



**Diocese of Edinburgh**

**Mothers' Union Newsletter**



**April 2011**

## ***Letter from the Diocesan President: March 2011***

Dear Fellow Members,

The snow drops are gently swaying in the wind, the fat crocus buds are ready to open in the sun – I think Spring is on the way. After a long, cold white, winter, we are all looking for colour and warmth. I look around the garden each day and notice new bulbs shooting up, the birds are emptying the bird feeders and some days the sun shines warmly. It is great!



We are looking forward, maybe a bit anxiously, to the Annual Meeting and the Service the night before. This promises to be an enjoyable time for all of us. I hope that you have got your tickets.

This is a Provincial event – members from the other Dioceses are part of the team and we are grateful for their active part in the organization of both days. Each member of the Team brings their own special gift which has been essential in ensuring that everything is planned for. The Faith representatives have organized the Service and visited the Cathedral several times, trying to pack in as many members as possible for the service.

Faithful Relationships, the theme for the year, means many things. Obviously our faithfulness to God is most important, but so easily forgotten. As a friend once said “If my relationship with God is right, then my relationship with everyone/everything else is right” Some days it is glaringly obvious that I've failed. It might sound easy BUT.... Perhaps that should be my Lent focus. I've been thinking about Lent – it is so different from years ago when it seemed to be taken more seriously – we gave something up (something we liked!) and gave the money to Charity. Now we take something up – but is that as difficult as no biscuits? As well as being faithful friends, relatives during difficult times are we always faithful to our own selves? Do we always stand for what we believe is right? In a world more “me” orientated, “my rights”, “my freedom” etc do we realize that this may curtail someone's rights, freedom? Do we take responsibility for our actions? It takes courage (and we may not be popular) to say what we believe when others dismiss for being “churchy”.

The Diocesan presidents' Conference was very good and informative but the financial state makes it difficult for us to continue with the work planned. Our overseas commitment continues but the Development Officers (Workers) have not had a pay increase and their travel grant has been cut by 70%. All staff had their salaries frozen and there are 7 staff vacancies – staff left to take up other jobs and no-one was made redundant. There will be more information on the Conference at Council in April.

Let us look forward to the Lady Day Service and rejoice. Our thanks go to Bishop Brian for supporting us so well over the years and we wish him and Lissa a happy and healthy retirement.

We wish you all a Happy Easter,

Love and prayers, Angela

- See overleaf

Mrs Angela Sibley, 17 Rullion Rd, Penicuik, EH26 9HS – Tel 01968 674211  
emailangelasibley@talktalk.net

Dear Fellow Members,

Greetings to you all from the Trustees in Edinburgh. We hope that this will be a healthy, happy and exciting year for all of us.

There are several major events planned for the year.

The LADY DAY SERVICE is being held on Friday, March 25th 2011 at the Cathedral at 11.00 a.m. The Bishop has agreed to Preside and preach. More information will follow later this month. This is an opportunity to meet and worship with others from the diocese – (we are not just individuals but belong to a World wide organization) and have fellowship with others.

The ANNUAL MEETING in JUNE is a big event. I hope you had already applied for tickets for the Service at the Cathedral on the evening of June 8th. and to the Usher Hall for tickets for the A.G.M on the 9th. Imagine singing and worshipping with 1,000 like minded friends.

Please take advantage of this opportunity to hear about the good work done World Wide – it will mean only a day trip for us.

PLEASE try and attend the DIOCESAN COUNCIL in the Spring. (*On April 27<sup>th</sup> in Christ Church Centre, Morningside*). It is essential that we revise the Diocesan Constitution and you need to be there to hear and vote before it can be implemented. If your Branch Leader cannot come, please send a replacement.

Please keep the work of the Mothers' Union in your prayers,

*With love and Blessings,*

*Angela*

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## Letter from Edinburgh MU Chaplain

I seem to be glued to radio and TV as the world's tragedies unfold. Just as we were all buoyed up by the relatively peaceful handover of power in Tunisia and Egypt, we were confronted by the implacability of Gaddafi and the horror of people caught up in a situation with no clear resolution likely and where danger and fear become constant elements in daily life. Now North Africa takes a back seat in the press. While the horrors of the Christchurch earthquake still tear at our hearts, Japan faces a far worse disaster.

