Mothers' UNION

Stopping Violence
Stopping Poverty
Stopping Injustice

www.mothersunion.org

2022-2024 Theme: Transformation - Now!

Durham Diocese Newsround Summer/Autumn 2024

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Dear Friends and Fellow members,

In my (few!) leisure hours, I enjoy reading and in recent weeks, I have gone back to an old favourite, Charles Dickens – what a story teller. Although he was writing over 150 years ago, his themes were such as could easily occupy today's authors – poverty, discrimination – against women and what today we would call people with special needs –lack of decent housing, deprived and neglected children, a system that works against the needs of the poor. the prison system. Of course, there were others in the 19th century who felt as angry at injustice as he did, and did their best to change things – William Wilberforce campaigned to stop slavery and Elizabeth Fry tried to alleviate the plight of women in prison – and there was Mary Sumner.

It is such a privilege to belong to the organisation that she founded, and that has spread throughout the world, making a difference to millions of families for nearly 150 years. Today, there are lots of charities trying to make a difference in all aspects of modern life, and succeeding very well. But the Mothers' Union has an extra dimension that many of these organisations lack – our faith, our belief in a loving God, who wants every human being to live life to the full in communion with Him.

By the time you read this, the festival service will be over, but I hope its theme will continue in our lives and work over the years ahead – Faith in Action. It is this dimension to our work that impresses the people in power – our own government (whichever party is in power) asks for our opinions on any proposed legislation concerning family life; and we have a voice at the United Nations on all matters related to the lives of women. While this is very important, our greatest impact is on the lives of those we meet as individuals in our own communities – our everyday words of friendship, providing a lift in our car, listening to children read at school, supporting the local food bank and refuge – all gifts of love, in response to our awareness of God's love for us. I know that our members do this without thinking – it is in our Mothers' Union DNA – which makes it so special – and they support our diocesan projects – hospital toiletry bags, gifts for refuges, the prison work, raising funds for diocesan projects and for those overseas. You are all amazing women, thank you to all of you for the work you do.

As you know, this is election year, and it is disappointing to have received so few nominations as yet. Please give serious thought and prayer as to whether you could offer your services either to the diocese or your local deanery or branch. I am sure that many of you are gardeners and know the value of caring for your plants. A shrub that is neglected or not given new food regularly will shrivel and die – we do

Members who have celebrated special birthdays

Linda Hughes	80yrs	All Saints, Monkwearmouth
Rita Fletcher	95yrs	St. Pauls, Spennymoor
Lily Holcroft	86yrs	Sunderland Minster
Carole Pattison	86yrs	Sunderland Minster
Betty Hutchinson	95yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Florence Robinson	85yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Janice Hardman	80yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Joan Mary Harland	80yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Norma Nevin	70yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Anne Wright	85yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Helen Gordon	80yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Brenda Davies	80yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Marjory Glancey	90yrs	Holy Trinity Southwick.
Paulene Mordue	80yrs	St. Thomas , Harlaw

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

Mary Isabella Gorog	90yrs	St. George's, Fatfield
Eirlys Eccles	94yrs	St Thomas, Harelaw
Peggy Richardson	102yrs	St Andrews Stanley.
Betty Young	87yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Elizabeth Marshall	94yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Linda Atkinson	79yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Pam Dawson		St Giles
Doreen Dunkeld		St. Giles
Jacqui Robinson		St. Giles
Elizabeth (Betty) Wilson	95yrs	Sunderland Minster

Members receiving long service awards

Elsie Smith	61yrs.	Holy Trinity Washington
Sheila E Foster	55yrs	Stanhope
Kate Anstee	50yrs	Stanhope
Enid Hall	50yrs	Stanhope
Sheila D Forster	35yrs	Stanhope
Sue Andrews	30yrs	Stanhope
Janet Bell	20yrs	Stanhope
Sarah Haynes	20yrs	Stanhope
Brenda Bloomfield	15yrs	Stanhope
Judith Heatherington	10yrs	Stanhope
Susan Mitchelson	5yrs	Stanhope
Maggie Hawkins	5yrs	Stanhope
Kathleen Kirby	5yrs	Stanhope
Dorothy Botone	10yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's Durham
Marsha Bellfield	11yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's Durham
Elizabeth Taylor	11yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's Durham
Connie Parkinson	12yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's Durham
Judith Gaughy	13yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's Durham
Nancy Tait	20yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's Durham

To all new members

Rev'd Jess Monopoli	St. Mary's Cockerton
Doreen Leybourne	St Andrews Stanley.
Sylvia McClennan	St. Barnabas Burnmoor
Wendy Eggerton	St. Barnabas Burnmoor

not want that to happen in our diocese. Let us all commit to prayerful consideration as to how each one of us can help to sustain MU in Durham.

