



From the Diocesan President

Dear Friends,

A huge thank you to those who managed to attend the Commissioning Service. It was lovely to see smiling faces supporting us as we begin our work in this triennium.

Her Majesty the Queen, our Patron, celebrates her Platinum Jubilee this year and has invited us all to plant more trees and that is exactly what we will do.

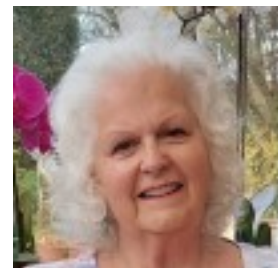
We hope to be working with professionals who after planting will take care of our trees and we will be able to visit them as they grow to maturity. I know our Patron will thoroughly endorse our endeavours. When this is finalised we will let Branch Leaders know the plans.

May I take this opportunity to invite you to attend our next Council Meeting on April 8th at 1pm in St Johns, Kingston Park. This will include guidance to obtain more IT skills with our Website team. They are keen to show us how to make the most of our Website and Facebook. I look forward to gaining these skills myself!

This year's Gathering is to be held in Belfast 23/24 September. I have attended three such occasions and it was wonderful to meet with our leaders and other members from near and far. We normally attend in a group and travel together.

Our theme of Transformation Now! is very apt for our Diocese as we hope you will be "open to trying new things and doing things in a different way"
Change is often difficult but also very rewarding .

Margy



Commissioning Service on Saturday 19th March

A very joyful service was held in our Cathedral at 11 a.m. For many of us it was the first time we had entered the Cathedral since its re-opening, and it was breath-taking to see the effect of the major refurbishment. The service was to commission our Trustees for the new Triennium, as well as to rededicate all our members to our work.

Our new Chaplain Revd. Anne Marr presented our new President, Margy Tasker-Brown, and our Vice-Presidents Anne Blight (Northumberland) and Anne Cairns (Lindisfarne) to Bishop John Packer (Assistant Bishop of Newcastle) for commissioning. The other new Trustees, Chaplain, Secretary and Treasurer were then commissioned, all receiving certificates. The whole was set with in a service of Holy Communion, enhanced by the singing of our Mothers' Union choir. Members throughout the Cathedral joined in applause, and others who were not able to be present joined on Zoom. There will be a fuller report, with pictures, in the Summer Journal.



A Letter from our Chaplain

Platinum Promises

What a privilege to be commissioned alongside our new President, Vice-presidents and Trustees at the Cathedral, and also in the Platinum Jubilee Year of our Patron, HM Queen Elizabeth. The Queen has been a constant example of how to weather and adapt to the storms of life. Her words to parliament twenty years ago in her Golden Jubilee Year are just as relevant today...

“Change is a constant. Managing it has become an expanding discipline. The way we embrace it defines our future.”

Change certainly challenges us this year as we emerge from the pandemic, and also face destructive weather storms and war in Europe. What we can do, as members of Mothers Union, is bring hope and encouragement to all affected and to all who seek to safeguard the environment and secure peace and justice for future generations. **‘Transformation–Now’** is a timely theme.

As your chaplain, I look forward to serving with Margy, Anne B, Anne C and the trustees as they help us to unwrap ideas and turn them into action. The MU Newcastle website now has a **‘Chaplaincy Corner’** under ‘Faith and Policy’. I shall be posting regular short ‘wonderings’ on various topics, which I hope may raise a few smiles and offer encouragement as we face the challenges ahead.

Anne Marr



Praying and working for the Ukraine

Many people, including our members, are working hard to send desperately-needed help to those suffering in the Ukraine. Some of the items very much needed are as shown opposite.

There are collection points throughout the Diocese! Alternatively, most of the major aid agencies are providing ways of donating money. Contact details are on our website. Alongside your prayers, please consider how you can best help.

- Sleeping bags
- Blankets
- First Aid kits
- Painkillers
- Baby food
- Nappies
- Backpacks
- Hot Water Bottles
- Thermos Flasks
- Energy bars

**2022 Theme:
Transformation - Now!**

For ideas for Branch use on this theme, put this in the search box of our Diocesan website or the central M.U. website mothersunion.org

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Thanks! - to all members who contributed to the many thoughtful and generous gifts which I received as I stepped down from the role of President in December – including this beautiful ‘Blessings’ hybrid tea rose plant – a lovely reminder of six very fulfilling years. *Barbara*



Calendar

18th March Trustees’ meeting at 10 a.m.

8th April Diocesan Council at St. John, Kingston Park at 1 p.m.
(also available on Zoom)

23rd April Diocesan Members meet at St. Nicholas, Gosforth Church Hall at 10.30 a.m.

30th April **Deadline for Summer Journal** – copy to Barbara Packer, please

10th June Trustees’ meeting at 10 a.m.

23rd/24th Sept Annual Service and Gathering in Belfast: more details to follow