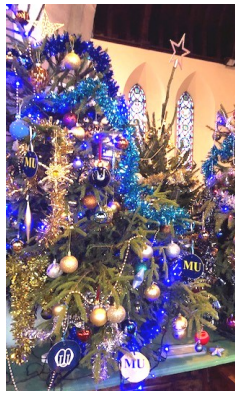
St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne.



December 2022 saw the return of the Christmas Tree Festival held over a 3 day period in the above church. This has been held bi annually since 2011 but unfortunately due to covid our last festival was 2019, so everyone was really excited to see it's return.

Local organisations, business and individuals sponsor the trees or give donations to support us. Some trees are dedicated to loved ones who are sadly no longer with us but this is a lovely way to remember them and it does feel they are still being part of it. A very small but dedicated team helped to organise and put this festival on and of course Mother Union Members were a big part of this, organising the refreshments, sponsoring a tree, sorting out the raffle and helping in many other ways.

The photos show (above) the Branch Leader Mrs. Olive Weddle (left) and long standing member Mrs. Ann Pringle. The completed M.U. Tree and Mrs. Anne Batey (left) who always helped to decorate this tree insisted she put the last baubles on which we all felt made this tree extra special.

A really fun weekend with local musicians and young dancers was enjoyed by all, culminating with a lovely Carol Service on the Sunday afternoon with a local brass band. £400 was raised for each of the 3 charities we supported this year: Blaydon Food Larder, Gateshead Sound Room and The Children's Society.

Olive Weddle – Branch Leader

Mothers' UNION

Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

www.mothersunion.org

Durham Diocese Newsround Spring/Summer 2023

President
Mrs Carole Hopkinson
01388 527827

Finance
Mrs Janice Hardman
0191 3865497

Dear Friends and fellow members,

The official MU theme for 2023 is a continuation of Transformation Now, which is what we have been trying to do as a diocese, with streamlining our accounts system and encouraging branches to be flexible in order to keep going , when volunteers for office are few in number.

However, I feel a more useful theme for this year would be “hope and perseverance” – Christian values which are constantly mentioned in the bible. We are still recovering from the effects of the pandemic, with some branches and members still not returned to normal routines. So, can I ask you all to join me and put on all the armour that God gives you in the year ahead, to restore our self- confidence and enable us to carry out our aims and objects through our many projects. With God’s help, with hope in our hearts and with perseverance to keep on loving our neighbours, we can make a huge difference in our communities – and as a side issue, we can revitalise MU in Durham diocese!

Our two special cathedral services take place as usual this year. IMPC service on 3rd May at 2pm is when we remember and pray for our indoor members and light candles around St. Cuthbert’s tomb. This is always a quiet reflective service at the high altar and is open to all members. The exuberance of the festival service is on June 13th and we welcome Bishop John Packer as our guest preacher. Bishop John is now retired and living in Northumberland, but he retains his post as chaplain for York province MU, and his wife, Barbara. was Diocesan President in Newcastle diocese in recent years. We look forward to hearing his message.

Our faith and policy officer, Eileen Bishop, has decided, sadly, that she must stand down from her position, due to an overload of commitments. We are very grateful to Eileen for her dedication to MU over many years and we wish her well. I am sure we shall see her at special events.

Sue Begg has been appointed as her replacement and I am sure she will be a worthy successor to her distinguished predecessors. One of her focusses will be on re-establishing the emergency prayer link, so if you have a request for someone in need, please get in touch with her.

