

The Journal



Winter 2025

A Visit from our World-
Wide President:
see page 5

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Charity number 249971

Diocese of Newcastle

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FIRST INTERNET BRANCH MUSIC AFTERNOON . SATURDAY 11TH OCTOBER

A really fun afternoon was spent in the company of the very entertaining duo of Revd Malcolm Railton and Revd Canon Clare McLaren. They shared a mix of jazz, blues and popular songs, interspersed with amusing comments.

Their individual musical talents so complement their performance, they make a really great duo and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon. During the interval we enjoyed tea/coffee and cheese scones provided by Ponteland and St Columba's MU members and First Internet themselves. Sadly MU support was disappointing but a number of non MU folk made up for it, either by being there in person or sending a donation.

The final total raised was a very encouraging £475 all of which will go toward our ongoing work with Harbour Refugees.

A huge "thank you" to everyone who supported us.

Sylvia Hickey, Branch Leader



First Internet Branch Music Afternoon

MU RETREAT 2026

Led by our Dean, Lee Batson on 29th-30th June

He writes: 'Next year marks the 150th anniversary of Mothers' Union. As we gather together in Shepherd's Dene, we will hear stories about some of the significant female figures that have graced the life of the Church including individuals like Mary Astell and Josephine Butler. By revisiting their lives, and the way their faith guided them, we will draw inspiration for our journey of faith whilst also gathering for times of prayer and Eucharist during the time we will spend together.'

The booking form will be in the Spring Newsletter. An email with all details and the booking form has also gone to all Branch Leaders. Please email Jackie Moore (jackiemoore@yahoo.com) if you would like to know more.

YORK PROVINCE PRAYER CAPSULE

York Province is preparing a Prayer Capsule that is to visit each of our Dioceses. It will arrive in Newcastle from Carlisle on May 10th and depart to Durham on May 17th. At each handover there will be a short service, not necessarily in a church. The Capsule will contain the Provincial 150 year prayer and every diocese will insert their own prayer.

The capsule will leave York on June 4th carried by our Zonal Leader on her trusty bike cycling to St Pauls in time for the service on 10th June.

Whilst it is in Newcastle Diocese. I am hoping to visit any Branch or 'get together' that would like to see it. Please let me know.

President, Margy Tasker-Brown

A letter from our President

Dear Friends

I have just added the recent MU Lives information online – the list of what Newcastle Diocese MU has achieved since June. As you know I can only include those that I am told about. I am so proud of what we achieved and thank you all very much for your help and support.

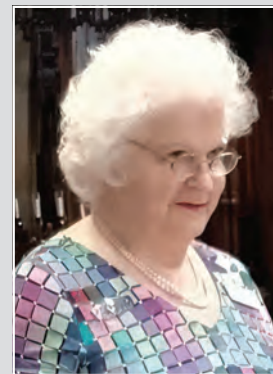
Next year will be a busy year but most of all a fabulous enjoyable year full to the brim with fellowship, as we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union.

Please let me know what your branch plans are and if you would like a Trustee to attend.

If you wish to attend St Paul's and the London Gathering on 10th and 11th June please get in touch with Anne Blight on 07867 577948.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas.

Love, *Margy*



AIFA holidays 2025

We often feel anxious when trying out new things, for example our AIFA Holidays. This year we worked with ReNew and their Family Group Holiday, giving holidays to seven families (27 people).

I have received some lovely 'thank you's' from people we have helped this year. The ReNew Family Group had an amazing time. The weather was good and the group knitted together in fellowship. They enjoyed climbing and archery with instructors assisting to improve their skills. A visit to Edinburgh Zoo proved most educational. This extract comes from a rural family.

Archery class



"I really appreciated all the kindness, dedication and work of the team to provide for our activities and food and trips. I enjoyed spending time with my daughter away from everyday life. It was great to do activities like climbing and swimming slide together. She really enjoyed the zoo, which is something we haven't done before due to distance from our remote location – I find that organising stuff like that is quite stressful compared to our quiet farm life! I was reminded that it brings me joy to spend quality time with the children and going



Go-Karting

home I have tried to prioritise that again and think about how, as they get older, I can stay connected with them. It was good for us to be with other families because at regular church we are often the only family with youngish children. I was able to see that even though my daughter finds it hard to make friends her own age, she is good with younger ones and I could enjoy seeing that."

