

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

**DIOCESE OF
GLASGOW AND GALLOWAY**



**NEWSLINK
SPRING 2011**

Scottish Charity SC023885

Diocesan President's Letter

Dear Friends,

I hope you have all come through the bad weather unscathed! Only one member of the Glenesk family fell victim; my mother-in-law broke her shoulder, but is now thankfully, fully recovered.

The theme chosen to inspire members this year is Faithful Relationships illustrated by the relationships Jesus shared with Peter and with Mary Magdalene. The excellent on-line resources are available for use either at meetings or individually at http://www.themothersunion.org/theme_for_2011.aspx

I have just returned from World Wide Conference, where delegates were encouraged to direct their efforts towards refocusing, changing and developing the image and mission of Mothers' Union. The call for a change of emphasis is primarily due to the impact the global recession has had on the finances of the organisation – major reductions in the value of investments and reserves with a further loss of income due to falling membership. Despite signs that finances have steadied, the travel grant paid to Community Development Coordinators has been drastically cut again this year.

In Glasgow & Galloway there is a need for us to ensure finances are in order at branch and diocesan level. All monies, subscriptions, fund raised and any surplus money should be sent to the Overseas Fund. This will help ensure the work undertaken by our sisters in the developing world continues to improve the lives of women and families.

As almost 80% of money comes from members it is vital that we encourage people to join. Explaining to them the fantastic work done in the name of Mothers' Union in the global south is a powerful message. Parenting, Literacy Development and Financial Education, also the impact Bye Buy Childhood is having in the UK and also local mission. Our story is well worth telling.

The recruitment of new members is important, but so too is the retention of existing members. This demands all our efforts to notice, to care for each other, for we all matter. However, this does not mean that members should continue at all costs. The members of Bearsden have decided that they can no longer function in the present format. Therefore following thanksgivings and celebrations of 50 years as a branch the members are taking time out to reflect and rest. I'm sure it was a difficult decision, but one that is right, for them at this time. Over the years, members of Bearsden have contributed greatly to the mission of Mothers' Union. For this we thank God.

The relationships we have individually with God and the relationships we share with one another whether locally or worldwide are what will sustain and inspire us through this year. The relationships we have with one another requires our ability to give and also to receive. The strength of our community is dependent on mutual respect and mutual support with each member contributing equally either by their prayers, thoughts or actions and all this we do with God's help.

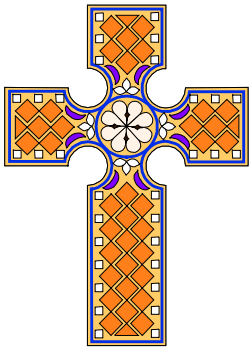
With love, in Christ, Ann



Front cover photograph courtesy of Anne Tomlinson

Faithful Relationships

From the Chaplain :



Dear Mothers' Union Reader, Brothers and Sisters in Christ

The last time I wrote an insert I said that I would relate another story connected with an African M.U. but it also relates to the prudence that I possibly inherited from my Scottish ancestry – I don't like waste !

Some years ago a Rector, his wife and I went on a short-term mission to the Northern Diocese of Zambia in the Copper Belt. For the first few days the Bishop obtained a vacant flat used for a mine's middle management in the City of Ndola. He had furnished it for us and in the kitchen we had a two-ring electric hob, crockery, large pot and frying pan with a chicken, tomatoes, potatoes, bread and marg. and drinks.

The Bishop took the wife to one side, told her to be "a mother to these men", said he would furnish further food and told us we would talk to the Youth in the Cathedral that "evening" (which to us was afternoon: in fact anytime after noon was 'evening'!). He later told us that I would preach (the next day was Sunday) at the Cathedral, the Rector would celebrate at a township and his wife would accompany him at the Consecration of a new Mothers' Union Hall.

The 'mother' had boiled up the chicken and with tomatoes and potatoes we had a good meal. I volunteered to wash up and asked what I should do with the remains of the rather scrawny chicken. "O just throw it out" I was told. I couldn't do that even with a meagre carcass, so using the pot and frying pan with a plate for a lid, I double-boiled the skin and bones and there were more bits of chicken than you might think!. Chopped potatoes, tomatoes, chicken, BA salt and pepper from my shirt pocket and we ended with a good thick soup.

That night the Bishop asked if we needed more food for our next evening meal and was told "We're fine! Peter has made a good pot of soup".