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special wedding anniversaries

Deanna & Rod Leyland	50yrs	All Saints ,Lanchester
Hazel & Eric Gaskill	60yrs	All Saints ,Lanchester
Joan & Colin Lambert	60yrs	St. Mary’s, Norton
Eileen & Arthur Turnbull	57yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Isobel & Derek Wheatley	60yrs	Holy Trinity South Hetton
Gillian &Tom Hanratty	60yrs	Consett

We extend a very warm welcome to our newly enrolled members

Carolyn Cliffe	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Jane Logie	St. Mary’s, Norton
Lynne Broughton	Wolviston St Peter's.
Anita Hamer	Wolviston St Peter’s
3 Residents.	Low Newton Branch.
Doreen Dobson	Easington village
Christine Ogilvie	St. Cuthbert’s Church, Blaydon on Tyne.
Revd. Diane Ryan	St. Cuthbert’s Church, Blaydon on Tyne.
Marjory Lovell.	St. Cuthbert’s Church, Blaydon on Tyne.

Members who have celebrated special birthdays

Peggy Richardson	101yrs	St. Andrew's Stanley
Rena Raper	90yrs	St. Andrew's Stanley
Joyce Thomas	90yrs	All Saints ,Lanchester
Elizabeth Deacon	92yrs	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Hazel Crummy	80yrs	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Marjorie Lee	80yrs	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Hazel Lamb	90yrs	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Sandra Price	75yrs	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Doris Winlow	90yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Eric Holmes	73yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Valerie Graham.	70yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Mary Goldsborough	85yrs	Consett
Louise Jane Holmes	55yrs	Consett
Elizabeth Toner	65yrs	Consett
Pauline Kearney	70yrs	Consett
Dawn Craggs	70yrs	St Michael & All Angels Norton
Rena Raper	90yrs	St Andrews Stanley
Peggy Richardson	101yrs	St Andrews Stanley
Jean Pinter	80yrs	Christ Church Great Lumley
Betty Robson	95yrs	Christ Church Great Lumley
Gillian Walker	71yrs	Sunderland Minster
Denise Sanderson	84yrs	Sunderland Minster
Carole Pattison	85yrs	Sunderland Minster
Lily Holcroft	85yrs	Sunderland Minster
Joan Douglass	87yrs	Sunderland Minster
Wendy Brodigan	80yrs	Holy Trinity South Hetton
Helen Murray.	75yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
William Oates.	80yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Brenda Tall.	75yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Paul Willey.	65yrs	St Mary's Sherburn
Jean Redfearn	97yrs	Lynesack
Dorothy Green	80yrs	Easington village
Jean Morecroft	80yrs	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Betty Kay	90yrs	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Mary Reynolds	90yrs	All Saints, Monkwearmouth
Margaret Stainthorpe	75yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Heather Crook	75yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Emma Hyden	90yrs	St Michael and All Angels, Houghton
Maureen Hutton	90yrs	St Michael and All Angels, Houghton
Evelyn Curry	100yrs	St Michael and All Angels, Houghton

As we listen to and read the news from around the world, it would be easy to despair at the level of hardship and suffering in all continents, as well as in our own country. But, as our theme of hope and perseverance reminds us, there are many practical ways in which MU can help. Our local projects, such as hospital bags, refuge gifts, prison work, AFIA, work in schools, are still needed as much as ever, and donations for overseas projects can make a huge difference to our sisters in other countries. All donations of money for our projects should be sent to Edna Thompson, diocesan treasurer, (cheques made payable to Mothers' Union Durham Diocese) with a covering letter explaining their purpose.

All that we do is in the hope that we can make a difference in the world, and if we persevere, that difference could be huge. From midday prayers – May we know our value in Your sight. May the one who is the same yesterday, today and forever, inspire us, equip us and renew us.

Carole

AFIA

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the AFIA fund last year – as always, members are very generous. We were able to help 7 families to have a holiday – 11 adults and 19 children –at caravans, hotel breaks, and one trip to Harry Potter world. All of the families had members with special needs and severe health issues, and were very grateful for the help we were able to provide. We have already had 2 requests this year, but please be aware of anyone in your area who needs a break and cannot afford one. I am willing to come and talk to any branch where I have not been before, to explain how AFIA works. All donations should be sent to diocesan treasurer, Edna Thompson.

