

The Journal



Summer 2023

Action & Outreach Gifts - see pages 8, 9 & 10

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Charity number 249971

Diocese of Newcastle

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

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Attention all Stitchers, HELP!

Our previous Worldwide President Lynne Tembey whose daughter is a member of the First Internet Branch, has been a huge supporter of our branch from its outset.

Lynne and her husband have recently downsized and the large amount of varied and colourful fabric (not all M.U. related) she acquired during her time as Worldwide President, she has presented to the First Internet Branch to be used for its benefit.

As someone who can barely thread a needle, I need help from needlewomen across the Diocese! We hope to make things such as aprons, cushion covers, tablecloths and anything else you can suggest, and then sell the finished articles to help fund our special Refuge project, providing a Sensory Room for the emotionally damaged and traumatised children from abusive homes.

Please contact me to find out more. Remember, the early bird catches the worm! In other words the first volunteers get the first choice of the best material.

Sylvia Hickey Branch Leader (contact details are alongside)



The Annual Gathering for 2023 is to be held at The Barbican in York on Friday 22nd September, from 11am to 3.45pm. Tickets are now available on sale at a cost of £23.50. There will be a special Evensong in York Minster from 5.30pm until 7pm where Archbishop Stephen Cottrell will be the preacher. This service is open to the public and is unticketed (so arrive in good time!).

If you have not already booked for the Gathering, do consider this opportunity of finding out more, and hearing from members throughout Britain & Ireland, and even the world! You can easily get there and back in the day by train - a unique opportunity! It is suggested that we take a packed lunch.

Let Anne Cairns know (contact details are alongside) if you would like her to book a ticket for you, or book online at **'Eventbrite, Mothers' Union Annual Gathering 2023'**. Seats are unreserved, so you can sit where you like.

Barbara Packer

President's Letter



Dear Friends,

As you know our overarching theme this year is 'Money and Membership'. We, Newcastle Diocese Mothers' Union, need both if we are to remain a viable, sustainable part of this wonderful charity.

I am using this letter to make an appeal for help to keep us afloat.

We get grants for AFIA and some of our refuge work but to top these up, and for anything else, we need money in our Diocesan Fund. This fund pays for our Journals, travel, postage, information technology, emergency kits, hire of halls and all other running costs without which we cannot continue and develop our mission.

During COVID our income truly stagnated, whilst our membership

continues to decline.

This is now causing concern. We do not want to raise our subscriptions further so we are inviting members where they can, to make either single, one off, or regular donations. These can be done via Cheque, made out to 'Newcastle Diocese Mothers' Union', and sent to our Treasurer, by BACS or using a Standing Order. We need to think prayerfully and thoughtfully what we can afford, it is our responsibility.

Many good ideas for fundraising were noted at Council. We work better when we work together, and when we work together we also have fun and fellowship. Monies can be given in memory of past members – remember to give Julian the details. I know we are

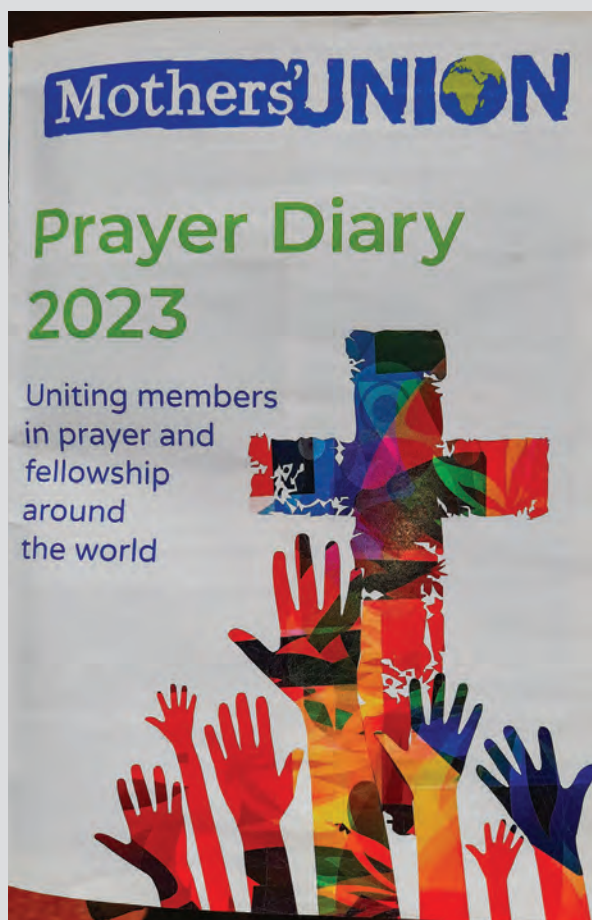
all passionate about our amazing family charity, let's do this together.

