**Deanery Reports March 2025 on One Document**

**Report from Northern Deanery**

Amble, Alnwick, Ashington, Morpeth, Seaton Hirst, Upper Coquetdale

Alnmouth and Lesbury have, inevitably, closed and the 6 members have become Diocesan Members. There will still be a service at Lesbury in the summer (when he is home from college) to welcome new member Tom Rippon. Members will be informed of events/church services in local branches if they wish to attend.

Stannington Branch closed in December and at the service Rev. Simon White became a member of MU and a presentation was made to Joan Howard on her retirement as Morpeth Deanery Leader.

All other branches continue to hold active meetings and plans for the following year.

Amble have a new member who is retired clergy and is taking an active role in meetings such as leading Reflections on Candlemas. They are hosting this year's World Day of Prayer at St, Cuthbert's.

Upper Coquetdale had a very successful Retreat Day which they plan to repeat. They continue to work on the design of their new banner. The whole branch worked on their year plan which was better than just the committee doing it.

Ashington have a new leader: Christine Walker

I have attended AGMs in Amble and Morpeth. I will be doing Amble’s Domestic Awareness Training in March. I’m working with Alison Ball on a plan to deliver their training, in the face of adversity (and no provision to show a powerpoint!)- May 19th I’ll do (if plan A doesn't work!).

I will be attending Alnwick’s meeting in April to discuss this year’s Advent Service to make it more ‘appealing/accessible….’ to a wider number of people since numbers have been rapidly decreasing.

I’m doing a talk on Howick kneelers/Church and estate to Ashington branch in June.

Will join Seaton Hirst for their Afternoon Tea in July.

**Helen Cooper - Deanery Leader**

**CORBRIDGE with HEXHAM DEANERY REPORT – March 2025**

The combined Deaneries continue to work together very well.

Following successful joint events last year we plan to join with Wylam in May for their afternoon tea and go to Howick in August to celebrate Mary Sumner’s Day. We look forward to seeing the kneelers and Helen Cooper has agreed to give us a talk about them. As usual we will meet in Hexham Abbey for our Annual Advent Service in December.

Deanery meetings are well attended when we exchange views and support each other.

**Sheila Walker - Deanery Leader**

**Ovingham and Wylam branch information to add to Corbridge and Hexham Deanery report March 2025**

Ovingham, continue with the " 5 minute peace" outside St Mary's church every Wednesday morning during term time. Their members are also knitting " Prayer Squares " to give out to those in need.

Wylam, continue their fundraising to support Overseas Projects.

**Anne Cairns**.

**Newcastle Central and East Deanery Report March 2025**

Our focus has been very much on Project work – particularly work within the area of Domestic Abuse.

Two branches already received their Bronze award and are taking their first steps towards Silver. 3 more branches (St Francis, All Saints and St. Columba’s) are applying for their Bronze awards at present.

1st Internet Branch extended their Christmas food parcels to both Harbour refuges this year- North Tyneside and Northumberland. 26 parcels were completed, supported by generous financial contributions from Ponteland Branch and St Columba’s, as well as individuals. They are planning to continue this project and would welcome any support that other branches would like to offer.

St Bartholomew’s and All Saints continue their work with the comfort bags for first day at school.

St Gabriel’s, St Bartholomew’s and 1st Internet have all welcomed new members recently- so the message is getting out there!

Some events for your diary

16th May- Fundraising Quiz Night at St Nicholas Church Hall Gosforth. This is a great event to bring family and friends to, as well as test your general; knowledge. Please support by bringing a team!

12th July Afternoon Tea Fund Raiser by St Bartholomew’s for Mother’s Union Projects.

Saturday August 9th Mary Sumner Diocesan Fellowship meal

Venue and time tbc but put it in your diaries! Again, this is an opportunity to celebrate Mothers’ Union with each other but also family and friends.

**Karoline Wellborne – Deanery Leader**

**Newcastle West Deanery Report March 2025**

As required a plan for our new year. The branches will continue to support any projects that they are currently supporting.

We had a meeting in January and decided that we as a Deanery would try and work together to support each other and three projects - Something Wonderful in Benwell, Hospital Bags and People’s Kitchen. We would also continue to support each other in fundraising events.