Carole

News from Sunderland Minster branch

The Mothers' Union held a craft stall at the Minster Autumn Fair. The toys were hand knitted by members of Sunderland Minster branch .

Sunderland Minster held a Christmas Tree Festival in December. There were 41 differently decorated trees. The photo of the angels represents the 11 members of the Minster Mothers' Union

Kathleen Wilson writes...
This photo was taken in the Cathedral Gregory Chapel, Kathleen Wilson , Val Graham with Moira Small. A Mothers' Union visitor with her husband to Durham from Lincoln .
Moira a treasurer of her branch contacted me re any branch services on the Saturday for the Annunciation. As there were none ,I arranged to meet her with a member at the Cathedral for the Eucharist service and accompany her.
A new friendship from another diocese, and plenty discussion. Lovely!
A time of spirituality and hospitality.

Members receiving long service awards

Norma Downs	20yrs	St. Paul's Spennymoor
Jean Furlong	20yrs	St. Paul's Spennymoor
Margaret Brown	67yrs	All Saints ,Lanchester
Margaret Foster	37yrs	St. Georges, Fatfield
Mary Gorog	37yrs	St. Georges, Fatfield
Brenda Ridley	33yrs	St. Georges, Fatfield
Elspeth Baird	21yrs	St. Georges, Fatfield
Audrey Rayner	17yrs	St. Georges, Fatfield
Pauline Kearney	5yrs	Consett
Shelagh Whipp	5yrs	Consett
Joyce Flanagan.	5yrs	Consett
Ann Dixon.	5yrs	Consett
Vera Walford	5yrs	Consett (from Castleside Branch)
Sandra Lister.	10yrs	Consett
Joyce Parker	10yrs	Consett
Joan Lamb	50yrs	Consett
Audrey Lambert	45yrs	Consett
Jean Pinter	30yrs	Christ Church Great Lumley
Alwyn Gleghorn	30yrs.	Christ Church Great Lumley
June Haw.	30yrs	Easington village
Jean Forster.	21yrs	Easington village
Eileen Laver.	26yrs	Easington village
Dorothy Green.	25yrs	Easington village
Vera Smith.	20yrs	Easington village
Hazel Wilson.	20yrs	Easington village
Rev Lucy Moss.	23yrs	Easington village
Elizabeth Marshall	50yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Audrey Purvis	10yrs	St Michael and All Angels, Houghton
Liz Fulton	10yrs	St Michael and All Angels, Houghton
Judith Hunter	10yrs	St Michael and All Angels, Houghton

Deadlines for next Newsround is 8th September
Please send entries to:
Joan Parr 01325 487981
joan.parr24@virginmedia.com
4, Walworth Crescent, Darlington DL3 0TX

Dates for your diary

Thursday 20th April Diocesan council at Waddington Street URC at 10am. This is open to every member and starts with a communion service, followed by the AGM and question time for members on any aspect of MU in the diocese

Wednesday 3rd May IMPC service in the cathedral at 2pm with communion -– open to all members

Thursday 25th May Retreat day at Waddington Street 10-2, open to all members. This will be led by Rev. Cameron Abernethy, on the subject of Julian of Norwich. Please bring a packed lunch – drinks will be provided

Tuesday 13th June Festival service in the cathedral at 2pm, with banners processed. The speaker is Bishop John Packer, MU chaplain for York province. Bishop John is a retired bishop from Newcastle diocese.

Thursay 13th July Deanery leaders' lunch at Waddington Street 11am

Thursday 7th September Mary Sumner celebration at Waddington Street 10am

Saturday 23rd September. International AGM in York

Thursday October 19th Diocesan Council at Waddington Street – speaker to be arranged

We give thanks for the life and witness of those who have died

Margaret Rigden	98yrs	All Saints ,Lanchester
Joan Elliott	87yrs	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Jean Harrison	95yrs	St. Philip & James, Tow Law
Eileen Howells	93yrs	St. Paul's ,Spennymoor
Sarah Murphy	96yrs	St Andrews Stanley
Jean King	96yrs	St Cuthbert's Benfieldside
Eric Holmes.		Holy Trinity Southwick.
Mary Burton.		Holy Trinity Southwick
Doreen Dobson	77yrs	Easington village
Joan Nicholson	89yrs	All saints, Monkwearmouth

Durham Deanery Prayer Time

Our March service was lead by William Oates a M U member of Sherburn Branch.