If you pay Tax, the Government will give us an additional amount for NOTHING! Just fill in the form on the enclosed Gift Aid envelope and send it to Julian Brown, at 19, Manor Road, Tynemouth, NE30 4RJ, and our Gift Aid team will do the rest. Please note that the Donor does not need to be a member of MU to take advantage of our government's generosity!

For a direct payment, our Bank Details are:
Sort Code – 20 62 09
Account Number – 80685003

Love *Margy*

Our Prayer Diary



P RAYER is at the heart of Mothers' Union life. Mid-day prayers are said daily around the world by members and supporters in a united chain of faith, hope and love.

All members receive a copy of The Prayer Diary. The Prayer Diary is now divided into months, with a monthly prayer, theme, reflection and creative prayer. Each month has a linked weekly theme and a daily prayer. The daily prayers are written by members. The prayers for one week in every month are written by overseas members and the remaining weeks written by members in the UK. Newcastle Diocese have a small team of members who contribute towards three weeks of prayers in one of the months. **In the 2023 Prayer Diary, we wrote prayers for September, with the theme of Peace and Reconciliation.** Anne Marr, our Chaplain, also wrote the monthly prayer, reflection and creative prayer. If anyone wishes to join the group who write the prayers, please contact me.

The Wave of Prayer is included in The Prayer Diary. The members and work of every diocese worldwide are prayed for at some time during the year. Newcastle Diocese is prayed for at the beginning of December. This is the point in the year when we provide the Wave of Prayer service sheet and our branches can join together to pray for our own members and work as well as the work in our link diocese.

Included in the Prayer Diary are a few Faith in Action articles, highlighting an aspect of work being undertaken by Mothers' Union in the world, including a prayer for that work. It is always inspirational to read these stories and know it is part of our worldwide organisation.

The Prayer Diary is given to every member for individual daily prayers but it is also an excellent resource for use at branch and diocesan services.

Jackie Moore, Faith & Policy Coordinator

Diocesan Council

March 31st 2023



President Margy's welcome

MEMBERS attending Diocesan Council at Kingston Park were greeted as they arrived by the cheery sight of three teddy bears sitting in front of the lectern. These, we were told later by chaplain Anne Marr, were connected to the 'Build a bear' project developed by the Leeds Diocese to help and support families who were affected by organ transplants. Members were encouraged to support a similar initiative in our diocese.

Our president Margy welcomed everyone, especially those attending council for the first time. She suggested that we all read the Easter letter from our world-wide president, Sheran Harper, which contains a prayer written by a member for our diocese, Margaret Devlin from

Holy Saviour Tynemouth. She was delighted that it would be read by MU members all around the word.

Julian Brown took us through a look at our finances stressing the need to increase our membership and our funds.

Anne Marr has developed some new booklets, which she hopes will encourage new and existing vicars and others in our diocese to learn more about the work of Mothers' Union. This will stress all the good things which MU does in our area and beyond (see page 7). A letter of encouragement and support from our incoming bishop will be included in this booklet.

In response to the need to increase fund raising members were asked to come up with ideas. These ranged from a raffle, a 100 club, concerts,



Chaplain Anne Marr and teddies

and a simpler more effective way of collecting gift aid. Margy hoped that someone would take on the role of "Fund raising lead" to help this.

Members were reminded of the retreat. They were asked to write accounts of some of the successful projects undertaken in the branches and send them to the Journal, the website and Facebook. To help with projects, Mary Sumner house staff have agreed to send out information about important events and projects in good time so that the information can be disseminated to the branches.

At the end of the meeting there was time to chat to members from other branches face to face instead of on Zoom, before travelling home in almost daylight.

Linda Benneworth -
Marketing Coordinator



Julian Brown explains our finances

WELCOME TO BISHOP HELEN-ANN!

WHAT a delight to have a new Bishop, also a new Diocesan Patron! Bishop Helen-Ann Hartley is the 13th Bishop of Newcastle and the youngest diocesan bishop in the Church of England. Her appointment was approved by Her Late Majesty The Queen. On 6 March she paid homage to His Majesty King Charles at Buckingham Palace, and was installed in Newcastle Cathedral on 22nd April 2023.

The Inauguration Service in the Cathedral was inspiring, creative and inclusive. Following the traditional 'knocking at the door of the Cathedral', the new bishop was admitted. She was led down the aisle by a group of children from a local school, Helen-Ann walking hand in hand with two of them.

