**Deanery Reports for Trustees Meeting on 16th March 2017**

**Alnwick Deanery Report for Thursday 16th March 2017**

I’m pleased to report that Margy Tasker Brown has come forward as our new Deanery Leader. There being no other nominations she will be formally elected at our Deanery meeting on 20th. April. Her details have been sent on the recent report forms and will be entered in the next Directory. We have a good deanery committee who will give Margy their full support, although Norma Willmott has said she needs to stand down as secretary. I’m hopeful that Norham and Belford branches will be more involved with meetings and events.

We have our usual Deanery events planned for 2017

DEANERY DAY JUNE 19TH. DEANERY FESTIVAL JULY 6TH.

OPEN HOUSE SUMMER FUNDRAISER ( date to be confirmed)

QUIET DAY AT ALNMOUTH FRIARY IN OCTOBER

Chevington branch needs particular attention. They have 3 members and Revd. Sue Reilly ( incumbent) is in the directory as the branch contact but isn’t a member. I have been sending her relevant emails but not sure how much she shares with the 3 members. I have regular contact with one of the members and I will keep Margy informed of any developments.

Other branches seem to be functioning well.

This is my last report as Deanery Leader and I would like to say THANK YOU to all the Trustees for their fellowship and support during the good times and the not so good times regarding health issues. I hope to continue attending Council and meeting up with you all at various events.

Love and Best Wishes

**Margaret, Deanery Leader Alnwick**

**Hexham Deanery Report for Trustees Meeting on 16th March 2017**

At the May 2016 Trustees meeting it was agreed that Bellingham and Hexham Deaneries would combine as there was one branch in Bellingham. This has proved to be of benefit to both parties.

At Deanery level we had celebrated the Advent Service on December 5th at Holy Cross, Haltwhistle. The Vicar gave an inspiring talk on the Mothers’ Union and AFIA in particular. The collection was sent to AFIA.

The Deanery Coffee morning on 1st October was a resounding success with £500 being raised, the proceeds were divided between the 4 branches and the Deanery. This year’s takes place on 21st October in Bardon Mill Village Hall, the only Village Hall in the country that is low carbon, earth sheltered and on the site of a former colliery.

**Hexham Abbey Branch** - On the whole their membership is elderly but some manage to come to meetings in the newly refurbished Monastery building at the side of the Abbey.

Mrs Patsy Linton, widow of Rev Joe Linton, died in early February and to enable her far flung family to gather for the funeral, to be held in Hexham Abbey, it has been delayed until 27th February (Joe was Curate at St Mary’s Monkseaton before becoming Vicar of Beltingham with Henshaw for 40 years, before retiring to Hexham last century) They have 14 members.

**Haltwhistle Branch** - Mrs Nellie Alderson continues as Branch Leader but they arein the unenviable position of not having a Treasurer in post, but have a Secretary and 16 members.

**Haydon Bridge Branch** have 21 members and have had an enjoyable year marred by the death of Mrs Mabel Renney last October. Mabel was a key member of the Haydon Bridge community and is much missed. They are hosting a Benefice Shrove Tuesday lunch at the local Inn.

We continue to support the local Domestic Abuse Charity in Hexham – 60-80-30 – now called NDAS.

**Anne Brunton, Deanery Leader Hexham.**

**Morpeth Deanery Report**

We started 2016 enrolling two new Branch Leaders.

All Branches decided to celebrate the Queen’s 90th Birthday /140 years M.U. at their own Branches as so many members find it difficult to travel.

In September Stannington Branch held the Deanery Service at St Mary’s.

Also in September some of our members went to the Annual Conference at Winchester.  Flowers were placed on Mary Sumner Grave and the Service was conducted by the Archbishop of Canterbury.  The next day we went to the Meeting at Basingstoke where an African Choir sang and Mary Sumner’s life was acted out.

Our Annual Carol Service was well attended and enjoyed as usual.

Sadly Jenny Lee is giving up as Branch Leader at the end of the year and I thank her for all she has done for Bothal etc. Branch.  The Branch is to be run by a Committee and my good wishes go with them.

A big thank you to all our members for all they do in the name of M.U.  Please thank them for me.

590 Christmas Boxes were collected from the Newcastle Diocese.

Seaton Hirst Branch will no longer be holding any Fundraising Events due to poor turnout at their last event.

Lastly thank you to Angela and Sandra for what they do for the Deanery and keeping me right.

**Edna Maddison, Deanery Leader Morpeth**

**Central Newcastle Deanery Report February 2017**

Newcastle Central Deanery is becoming rather small due to the closure of St. Hugh’s Branch and the Cathedral Branch being in abeyance. St. Columba’s Wideopen and All Saints’ Gosforth are still going strong and the deanery has recently gained some new Diocesan Members. Hopefully, we can remain independent and carry on without having to join another deanery.

**St Columba’s, Wideopen**

In October, our former Deanery Leader, Marjorie, told us all about her work as a Sacristan. We were really surprised at the extent of her duties which we, with all the rest of the congregation I’m sure, take completely for granted. We had a lovely talk by a lady who spends eight months of the year working with children in Nicaragua and in November we had our usual ‘get together’ to fill the boxes for The People’s Kitchen. After concerns about the boxes, we ended up with a surplus which will stand us in good stead for next year. We travelled to All Saints’ for our Deanery Advent Carol Service and raised money for A.F.I.A.

Our last meeting of 2016 was a lovely Quiet Afternoon led by our Team Rector, Michelle, and our first in 2017 was a service of celebration for Epiphany, our AGM and Afternoon Tea. In February, our Vice President, Sylvia, told us about a visit to Iona which made us all want to go.

Joyce Elrod.