Our Prayer time was started some 50years ago now, by the then Deanery leader Betty Hutchinson to undergird our work with Prayer and we end our service with MU midday prayers.

We then adjourn for coffee or more to enjoy fellowship together.

We meet the 3rd Tuesday of the month (except June and August) at 11.15am in St. Gregory's Chapel at the Cathedral. You may be in Durham one of these days, please feel free to come and join us.

Yours in Christ, Jean Wilkinson

We all know that prayer is a source of comfort and strength in our own personal life and also in the life of our Mother's Union Branches .

I know that one or two Deaneries have an emergency prayer circle , but at our last trustees meeting we thought we might re start a Diocesan prayer circle so that more people would be able to obtain the comfort and strength of prayer in times of need .

Being part of the prayer circle would be open to any member of Mother's Union in our Diocese if you would like to know more please would you contact

Sue Begg
susan.begg@yahoo.co.uk
01914106595

On Friday 24th March Darlington Deanery celebrated Lady day at St Columba's church. Our service was led by Durham Diocese MU chaplain Norma Clee.

St Michael and All Angels, Houghton

Emma Hyden who is 90 years old and was presented with her flowers at our annual meal out.

Holy Trinity Church Branch Southwick.
Kathleen Wilson , Members and Deanery guests , Rector Rev Jen Bradshaw with Gail Tunstall , Facilitator for Elderly Services at Sunderland Royal Hospital.
Gail gave an interesting talk on her work, and thanked all present for the donations of emergency soap bags and toiletries.

St. Cuthbert's Church, Blaydon on Tyne.

We are so pleased to welcome three new members to our Mothers Union who were admitted on Monday 13th March. The photo is taken in front of our Mother's Union Banner and shows left to right, new members Christine Ogilvie, Revd. Diane Ryan, Branch Leader Olive Weddle and new member Marjory Lovell. The three new members are already active within the Mothers Union work at St. Cuthbert's and all three ladies said they look forward to many years service within this organisation.

Olive Weddle, Branch Leader

Retreat Day

In recent years, the number of members attending the retreats at Shepherd's Dene has reduced significantly, probably due to difficulty in getting there and increased cost. As the retreat has always been part of our life of faith, it was felt to be important that we continue to provide an opportunity for reflection, and so a day retreat has been organised on Thursday 25th May at Waddington Street URC, Durham from 10-2. It is being led by Rev. Cameron Abernethy on the subject of Julian of Norwich, and it is hoped that as many members as possible will attend.

Please bring a packed lunch – drinks will be provided. It would be helpful to know who is coming, so that the room can be arranged appropriately, so if you plan to come please let me know.

Carole Hopkinson

Members of St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham with Mrs Elizabeth Marshall (Centre front row) when she received her certificate and flowers in celebration of her fifty years membership of Mothers' Union.'

2022-2024 Theme: Transformation - Now!

If we had a fraction of the faith in you that you have in us
then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we showed a fraction of the love that you show to us
then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we possessed a fraction of the patience that you display with us
then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we shared just a portion of the blessings that we have received from you
then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we showed as much trust in others as you have shown in us
then this world would be transformed, Lord.

If we claimed just a fraction of the power you promised to your Church
then this world would be transformed, Lord.

Transform us first, Lord, that we might transform this world
through your love and your power.
© John Birch

Dear all in Durham Diocese,

Mothers' UNION
www.mothersunion.org
Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

Thank you for your incredibly kind donation of £8,000 to Mothers' Union's overseas fund.

