**Marketing Report**

**September 2018**

This has been a slow year for requests to visit branches and deliver a marketing talk. The one branch I have visited, St George Cullercoats saw a good turn out and resulted in new members joining MU.

**Newsletter** – We are gathering content for the September newsletter which will be designed by Daniel Doran. It is expected to go out later in the month.

**Social Media** – Facebook and Twitter continue to be updated, as both Lynne and Lesley come to the end of their MU terms new contacts will need to be found.

Margaret continues to keep the Newcastle website up to date. The new national site is up and running, more information will be in the next Journal.

**Journal** – Hopefully we shall have stories and reports for the December issue. We had to drop 4 pages from the June issue due to lack of content. We will keep reminding branches to email their stories with photographs.

**Promotion** – The new leaflets, banner stands and posters have been distributed, hopefully these will grow interest in MU.

**2019 – 2021** – A new Marketing Co-ordinator is still to be found. However we are very pleased to welcome Lesley Wright on board as the new Journal Editor. Lesley brings much experience and we all wish her every success.

From December branches will need to send all communication regarding the Journal to Lesley at lesleywright43@talktalk.net

Lynne Craggs - Marketing Co-ordinator

**Action and outreach. October 2018**

**Caravan Holidays.** There has been a huge increase in requests for caravan holidays this year. Margaret Crawforth has booked a total of 30 caravans providing holidays for 62 adults and 66 children including five under two year olds. We are increasingly using the Creswell site because it is closer and cheaper than the Berwick site. The thanks we have received from returning families suggest they are very happy with this site.

**Away days.** This year there have been more requests for visits to paid attractions. We had no requests for visits to the beach or a park. This year we paid entrance fees and the cost of the coaches, so reluctantly we asked groups to provide their own packed lunches. Along with visits to Adventure Valley and Whitehouse Farm., this year for the first time we arranged for a group of needy parishioners to travel to Holy Island where we hired the St Cuthbert’s centre for them for the day. This allowed morning prayers and a Eucharist in the afternoon to take place and there was also a quiet place open all day for those who wanted it. The groups paid for their own tea. This consisted of a hot beef sandwich just before they left the island.

Instead of a summer outing GAP, part of Changing Lies asked us to book the Scotswood Community Garden so that the women could spend the day with their support workers in a sheltered and relaxed atmosphere. The project arranged transport to the site, where massage s and craftwork experiences were available and there was the time to sit and chat amongst themselves and with support workers. Soft drinks and fruit were available to help towards the picnic feel. There was even music later in the day.

We paid for ten clients to go to Minsteracres and enjoy various therapies there. The bus was paid for by “Changing Lives”.

This year too we paid for a 72-seater coach to take sixteen families who are part of the Pendower Holiday club in Benwell to go on holiday. Each family had saved up throughout the year to pay for the cost of the caravans

Prisoner backpacks. The last group of backpacks were delivered to the prison in August. We hope that branches may be able to put together some more early next year.

Hospital bags Branches continue to produce and deliver large numbers of the much needed bags to our local hospitals.

**New projects**.

St Paul’s, Seaton Sluice, have made lots of beautiful lightweight blankets and wraps which have been most gratefully received by the dementia homes. The managers have commented that they not only keep the residents warm when they sit outside but that they provide comfort to those who have a little nap after lunch. We also donated the very lightweight knitted hats to be used by the dementia patients who want to sit outside

**Quilting**. Hilary Fielding is continuing to work with clients from Changing Lives making a beautiful hanging in memory of Margot Watkins

**Glad bags**. In response to my request for an appropriate name for bags for walkers, Pam Taylor came up with the name “Glad Bags” in memory of Gladys McCullough. Joan Mitchell from St Paul’s made some very attractive ones and took them to Eothen homes in Wallsend, where they were much admired and appreciated.

**Play equipment for playgroups.** Wor Bairns on Meadowell asked if we could help improve the children’s language skills and numerical skills by providing playground equipment of a road and building site. This also allowed the staff to do a lot of work on road safety. We also helped provide indoor play group equipment for a new mother and toddler group.