**All Saints’, Gosforth**

Since the last Diocesan Council Meeting in October 2016 this branch has heard about the Suffragettes in Newcastle and President Barbara told us all about the five overseas links in Africa and India. We produced twenty-three Christmas shoe boxes, had a successful ‘Preserves and Presents’ stall at the church fair and rewarded ourselves with **two** Christmas Parties! In January, we planned our 2017 programme and in February we held our AGM.

We’ve been to the cathedral for various reasons and we helped with the Christingle refreshments here at All Saints’. We are collecting items for the next batch of emergency hospital bags for when they’re needed. In general, we are pleased with the way things are going in this branch. There are seventeen full members, three ‘Friends of the Mothers’ Union’ and anyone is always welcome at our meetings.

**Pam Taylor, Deanery Leader Newcastle Central**

All Saints’ Branch Leader

**Tynemouth Deanery Report**

Judith Cure retired from her role as Faith and Policy representative, she said she had enjoyed her involvement and was very appreciative of the warm welcome she had always been given when attending our meetings.

The Fishermen’s Mission would now prefer to receive thermal hats and gloves in place of the homemade ones. We hoped the latter would be able to be used in the Christmas shoeboxes.

Cathy Duff continues to support the North Shields Women’s Refuge, on our behalf, and is always delivering household goods, clothing and toys.

**Indoor Members Rep -** Since resigning Liz Shipway has visited all indoor members to say goodbye, which had not been easy as she had built up relationships over the last five years.

The coffee morning at Church House, to receive shoe boxes for Peoples Kitchen, was well attended by the deanery. It was great to be able to collect The Journals and get most if not all of them given to the branches, as well as the Indoor Members cards and gifts. Thank you Lynne for arranging this.

**Deanery Events**

Deanery Quiet Day Tuesday 28 March, 2pm at St Luke’s, Wallsend

Deanery Festival Monday 5 June, 2pm at Holy Saviours, Tynemouth

Deanery Advent Carols Monday 11 December, 2pm at St. Peters, Monkseaton

All branches have been busy and reported lots of fund raising with Coffee mornings, Lets Walk AFIA, Mosquito Drive for Zika virus. Many interesting speakers had visited branches including the New Chaplain at the airport; Maureen Chapman – Ladies from the Bible; a visit the Gosforth Synagogue; and lots of tea, cake and dressing up for the Queen’s 90th birthday and Mothers Union 140th Celebrations.

On a sad note St Marys’ reported that their young members group had decided not to continue with their meetings but our Deanery is still enrolling new members to our Branches and will continue to try and encourage young people.

**Elizabeth Brown, Deanery Leader Tynemouth**

**Bedlington Deanery Report**

Bedlington Deanery held their own Branch Christmas Services but held a Deanery

Epiphany Service at St.Cuthbert's Church Bedlington. The Branch there was closed

a few years ago but the hope is to re-open one in the near future. The Service was led by

the Vicar of Bedlington, Reverend Ian Hennebry and was really well attended by members

and guests.

Choppington Branch held their annual Valentine's Coffee morning for the Deanery, which was

again well attended despite the awful weather. It raised funds for MU with a donation to St. Paul's

Church Choppington

No other news except for the usual contributions to MU Projects and to the People's Kitchen Christmas Boxes.

**Val Woodman, Deanery Leader Bedlington**

**Newcastle West Deanery Report March 2017**

Numbers in West Deanery are rising slightly. The young group at Venerable Bede Church saw another new member. St James and St Basil’s Church are hoping to start a new group called Tabitha on March 12th. Rev. Osaro, Curate there, is pioneering this project.

Each branch continues to host a service with refreshments on each Festival day. (Epiphany, Lady Day, Mary Sumner Day and Advent).

Last year the Church of the Holy Nativity hosted their 25years Silver Celebration.

We continue to supply Toilet Bags to our hospitals and knitting for Prem babies also continues. We also passed a number of “fish and chip” baby sets to Fr David at St John Vianney Church Chapel House to take to Kenya and to Margaret Storey who works and lives in Nicaraqua for eight months of the year. Rev Julliette Stevenson also went out to Kenya and took ladies knickers which the MU also donated. The shoe boxes and Peoples Kitchen are also a priority.

**Anne Blight, Deanery Leader Newcastle West**

**Corbridge Deanery Report 25th February 2017**

At the Sunday morning Parish Communion at St. Oswin's, Wylam on 2nd October Barbara Packer spoke about World Wide Links. This service was mainly led by MU members and was enjoyed by visitors as well as members of Wylam congregation.

The Advent service at St. Mary the Virgin, Ovingham was well attended and was the first event led by the new Branch Leader Anne Cairns.

MU @ 8 hosted a very thoughtfully planned Epiphany service at St. Mary Magdalene, Prudhoe where the music was provided by members, friends and family.

37 Christmas boxes were provided and a few members attended the Coffee Morning at Church House. MU @ 8 continue to make Hospital Emergency Bags.

There are 54 members in the Deanery, a slight drop on last year. 2 members died, 5 resigned (due to ill health) and one moved to another Diocese.

**Sandra Rusby, Deanery Contact**

**Mother’s Union East Deanery Report 03.03.2017**

East Deanery has four branches and a stable number of members. The branches, like many others, have many elderly members and only a few people to run the groups. Two branches have small MU@8 groups to try to encourage new membership.

This year we will have two joined East Deanery events. St Gabriel’s will hold a Quiet Afternoon at 2pm on Wednesday 13th September followed by refreshments. St. Bartholomew’s branch will host an Advent Service.

We had a small number of members who helped with the cleaning day at the cathedral. St. Bartholomew’s branch led midday prayers.

East deanery joined with other members in the diocese for planned events.

**Jackie Moore**

**Deanery Leader**