

The Commissioning Service

The Cathedral was buzzing before the service began, with refreshments served by members of Bedlington Deanery. Then Ian Robertson, the Cathedral's Director of Music, played "Tiento da Batalla" by the 18th century Spanish composer Juan Cabanilles, and the service began on the stroke of 11.00 am. Canon Clare McLaren welcomed us on behalf of the Dean and Chapter, and reminded us of all the painstaking work that had gone into the setting of every stitch in the beautiful banners, 15 Branch banners, our own Diocesan and the new Provincial one.

Our new Provincial President June Houghton read from the First Letter of John, and the Bishop of Berwick preached an excellent sermon, taking as his text the line "I desire mercy, not sacrifice" from the Gospel of Matthew. He invited our President and Vice Presidents to share their vision for the next Triennium - that the Trustees would work together in harmony, and that younger people would be encouraged to become Mothers' Union members. Our Diocesan Chaplain Sarah Moon led us in Prayers of Intercession, thanking God for the newly-commissioned (of whom she is one) and for the beauty and variety of our Diocese, and asking that we would all work together to build God's Kingdom and spread God's love.

During Communion the Choir sang the traditional Spiritual "Steal Away to Jesus", and a beautiful worship song by John Fowler called "My prayer for you". After the final rousing hymn Ian played us out with J S Bach's Prelude in E minor BWV548, a glorious climax to an uplifting service.

One of the newly-commissioned was Julian Brown, who becomes Finance and Central Services Co-ordinator. A member of Bishop's Council with a background in accountancy, Julian brings a wealth of experience to the role, which he says he finds a little daunting. But he is determined to do his very best for us, not least as a tribute to his late wife Elizabeth who was formerly Tynemouth Deanery Leader. He brings a new dimension to Trustees' meetings and we shall look forward to working with him.



See more photos from the day at bit.ly/MUCommission

Provincial Commissioning Service

There is to be a service in York Minster to commission our new Provincial President June Houghton on Tuesday 7th May at 11am. All are welcome, and members are asked to let me know if they intend to go. *Barbara*



Mothers' Union Diocesan Eucharist 2019

The Diocesan Eucharist this year will be held on Saturday 20th July at 11am in St. James Church, Riding Mill, when the Celebrant will be Revd Lesley Chapman (A Diocesan MU member). This will be our third Diocesan Eucharist and I hope this will appeal to our members as the last two have done.

This Service has been held in different areas of the Diocese, and this year the location will suit some members better than others. I hope that those who found the last two venues very convenient to them will be prepared to travel a bit further this time and those who had quite a journey to make before will be pleased to have a more convenient location! Perhaps your branch could make this part of a summer outing and spend time exploring the local area after the Service. The important thing is for us all to come together for fellowship and worship as part of the Mothers' Union Family in Newcastle Diocese.

For further details please contact Sheila Walker. Email: sm59walker@gmail.com or tel: 01434 322 369

Dear fellow member,

Thanks to all those who came to the Cathedral on 16th February to welcome and commission our new Trustees, and to affirm our continuing loyalty to Mothers' Union as a part of our Christian commitment.

On **Friday 29th March** we meet for **Diocesan Council** at St. John's, Kingston Park, from 10 for 10:30am – 1pm. All members are welcome to this meeting, and it will give you a broader view of all we do together. This is especially valuable as we start this new Triennium. We will meet and commission new officers, as well as affirming those continuing for a second term.

After opening prayers, led by our new Chaplain, the Revd. Dr. Sarah Moon, we start with the A.G.M, where we hear of what went on last year. Sarah will then commission our officers, and she herself will be enrolled as a member. Then we have the opportunity to look at the work of each of the Units and Deaneries – a wide-ranging view. All papers will have been sent beforehand to Branch Leaders, and they will not be read out at the meeting, so the meeting will move on at a good pace, but with opportunity to ask questions about any aspect of our work. If you would like to come, please ask your Branch Leader for a copy of the papers, or, if necessary, contact our Secretary, Sandra Davison.

We are then privileged to welcome **Lynne Tembey** as our keynote speaker. Lynne has just stepped down from her role as Worldwide President, and is coming straight on to us after receiving an O.B.E. the day before! Lynne writes:

"During my time as Mothers' Union Worldwide President, I have witnessed so many members living out our founder's prayer through their daily lives. Journey with me and discover the joy of 'MULOA....In Step with God' as I have seen it through...'words spoken, prayers offered, lives lived...to God's praise and glory'".

I hope to see you then!

With love and prayers, Barbara



*Canon
Barbara Packer*



Lynne Tembey

Calendar of Events

March

- 11th** Lent Lunch - Branxton Village Hall. 12:30pm
- 16th** 'Meet the MU' Coffee Morning in Cornhill Village Hall. 10am to 12pm
- 19th** Morpeth Deanery Lady Day Service & Festival St Andrew's Bothal. 2:00pm
- 29th** Annual Meeting of Diocesan Council at St John's Kingston Park with our Guest speaker Lynne Tembey. 10.00am for 10:30am

31st Copy deadline for the Journal

April

- 2nd** Tynemouth Deanery Festival at St Luke's Wallsend. 2:00 pm.
- 13th** MU Friends' Meeting
- 27th** Diocesan Members Day at Church House with Jennie Jones. 10am for 10:30

May

- 7th - 8th** Diocesan Retreat at Shepherd's Dene
- 16th** Trustees meeting at Church House. 10:00am for 10:30am
- 20th** Open House at South Castron (Hepple, near Rothbury). Coffee from 10:30am and Lunch after midday prayer, walk around the lake then tea.
- 22nd** Deanery Festival Evensong with banners and refreshments at St Mary's Belford. 6:30pm

- 31st** "Thy Kingdom Come" Coventry Cathedral

June

- 10th** Alnwick, Bamburgh & Glendale and Norham Deanery Day at St. Cuthbert's Church, Norham. Coffee from 10 for 10:30am - 3pm. Please bring a packed lunch. The day will be based on exploring the wonderful history of the area.

- 25th** Tynemouth Deanery Quiet Day, St George's Cullercoats. 2:00 pm.

September

- 12th** Morpeth Deanery Quiet Afternoon St Mary Stannington. 2:00 pm
- 16th - 19th** Trip to Portsmouth for General Meeting and Service.
Contact Margaret Riches (mriches3@pobroadband.co.uk) asap if interested.

Retreat at Shepherd's Dene

7th – 8th May 2019
'Making Sense of Creation'
led by Revd. Sheila Auld
Come overnight or just one
day! All details and booking
form in last Journal. Please
do consider coming!

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