Providing funds towards hunger lunches during “Activity” sessions. This was as a direct result of learning about those children on free school lunches who suffer during the school holidays from holiday hunger when their parents do not have sufficient money to provide hot lunches.

**Plans for the coming months.**

We will be having our shoe box collection on Friday December 7th at Church House. This year too , we are hoping to provide more gift bags and other treats for women in some of the hostels and refuges.

All of this work is possible because of the wonderful generosity of our members.

Thank you so much.

Linda Benneworth - A & O Co-ordinator

**Diocesan Members Report**

Our numbers this year have remained static. We have 51 Diocesan members. One member joined a branch and sadly one member died. Bishop Mark and his wife Lindsey were enrolled as members at the Diocesan Eucharist in Alnwick in May. We expect our numbers to increase this year as one branch is in abeyance and some members have expressed a wish to become diocesan members,

On 16th June we had our Diocesan member’s meeting at Church House. There was a very good turnout for this meeting. President, Barbara Packer updated us on the current work in Mothers’ Union followed by our speaker Dawn Bentley from CAP “Christians against Poverty”. Dawn was an excellent speaker and her words touched us all. Diocesan members donated items of food for Dawn to take away for her to deliver to needy families. Diocesan members and trustees were extremely generous and Dawn went home with a very full car.

Our next Diocesan members’ day is on 20th October. This is our opportunity to find out and experience MULOA. We hope as many Diocesan members as possible will be able to come.

Diocesan members are a valuable part of the life of the Mothers’ Union. They are generous in their donations and their prayers are a great support.

Lesley Bolton & Ann Mitchell – Co-ordinators

**Faith and Policy Report**

At our Faith and Policy Meeting on 26th April 2018, there was a good attendance and, among other topics, we discussed16 Days of Activism, the retreat at Shepherds Dene, Indoor Members, projects, the Prayer Chain, MULOA and online safety for children. The next meeting is in the Tomlinson Room at the cathedral on 4th October and all are welcome to attend.

Barbara Bailes will tell us about the retreat in June and I’m pleased to report that Barbara is continuing to be our representative for Spirituality. She does a wonderful job and I’m very grateful for the support she’s given me since I became Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator. It was certainly a steep learning curve when I accepted Jennifer’s invitation to take on this task! I didn’t have any idea what was involved! This leads me to report that I have almost completed my six years in this post and, as well as Jennifer and the Vice Presidents, I wish to thank all those who have helped me in any way: those who have attended meetings and contributed to discussion and those who’ve passed on ideas and requests As well as Barbara, I want to thank by name, Alma Miller, who has been a most efficient and conscientious secretary.

Next year Jackie Moore will become Faith and Policy Co-ordinator and I’m sure she will receive the same support and encouragement that I’ve had. In June, the speaker at a Diocesan Members meeting was Dawn Bentley from Christians Against Poverty (CAP) and I was so impressed with her and the work of the organisation which she represents, that I’d like Faith and Policy to actively support CAP. Of course, that will be a decision for Jackie.

Again, my thanks to Jennifer for asking me to become Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator and for her support, to Barbara and her Vice Presidents for continuing to support this unit and to everyone I’ve met and worked with during my tenure as Faith and Policy Co-ordinator. My good wishes to Jackie.

Josephine J Kulke

Faith and Policy Unit Co-ordinator

**Indoor Members**

There are presently 65 Indoor Members on the register. Following St. Luke’s Wallsend Mrs. Lilian Stewart’s death in May, we only have one centenarian now, Mrs Greetah Davidson, of St. Mary’s Monkseaton, who was 100 in May.

The time is approaching for me to be thinking ahead to Christmas. Hopefully Barbara Bailes will have some of her beautiful cards for me to choose from, and I will have to shop around for some small gifts. Deanery Leaders will then be able to collect their Christmas envelopes from me at Church House on December 1st on Shoe Box Day.