We sang a hymn from New Zealand, where Helen-Ann once served. We sang for God's caring in this land and **'for ahora to let each other's mana stand'**. ('Ahora is Māori meaning 'all-embracing love' and 'mana' is Māori for 'dignity')

Bishop Mark and Bishop Midttomme from Norway anointed Helen-Ann for her service as bishop whilst Dara, a volunteer from the West End foodbank, asked God's blessing on her. Bishop Metlha from Botswana blessed the new bishop as she



was installed in her 'Cathedra'. Our President, Margy, led the intercessions with a prayer for family life and for children whose homes offer neither security nor love.

The Cathedral choir and organist excelled. We were sent out to a resounding fanfare and each with a gift from Bishop Helen-Ann of a bar of 'slave-free' chocolate made near Ripon (where Helen-Ann was bishop) in a specially designed wrapper to feature Coldingham (where she lived her earliest years) and Newcastle (where she now serves.)

Born in Edinburgh, her early years in the Scottish Borders, then schooled in Sunderland, where her father was a minister, Helen-Ann says, "There's a really deep sense of coming home in lots of ways." "This is a region that shaped and formed me as a child growing up, and also shaped and nurtured my faith." "I am inspired by the example of the Northern Saints, whose engagement in God's mission lies deep in the fabric and contours of the land."

Helen-Ann was ordained in 2005 in the Diocese of Oxford and taught Biblical Studies at Ripon College, Cuddesdon, where she met her husband Myles, a musician from Cumbria. In 2010, they moved to New Zealand where Helen-Ann served as a Dean in

Auckland, then as Bishop of Waikato in the country's North Island. In 2018 she returned to be Bishop of Ripon. Helen-Ann is active in the world of media and is a keen runner.

The Archbishop of York said: "Helen-Ann brings rich experience and a tremendous passion for communicating the gospel, as well as a deep commitment to championing those often under-represented in our society."

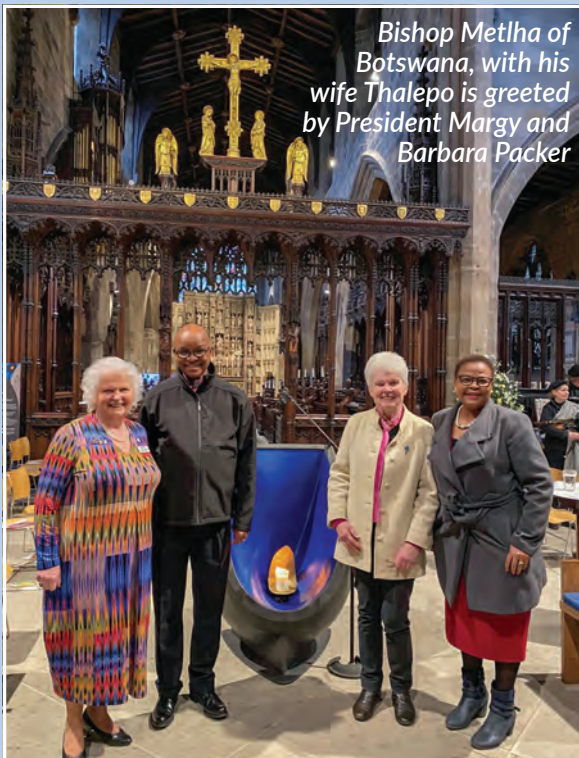
Bishop Helen-Ann brings back from New Zealand some old Māori wisdom about care in society: an ancient Māori proverb translates *'With your basket of food and my basket of food the people will thrive.'*

She is an enthusiastic supporter of Mothers' Union and is looking forward to engaging with us on our local projects. She writes the following endorsement...

"Newcastle has a unique connection to MU: the first Bishop, Ernest Wilberforce, encouraged Mary Sumner to launch what was to become a global organisation. As I sit and write these words at his desk, which is in my office, I am honoured to endorse and support the work that MU does. Prayer and action are at the heart of the Gospel and I hope they will frame all our work together in God's name."

Let us continue to pray for her ministry amongst us and for her husband Myles.

Anne Marr, MU Diocesan Chaplain



Bishop Metlha of Botswana, with his wife Thalepo is greeted by President Margy and Barbara Packer

Working with our Cathedral

WE were asked to make baptismal shawls for people of all ages being baptised. I have had a great response to this and do not need any more at present.

