**Morpeth Deanery Report 2017**

Newbiggin/Woodhorn Branch had their annual fund raising lunch “Delicious Spuds of May”, the lunch was excellent as usual.

The Archdeanconary Festival at Hexham was well attended by our members and we all enjoyed Margaret Sentamu’s talk and the Service.

Bothal Branch etc. had their Strawberry Tea in Angela’s garden and we all had a pleasant afternoon.

We have a new team delivering Toilet Bags to Cramlington Hospital. We started in august and Jenny and Angela showed us our way around, Angela is still on the team. Also we met one of the Chaplains.

Seaton Hirst Branch is having a fund raising Coffee Morning on the 7th October 10.30 to 12 noon at St. Andrews Church Hall.

We have 5 new members and Stannington Branch will be enrolling a new member in September. Also Alison a member of Morpeth Branch gave birth to a son Ethan Joshua Murry in April.

Our members were saddened at Glady’s passing and we will all miss her very much.

Edna Maddison

Deanery Leader

**Newcastle West Deanery Report September 2017**

We are pleased to say that a new group has formed at St James and St Basil’s calling themselves “Tabitha”.

During the summer holidays they ran a “Picnic in the Park” on Wednesdays in Leazes Park. Families could get to know one another and share picnics. This is a wonderful initiative from a young group.

We have seen the deaths of some of our members and unfortunately not many new members. This also means that our membership average age is getting older.

Barbara Bailes took over from Jennifer Brown and organised our Diocesan annual Retreat to Shepherd’s Dene. Rev Pat Haig led the retreat and it was well supported by her ladies (and gentleman) from her church. It was enjoyed by all who attended either staying over or one day only.

We celebrated Mary Sumner Day with the ladies from St Mary’s Ponteland with a lovely evening service which was well done and much appreciated. The West Deanery feel it important to meet together for the Festival Days - Advent, Epiphany, Lady Day, Mary Sumner Day with a service at Holy Nativity in June they are always well thought out and well presented services by our members.

Unfortunately our branch at Venerable Bede were unable to have their popular Pimms and Parlour day this year due to heavier work commitments

Some of the Branches have had Summer outings. Holy Cross MU were especially grateful to Belford MU for providing their afternoon refreshment on their day out to the Grace Darling Musuem. Whorlton branch made a visit to Hexham Abbey on a beautiful afternoon and had refreshments upstairs in the Tomlinson room.

Holy Nativity Chapel House and St John’s Whorlton continue to welcome friends from the community for afternoon teas

We continue to supply Toilet Bags to our hospitals and knitting for Prem babies also continues. The shoe boxes and Peoples Kitchen are also a priority. Back Packs have also been provided for Acklington Prison

I really admire the work of our branches and their commitment to MU in spite of an ageing membership

Anne Blight

Deanery Leader (West)

**Hexham Deanery Report for Trustees Meeting on 14th September 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 a Quiet Day on 5th June , with a talk by the Verger and Midday Prayers conducted by Rev’d Matthew Hunter, Branch Chaplain of Hexham Abbey ,held in St Nicholas’s Cathedral followed by lunch in the Restaurant and enjoyed by those who attended.

The Deanery Coffee morning on 21st October will take place in Bardon Mill Village Hall from 9:30 to 11:30 and proceeds will be divided between the 4 branches and the Deanery. The Village Hall is 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 June Olliver Branch Leader has been out of action for some time due to the ill health of one of her grandsons. They have 14 members.

**Haltwhistle Branch** - Mrs Nellie Alderson continues as Branch Leader and two new Members will be admitted during a Service in October. Currently they have 16 members.

**Haydon Bridge Branch** have 21 members and a new Member to be admitted in October. We entertained St Columba’s, Wideopen to a successful afternoon tea and Evensong on 17th August.

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

Anne Brunton

Leader, Hexham Deanery

**East Deanery report 03.09.17**

East Deanery have four branches at present, all with good membership. St. Mary Magdalene’ and St. Francis’ also support small MU@8 groups. The branch leaders agreed to continue in post for this year and we get together for an East Deanery meeting twice a year following Council. This year we plan only one East Deanery event. We will hold a Quiet Service on 13th September at St. Gabriel’s. A small group helped with the cleaning day in March and members of St. Gabriel’s led midday prayers. It is a struggle to get members to help with posts outside their own branches but we keep asking.

Jackie Moore

Deanery Leader

**Bedlington Deanery Report**

All branches seem to have had a quiet time since the last Trustees’ Meeting.