There has been a suggestion that we might use Lent to watch TV with greater care and look out for all the prayer points, all the thoughts and actions and ideas which need our prayers, in the programmes we watch and there has certainly been plenty of those this week.

I questioned myself when I heard someone remark that it was more shocking to see the devastation of a city like Christchurch that looked like our cities and the grief of people who looked like us and spoke our language. It does bring the fragility of life closer to home and hopefully will help us to relate better, to be more compassionate now that another earthquake brings death and destruction to a more unfamiliar part of the world.

Mobile phones, email, Skype, Twitter, Facebook and all the other means of communication now in use make the world a smaller place, bringing the terrors and joys of life today closer to us. We can enjoy the blessing of being able to be more closely in touch with family and friends. Let us pray that this will make the world a more compassionate and caring place as we live in closer contact with each other and that human discoveries and inventions of our time will be put to better use than some earlier ones. Have you ever wondered what Jesus would have done if he'd had a Blackberry?

*Jennifer Edie – Chaplain*

## INTERCESSIONS

All members are welcome to St Ninian's Church, on Monday 11 October at 12noon for Midday prayers and intercessions followed by a bring and share lunch

Please note change of time and venue During the winter months (October - March) Monday intercessions will be held at 12 noon on 2nd Monday of month at St Ninian, 39 Comely Bank, EH4 1AF.

St Ninian's church is situated between Waitrose and the The Bank of Scotland opposite Flora Stevenson School . Metered street parking nearby or free ( 2hr limit) at Waitrose when purchase made.

Buses: 24,29,42, stop outside;19,37,47, at bottom of Orchard Brae;  
38 Craigleith Rd/Crewe Rd Sth

Please send requests for prayer to:

Julia Mason (0131 343 1165) [revdjuliamason@btinternet.com](mailto:revdjuliamason@btinternet.com) or  
Jennie Ritchie [jennieritchie@sky.com](mailto:jennieritchie@sky.com)

### **Action and Outreach - from Angela Sibley**

There was great excitement and rejoicing in Sudan when all the Diocesan Presidents met for the first time in many year. The long, ongoing war had prevented travel between the North and South.

The Presidents worked on the future work of the Mothers' union with Sudan and made plans etc for the coming years.

The country has held an election re the separation of the South from the North, but as I understand it, the Mothers' union will continue to work together.

In Mwapwa They are hoping and praying for gentle rains for their crops. Looking for food takes so much time and energy that the Mothers' Union programmes were severely disrupted. I am waiting for further news.

We have heard nothing from our Link in Nigeria.

In Sri Lanka the members are still working with the refugees from the North in the camps and also helping those affected by the severe floods. They think that the majority of the rice crop has been ruined. They work very hard and are waiting for information on how they can help the flood even more.

All our Links need our prayers and we must be very grateful for our blessings.

## **Mothers' Union Enterprises (MUE)**

Contact Susan Crosfield for information and to place orders. Tel 01968 676607 -  
([sue.crosfield@btinternet.com](mailto:sue.crosfield@btinternet.com))



*Right & below:  
Hilary Moran  
and  
Sue Crosfield  
in the Hall after  
the Lady Day  
Service.*



## MESSAGE FROM THE MU PROVINCIAL PRESIDENT SCOTLAND

10th August 2010

Dear friends,

I hope many of you will be able to come to the General Meeting on Thursday 9th June 10.30am – 3.30pm in the Usher hall, Edinburgh. Our Worldwide President Rosemary Kempself will be there to tell us about her travels to members around the world. The service on Wednesday 8th June at 7.30pm at St Mary's Cathedral is over subscribed, but we are taking a waiting list.

