

Newsletter Christmas 2018

Dear Friends,

With the shorter daylight hours, it can be quite isolating for some, a lot of us almost go into hibernation, when the weather isn't conducive to going out, we see less people. I have two dogs to walk, plus a Harris Hawk to look after, they ensure that I keep active through the winter. The longer evenings in front of the fire means time to knit and do cross stitch.

Mission

If any of you like to pass away the winter evenings knitting or making things you can always make hats and things for the Mission for Seafarers, pencil cases for school children. Our Mission within the Diocese will continue to be the support of Rev. Sarah and her work, so if you want to collect packs of socks and pants, these are for children from 5 to 18 years, grey or black socks for boys, white for girls. I asked if pencil cases would be a good idea. You can buy or make pencil cases and pop some pens and pencils in it. I am not sure what plans Rev. Sarah has for the AFIA (Away From It All) family day trip. A large bag of children's underwear was handed over at my Commissioning. I have made poppies for the display in Inverness Cathedral, hats for seafarers, and sorted out pencil cases for children.

Merging Update

As you will be aware for over a year there have been moves to combine the three Dioceses; Moray, Ross and Caithness, with Aberdeen and Orkney, along with Argyll and the Isles, to make one large area. This reduces the number of people to run it. In the next few months we will be merging the three Dioceses; Moray, Ross and Caithness, with Aberdeen and Orkney, also Argyll and the Isles. The ground work has been done and there are two teams with roles to look after the whole area. I will send out updates when I have more information. Have you considered becoming Provincial President? No one has been found to take over from Jean for the next triennium. If you or anyone else is interested let me know.

Retreat

The Provincial MU Retreat next year is to be held between Tuesday 9th and Thursday 11th April 2019 (in the week before Holy Week) at St Mary's Monastery, Kinnoull, Perth. I hope you would like to come and encourage others to come too (they don't need to be members or resident in Scotland).

As you know, St Mary's, Kinnoull offers a high standard of accommodation. Most of the bedrooms are single with en-suite shower rooms. There is lift access to all floors. Level access to the lift at lower car park level is available through the door to the basement on the right of the steps that lead up to the main entrance. The lift entrance is across the hall from the kitchens. For those who expressed some disappointment with the catering when compared to what was offered before the refurbishment, I have been in contact with Kinnoull and have been assured that others had expressed similar views and that they had been taken on board. They hope we shall not be disappointed!

Our leader will be the Revd. Martin Roff, who is Diocesan Supernumerary in the Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness. Martin offered his services as leader after attending our retreat in 2017. He proposes that the overall pattern of the Retreat should be a series of talks and led meditations on the theme "Trust in God, in good times and bad". There's more about him on the webpage. It sounds like it will be another great experience, though it should be emphasised that people are free to participate in what is offered or not as they feel inclined. It is intended to be a Retreat after all!

The cost of the Retreat will be slightly lower than last year at £160 full-board for those in a single en-suite room. If you have to share a shower room, the price will be the same as last year, £145 – this applies to four rooms on the top floor.

The website has been updated with all the information available at present. The link to the page is <http://muscotland.org.uk/Retreat.htm> and there is also a Retreat link under the Spirituality tab at the top of each page of the website and in the lower half of the homepage. There is a link to the online application form on the Retreat page. As before, if you are willing to act as the email contact for others, you are welcome to apply on their behalf. I'm also happy to take phone bookings.

If you have any questions, please feel free to phone Pat Hindle on 0141 776 3237 or email at retreat@muscotland.org.uk .

Families First Subscription

Just a reminder that subscribing to Families First magazine is no longer being done alongside annual subscriptions. You will see in the magazine details of how to subscribe directly to them.

I wish all of you a happy, peaceful, Christmas and we look forward to 2019.
Love and blessings,

Mrs. Deborah L. Munday

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