With your help, our work strengthens communities and empowers women and families to make positive changes that grow and last. I wanted to share one such example of how Mothers' Union is making a positive impact around the world, helping each other and many more in and around their communities, overcome real life obstacles and hardships.

In 2019, Mothers' Union in South Sudan lead a peace and reconciliation workshop to facilitate healing and enable delegates to improve their community work. Through practical lessons centred in faith and with Biblical stories for context, the delegates left with a new found sense of empowerment, mobilised to prove their love amongst their parishes.

"We [played a team] game and it showed us how we can work together and love each other. Before we were blind. We have now tried cultivating together but our land is full of stones. The heavy rains are also a problem. But we have heard from God to share the Word and not just worry about money. This is what we have for them. We have created lots of meetings to talk and now all come to learn."

It's this central belief and trust in God that enables our members to overcome the difficulties they face around the world. With your donation, they can reach new audiences and extend their compassion to those in need of it most.

Thank you for your generosity, your support is appreciated around the world.

With best wishes,

Amalie Ausland-Bjerkely
Fundraising and Communications Assistant

REFUGES.

During the Mothers' Union Diocesan Prayer Walk , November 2022 in support of Domestic Violence victims, we met with many people.

Durham Market Square included stalls with information, manned by volunteers and Council staff.

I spoke with representatives from 'HARBOUR' - working for safer communities - support to' women who are afraid', and received interesting leaflets.

January 2023, I received an email (out of the blue!) with an invitation from 'HARBOUR' to visit a Refuge.

I invited Doreen Sams to attend with me. We met with the Manager and a Staff member. They were aware Doreen and her branch had taken toys, toiletries , chocolate at Christmas, and were grateful.

After discussion, it was agreed to continue help with toiletries, bedding, towels etc. A fruitful meeting.

We came from the meeting, enthused, invigorated and to assist where needed.

I am aware that Members support some Refuges, and maintain throughout trust and confidentiality. Thankyou.

There are Refuges in all our communities. This could be an ongoing Project, for all within the diocese to support. Encouraged through Action and Outreach.

Mothers' Union roots are grounded in Prayer, Action and Support --- a perfect combination for this aid.

Please, think, pray and discuss at deanery and branch level.

'Thankyou for showing Christs' Love to ALL People.

God Bless.
Kathleen Wilson.

includes initiatives to support the role of parents and carers. We deliver parenting programmes, and development, policy and faith work that empowers women and men in their parenting and life in general. Our faith in the family emphasis encourages families to experience together the love of Christ; the One whose coming is heralded on Lady Day.

Faith – through our fellowship together and our faith and worship resources we nurture our relationship with God; we cultivate our prayer life and strengthen our willingness to follow our Lord, just as Mary was willing to obey his call.

Vocation and service– the annunciation was about listening and responding to God; the result of which has had consequences for all, in every aspect of life. As Mothers' Union we seek to care for people's physical, social and spiritual needs. At this time we are particularly seeking to listen to God through our global listening process, MULOA, in order to respond to his plans for our service going forward; as we continue to reach out as Christ's hands across the world.

Vision – Mary's faith and obedience affected all generations throughout the world. The faith and obedience of our founder, Mary Sumner, has led to Mothers' Union sharing the love of God's son, Jesus Christ for generations, throughout the world. We pray that in our day we, too, will be willing to follow God in obedience and faith, with thanksgiving and praise; and that our souls will always magnify the Lord.

The above article was taken from Mothers Union website.

St Michaels and All Angels Houghton
Photo of Evelyn Curry on her 100th birthday with members who attended her celebrations. Evelyn is holding her card from the King.

Lady Day is an important day for Mothers' Union members around the world.

Do not be afraid, Mary, you have found favour with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. "I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said."

Luke 1: 30-31, 38

I wonder how many of us are aware that Mothers' Union's observance of Lady Day is actually part of our constitution? (That is, as a recommendation rather than an edict!) In fact, Lady Day - the Feast of the Annunciation - has been a significant day for Mothers' Union since 1897.