I preached at the Cathedral and later, Happy Banda, driving the Mothers' Union minibus took me back home, but no, I didn't recognise the way and on to the township. The Celebration had just finished, but there was much welcoming of me too and then we had tea at the Priest's house (it was then that I realized that the Bishop's advice to remove my watch was valid: this was 'African Time').

After quite a time, Happy took the Rector and I, and I guessed where we would be going.

By the time we came to the big church (next to the new MU Hall) they were into the third hour and then followed the notices and our welcome (even the Bishop on his dais looked like a rather bored Paramount Chief {minus fly whisk!}). All that remained to do was for the 'mother' to bring greetings from Scottish Mothers. The church was crowded with women dressed in MU uniform and also "Veronicas" the differently dressed unmarried women. She did this and ended with a little song accompanied by a dance. The church exploded with appreciation, especially the loud ululation of the women. The Bishop finally gave his Blessing and we retired to the MU hall for a feast.

I accompanied our 'mother' who knew where to go and told her just what a hit she had been with her appreciated dance. "Oh No!" she said, "It's you that's the hit!"

She explained that the Bishop had preached about the Gospel story of the Good Samaritan. After some time he then referred to the good Samaritans who had come from Scotland to help and share with them. He then went on to say how, upon asking if they needed more food, he had been told that Peter had made a good pot of soup and then he asked, "How many of you men can make soup?" He then went down into the congregation and challenged the men that as Christian husbands they should help their wives. I was told that the women broke into deafening noise of appreciation as some of the men stood to promise they would go for water for their wives or do other helpful chores.

When I was told this I did look behind me to see if there were any men behind me with knives!?! Did I start a minor revolution because my grandfather had been a chef in the Officers' Mess in the First World War and had thought nothing of a man cooking? Or was it just because I don't like waste?

As Lent approaches how about you taking up a skill or task that you've thought you could try?

Let us all thank the Lord for the talents we have in service to Him, including being a good Mum.

Love, in Jesus' Name,

Peter

Long Service Certificates

The Long Service certificates acknowledge with thanks the witness and commitment of members who have served God through the objects of Mothers' Union for forty years or more.

Whenever possible the certificates are presented to members in church during a short thanksgiving service. This echoes their joining service, in church, when they agreed to uphold the objects of Mothers' Union with God's help. The names of the recipients are presented to God and prayers are said for the member(s) and for the branch.

It has been a great joy to meet members and their families and to hear their stories. While there have been many changes over the 40+ years taking time to listen to the stories is a learning experience as well as a source of joy and inspiration.

While members at Ayr, Kilmarnock, Motherwell, Bearsden and Knightswood have received certificates, the Trustees are keen to ensure that everyone who is eligible is acknowledged in this way. To that end can I please ask for the names of members who have served for 40+ years?

Ann



Mary Reynolds,
Holy Cross,
Knightswood,
receiving her
certificate from
Bishop Gregor.

Mary Shanks, a member at St. Johns, Dumfries was presented with her long service certificate just before Christmas. Mary has been a member of MU for 45 years and although now nearly housebound she maintains a lively interest in all that the MU is doing. She well remembers her first time at MU when she attended with her Grandmother and there were very nice cream cakes to eat. Mary would like to be remembered to all her MU friends and Ian, who made the tea for me, joins her in this. Mary had all her MU certificates on show, including the one for her enrolment and various appointments within MU and I'm sure that the Long Service Certificate will be put in a place of honour.

Carolynne Sorrell

Laying the Issue of Domestic Abuse Before God

The strips of rainbow coloured cloth, above, were woven, during a period of silent prayers, by those who attended a service led by Very Rev Kelvin Holdsworth at St Mary's Cathedral Glasgow on the 25th of November, the United Nations day for the Elimination of violence against women.

The service, included scripture, drama, silence, hymns, prayers and an insight into domestic abuse in Glasgow and in Upper Shire, Malawi. A member of Women's' Aid spoke about the extent of the problem locally and Agnes Mkoko a newly retired Development worker from Upper Shire Malawi reminded us all that though separated by miles the experiences of women worldwide are similar. The resources locally, though vastly superior to those in Malawi are still inadequate with more than a third of families who seek help having to be turned away due to lack of space. Four members performed a drama which aims to raise awareness of the issue of domestic abuse in faith communities.

Following the service +Gregor advised that the MU should take the issue to a wider audience at General Synod. This has happened and the Church in Society has agreed to sponsor the MU at one of the Synod's lunchtime presentations. This work adds to the support offered by members to families in refuges and reminds us that we are all called in different ways to serve God. United by God's love we all in our different ways contribute and as a community reach out to others.