It would be helpful, to keep the records straight, if Deanery Leaders could send me up-to-date lists of Indoor Members in their Branches, in the New Year, around Paying-in Day time, as there are quite a few changes through the year.

Brenda Mennear

**TREASURER’S REPORT**

Balance on the Accounts as at September 2018 are £9,089 in Community Account and £14,514 in CBF Account We transferred the balance of the Base Rate Tracker Account £10,750 into the CBF Account, but have since transferred £6,000 back into Community Account to cover mainly AFIA shortfall. However since doing that we received a total of ££2,963 from HMRC, as our return on Gift Aid, and a further £1,500 for AFIA along with 2 donations of £500, one of which is to be used for a Pamper day and the other for Local projects.

**Designated Fund**

Main expenditure again has been on AFIA. We received £5,000 from the Moulton Trust for inner city families of which we have spent £4,427 so far but will have spent it all by end of year. Together with donations of £3,675 we have arranged more holidays than ever before as well as financing a coach for £2,000 which took 16 families to Lincolnshire. In addition there are trips to Adventure Valley, Whitehouse Farm, Hall Hill Farm and Holy Island arranged with an expenditure so far of £17,479.

It was agreed that £1,000 be put aside for Grenfell Tower victims but we have been informed that this will no longer be required and so will be available in Diocesan funds.

This year MSH said that they did not require any more funds for Relief so the funds that were received from branches for Relief will be added to the Overseas Fund and a cheque for £3,345 has been sent to MSH for the Overseas, £786 for Literacy, £347 for Mothers’ Day and £504 for Summer Appeal making a total of £4,982 so far this year.£321 has been received for Lynne Temby.and a cheque for £325 has been sent to Mary Sumner House. We have however received further donations since sending off cheque, so final total is not yet available.

Main balances as at 31st July 2018 - Income Expenditure

Projects £3.559 £2,147

MU AFIA £3,675 £17,479

Moulton AFIA £5,000 £4,427

There are 1,033 fully paid up members, which includes 50 Diocesan Members. There are also 16 Family members.

Dorothy Henderson – Diocesan Treasurer

**Finance and Central Services Report Sept. 2018**

 After the good response to all the forms which were filled in this year I am sure that you will find our forms going out in October even easier to complete. These will include a place for every person recorded in the directory to sign in agreement to their name being included in the document. Our personal information will be held separately on the Website and only available to those who need to know.

 You will find a new sheet to fill in. This is the list of names of those in your Branch who have paid their tribute for 2019.

 Please ensure that you send a copy of the Finance Form you present at your branch AGM, the one that shows the Branch Expenses such as flowers, refreshments, rent etc. with all the papers you send to me for Paying-In Day. It can be any size and simple in form.

 Please remember when you wish to support a Charity other than MU, it must be a free-will offering and does not go through the Branch Accounts.

 **Tribute** this year will be £21.00 as MSH have increased their fee by 50p to £14.00. The Diocese increased by 50p hence £21.00 total. Please begin collecting early in case we have a hard winter and Deanery paying-in meetings are held up. Family Membership will be £14.00, the amount that goes to MSH.

All money should be to your Deanery Leader in time for paying-in day on Thursday 7th February in the Cathedral. The forms will be available at the Council Meeting at Christ Church on Friday 12th October. There will be sets for each Deanery.

**Health & Safety** Please check your meeting place. As members grow older there are less people able to set up a meeting, move chairs and tables or make the tea. Accidents can easily happen so check to make your meeting place as safe as possible. Check insurance with your Parish Safety Officer. Also check they know your meeting dates and times. When holding meetings with vulnerable people or children that Leading Members have been cleared. This covers car drivers giving lifts to vulnerable people but not to friends.

**Data Protection** Please ensure that you have dealt safely with all private information at home. We are all at the beginning of a journey towards compliance with this new Act, working within a reasonable time frame.

Anne Lloyd