We helped another family after the father had a stroke and had spent weeks in hospital. The very generous donation of a raffle prize of a voucher for Sunday Lunch at the Mary Sumner Day lunch found its way to them. The mother told me how it helped to take the family out for a lovely meal at the Snowy Owl and how much they all appreciated it after having a traumatic time and such an unsure future. I was equally proud of the Branch who helped send a class from their local small rural school to visit our Cathedral.

Margy Tasker-Brown





THE CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Our Chaplain, the Revd Anne Marr

'The Word I speak...'

As we journey in faith, 150 years after her first meeting of mothers, Mary Sumner's personal prayer is as relevant as ever. She prayed it every day in her long life and sought to live the words she spoke.

Arguably the most powerful development in the history of humankind is not the invention of tools, or the engine, or microchips, the internet or AI... but language. In the beginning was the Word – and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. John 1.1

Long before we uttered a word, the Word was God. God gave us the knowledge to shape sounds into words. The most essential Word he gave us was himself. The Word is the Way, Truth and Life.

How we communicate with one another is the foundation of all relationships, of emotional responses, of social development, of political changes and world economics. Words can ignite wars or broker peace.

The words we choose, and also the way we choose to say them, have the power to transform the world and to shape the way in which 'we live and move and have our being' (ref. Acts 17.28).

Mary Sumner's life, as well as her prayer, illustrates her awareness of the power of words. Her daughter recalled that 'Life in the Rectory was always a cheerful place for no grumbling was ever allowed. My mother would not permit it.' Horatio Erskine said: 'Mary never inflicted on herself or others the poisonous misery of unkind words.' With a foundress like that, we have a lot to live up to!

Mary understood life-giving communication to be a three-fold task: the words we choose to speak; the words of prayer we breathe, which inwardly inform us; and how we give expression to our words in the way we live.

2026 is a year when we celebrate 150 years of Mothers' Union and all the life-giving projects locally and globally which MU has facilitated.



Mary Sumner as a young Grandmother

It is also Newcastle Diocese's 'Year of Sharing'. Amongst the many ways we shall find to mark the year in our branches, we are also invited to share with the Cathedral and other organisations in a diocesan-wide awareness raising year, speaking out against Gender-Based Violence and Domestic Abuse. Please hold this initiative in your prayers – that voices will be heard and abusive attitudes changed.

As we make our footsteps in faith as members and in branches through Advent and the coming year, and as we remember the legacy of Mary Sumner, may our words, our prayers and our lives bless one another and bear fruit that will last.

Tynemouth Deanery Service



ON 1st September 56 members from all over the Deanery met at Holy Saviour, Tynemouth, to celebrate our membership. The service was led by their Vicar, the Revd Steve Dixon, who also preached for us.



Re-connecting

His sermon was based on Acts 6: 1-7, the story of a grievance in the early church between Jewish- and Greek- speaking members about church catering for their widows. Steve was particularly interested in the way in which

the problem was resolved: members were consulted, people were appointed to new roles to arrange the distribution ('deacons') and a team was formed.

What an excellent example of change management! By sharing out the roles we can each do more of what God is calling us to do – and also refrain from doing other things! Margaret Devlin led us in prayer for our members and outreach.

We then enjoyed re-connecting after the Summer with members from other Branches, over a magnificent tea provided by members of the Holy Saviour Branch. Thank you for the welcome!

Barbara Packer



Tynemouth Deanery Service, 1st September

Tuesday 8th July · Visit of Mothers' Union World-Wide President, Kathleen Snow, to 'Something Wonderful' in Benwell

Report by Margy Tasker-Brown, MU President in Newcastle Diocese

It is not every day that you are visited by a World-Wide President. Kathleen Snow leads over 4 million members of Mothers' Union throughout the world in 84 countries. Her home is in Canada and she has been visiting projects in York Province: a family holiday caravan in Carlisle, the Low Newton Prison Branch in Durham and Newcastle's "Something Wonderful" support project in St James, Benwell.



The Trustees meet WWP

After being introduced to our Trustees she met the amazing cooks who feed hundreds of people, the creative writers' group who are filled with talent and the art group whose awe-inspiring display was on show for all.

Our midday prayer was led by Anne Blight, Deanery Leader for Newcastle West. The theme was Refreshment and Enrichment. This was our first prayer time together and it relaxed and prepared us for a very memorable day.

