



From the Diocesan President

Dear Friend

We have had the most splendid summer with many Celebration Teas. I conclude that we have on board the most wonderful bakers in the Diocese. A great deal of fun and fellowship has been had in the name of MU.

Our website continues to improve and huge strides are making it one of the best Diocesan MU sites. Please encourage members and non members to visit it. Remember to send in photos of events so we can all see and share in what is taking place.

A huge thank you to those who have taken the initiative and raised money for our funds. There have been some creative events. We may be, shall I say, becoming more mature but our initiative to reach our goals is impressive. I will not be attempting a parachute jump but am open to offers!

As you already know MSH increased their share of our subscriptions this year and the total subs for 2024 are set at £32 for members and £55 for joint membership. This works out at 62p per week to help people in need locally and throughout the world. MU is a vital resource in the Church's ministry and mission.

At **Council on October 13th** we will welcome Melanie Hinson, Director of Primary Education at Northumberland Church of England Trust. She will enlighten us about the impact of our contribution of the Story Sacks on her early years children. It is always good to hear about the outcomes of our work in the different spheres.

We will also be reporting back from the York Gathering and some of the topics that are being discussed at the moment.

As usual the Branch paperwork will be distributed, including papers to enable more members to pay by Direct Debit; also the Gift bags to fill for the People's Kitchen will be available to collect. Looking forward to seeing some of you there.

With love, **Margy**



Congratulations to the Rev. Sheila Auld!



At the age of 85, Sheila travelled from Newcastle to Chichester, using only service buses (26 in all) and her senior bus pass. She set off on 5th June this year, and spent nights with friends and MU members; and, as she visited Cathedrals on the way, her trip became a pilgrimage. All proceeds of her sponsored trip go

to the Mothers' Union AFIA (Away From it All holidays) project. What a courageous and inventive way to serve MU!

Editor

Ponteland Branch prepare 'comfort bags'

The first day at school can be very traumatic both for the children and the parents so the Comfort bag is given to the children when they arrive.

The attractive bag consists of a packet of tissues, a packet of biscuits, a teabag and a sachet of coffee (for the parents), a small wooden holding cross and a little laminated prayer sheet.

MU Ponteland prepared over 50 bags, sufficient for the two Reception classes September intake at the local Richard Coates Primary School.

Lynne Henderson, Branch Leader



Aidan and Mary Sumner

We celebrate them both during August. Aidan, encouraged by King Oswald, spread the gospel across Northumbria. Our website depicts his statue as a symbol of our Christian roots in this northern part of England. Mary Sumner, encouraged by Newcastle's first Bishop, Ernest Wilberforce, brought Mothers' Union to our region.



Mary Sumner and Aidan might well have enjoyed each other's company. Mary's prayer could easily have been Aidan's personal prayer. Aidan's prayer might well have been Mary's personal prayer. As we venture into the season of Autumn, their prayers could also serve us well.

Here is Aidan's prayer – for our times of busy-ness. Mary's can be found in our Prayer Diary.

*Leave me alone with God
as much as may be.*

*As the tide draws the waters
close in upon the shore
make me an island,
set apart, alone with You, God,
holy to You.*

*Then, with the turning of the tide
prepare me to carry your presence
to the busy world beyond,
the world that rushes in on me,*

*until the waters return
and enfold me back to you.*



Anne Marr, Chaplain
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Mary Sumner Day walk

Many Branches celebrate Mary Sumner Day with a service, meal or meeting. Here members of St. Peter's, Monkseaton MU celebrate, as they usually do, with a walk by the sea, followed by coffee. Donations are given to AFIA.

www.munewcastle.org.uk

**Our website is a source of information,
news and resources.**

**Please use it, contribute to it and
spread the word about it.**

Send news to Elizabeth:

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Calendar Autumn 2023

14th September at 10.30 a.m. Units meeting in the Cathedral, followed by Midday Prayers and 12.30 Holy Communion

22nd September Annual Gathering at the Barbican, York 11 a.m. – 3.45 p.m. (tickets required), then 5.30 p.m. special Evensong at York Minster, preacher the Archbishop of York, open to all

29th September at 10 a.m. Trustees meeting on Zoom

13th October at noon Action & Outreach team meeting at M&S café at Kingston Park

13th Oct at 1 for 1.30 p.m. Diocesan Council at St. John, Kingston Park
All members welcome - see President's letter for details

24th October Deadline for copy for Winter Journal. Items to Barbara Packer, please. News of your projects especially welcome!

21st November at 10.30 a.m. Diocesan Members' Meeting at St. Nicholas, Gosforth

1st December Gift Bag Day, & collection of Winter Journals at Church House 10 a.m.— noon, when the gift bags will be blessed & collected