We were also asked if we could make **kneelers** for one of the chapels in the cathedral. We plan six small kneelers in dusky blue fabric. In the centre we will use the Celtic symbol for the family. The stitching will be in dark blue, yellow and white. The Mothers' Union name will be written on the top of the kneeler, and the name of the stitcher will be sewn onto the base. You may wish to pay for a kneeler and dedicate it to someone: in that case their name can be added on the base of the kneeler.

If you are interested in helping **make a kneeler** please let me know. A few people have already said they would like to help. Also, if you would like to **fund a kneeler** please contact me (contact details on page 2)

Midday prayers are said on first Thursday of each month in St George's Chapel and our Chaplain Anne leads the 12.30 Eucharist a few times a year. Members meet together in the cathedral cafe in the morning and some join together after for lunch.

All are welcome.

On 3rd August the Eucharist will focus on Mothers' Union and Mary Sumner, and our choir will take part.

Jackie Moore, Faith & Policy Coordinator



Gift packs with shawls for our Cathedral

'No More 1 in 3'



DURING the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence, 25th November to 10th December last year, we had a display at the East end of

the Cathedral to remember the one woman in three who suffers gender-based violence during her life, sometimes leading to her death.

The pictures show the display, which was created by our Chaplain, the Revd Anne Marr, with help from other members; it attracted much interest.

FROM OUR MOTHERS' UNION CHAPLAIN

MU: a best-kept secret or a vital resource?

Archbishop Stephen Cottrell of York says:

"Where would we be without the Mothers' Union? At home and across the world it offers the love and hope of Christ, helping to transform communities through teaching, prayer and pastoral care and by working with others to stop violence, injustice and hunger."

How well known is Mothers' Union across Newcastle Diocese? Surprisingly, unless you happen to be a member, few people know we exist these days! Those that do often mistake us as a 'tea and cake special interest group'.

MU is in fact integral to the mission and ministry of the church, both locally and world-wide, supporting the Anglican Communion's **Five Marks of Mission** and working with many other organisations, including United Nations. So how can we spread the word within our congregations and communities?



Leaving copies of **The Journal** in community centres often pay dividends and can attract new members. **Church display boards** with information about MU and pick-up leaflets are well worth keeping up to date. It is surprising how many visitors look at them.

Check your parish website.

Does it include interesting information about MU? Newcastle Cathedral's website has an interesting section about Mothers' Union: find it in the 'Get Involved' section: <https://newcastlecathedral.org.uk/get-involved/>

Our MU Newcastle Diocesan website

is worth checking regularly for news of local projects and events, for prayer resources, ideas for group meetings or community activities, chaplaincy posts and lots of links to other resources.

www.munewcastle.org.uk

Three New Information Packs are now available.

With information about MU both locally and world-wide, a message from Bishop Helen-Ann, a prayer leaflet and a card to personalise, they are for:

- New members as a welcome
- Clergy on their ordination or to welcome them to a new post
- As a thankyou to those ministers who have been with us for some time

They can be downloaded from the diocesan website www.munewcastle.org.uk or obtained through your vice-presidents and deanery leaders.

Linda Benneworth and Marketing team

Let your light shine... You may think that you 'just do what everyone does'. In fact, every branch has different ideas which are worth sharing. Please do!

Anne Marr, Chaplain

Mothers' Union and the Five Marks of Mission

Tell • Teach • Tend • Transform • Treasure

The Mission of the MU is to show our Christian faith by the transformation of communities world-wide, through the promotion of stable family life and the protection of children.

Through prayer and action, members of MU help to fulfil the Anglican Communion's **Five Marks of Mission**, locally and globally.



Mothers' Union members ...

bear witness to the gospel as a worldwide Christian fellowship united in prayer, worship and service.



create teaching and nurturing resources for prayer and worship, also skills and education programmes to strengthen families and communities.



tender loving service by offering helping hands to those whose family life has met with adversity and people who are facing challenging circumstances.



help to transform the unjust structures of society by working with United Nations to advocate for families, to challenge gender violence and support the 'voiceless'.



strive to treasure and safeguard the earth for future families by raising awareness of environmental issues and by supporting responsible initiatives.

Warm clothing

Some women and children fleeing from war in Syria have been provided with warm clothing through the Action and Outreach work of the Mothers' Union in this Diocese. Baby items were also provided, and we gave a grant towards mini Christmas hampers at £10 each.

Diana Macnaughton



Margaret Crawforth presents gifts for fishermen to Peter Dodds at the Fishermen's Mission.



Crafts for 'Girls are Proud'

Mothers' Union Action and Outreach and a friend sewed over 30 gift bags in Christmas fabric, and donated lots of toiletries for 'Girls Are Proud', part of 'Changing Lives' (Cyrenians). The party is for women who are homeless, and at risk. They are signposted to agencies that can help them with housing, budgets, tackling addictions, help with mental and physical health issues. They provide personal alarms to keep the women safe.