Our proposed retreat day, sadly, had to be cancelled at the last minute because of illness, and we pray that Lilian is soon restored to full health. We look forward to sharing her insights with her on another occasion.

After the festival service, the next opportunity for worshipping together will be on Founder's day, when we remember Mary Sumner . This will take place on Tuesday 10th September in Waddington Street URC, Durham and I look forward to seeing as many as possible of you there.

With my love and prayers for you all,

Carole

St Michaels and All Angels Houghton branch attending the Deanery Lady Day Service at Chester-le-Street.

Jane McIntyre from Holy Trinity Washington MU writes,

The Reverend Tony Holden presented member Elsie Smith with a long service award she has been a MU member for 61 years.

Members of All Saint's Ladies Fellowship, Wearmouth.
Kathleen Wilson with Members after speaking about Diocesan branch and support in Low Newton Prison. Receiving a donation of £50 from their Treasurer, Susan.

Members of Wearmouth at 4 Louis project . Assisting with items for memory boxes.
Knitted hearts to date over 1,000 donated to the project.

Dates for your diary

16th July Deanery Leaders' lunch 11am at Waddington Street URC
10th September Founder's day 2pm at Waddington Street URC
22nd October Diocesan Council 10.30am at Waddington Street URC

Advance notice of dates 2025

7th May IMPC service in the cathedral at 2pm
17th June Festival service in the cathedral at 2pm

Next Deadline for Newsround is October 25th 2024
Please send entries to:
Joan Parr 01325 487981
joan.parr24@virginmedia.com
4, Walworth Crescent, Darlington DL3 0TX

"You wait for a member and then two come along together"
St Thomas, Collierley.

Two new members were admitted at St Thomas, Collierley. On the left Kathleen Wallace and on the right Sandra Ramsay.

It was a real pleasure to share time with members at the branch, as well as the admissions an 80th birthday was celebrated (Pauline Mordue) with cake.
The branch had put together 26 emergency hospital bags which are always so welcome at Durham. Jean Carleton gave a round up of current M.U. projects and showed members some of them. While this isn't one of our bigger branches it is warm, welcoming and keen to be involved

Jean Carleton

When do you wear your badge?
Why do I ask ?

I try to wear my pendant every day, I'm not one for moving a badge from coat to coat nor for having one in every coat.

Well, a couple of weeks ago I was enjoying coffee in Hereford cathedral after Sunday Eucharist. A lady across the table said "I see you are a member" . She had been the D.P. in Hereford some years ago but she had grown up in Jarrow. As they say small world. After training in midwifery she met and married a priest and moved west.

She shared with a new project that diocese has just started to make, I'm busy making a few prototypes before I contact chaplain at the hospital. If they are interested in this I will share the idea with you.

Hopefully, it will be well received. A sharing of ideas and all because I was wearing my MU pendant.

Don't forget yours.

Jean Carleton

Kathleen Wilson with President Judith Telfer and Members of Sunderland Inner Wheel at Seaburn Grand Hotel. Kathleen spoke about Mothers' Union Branch in Prison.

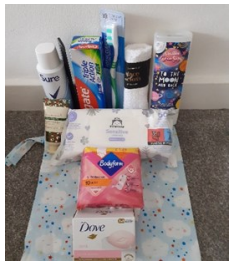
Holy Trinity Branch , Kathleen Wilson, Members and Friends With The Mayor of Sunderland Cllr Dorothy Trueman And Consort Cllr Harry Trueman. A visit to The Mayors parlour in the new City Hall.

Having joined MU in Malawi, members of Stockton Deanery were delighted Ivy Gilby, our Deanery Contact, was well enough to join us in welcoming Rev Mahahla Wachepa to our Diocese, Deanery and Wolviston St Peter's.

St. John's Mothers' Union, Nevilles Cross

St John's Mothers Union Branch at Neville's Cross is blessed with members who are especially gifted at sewing and knitting. During the pandemic a number of our members made operating gowns for local hospitals and face masks for friends and families.

Since Easter, the sewers have been busy making toilet bags as requested by a friend of a number of our members who works for the Feeding Families Charity.



Those unable to sew, have provided donations of items to fill the bags, which will be presented to our friend Emma, when she will be the speaker at our July meeting.

The knitters in the Branch have been using their talents to knit Christmas angels, which are placed strategically outside for the community to collect. The angels are particularly popular with the local school children who spread the word to each other; 'the angels are out again'!