In the afternoon Kathleen spoke to members from all over the Diocese. She stressed how **we are stronger together** and how different the projects were across the world as we work for a future free from violence, poverty and injustice. With kindness, courage and compassionate action we are working with people of all faiths and none, actively supporting people at the heart of communities worldwide.

Revd Chris Minchin told us how the "Something Wonderful" project had begun and how grateful they are for our support. When meeting people using the Foodbank they realised that their needs were so much broader than food, so they developed a more holistic



Display showcasing Newcastle MU

approach, starting a number of groups, bringing people together.

The church was gracefully laid out and the atmosphere, when full of MU members, was marvellous. This day ended with an inspiring service, led by our Chaplain, the Revd Anne Marr and Branch Leader Leahan Garratt, and full of incredible prayers and a lovely reading. The live band lifted our songs of praise to the roof. Anne helped us to 'sign' Mary Sumner's personal prayer.

As MU is 150 years old next year and, with Kathleen at our head, I have every confidence that we will continue to touch many lives for the better for years to come.

Margy



Kathleen meets Shirley, who prepares the Tuesday lunches, is an Anna Chaplain, and now also a Mothers' Union member



The Benwell musicians play at our service



Anne Marr taught us how to sign the Mary Sumner Prayer



Meeting Barbara Bailes



Claire speaks about Changing Lives

'Changing Lives' comes to Council

WE enjoyed a lively Diocesan Council meeting at St John, Kingston Park on 10th October, with 50 members attending. As we entered we were met by our Projects Team Coordinator, Karoline Wellborne (right), with a plentiful stall of craft items for sale which had been made by members, and also materials to take away to make more, to support our projects.

President Margy urged us to look ahead and to identify someone who could take over her role as President in two years time when her term of office finishes – as well as people willing to step up to other leadership roles. Treasurer Julian Brown echoed this plea for the Treasurer role, as soon as possible.

Our Chaplain, Anne Marr, showed us a brief taster of a PowerPoint presentation available to Branches for our 150th celebrations in 2026, which will include celebrations at our Cathedral and at St Paul's Cathedral in London.

Margy then introduced **Claire Sowerby**, from the charity **Changing Lives**, which we have supported for many years. Claire is Service Manager of the Newcastle Integrated Domestic Abuse Service.



Residents' cooking group



Residents' lunch

Newcastle Integrated Domestic Abuse Service (NIDAS) supports any person who has experienced domestic or sexual abuse within the Newcastle area. The service offers supported accommodation to women and children fleeing abuse from anywhere in the country. There is a specialist team of advocates who work with any person, male or female, within the community. The team provide safety planning, advocacy with police and other professional services, support with housing applications and emotional support. They also provide a program which supports individuals in understanding what domestic abuse is, its impact and how we can look to move forward. The service works directly with Action for Children, providing specialist support for children who have experienced domestic abuse, and with Rape Crisis, providing specialist counselling for women who have experienced sexual

abuse or assault. Here is the response of two clients:

"My IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) listened, was there at the most crucial bits. She helped with police to take the pressure off me, which is what I needed. I have recently moved areas and my IDVA ensured that I had the support to carry on with court procedure – I wasn't just dumped, which has happened in the past. I know if it wasn't for my IDVA and the service I would potentially be dead now and I thank you from the bottom of my heart."

"From the moment we arrived, we were welcomed with warmth, kindness, and a genuine sense of care. The staff members at the refuge made us feel supported during one of the most challenging times in our lives. Because of this incredible support, we have been able to grow, learn, and move forward in ways we never thought possible".

How to help

Talk about it – ask questions, challenge responses. If you're worried about someone, ask how they are. Don't be upset if they don't leave their partner straight away- they might not be able to. Talk with young people about what healthy relationships are.

Time – giving time as a volunteer to services can be life changing, having a mentor, someone to have alongside them when they are new to area or navigating a new life, modelling behaviour they may not have experienced before is powerful. There is also always a lot of support that is needed in keeping on top of organising things in the refuge.

Donating and Fundraising (which we can do through our Mothers' Union link)



Children's area in the Refuge

New kneelers for the Cathedral!

From the Cathedral's website on 7th August:

"Today, we were delighted to welcome Mothers' Union Newcastle for Midday Prayer, followed by their joining us to celebrate our 12:30pm Eucharist, honouring their founder, Mary Sumner's Day.

Kneeler makers and sponsors, with celebrant Canon Zoe



"As part of the service, Canon Zoe blessed a beautiful new set of kneelers, lovingly hand-stitched by MU members for the Chapel of the Resurrection."