Margaret Crawforth and Diana Macnaughton ran a craft table for the 'Girls Are Proud' Christmas party. We hope that next year more MU members with crafting skills will support the craft table.

Visits to Care Homes

Margaret Crawforth and Diana Macnaughton visited seven local care homes, including Prince's Court and Eothen Care Home, presenting biscuits donated by Mothers' Union members. Residents were impressed by Margaret's Victorian outfit and enjoyed talking to her.



Christmas gifts for the Northumberland Refuge



Members of St Cuthbert's Blyth packing gifts for the Northumberland Women's Refuge for Christmas. Every family received a large bag of gifts including Christmas special food, toiletries, hats/scarves/gloves. The children all received Toys which were donated from St Cuthbert's



Church, Blyth Annual Toy Service. I delivered them unwrapped so the mums could choose what they thought the children would like most.

Jennifer Snowdon

Easter gifts for the Northumberland Refuge

I visited the Northumberland Refuge in Holy Week with a huge selection of Toiletry Bags made by St Bede's Newsham Mothers' Union. Some bags were special for babies and children whilst the others were for the ladies.

The Easter Eggs were donated by the Mothers' Union and congregation of St Cuthbert's Blyth. They also received extra donated toiletries and children's clothing and were of course delighted with the gifts.

Jennifer Snowdon



Bags for the People's Kitchen

Upper Coquetdale Branch filled 13 bags with gifts for those who use the People's Kitchen, at Christmas time.

Alison Ball, Branch Leader



The contents of one bag



MU Chaplain Rev Heather Mashego for Escarpment Archdeaconry was presented with a cope from MU to congratulate her for being licensed as the first female Canon in the Archdeaconry.

Diocese of Mpumalanga Mothers' Union

26 March 2023

Our Worldwide Links

One of the most engaging aspects of Mothers' Union is that we are a worldwide organisation, and that we are linked in prayer and care with members all over the world, through the Wave of Prayer (see Prayer Diary article on page 3), with each group of Dioceses having a few special days. Our partner Dioceses and our days of prayer are listed on the Wave of Prayer card shown **which comes from Mpumalanga Diocese**. It is good to see that they have many of the same concerns as we do, that they embrace women's ministry, and try to combat gender-based violence – and that they also pray for us.

Members of the First Internet Group seek to keep in touch with our links, each writing to one country with which they have a personal connection, while I write to Zonkwa and to Central Buganda, since I have visited nearby Mothers' Unions in both Nigeria and Uganda. We have had little success so far in getting responses from our links, but we do find out about them through Facebook and other social media, so we are able to pray for them and imagine their lives and concerns. I have a Powerpoint presentation about all our links, which I constantly update, which I am happy to share with any Branch.

Barbara Packer (Journal editor)

16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM AGAINST GBV
WEDNESDAY, 30 NOVEMBER 2022

With faith and resolve we set ourselves to combat gender injustice. May God equip us with all we need to play our part in creating an equal society and pursue justice in the name of Christ. Amen

WAVE OF PRAYER
30 NOVEMBER – 2 DECEMBER

We pray for:
 Mpumalanga in South Africa;
 Central Buganda in Uganda;
 Zonkwa in Nigeria;
 Bo in Sierra Leone;
 Newcastle in England;
 Barrackpore in India

Reaching out to our local communities

One of the three actions we decided to pursue as part of **'Reimagining Mothers' Union'** was to **'increase awareness through our local community work'**. We were encouraged to look out for ways in which we could respond to need in our immediate locality, and to tell Diana Macnaughton, our A&O Coordinator, about our local projects, so that she can record them on MU Live (contact details on page 2).

Several of the projects described on pages 8 & 9 have been carried out by just one or two branches, in their locality, and some more are mentioned below:

- Christmas foodbags and gifts for each family at two refuges and two hostels
- Welcome packs are regularly delivered to one refuge for families fleeing with nothing
- 'Bags of hope' for parents of children starting school
- Reading bags for a First school
- Support for local foodbanks with groceries and cash donations

This is in addition to the projects we all support, often in conjunction with another charity:

- Holidays for 136 adults and 196 children in 2022
- 107 gift bags for the People's Kitchen, as well as jogging bottoms and trainers
- Christmas hampers for asylum seekers, and gifts for the children
- 20 'Fresh start' backpacks filled with essentials for released prisoners
- £200 donation to a medical centre for baby boxes for refugees
- Emergency toiletry bags for all major hospitals in our area

Do look around, in your local area, for groups you could support in their work, or needs your branch could meet!