The updating of our Mothers' Union Constitution, making it fit for 21st century purpose, has kept in full the statement in *no.13 of the Regulations made under the Bye-Laws*. This says that the Feast of the Annunciation may be observed annually as a special day of prayer and thanksgiving for Mothers' Union.

Although the idea to celebrate Lady Day was first suggested to the Mothers' Union in 1895 at the annual committee of presidents and agreed to by Central Council in 1897 it took some time to be adopted across the membership. At a Central Council meeting in 1902 the President of St David's Diocese plaintively asked how to surmount the difficulty of obtaining due observance of the day. In the same year however, it was reported that the day was celebrated as far afield as Armagh, Antananarivo and Sydney. In the 1909 annual report it was declared that in the past year the Feast of Annunciation had almost universally been recognised as a great day of intercession and thanksgiving. Of equal significance was that 'many bishops' had held special services in their cathedrals to mark the day.

Fast forward to today and we find that across the 84 counties where Mothers' Union is represented, Lady Day is celebrated in many and varied ways. Thanksgiving Services are widely held, which often include the enrolment of new members. Creative way of celebration may involve drama and games - as in West Ankole, Uganda, whilst events for Lady Day in Mandalay in Myanmar have included a quiz about Mary and a competition about the Mothers' Union prayer. The Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham have held contemporary Lady Day celebrations during which wonderful prayer activities have been enjoyed by children and adults together (some of which have used chocolate - a sure winner!)

Some ways in which Mothers' Union relates to the story of the annunciation:
Family life– we look to provide Christian care for families worldwide and this

Photos of members who took part in the prayer walk, last November, through Durham, as part of the international campaign against violence towards women.

St Mary's Cockerton, proudly displaying the angels they made during the November meeting

LOW NEWTON BRANCH.

Trustees continued to attend and participate in monthly Eucharist services. Included , Carol service with a choir ,and other denominations attending. An emotional time for many present.

In support of the Angel Tree project, Trustees helped Residents complete gift forms and labels in readiness for children's presents. Mothers Union Christmas cards for Residents , greatly appreciated. Thankyou.

2023. Now an early 8-45am start !! for a return to full branch meetings. Members warmly welcomed, a good representation. Some Residents know MU , and trust us. For others , something new to learn.

Members listened with interest about our Founder, Mary Sumner, on prayer and the progress in our work, across the world. A reminder too that Low Newton is a prayerful branch for ALL members of MU. Members also receive a Prayer Diary.

Members offered, with our help, to write prayers for the branch, hopefully to be read in Newsround.

New members will be admitted at the next branch meeting.

Thankyou to everyone for your support and interest. Trustees continue their training in security, and areas offered.

Chaplain Rev Sarah Parkinson, includes in her duties, Non Residentiary Canon Durham Cathedral. Congratulations!! There was Mothers' Union representation at Cathedral Evensong Service.

Low Newton is a welcoming branch, who give care, and support to each other, and we all learn together.

Thankyou for inviting me to your meetings, it is always a privilege to attend , and update on the progress of the branch.

Please continue to pray for all Prisoners, Staff and families.
'I WAS A PRISONER AND YOU VISITED ME'.

Love and God Bless. Kathleen Wilson.

In our community care many will say "You are an angel " There is a great deal of appreciation.

So like Mary, we will accept the plan that God has for us.

Like Mary said " Here I am, the servant of the Lord, let it be with me according to your word ."

Those words include everyone of us.

Ann Craig. Sunderland Minster Branch Leader.

Linda Hughes from All Saints Monkwearmouth writes with sadness

Joan Nicholson 25/4/1933 – 15/9/2022

It is with sadness that Joan would have celebrated her 90th Birthday with Mary Reynolds. They planned a double tea party. After a short illness she died in hospital.