For the last two years the knitters have also produced small knitted stockings filled with smarties, which are included in the Christmas hampers distributed by the local Food Bank.

As you can see, the knitters are very busy leading up to Christmas but there is no time to rest once the festive season is over as there is always a need for baby hats throughout the year at the local hospital Special Care Baby Unit.

We are thankful for the gifts God has given to us and that we can use them to help others.

Annette Geragusian.
Branch Leader – St. John's MU, Neville's Cross

Linda Hughes, branch leader at All Saints Monkwearmouth writes…..

Two new members were enrolled on Monday May 13th by Kathleen Wilson, past president.

Christine Chadwick
Gloria Stobbatt

They were presented with badges and membership cards and made their aims and objects to the Mothers' Union. All members present renewed their promises.

Catherine and Gloria received bookmarks embroidered by a member

Lord, help us to love our neighbours
that this may be a summer of hope
for those struggling with
life's demands:

To help create change for good,
Lord, prompt us to pray.

Where resources are lacking,
Lord, move us to generosity.

Lead us to take the steps we need
to enable hope to grow into reality.

Amen

Wearmouth Lady Day Service held this year at St. Gabriel's Church. Lead by Rev. Lilian Clark , music from Margaret Humble Branch Leader.
A time of prayer, praise and friendship.

Kim McGuiness receiving her copy of Newsround from Kathleen Wilson.
Kim is now North East Mayor

AFIA

Thank you to everyone who has donated to the AFIA funds. So far this year, we have only had 4 applications, so please make sure that your clergy know about the scheme – they are often the people who are most aware of families in need of a break. It does not have to be a week away; we can pay for transport costs to visit family at the other end of the country, or support local schools arranging trips which some families cannot afford. Our scheme is flexible to meet any needs a family may have.
Carole

Away from it all

Low Newton update

We continue to visit Low Newton Prison. We have participated in the Education area, talking to Residents of our community work ,and an overall picture of Mothers' Union.

Thank you for your toiletry donations and children's books. The women continue to knit hearts for 4 Louis memory boxes.

Rev. Rebecca Feeney the Chaplain is in post, we had a long talk with her about the prison branch. Rev Rebecca is enthusiastic , and hopes to be made a member.!

Branch Meeting to resume in August.

In this issue a write up on Mothers' Union from the prison Newsletter. Please read it.

Thankyou for your prayers , support and generosity to this Mothers Union special project.

'Love and Peace is the Gift of Christ our Lord.'

Kathleen Wilson

Kathleen Wilson and Linda Ferries and the new Chaplain Rev. Rebecca Feeney

Overleaf is the write up Kathleen mentions in her article.

MOTHERS' Union

Mothers' Union Visit

As part of the parenting class two volunteers, Kathleen and Linda visited Education to talk about the amazing work that the Mothers' Union do.

If you haven't heard of the Mothers' Union the organisation began almost 150 years ago.

The organisation consists entirely of volunteers. They generously give their own time to carry out the work. It is Christian with core values of:

- Love
- Care
- Family Life
- Working Together

Special points of Interest

- **The Mothers' Union have been great supporters of the women of Low Newton**
- **Join the Mothers' Union branch**
- **Financial support to start your own business.**

The organisation was started by a wealthy woman , Mary, who saw that people in the community had no support, often no money to support their families. With the support of others, she has the idea of the church supporting struggling families. Prayer, family life, people and community are at the core of the Mothers' Unions members.

The Mothers' Union have been great supporters of the woman of Low Newton and meet monthly for a Mothers' Union meeting held in the chapel. They provide Christmas Cards and toiletries that are part of the Christmas gifts handed out by the chaplaincy team. They have worked with pipe teaching the women how to knit. Provided Christmas presents for Children through the Angel tree

Mothers' UNION
Christian care for families

Their organisation is worldwide and has branches all around the world.

Low Newton Branch is the only one held in a prison through the world-wide network. This is a testimony to the dedication of volunteers who come to Low Newton.

In the overseas branches financial support is given . Financial help is also given to provide education for children and women to set up their own business.

The women in the parenting group learnt a lot about the organisation and agree that the volunteers are amazing.

Many thanks to Linda and Kathleen for coming into the session and giving up your time to talk about the organisation.

Here are some of the comments from learners in the group.

'The ladies were very warm and caring'

'I am very thankful that they showed up in their own time'

' I'm definitely going to get in touch when I get out'

' I enjoyed learning about what they did. It was a real eye opener as I didn't realise that there were branches all around the world'

'They were lovely. It was really gives me hope'

'Linda and Kathleen are very kind people'

If you are interested in joining the Mothers' Union branch please get in touch with the chaplaincy team.