Barbara Packer

Welcome to King Charles

THE Coronation was a kaleidoscope of special historic memories, of majestic music, sacred symbols, pageantry and prayer. The King made a solemn vow to serve and we celebrated the service of others; later thousands of us volunteered in the Big Help Out and celebrated in many community events.

Of the countless official photographs of him this natural pose, beside a very ancient oak, encapsulates one of his most earnest hopes: that all nations will grasp the opportunity to work together towards a globally sustainable future for the planet. As members of Mothers' Union, we wish him well in all his royal duties, we pray for his family as they support him in his role, and we commit to helping to safeguard God's natural world for future families.



In June 2022, at St Cuthbert's, Blyth we had a Civic Service to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. This was led by Bishop Mark and attended by our MP and Mayor. Our congregation helped to decorate the church and the hall and organised a buffet lunch. Members of Mothers' Union had a pivotal role in this event.

Sheila Smith organised the flower arrangements and initiated the idea of having a display of coronation regalia in church. We weren't allowed to borrow the Crown Jewels, so we had to make our own! Jean Hayton made St Edward's Crown, Jennifer Snowdon constructed the orb and Sheila worked with others to make the train. Christine Morris arranged flowers, in Mothers' Union colours, around a photograph of the Queen. The sceptre was made by David Anderson, one of our church wardens. He's not a Mothers' Union member but deserves recognition. The display was much admired at the service and during the time it was left in place. The photographs show the display and Mothers' Union members with their beautiful work.



On 7th May, we had another Civic Service to celebrate the coronation of King Charles 111 and Queen Camilla. We used the same symbols of office in our display. Mothers' Union members were involved again in the service and in arranging flowers, decorating windowsills to represent the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth and organising afternoon tea.

Josephine Kulke



AROUND THE DIOCESE

A celebratory meal

Members of the First Internet Branch were joined by members of Ponteland and Wideopen branches for a fun meal out together in January. The generosity of members from these three branches funded the Christmas Day food for the Refuge.

Ponteland branch leader, Lynne Henderson presented the First Internet Branch with a cheque for £100 from an interested supporter, a member of St Mary's Ponteland congregation, who overheard two members talking about our work with the Refuge. That donation will go into our fundraising fund to provide equipment etc. for a sensory room for the children at the Refuge. We would welcome support from other branches around the Diocese. For more information contact Sylvia Hickey. Branch Leader billandsylviahickey@btinternet.com



Christmas Gifting at St Bart's

With the generous help of the congregation at St Bartholomew's, Long Benton, our Branch was able to provide five Christmas gift bags for the People's Kitchen.

The bags were stuffed full to the brim with toiletries, confectionery, warm clothing, puzzle books, stationery and a water bottle. Each bag also contained a Greggs voucher so that the recipient could enjoy a warming and comforting treat.



Make A Mother's Day Coffee Morning

The Mothers' Union branch, St Cuthbert's Haydon Bridge with Henshaw and Beltingham held their Annual "Make a Mother's Day" Coffee Morning on 18th March 2023.

This year we chose a new venue, Bardon Mill Village Hall and the event was very successful. It was a very busy and enjoyable morning. For sale were Cakes, New and Nearly new items, Books, Candles (made by our Branch Chaplain Rev'd Dr John Harrison) and of course a Raffle.

As a result, we were able to donate £500 to projects for mothers.

£250 was spent on "Gifts of Perseverance" to buy gifts from the Make a Mother's Day Catalogue.

£250 was donated to the AFIA fund to assist with buying holidays and Away Days for families in Newcastle Diocese.

Sheila Walker - Branch Treasurer

Global day of Activism at All Saints, Gosforth

This was taken in All Saints' Church, Gosforth on the Global Day of Action, Saturday 26th November 2023.

Every member had previously made one of the hands reaching out, wore their 'No More 1 in 3' badges and the group pictured had all taken part in a short service including the minute's silence at 1.03pm. One member commented that the 20 candles and the silence had resulted in 'a moving experience'. The display stayed on the notice board for the entire 16 days.