Joan was a lifelong member of All Saints Church, growing up to be a Sunday School teacher with her future husband, Wilf. After their marriage they had three children. They both devoted their lives to the church. Wilf became church warden and Joan took over MU leader from Rene Hopkinson.

Eight years ago, Joan had a serious lifelong illness but her strong faith pulled her through.

Each year she visited the Keswick Convention and after Wilf died, she kept in touch with friends they had met. She had many messages she could pass onto us.

I took over Branch Leader from Joan and I miss her support and guidance

God Bless, Joan

Wearmouth Deanery Mothers' Union held their Lady Day Service on Tuesday 28th March in Sunderland Minster. It was wonderful to see representatives of the four Sunderland branches meeting together for this special service for the first time since Covid.

Kathleen Wilson ,our Deanery Leader gave this address.

How would you feel if an angel suddenly appeared to you as you were sitting in the garden. Would you be terrified , panic stricken ,dazed . puzzled or just quiet ? How did Mary know it was an angel ?

When the angel appeared to Mary, she was a fifteen year old, a child really, What were her thoughts ? She listened quietly to the angel .and the news she was given. There was no panic, no shouting, just listening and accepting the message. Just " I don't have a husband "

Mary was unmarried, a difficult time, She would have been shunned by all, mocked. She still accepted what was said. She was betrothed to Joseph. What would he think ? What would be his reaction to the news ?

All this was going through a young girls mind .But, she was a prayerful person and knew in her heart ,God had this planned for her . The love of Joseph for her would not wane. and it didn't

They did not know what the future held for them and their baby hardship, homeless, refugees. As a man he would be mocked, tortured, crucified. Mary would always be there for him, supported by Joseph and strengthened through God.

We all have difficult decisions to make and we all react in different ways. Our angels are those who care for us, talk us through difficult situations , or just listen until we are calm.

Prayer is important in all situations in our lives. We meet angels everyday in some way or other, We do not have wings but we do have loving hearts and arms to enfold and care.

As Mothers' Union members, we are family orientated and care. We are there in all situations for those who we love and who love us.

On the 19th of February the Rev Sarah Parkinson, was installed as a Non Residentiary Canon of Durham Cathedral. This was in recognition of her work as Chaplain in Low Newton Prison. Rev Sarah works closely with Kathleen Wilson to support our Branch there.

Our Diocesan President Carole Hopkinson and Linda Ferries, represented Mothers Union. Kathleen was poorly and, unfortunately, not able to attend.

The picture shows DP Carole Hopkinson, Rev Canon Sarah and Linda Ferries.

At our meeting in November (St Mary's Norton) we were joined by members of our Deanery to welcome a new member Mrs Jane Logie; enrolled by our Deanery Contact, Mrs Ivy Gilbey.

The enrolment was followed by a pre advent meditation (with music and candles) as we journeyed to Bethlehem with Mary (as Mary).

This was followed by refreshments, enjoyed by all.

HM Prison & Probation Service

HM PRISON SERVICE
Public Sector Prisons

HMP/YOI Low Newton,
Finchale Avenue,
Brasside, Durham, DH1 5YD
22nd December, 2022

Dear Friend of Low Newton,

We wanted to write and thank you for the very generous donation you made towards our Christmas present appeal. The response we received was amazing and has enabled us to put together a wonderful gift for each of the women here.

The impact of these gifts, and the fact that come from donations from the wider community, can't be underestimated. As we have given the gifts out today, not only have the women enjoyed the gifts but also felt loved and supported by the fact people they don't know care enough to do something for them. Some of them we saw smile today more than we ever have before and probably the quote of the day was 'I was having a really bad day and then you lot of come here bringing all the Christmas cheer'. It really does express the meaning of Christmas and, on their, and our own behalf, thank you.

We have attached some pictures of the fun we had packing the stockings and what we finally put inside.

May we take this opportunity to wish you a peaceful and prayerful Christmas and a wonderful New Year.

God bless,

The chaplaincy team

Santa's elves hard at work

The finished product

Ready to deliver