Rosemary has recently started a Blog some of you might be interested to read it [www.muwwpresident.wordpress.com](http://www.muwwpresident.wordpress.com)

Reg Bailey, our Chief Executive is carrying out an independent review for the government to address parents' concerns about the pressures on children to grow up too quickly, I'm sure we will hear how our campaign is

progressing at the General Meeting. He is asking for evidence at present, and is particularly keen to hear from parents. Could you print off the questionnaire and ask local parents to fill it out, it is a good way to get younger parents involved [www.education.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations) (Bailey Review)?

I'm looking forward to our Provincial Retreat on 5th – 7th April at Kinnoull Monastery, Perth as our own Bishop Gregor will be leading the retreat and he was my Rector for 10 years. It is a silent retreat, so time to really focus on God, a great treat. Let your DP know if you would like to go.

With love from, Hilary x, *MU Provincial President Scotland*

– Tel 01475 686213

email: [hilary.moran@btinternet.com](mailto:hilary.moran@btinternet.com)

To make contributions to the Website contact Paul Hindle: [webmaster@muscotland.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@muscotland.org.uk)

To view website go to: <http://www.muscotland.org.uk/>

**PROVINCIAL RETREAT:** was held from Tuesday 5th to Thursday 7th April 2011 and was led by the Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway, the Rt. Revd. Dr. Gregor Duncan.



Paul Hindle's wife, Pat, is now the Retreat organizer: Below are extracts from the report.

**“Learning from the Psalms”** was the theme for the retreat led by Bishop Gregor, Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway. Julia Mason and myself went and enjoyed it very much. He chose Psalms which had a meaning for him and included personal information while talking about these Psalms. The Psalms he chose were – Psalm 8, 19, 23 (perhaps the most well known of all the Psalms) 51 (a penitential Psalm), and 84. Each address ended with a

musical setting of that psalm, some of which sent shivers up my spine. There were many well known verses, phrases in these Psalms which I recognized but did not know where they came from. Many are attributed to David. There was also time to ourselves to pray, think read. There was Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Compline plus two Eucharists. Saying the Psalms together helped with the understanding and to appreciate the poetry of them.

**The Lady Day Service**, which was held in St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral, Edinburgh on Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March was attended by the Provincial Scottish President, Hilary Moran. Bishop Brian presided and preached. Marion Rowley read Isaiah 11: 1-10 and the Gospel was read by the Cathedral Chaplain, Revd Nicki McKelly. The MU Chaplain, Revd Jennifer Edie led the Intercessions. The following is a précis of the address:

The Bishop opened his address by saying that 2011 is a special year in the life of this Cathedral, the mother church of the diocese. George Gilbert Scott, its architect was born in 1811 on 18 July. He went on to say, that today in our thoughts and prayers, earthquakes are in our mind and we remember the people of Japan. He referred to the fact that earthquakes, and their resultant Tsunamis, have been part of the history in Western Europe. The earthquake that took place in the Atlantic in 1761 (250 years ago) was described as a 'small earthquake in London'. It followed the more famous earthquake of 1755 in Lisbon. This earthquake shattered the optimism of Europe and called in question the whole philosophy that we live in the best of all possible worlds. It stimulated Voltaire to write *Candide*, and significantly influenced thinkers in the Scottish Enlightenment

The Geologist Charles Lyell who was born in Scotland about 15 miles north of Dundee, commented on the effects of the 1755 earthquake, that "In no part of the volcanic region of Southern Europe has so tremendous an earthquake occurred in modern times as that which began on the 1st of November, 1755, at Lisbon. A sound of thunder was heard underground, and immediately afterwards a violent shock threw down the greater part of that city. In the course of about six minutes, sixty thousand persons perished. The sea first retired and laid the bar dry; it then rolled in, rising fifty feet above its ordinary level.....