Pam Taylor, Branch Leader

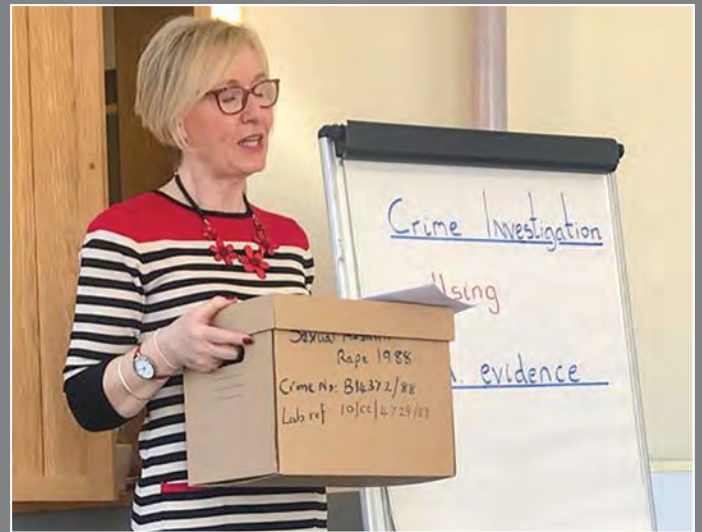


Enrolments at Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Two enrolments took place at Holy Saviour in November: the first enrolment by Margy Tasker Brown was of Audrey Henderson and Pat Walker; the second enrolment of Jean Keeling was by our Vicar, Rev Steve Dixon (assisted by Margaret Devlin).

We welcome all three most warmly to our Branch.

Cathy Duff, Branch Secretary



Holy Nativity meeting

At a meeting of Holy Nativity, Chapel House, Anne Blight our VP enrolled a new member Ruth Burn.

We enjoyed an excellent meeting. Catherine Holliday, a retired police detective talked about a fictitious rape attack and the process of finding the rapist 25 years after the attack with the use of DNA.





Ruth Hallowell's 100th birthday

"I was privileged to be invited, on behalf of Mothers' Union, to attend the 100th birthday celebration of Ruth Hallowell.

Ruth was originally a member of the Longhirst, Bothal, Hebron Widdrington and Ulgham combined branches. She eventually became an indoor member and I have continued, right through COVID, to send her every Journal, Newsletter and Indoor Member Reflections.

Her son John said Mothers' Union was very important to his mother and she appreciated all the correspondence I was able to pass on to her. Her new hearing aids, said John, have been a great help to her being able to hear and understand what people say to her now.

She is a remarkable lady."

Joan Howard, Morpeth Deanery Leader



Mothering Sunday at Benwell

Members of the Benwell Mothers' Union were asked by the clergy to support the team Mothering Sunday Service. We used the St Mellitus template for a service, from the MU website: called to mother in a broken world.

Branch members took an active part in the service, doing the prayers, the reading and leading the children's corner. Members of the congregation were invited to place a pebble in a basket at the foot of a Taize cross as a symbol of:

- those they have failed to mother or who have failed to mother them
- those who have experienced disappointment in relation to their mother or being a mother
- thanksgiving for those who have mothered them

We also had an opportunity to explain a little about Mothers' Union and the work it does, worldwide, in Newcastle and locally. As is traditional, flowers were distributed to the congregation. Less traditionally, much of the service was bilingual and the sermon was translated into Farsi for the Iranian members of our congregation. It was a really good opportunity for Mothers' Union to be more visible and for us to share the valuable work of the organisation.

Leahan Garratt

Long Service award for a Diocesan Member

Diocesan Member Anne Kendall receiving her Long Service Certificate from Coordinator Sylvia Hickey, for 60 years to the day of loyal and enthusiastic membership of Mothers' Union; November 14th 2022.

Sylvia Hickey, Diocesan Members' rep



Coffee, Cake and Craft -

a new outreach group at the Venerable Bede, hoping to attract a number of folk, including those with little English.



A card from King Charles

Jean Evans, a member of the Norham Group, celebrated 60 years of marriage with her husband John.

They were married on 2nd March 1963 in Natal (now called KwaZulu Natal) and were thrilled to receive a congratulatory card from King Charles.

Margaret Jeffrey, Norham Group Branch Secretary

Kathleen Keay



It was with sadness that we heard that Kathleen Keay died in February. She had been in Foxton Court Care Home in Morpeth for a few weeks and passed away peacefully in her sleep.

Kathleen was a committed member of Mothers' Union for many years and during that time had served our Diocese as a Branch Leader, Marketing Co-ordinator, Vice-President of Lindisfarne Archdeaconry, and Leader of the Mothers' Union Choir for 15 years. During those years the Choir led by Kathleen sang in Newcastle Cathedral on a number of occasions, Bradford Cathedral, Newcastle City Hall and at Mothers' Union meetings in the Diocese.

Kathleen will be remembered by many as a kind and gentle person. May she rest in Peace.