Left: The kneelers are blessed

Reflection of a new member, admitted during the service

Dear Friends,

When I stood in our Cathedral on Thursday, 7th August this year, waiting to be admitted as a member of Mothers' Union, I felt myself caught up in something far larger than I could have imagined. The Cathedral itself seemed to preach its own sermon. Its lantern spire, which for centuries guided ships safely home on the Tyne, whispered of the Christian calling to be a light in the world. I couldn't help but think of Christ's words in Matthew's Gospel: *"You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden... let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven."*

That day, the quire was filled with members from across the diocese, people from towns, villages, and parishes scattered across Newcastle, Northumberland and Tyneside. It struck me that this is what Mother's Union looks like: ordinary lives gathered together, lifted up in prayer, and sent out to touch the world.

For me, the story began closer to home. It was my local branch in Amble that first nudged me

toward membership. Their steady commitment to being a light in our community impressed me more than any formal invitation could. I saw neighbours who lived their faith in action: through prayer, through hospitality, through the simple but profound gift of presence. In Amble, the Mothers' Union isn't about titles or prestige. It's about showing Christ's love on the doorstep, whether through joining the World Day of Prayer, knitting for babies who have little, or listening well to those who need a friend.

At the Cathedral service, Mary Sumner's words were never far from my mind. Her personal prayer has



already become a daily companion for me:

"All this day, O Lord, let me touch as many lives as possible for thee; and every life I touch, do thou by thy Spirit quicken, whether through the word I speak, the prayer I breathe, or the life I live. Amen."

Perhaps you wonder why a man in his early thirties, discerning God's call on his life, on a journey towards priesthood, would choose to join an organisation so often associated with older women. For me, the answer is clear: it's about the Kingdom of God. Family life, community life, prayerful service; these are not niche concerns but the very fabric of Christian witness. If the Church is to be credible in our time, then we must all

stand together, be ready to pray, to serve, and to shine the light of Christ where we are placed.

Isn't that what we all long for? To be vessels through whom God's light shines, even in small ways? To be part of something greater than ourselves, something that stretches from a little branch in Amble to the very ends of the earth?

With grace and peace,
Anthony Reay

Retreat 2025

AFTER an introduction to Shepherd's Dene, and introductory prayers from Anne Marr, we all briefly introduced ourselves, including our Retreat Director Canon Clare Maclaren, formerly Canon Precentor at Newcastle Cathedral, now Canon Provost at Sunderland Minster. We had five sessions with Clare, interspersed with meal- and snack-breaks (homemade cake/ biscuits), free time, Morning Prayer, Eucharists, Evening Prayer, Compline – the liturgies were all taken from the Northumbria Community.

Where to begin In 2022 while she had a Sabbatical Clare and her husband went on pilgrimage; they walked roughly half of the Via Francigena, an ancient pilgrimage way from Canterbury via Dover, Arras, Reims, Besançon, Lausanne, then via the St. Bernard Pass to Aosta, Lucca, and Siena to Rome. There are signposts bearing a stylised pilgrim with staff and pack, and a pilgrim passport to be stamped at each of about 80 stages. Clare's talks were illustrated with wonderful pictures of their travels and included some very scary tales of the hardships they'd faced and the challenges they'd overcome, but also a lot of beautiful views and wonderful examples of the friendship of complete strangers. She focused on characters from the Bible, relating her experiences to the situations in which those characters found themselves, and then challenging us.

The first character was **Jacob**, who because of the hostility of his brother Esau had to leave his home and set out into unknown territory. We recalled his dream of Jacob's Ladder, and his response "Truly, the Lord is in this place and I didn't even know it!" Clare told us a few of the hazards they'd overcome, and invited us to share any situation in our own lives when we had experienced uncomfortable journeys, setting off



In the chapel

into the unknown; had we found it easy to trust that God was with us?

Our second character was **Daniel**, who found himself in the unenviable position of translating for King Xerxes *MENE MENE TEKEL PARSIN*, the "writing on the wall". How effectively do we communicate with others, as individuals or as Church, not only with those for whom English is not their first language but also with those for whom the church-y expressions we take for granted mean nothing at all? 'In my Father's house are many mansions' might mean nothing to the listener, but it's a very popular reading at funerals where increasingly there are attenders without any knowledge of God.