Hospital Bags….We noted that we were grateful to Anne Lloyd for her work with the RVI and that she had continued to supply their needs when required. However with the help of our Chaplain Anne and the hospital Head of Chaplaincy we are refreshing this service and as you will have seen in Anne “News” the slight changes we have made.

Something Wonderful in Benwell….The supply of Art materials continues with Rev Anne taking the lead here. We also have recently supplied tinned foods that they were short of and loo rolls and cleaning equipment. Their church has a constant stream of visitors for the Art Club, the lunch club, other church outreach and so on. The Iranian community are also to be found here so their housekeeping needs are high.

When it’s decided how to move forward with People’s Kitchen we are prepared to host a packing day at Holy Nativity Chapel House.

Although older and smaller the Deanery will continue, where possible, to work and pray together supporting the Diocese in big events.

**Anne Blight Deanery Leader**

**TYNEMOUTH DEANERY REPORT - MARCH 2025**

Our seven branches in Tynemouth Deanery work very well together and the following are highlights from our branches:

**St Peters Monkseaton** after celebrating last year their 100 years of Mothers Union they have recently enrolled 4 new members and continue successful fundraising and donated 12 Back Packs for the Peoples Kitchen at Christmas.

**Christ Church North Shields** on Mothering Sunday will be enrolling 3 new members and still have on display at the moment a of Footsteps of Faith.

**Holy Saviours, Cullercoats** have had a variety of speakers at meetings including Cathedral Canons, the role of chaplain to St. Mary Magdalene and Holy Jesus Trust almhouses Charity and Mothers Union in Australia with St George's Deanery Leader Ann Lilley who has kindly visited most of our Deanery branches speaking about her experiences of Mothers Union when she lived in Australia.

**St George's Cullercoats** The Parish is in an interregnum so members of Mothers Union have become more involved supporting candidates for baptism/weddings, including booking dates, arranging priest to conduct services and other administrative work along with also being active as a branch in our Deanery and attending Diocesan and Provincial events.

**St Luke's Wallsend** as a branch have welcomed Anne Marr our Chaplain and also on Remembrance Day laid a wreath on behalf of Mothers Union at Wallsend Memorial Hall.

**Earsdon/Backworth** Enjoyed catching up with Helen and Barry Cooper, Rev Jane Wood, Anne Marr our Chaplain and a reflective meeting with Christian prose and musicand we also welcomed Ann Lilley speaking about Mothers Union in Australia.

As a Deanery we come together for 2 meetings each year, attend Diocesan/Provincial events and also enjoy events being held and organised by our branches which in 2025 are:

A Quiet Afternoon at Christchurch North Shields in March, a Deanery Festival at Holy Saviours Tynemouth in September and an Advent Service in December at Earsdon/Backworth

(details on Website Calendar)

We also enjoy together day trips and Christmas Lunch so we have a lot of contact throughout each year and we are looking forward to the new triennium encouraging new members to

'Join us Join in'

**Christine Birrell – Deanery Contact**

**BEDLINGTON DEANERY REPORT March 2025**

We may be smaller in numbers, with four branches, but we are still here and working in our communities and further, in the name of Mothers’ Union. Sadly, since the death of Josephine we don’t have an acting Deanery Leader but as we are smaller in numbers we endeavour to invite each other to meetings and special services which works well and are regularly in touch. We have all held events to raise money for the Mothers’ Union ‘Empower Her Literacy’ appeal.

We continue to support the Northumberland Women’s Refuge in many ways.

St Bede’s branch continues to make toiletry bags filled with all a family needs when they arrive at the refuge.

St Cuthbert’s branch made up Christmas bags full of special treats for each family and provided a little luxury with a new dressing gown and extra special toiletries for the ladies. The children received age-appropriate gifts and toys wherever possible. As ever the refuge was very appreciative.

The children receive Easter Eggs and outdoor toys such as footballs, bats and balls and hula hoops. We also, as a Deanery provide extras when requested.

The members, around the Deanery continue to knit prem baby clothes which are give to the RVI and Cramlington hospitals.

Blankets and crochet hearts were given recently to the Diocesan Chaplain’s appeal and blankets are given to local Care homes.

**Jennifer Snowdon (On behalf of Bedlington Deanery)**

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