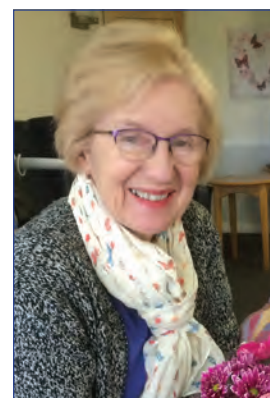
Pat Johnson, Life Vice-President

From Helen Brunton, Past President

Thank you for your prayers and many cards and letters following my husband John's sudden death.

Thank you also to all who attended the funeral service. I appreciated very much the support of Mothers' Union members and overwhelmed by the love and respect for John by so many.

With my love and continued prayers for you all, Helen.



New members for the Norham Group

The photo shows two sisters, Lynne Chapman and Gillian Jeffrey, with our vicar Rob Kelsey.

The sisters were admitted to our group at the Lady Day Service held at St Cuthbert's Church, Norham on Monday 20th March 2023.

Margaret Jeffrey, Branch secretary



Milly Hornsby gets a surprise 90th birthday cake at Holy Nativity, Chapel House MU.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2023

JUNE

10th Diocesan Festival at All Saints, Rothbury, and collection of Summer Journals

19th-20th

Retreat at Shepherd's Dene, led by the Revd Anne Marr

JULY

18th Visit our tree at Howick Hall from 10.30am, Midday Prayers at the tree

AUGUST

3rd Midday Prayers then 12.30pm Eucharist at the Cathedral focussing on Mary Sumner (p. 6)

9th Mary Sumner Day - local events

31st **Closing date for items for September Newsletter.** Copy to Barbara Packer, please

SEPTEMBER

14th Units meeting at the Cathedral at 10.30am.

22nd Annual Gathering and Service in York (booking details on p. 2)

29th Trustees meeting

OCTOBER

13th Diocesan Council at St John's, Kingston Park at 10am.

21st Diocesan Members' Meeting at St Nicholas, Gosforth at 10.30am.

DECEMBER

1st Gift Bag Day and collection of Winter Journals at Church House

Every 1st Thursday of month in the Cathedral: Midday Prayers, followed by Holy Communion in the St George's Chapel at 12.30pm, with a Mothers' Union focus.

BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES • DEATHS •

BIRTHDAYS

80th Elisabeth Mitchell
St Peter, Monkseaton

80th Lesley Wright
Diocesan Member

90th Mildred (Millie) Hornsby
Holy Nativity, Chapel House

90th Eileen Todd
Delaval, Seaton Sluice

90th Jean Bainbridge
Delaval, Seaton Sluice

90th Valerie Anderson
Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

90th Pat Park
St Francis, Heaton

90th Lorna Hornby
St George, Cullercoats

90th Mavis Martin
St George, Cullercoats

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

DIAMOND WEDDING
Jean & John Evans
The Norham Groups

DEATHS

Eileen Mason
Holy Cross, Fenham

Doris Leighton
Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Sheila Smith
Delaval, Seaton Sluice

Evelyn Robinson
Delaval, Seaton Sluice

Clare Brown
Holy Saviour, Tynemouth I.M.

Ann Shaw
All Saints, Gosforth

Alfhild Wellbourne
All Saints, Gosforth

Pearl Scott
St Mary, Longbenton

Dorothy Smith
Diocesan Member

Hilary Hide
All Saints, Gosforth

Kathleen Keay
Diocesan Member

Rose Haslam
Indoor Member

Alexandrena Stewart ('Rena')
St Cuthbert's Amble.

Joan Cooper
Ovingham

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members, including:

Audrey Henderson Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Pat Walker Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Jean Keeling Holy Saviour, Tynemouth

Lucy Hall Ovingham

Kate Halford Ovingham

Elisabeth Mitchell St Peter, Monkseaton

Margaret Shields St Peter, Monkseaton

Lynne Chapman The Norham Group

Gillian Jeffrey The Norham Group

Ruth Burn Holy Nativity, Chapel House

Clare Maclaren Diocesan Member

Pamela Wallhead Upper Coquetdale

Mothers' Union in Newcastle Diocese is a charity formed to serve families either in a family group or as individuals and walk with them by support through challenging times in their lives.

The charity is 100% volunteer led. All monies raised go into the many projects Mothers' Union develop and deliver.

If you would like to contribute to the work that Mothers' Union does both in Newcastle Diocese and Worldwide you can contribute to our Virgin Giving site:

www.uk.virginmoneygiving.com/charity-web/charity/finalCharityHomepage.action?charityId=1008779

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Newcastle

CONTACT DETAILS

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Website: www.munewcastle.org.uk