Feel the fear, and do it anyway Some parts of the Via Francigena are quite hazardous. At one point the Maclarens had encountered a rockfall where an alternative route would have added miles to their journey. They could hear the pebbles rolling away under their feet as they negotiated it (I felt sick just thinking about it).

We heard the story of Jewish **Esther**, Queen to Persian King Ahasuerus, faced with the possibility that she and all her relations would be exterminated on the orders of Haman, the Vizier. She would have to appeal to her husband who regularly executed anyone who interrupted him – she had to find the courage to interrupt him. Clare asked if we'd felt God was giving us courage to do something frightening, or occasions when we'd realised afterwards that it was God who had brought us safely through.

Strangers or Friends? There were some very moving examples of local people being extremely generous and hospitable to the Maclarens as they journeyed, offering lifts to shops, meals, overnight accommodation.

We heard the story of Abram and his wife Sarai, being renamed by God "**Abraham**" (father of nations) and "**Sarah**" (princess), doubting whether they would ever actually have the promised child, and then being visited by three strangers. We shared stories of when we'd entertained angels unawares.

Never-ending Story As they only had a limited time available the Maclarens could go no further than Lausanne, but finishing it is a retirement project for them. Via road it's 755 km from Calais to Lausanne, on foot it's considerably further because it goes through little towns and villages avoiding the motorways.



Inside of the scallop shell



Outside of the scallop shell

In the last session we read of Joseph and Mary's anxiety when Jesus went missing for three days and they found him in the temple. Clare reminded us of the crucified Jesus handing his mother Mary over to his dear friend John, and John taking her into his home so that he could care for her. We shared more of our stories; I can't tell you any of them, we agreed on complete confidentiality. Finally we held the scallop shells Clare had given us earlier, and while we stroked each of the ridges she prayed for

all sorts of situations, problems and conditions. Eventually we stroked the ridges up to where they meet at the top, where suddenly all is smooth as though the problems of life are taken up into God. I think all my future problems will be offered to God via this shell.

Thank you, to Jackie who organises our retreats, to Clare who gave us such a wonderful prayerful and enjoyable two days, and to my companions on retreat for sharing such moving stories of challenge, compassion and courage.

Lesley Wright



Lunch time, with Canon Clare on the far left

Hospital bags for the Royal Victoria Infirmary



22nd October: A great day and contacts made at the Freeman Hospital promoting our Hospital Emergency admission bags.

Alison and Sheena from St Bartholomew's Longbenton joined us as they have supplied bags to the Freeman for years. Dorothy Walker brought along her lovely chocolate slab cakes and with biscuits and Celebration chocolates to pass on – folks couldn't believe they were freebies offered for their enjoyment.

Anne Blight, Trustee



Hospital bags



Anne Marr, her husband Derek and Dorothy Walker promote hospital bags



Hospital bags at the RVI



Gifts from ASDA

AROUND THE DIOCESE



Christ Church, North Shields celebration

The branch celebrated three new members (*see page 12*), and five Long Service awards, supported by our Rector, the Revd Daniel McCarthy.



Cream Teas at St Oswin, Wylam on 12th July:

Sheila and Dorothy getting ready for the raffle.



Knitted baby items

Holy Nativity Chapel House with knitted baby items donated by friends.

Diocesan Members Day

Saturday 18th October 2025

Seventeen ladies attended our Members day, sadly only ten of them actual diocesan members, out of the total of fifty-one listed.

Sandy Aynsley from Ponteland led us in a time of prayer and meditation using "The World Community for Christian Meditation". We began by singing "Be still for the presence of the Lord is moving in this place" followed by quiet music and a short reflection and then 10 mins of complete silence. We all felt spiritually refreshed and uplifted by the time of quiet, so rare in our busy lives. We ended with Midday prayer, our light lunch and time to socialise.

Sylvia Hickey, Diocesan Members' Co-ordinator

Update on Mothers' Union kneelers

In the Autumn Newsletter I reported that I was looking after 14 MU kneelers which came from St Mary, Monkseaton, and offered them to any church that could use them. I had a good response: two kneelers were collected for use at Haydon Bridge.

Then I received a call from Alyson Reynolds, who was Treasurer for the Norham Group Mothers' Union, which is now closed. Alyson



used to be a member of St Mary Monkseaton, where she organised a group of members to make the kneelers some years ago. She was very glad to receive the remaining 12 kneelers, two of which she had made – she will share them between the four churches covered by the Norham Group, where they can be a reminder of the work and impact of Mothers' Union.

