had a good congregation comprising MU members from all our branches along with families and friends.

The opening hymn 'Hark the glad sound' was followed by the Bishop welcoming everyone and introducing the service and explaining the ministry and mission of the MU at home and overseas with special emphasis on the work abroad. At this point he drew our attention to the beautiful cope he was wearing - it had been specially made and presented to him during his visit to Mthatha.

Olga and Chris spoke to us about the MU - at home and overseas - we also heard from Mary McKinnell of the experiences of the youth of our Diocese during their time in our companion Diocese of Mthatha.

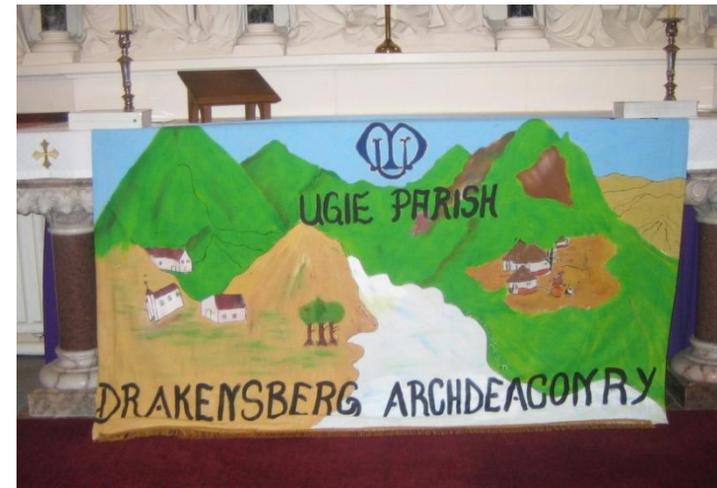
During their visit to Mthatha the Bishop and youth group visited the Parish of Ugie and the Bishop was presented with a beautiful colourful banner which he suggested should come to our Diocese's Buchan branch on the River Ugie. During the singing of 'Those dear tokens of his passion' the banner was carried forward to the chancel crossing by Sheila Dargie and Ursula Simpson, where it was held aloft and then introduced and blessed.

We shared the peace African style with everyone moving around forming haphazard circles, joining hands and singing 'Bind us together Lord'. At this point there were tears in many eyes! A final reading and collect for Christmas Day, followed by the Blessing and a rousing 'Tell out my soul' brought our memorable Advent Day service to a close.

We then adjourned to the church hall where everyone enjoyed a plate (or in some instances - PLATES...) of lovely hot soup with crusty bread, followed by tea, coffee, cake and shortbread. Not only were our bodies warmed and fed, but also our minds and spirits with the wonderful fellowship shared by all who were present. Everyone left feeling they had experienced something special which would remain with them for a long time, perhaps forever, a truly lovely day.

Love to you all

**Ursula**



## *Synod Eucharist 2010*

Saturday March 6<sup>th</sup> was a very special occasion for the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of Aberdeen & Orkney, as Chris Crosley the new Diocesan President and the Trustees and Office Bearers, were invited to attend the Synod Eucharist in St Andrew's Cathedral, Aberdeen.

The Cathedral was filled with Clergy and others from across the Diocese. The Choir sang beautifully and the congregation joined in to fill the cathedral with a joyous sound that was accompanied by the organist. The words of +Bob's address both challenged and encouraged all to seek growth and renewal in the church. Then, +Bob, a member of the Mothers' Union himself, commissioned Chris, the Revd. Canon Graham Taylor who is the Mothers' Union Chaplain, the Office Bearers and the Trustees. The congregation were asked by +Bob to support them in their work.

With the profile of the Mothers' Union thus raised, Chris and her team look forward to working across the Diocese with renewed enthusiasm.

*Sheila George*



*Mary Sumner Choir*



*Lusaka Cathedral*



*In October 2009 Revd Canon Graham Taylor, Chaplain to the MU led a pilgrimage to the Holy Land, he writes.....*

I reminisce on a wonderful pilgrimage to the Holy Land, which I led in October 2009. I will confess to being a little nervous as it was my first time of leading, but I could not have asked for a better group of pilgrims to travel along with, and thankfully everything seemed to run smoothly – including airports!

We arrived in the warm air of the evening into Tel-Aviv airport before being transported by bus to our hotel in Jerusalem. This brought back wonderful memories to me of my travel three years ago to this very special place.

On our first day we said Morning Prayer together, before breakfast. We then set off to begin to walk in some of the places where our Lord had been. We were all very excited to be in this holy place! Four nights on from there we travelled up to Galilee to stay in Tiberius for the rest of our trip before returning back home. I must say for me this was one of the highlights of the pilgrimage, travelling around where Jesus had spent most of his ministry, seeing the places where all of his miracles and surprises took place!

An extra special moment for me during our stay in the Holy Land this time was a beautiful sail on the Sea of Galilee in a Jesus boat. A poignant moment was when the engines were switched off and we heard the words of Jesus calming the storm followed by our singing of that wonderful hymn,

*Dear Lord and Father of Mankind.....*

*In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
beside the Syrian Sea.....  
O Sabbath rest by Galilee!  
O Calm of hills above.....  
O Still small voice of calm!*

I still find it hard to believe that I was actually singing these words which were written about this place.

This was really only one of the special moments of the trip, but probably the one that stands out most for me. However, having said that, the whole pilgrimage was full of miracles and surprises for me and something that I will most definitely be repeating within the next few years. So start saving now and join me! A trip never to be forgotten.

Every blessing

*Graham*