The effect was felt by ships in the Atlantic, and lakes, rivers, and springs in Great Britain were greatly agitated. At Loch Lomond, in Scotland, for example, the water, without the least apparent cause, rose against its banks, and then subsided below its usual level. The greatest perpendicular height of this swell was two feet four inches. It all caused people to question the idea that we lived in a world under the care of a benevolent and kindly God. Nature that can seem benign suddenly becomes terrible without warning and surprises us. And of course we also recall that it was in 1911 that the Titanic was launched. Nature is at times red in tooth and claw, hostile to human nature; and at times beautiful, and evocative of the divine life.;

And so to Lady Day 2011. In Luke's gospel we hear of Mary's discovery that she is pregnant. Will this be seen as a cause of disgrace, or a sign of salvation? And in Luke, the angel offers an interpretation, of the ambiguity of her situation so as to give her hope.

And this sums up our charge as members of the Mother's Union.

Our calling is to interpret the ambiguity of things to people such that they can live in God's world with hope. It is a significant calling. It is a calling seen in the mission of that angel. It is a calling that calls us to address the needs of Japan, the homeless, the neglected and the abused. The world is not just a meaningless jumble of events, but a place wherein we can discern something of the God who was seen in Jesus Christ. And seeing that gives hope for the future. AMEN -

MU does this. *Above right: Bishop Brian and Catherine Pow in the Walpole Hall after the service. We shall miss the support of Bishop Brian when he retires in August. We wish him and Lissa a very happy retirement.*



## Diocesan Membership

Both Margaret Gibbs and Rose Nuttall have had a spells in hospital, They are both home now. We send our love and prayers for better health. They have both decided to retire, so if any branch knows of a member who would like to join the above group, if they are not near enough to attend a branch, and until new organizers for the group are appointed, please contact Angela Sibley. (see p.2)



Angela Sibley, Diocesan President, is pictured below left, with St James Rector, The Revd Robert Warren.



On the right Angela is with the organ scholar, Wayne, who played for the service. Guests from The World Day of Prayer Committee are in the foreground. *Other photographs overleaf.*

## AROUND THE BRANCHES – Christ Church Morningside –

Congratulations to Betty Storey who celebrated her 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on January 19<sup>th</sup> 2011. She is pictured on the left in the Walpole Hall after the Lady Day Service held on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March.

**St Ninians** - During the winter months (*up to March 2011*) the Monday intercessions have been held St Ninian's followed by a bring and share lunch. Thanks go to the Revd Julia Mason and her members for their hospitality.

## St James, Penicuik –

Members of St James ran the Cake and Candy Stall on Lady Day. Margaret Coull, Branch Leader and Elizabeth Clark are pictured below:  
and





Lady Day Service On the left and below are members from Livingston Ecumenical Branch Below: with Hilary Moran.

The Livingston Branch dispensed tea and coffee in the Hall after the service.



## Editorial

In order to save on postage, items for the next Newsletter should be with me by **AUGUST** to enable distribution at Diocesan Council.

News of branch activities, special birthdays, anniversaries etc. plus photos would be welcome.

Email: [jean@jrhindle.co.uk](mailto:jean@jrhindle.co.uk) –

Tel 01968 674591 or post to

Mrs J Hindle 24 Mauricewood Park, Penicuik EH26 0BP

## OTHER NEWS :

Please keep Doris Bilton in your prayers. At the end of November, 2010, shortly after the last Newsletter was published, Doris's son, David lost his fight against cancer. Following so soon after Alan's death, it must be very hard to bear. Pray especially for David's wife and daughter.

## CALENDAR

A reminder from Diocesan Secretary, Catherine Pow:

1. Diocesan Council to be held on Wednesday 27 April 2011, in Christ Church Centre, Morningside at 10.15am.
2. Service in St Mary's Cathedral on Wednesday 8 June 2011 at 7.30pm.
3. Annual General Meeting on Thursday 9 June 2011 in the Usher Hall at 10.30am.

**RETREAT 2012 is MARCH 27-29<sup>th</sup>** – Put this date in your diaries now as I am sure the next one will be as inspiring as this one.

If anyone want to see the rest of my notes. Do ask. *Angela and Julia*

The report to Diocesan Council includes details of the Psalms used and Angela urges you to look up these Psalms yourselves.