The Deanery was well represented at Hexham Abbey for the talk by Margaret Sentamu and the Archdeaconry Festival.

There have been outings, including an Open Deanery Trip to Newby Hall organised by St Bede’s, Newsham. This was well attended and very enjoyable despite heavy rain.

Mary Sumner Day was also celebrated by some Branches with walks and afternoon teas.

We have continued to provide Emergency Toilet Bags to Blyth Hospital and to Cramlington Hospital, joining with Morpeth Deanery.

We have also provided Starter Bags for prisoners leaving Acklington Prison.

Funds have been donated, mainly to AFIA.

Val Woodman

Deanery Leader

**CORBRIDGE DEANERY REPORT**

**Ovingham Branch**

After Barbara spoke about Worldwide Links at the April meeting she admitted two new members to the branch.

A collection for the Prisoners' Backpacks Appeal was well supported.

In July an afternoon outing to the coast was enjoyed by members who were blessed with fine weather after a rainy morning. They joined St. Mary's Monkseaton branch for Evening Prayer before returning home.

A Coffee Morning with Bring and Buy was well supported by the village. MU programmes were given to all visitors and £300 was raised for AFIA.

**MU @ 8** enjoyed an outing to Keswick to visit the Hope family – Charles was vicar of Prudhoe before moving to his new Parish. A visit to the bishop's garden was included in the afternoon.

**Wylam Branch** welcomed Backworth and Earsdon Branch to Afternoon Tea and chat. A Coffee Morning is being planned in aid of the Overseas Fund.

Sandra Rusby

Deanery Contact

**ALNWICK, BAMBURGH, GLENDALE & NORHAM DEANERY REPORT**

We were well represented at the Council meeting in Kingston Park and took bags of things for the Prisoner Project.

At our meeting in April we said thank you to Margaret Riches who retired as our Leader but will remain a Trustee,as well as organising our trip to the General Meeting in Edinburgh.

Lesbury and Alnmouth had invited Barbara to give a talk in May, so we learned about Ruth in their beautiful church and had a lovely tea.

The Archdeaconry festival in Hexham Abbey was very impressive from the talk by Elizabeth Sentamu to the majestic service and it was wonderful to meet with the other Deaneries.

Our Deanery Day was held on what must have been one of the hottest days this summer, we went to the seaside. Amble was hosting and what the Lifeboat men made of a very

inquisitive group of ladies I am not very sure, but they were brilliant, we ended the day with a photo quiz and I personally found out that new comers to the area knew many more

answers than me who was born and bred in Northumberland.

Penny Horseman again held the Open House where we all met and had a very good lunch, her garden was looking glorious.

I was commissioned at our Deanery Festival held at Holy Trinity, Embleton. After a splendid service, with all our amazing banners we adjourned for some superb cake.

We each do our own thing to celebrate Mary Sumner Day. Upper Coquetdale held a  sponsored walk down our river to the newly done up Thrum Mill. What a difference a great deal of hard work can make in restoring an decrepit old ruin. To cap it all we again were treated to coffee and cake!

I look forward to visiting more of my Branches and honestly cake is not compulsory.

Margy Tasker-Brown

Deanery Leader

**NEWCASTLE CENTRAL DEANERY REPORT**

St Columba’s Branch

We have had some very enjoyable meetings with some lovely speakers, including, starting in April a Quiet Afternoon led by Jennie Jones. We learned about the work done by the Mercy Ships Charity and were entertained by Rev Tim Thorpe who had taken 'A long walk to Compostela'. We joined our friends in the Branch at Bardon Mill in August for a walk, a lovely tea and a service at Beltingham Church and we hope to entertain them at St Columba's next Year.

Joyce Elrod

All Saints' Branch, Gosforth

We have had some most enjoyable meetings and visits.

Linda Benneworth brought us up to date with Action and Outreach projects and Barbara Bailes

(Prayer and Spirituality) delivered a wonderful presentation using words, illustrations and music. At one meeting, we had no speaker - just our usual service, notices to inform all of the members about 'goings on' in the diocese, Marian Popes' handbag game to prove what we can achieve when we all work together, then finished with a longer-than-usual socialising time which members had requested.

Some of us went to Hexham Abbey for the Lindisfarne Archdeaconry Festival, some to the Diocesan Communion service at Cullercoats and some to St. Mary's for a Mary Sumner Day service at Ponteland. We were pleased with our 'Summer of Hope' Afternoon Teas in July when, despite the rain, we raised over £200.

Pam Taylor

Deanery Leader