Ann



Shoes in interfaith exhibition and members of the interfaith group on domestic abuse

PRAYER LEAFLET	The Pelican Vulning Symbol of Christ's Love
<p>Please pray for:</p> <p>Angela Muir . [Helensburgh MU]</p> <p>Rev Joan Marr . [Dumfries]</p> <p>Ann Hainey . [Ayr MU]</p> <p>Averil Nichol .</p> <p>Lesley McCowatt . [Ardrossan MU]</p> <p>David Nash. [Ayr]</p> <p>Doris Smiley. [Ayr MU]</p> <p>Mary Wallace . [Ardrossan MU]</p> <p>3yr old Oisin . [Dalbeatie Baptist Church]</p> <p>Pauline Thompson . [Ardrossan MU]</p> <p>Trish Robertson and her husband Struan. [Helensburgh MU]</p> <p>Nessie Rankin . [Largs MU]</p> <p>Lucy Toner [St John's Dumfries MU]</p> <p>Lilian Bancroft . [Ardrossan MU]</p> <p>Linda King [Castle Douglas MU]</p> <p>Geoff & Enid Scobie [Bishopbriggs MU]</p>	<p>Under her feathered outspread wings Pelican nestlings rest, Three searching beaks stretch out to meet Upon the mother's breast. No natural food the mother gives As each one pleads for food – With her own broken flesh and blood She feeds her hungry brood. Trebles reflect the Trinity Joining this love sublime – God revealed in human flesh, Eternity in time. So at the Holy Eucharist Beneath your wings we rest, Saved by your great self-giving love, Close to your wounded breast. To us you give your flesh and blood, Reminders of your suffering pain, And we, touched by your matchless love, Remember you again.</p> <p><i>(Lines inspired by a small wooden carving seen while on retreat at Kinnoull, Perth)</i></p> <p>Barbara Jeffries Newslink Correspondent</p>

***'Continue earnestly in prayer being vigilant in it with
thanksgiving' Colossians 4 v3***

Please keep all these people at the heart of your prayers as prayer will help them and let them know that we love and care for them as Jesus Christ does.

**Almighty God, we beseech thee to help us-
help all who are sick and suffering, those who are in pain,
those who are bereaved and those who are worried.
Comfort the poor and the needy and help them
to a better standard of life.
through our Lord Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Please pray for Doreen Esnol as she grieves the loss of her husband, for Gladys also grieving the loss of her husband and for Peter Douglas as he grieves the loss of Margaret. For Ray Hardman a member of Bishopbriggs MU who has died. May those who have died rest in peace and rise in glory and those who grieve be comforted by Christ's love.

**Susan Groves
Faith & Policy Coordinator**



Many thanks to all those who attended Douglas's Funeral Service, for all your letters, cards, flowers and prayers. It was comforting to know that I was being upheld in prayer by so many friends. My faith, family and friends certainly sustained me during these last two years.

Doreen Esnol

Bye Buy Childhood Campaign



The Bye Buy Childhood campaign was launched on 14th September 2010, with broad coverage across the media, including newspapers and BBC Websites, both local and national. The campaign will be focussing on the commercialisation of

childhood and various other related topics. The MU website will provide tools to help those who wish to campaign and will be updated regularly.

Following on from the launch of the campaign, Reg Bailey, Chief Executive of Mothers' Union has been asked to chair the Independent Review of the Commercialisation and Sexualisation of Childhood. The review has been commissioned by Sarah Teather MP, the Minister for Children and Families, and is part of a strong commitment made by both David Cameron and Nick Clegg to give a real measure of support to family life. Reg Bailey also appeared on the BBC's Panorama in January, during an item by Sophie Rayworth on the pressure faced by teenagers from the media, their peers and in some cases their parents.

Another programme, 'My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding' has also illustrated the influence the media and retailers have on children as young as six years old.

The Mothers' Union is just one of many organisations seeking to challenge the role of consumerism in childhood and beyond, and the campaign may receive negative reaction, particularly by those who feel criticised by the campaign. However, the campaign will be long term and will require consistent pressure to ensure we engage with all those involved in the welfare of our children.



Caryl Haglington - Marketing Representative

From our Provincial President.....

Dear Friends,

I hope that 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 Kempzell 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. 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 (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.

God Bless
Hilary x

Good Wishes from Uganda

Barbara Elliott (former Diocesan President) sends her very best wishes to all her old friends in the Diocese. At present she is staying with her daughter in Uganda but, in her own words, she will be back with the swallows in April!