Barbara Packer, Editor



St Bart's Long Benton

On Saturday, 12th July, the sun came out and so did a happy group of people to enjoy the St Bart's Branch Annual Afternoon Tea.

There was a great atmosphere in the room. The luxury hamper raffle was popular, and the food went down a treat. There was a delicious spread of savouries and sweet, as well as strawberries and Prosecco.

This year the money raised was in aid of the Women's Refuge which Long Benton Branch supports. Grateful thanks to everyone who contributed to the day's success, and to Sylvia Hickey of the First Internet Branch who is our very valuable link to the Refuge. We were able to provide Winter coats for 10 young people in the Refuge.



Margy (in turquoise) at the National Leadership Conference



Members of Seaton Hirst MU enjoy afternoon tea



Holy Nativity, Chapel House tea

ODE from Gosforth Observe Do Enjoy

All Saints' Branch
Is now just a 'twig'
But what we do
Is still quite big.

"Bag some joy"
Is what Greggs say
So gifts to the homeless
Are on their way.

Bags for the hospital
Bags for school gate
If M.U.'s there first
Folks don't have to wait.

There's not many of us
We're only a few
But we still try to listen
Observe and then do!

Pam Taylor, Branch Leader

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JANUARY

10th Trustees meeting

FEBRUARY

5th Pay in Day at the Cathedral from 10am-12noon, followed by Midday Prayers

27th Deadline for Spring Newsletter. Copy to Barbara Packer, please.

MARCH

27th Diocesan Council and AGM at Kingston Park at 6 for 6.30pm.

MAY

10th-17th Provincial Prayer Capsule visits Newcastle Diocese (see page 2)

JUNE

10th at 5pm. Celebration service at St Paul's Cathedral

11th 10.30am-4.30pm. The Gathering at the Emmanuel Centre, next door to Mary Sumner House

29th & 30th MU retreat at

Shepherds Dene, led by our Dean, Lee Batson (see p.2)

JULY

25th Diocesan celebration at our Cathedral

Mothers' Union lead Midday Prayers at the Cathedral on the 1st Thursday of every month, usually in St George's Chapel. Come and meet others and perhaps stay for lunch!

BIRTHDAYS • ANNIVERSARIES • DEATHS

BIRTHDAYS

100 years

Brenda Chesham

95 years

Mollie Phillips, Long Benton

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

GOLDEN WEDDINGS

Sheila & Brian Smith, St Francis, Heaton

Jenny & Steve Germain, St Francis, Heaton

Anne & Gordon Conway, Holy Sepulchre, Ashington

DIAMOND WEDDING

Sheila & Godfrey Walker, Haydon Bridge

DEATHS

Nan Cresey, St Francis, Heaton

Eleanor Beers, St Cuthbert, Amble

Pauline Patrick, Haydon Bridge w Beltingham & Henshaw

Nellie Alderson, Haltwhistle

Jean Barrass, former Diocesan Treasurer 2010-2015

Pam Bethel, Long Benton

Kathleen Dales, St Mary, Monkseaton, past Branch Leader

NEW MEMBERS

Welcome to our new members, including:

Alison Cunningham, Christ Church, North Shields

Elaine Purvis, Christ Church, North Shields

Barbara Bennett, Christ Church, North Shields

Thomas Rippon, Diocesan Member

Sheila Brown, St Gabriel, Heaton

Penny Haines, St Gabriel, Heaton

Jean Goodfellow, St Gabriel, Heaton

Ann Foster, St Gabriel, Heaton

Margaret Patterson, All Saints, Gosforth

Revd Chris Minchin, The Ven Bede, Benwell

Olive Taylor, The Ven Bede, Benwell

Shirley Irving, The Ven Bede, Benwell

Anthony Reay, Amble

Jean Timlett, St Peter, Monkseaton

Joan Wilson, Long Benton

BARBARA RHODES' 80TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION

At the May meeting of Earsdon and Backworth Branch, Bishop John Packer spoke about the work of a Bishop in the House of Lords. He was accompanied by his wife, Barbara. Afterwards we celebrated the 80th birthday of our member, Barbara Rhodes (centre) with cakes topped with '80' decorations.

Christine Birrell



Milly Hornsby's 93rd birthday at Holy Nativity, Chapel House



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 develops and delivers. 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

Do visit our growing website at www.munewcastle.org.uk



Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families
Diocese of Newcastle

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