Ed.





Moments with Members

Our Provincial President Hilary Moran has accepted the invitation to answer the questions.

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

Several people over the years have had a hand in making me what I am today. Firstly my parents, in particular my mother, who can still put me in my place at 92 years old, but is always interested in what I've been doing and is a keen church and Mothers' Union member. Then my husband of 32 years, Freddie, who is a great family man. Lastly my friend Shirley Angell who has looked over my shoulder, encouraging and supporting me in my church and Mothers' Union in life for many years, leading by example and more. She is my guardian angel.

2. Name a poem, song or piece of music that has inspired you.

I attend a contemplative meditation group, called the Fellowship of Meditation. The organisation was started by Marion Dunlop in 1933. We are given one sentence each time to focus on for ½ hour. Just try it yourself. My favourite sentence to get really close to God is 'I will be still and learn of you, Spirit of Peace within'. There is a lot to be said for some quiet time. I need to make more time for this!

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

I would take back all those things I said without thinking that might have caused upset. I'm quite good at saying the wrong thing, at the wrong time, but always strive to improve.

4. *Has political correctness gone too far?*

Not just PC also Health & Safety too. When I hear of people not being allowed to wear crosses to work, I just wonder what country we live in. We've really got to stand up for being a Christian these days.

5. *What could you not live without?*

My eye gel which I use twice a day. I have very dry eyes and couldn't cope without it. And love of course!

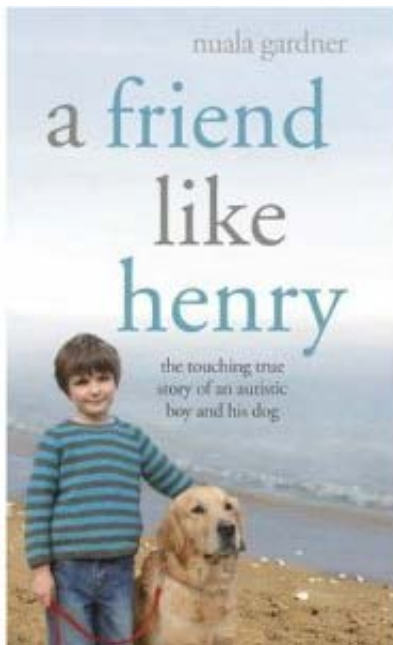
6. *What are you doing to minimise your carbon footprint?*

When my husband said he would buy me a new car I asked for the most eco friendly one there was. So I have a Skoda Fabia Estate diesel and we always use it for long journeys. It is really economical with the fuel. I have a wormery in the garage and they eat up all our greens. Everything apart from some plastics are recycled, we have a very empty rubbish bin these days. I like to travel by train in Scotland, but unfortunately often find it cheaper to fly to London or my Mum's than go by train.

President Ann visits the members at St Ninian's, Pollokshields



Book Review



"A Friend like Henry"

by Nuala Gardner

Publisher: Hodder & Stoughton (26 July 2007)

ISBN-10: 0340934018 or ISBN-13: 978-0340934012

This book is a remarkable true story of an autistic boy and the dog that unlocked his world.

It is written by the mother and is about the way she managed to change his life by sheer determination and by fighting for help - with good results.

This story will make you cry at times and also warm your heart. It is well worth reading. Buy it or borrow it - but definitely read it.

Alison Eaton (St Michael and All Angels, Helensburgh)

Future Dates

Lady Day Service (South)	St Ninian's CASTLE DOUGLAS	22 nd March 2011	12 noon
Lady Day Service (North)	St Andrew's ARDROSSAN	29 th March 2011	11.00 a.m.
Festival Service	Holy Cross KNIGHTSWOOD	21 st May 2011	11.00 a.m.
General Meeting Service	St Mary's Cathedral EDINBURGH	8 th June 2011	7.30 p.m.
General Meeting	Usher Hall EDINBURGH	9 th June 2011	10.30 a.m.
'Faithful in Prayer' Mary Sumner Service	MU Chaplain's Garden, NEWMILNS AYRSHIRE **	9 th August 2011	11.00 a.m.

**** More details of this from your Branch Leader.**



Hospitality following worship at St James, Bishopbriggs

25th November 2010

Faithful Relationships



Agnes Mkoko and Mary Sumner at St Mary's Cathedral, 25th November 2010

Thanks to all the contributors.
All articles for the Autumn edition of Newslink should be sent to me
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or by e mail to elsieburray@btinternet.com
by 20th September 2011.