As we have not been able to meet for so long we decided to make Christmas and Easter a bit special by delivering a special gift to each member.

At Christmas we delivered an afternoon tea and at Easter we made pin cushions with MU cross stitched on the top and added an Easter egg.

We hoped these small gifts would make our members feel valued and part of the big family of the MU.

Christ Church Lumley.

2021 Theme: Rebuilding hope and confidence

Durham Diocese Newsround Summer 2021

summer of hope

President
Miss Kathleen Wilson
0191 5480334

Finance
Mrs Janice Hardman
0191 386 5497

My Dear Members and Friends,

We are now into warm summer days. I do hope this is an encouragement to you, after so much personal cloud for everyone. Coronavirus, now through medical progression vaccines and good health care, enables people to move their lives forward.

We in Mothers' Union, our journey guided and supported by the Holy Spirit, "Let Your Living Waters Flow Over My Soul", has strengthened us all. Through Prayer, Unity and Empathy in our daily lives.

It is heartening how you have kept in touch with each other, by telephone, technology, cards and letters. Good to hear you have appreciated my letters and prayers. Thankyou. I have missed not meeting with you, as branches begin to open, I will be out and about!!

It is regretful the cancellation of Cathedral Special Services, please use the prayers sent to you , until we can come together again.

Thank you for your subscriptions. A great boost to the diocese. Welcome to new members who have joined. There is still an interest in our wonderful organisation.

TRIENNIAL YEAR. Elections for Worldwide President, Provincial President and Zonal Trustee. Diocesan level, Diocesan President and Vice Presidents. All completed. Update soon.

Connected the new membership magazine. Please read it and enjoy. Please send articles of interest, they would be appreciated.

Data Base please keep Susan Carter, Secretary updated with any changes, as this is forwarded to Mary Sumner House. We need to keep accurate records. MU Live, gives an update on our projects, branch work and development.

SUMMER OF HOPE. Cream teas and a convivial atmosphere!! Helps raise funds too.

A celebration of Mothers' Union 145 years, and 100 years of the passing of our Founder Mary Sumner. Who would be proud of all members, their commitment and continuous achievement.

Suggestion for Zoom Coffee Mornings, any time of the day! chat on new ideas and present situations. Please use your own coffee!!

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

Margaret Walker	86yrs	Wolviston St Peter's
Betty Pickard	94yrs	Stanhope
Margaret Lawton	84yrs	St Mary the Virgin Sherburn
Greta Shaw		Parish of Great Aycliffe
Gwen Temperley	83yrs	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Jane Riley	82yrs	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Dorothy May (Babs) Maskery	89yrs	All Saints Lanchester
Cathy Levitt		Fatfield
Margaret Rankin	75yrs	St. Nicholas, Dunston

Members receiving long service awards

Val Page	10yrs	Christ Church ,Consett

We extend a very warm welcome to our newly enrolled members

Val Hall	Wolviston St Peter's

<u>Deadline for next magazine October 15th 2021</u>

Please send entries to:

Joan Parr 01325 487981

joan.parr24@virginmedia.com

4, Walworth Crescent, Darlington DL3 0TX

Members who have celebrated special birthdays

Christine Stobie	75yrs	Christ Church ,Consett
Margaret (Peggy) Robson	95yrs	Christ Church ,Consett
Joyce Siddle.	90yrs	Christ Church ,Consett
Ella Green.	85yrs	Christ Church ,Consett
Dorothy Rowland	90yrs	Wolviston, St Peter's
Maureen Abernathy	75yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Judith Gaughy	75yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
June Robson	75yrs	St Aidan's and St Cuthbert's, Durham
Ann Cresswell	65yrs	St Mary the Virgin Sherburn
Ann Whitfield	75yrs	St Mary the Virgin Sherburn
Olga Chester	90 yrs	St Mary the Virgin Sherburn
Jean Williams	80yrs	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Mamie Simmons	80yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall Durham
Jean Wolstenholme	81yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall Durham
Betty Evans	85yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall Durham
Judith Kiwe	80yrs	All Saints, Monkwearmouth
Dot Storey	80yrs	St. Pauls, Spennymoor

Congratulations to all who have celebrated special wedding anniversaries

Gillian & John Peacock	25yrs	Christ Church ,Consett
Audrey & Ray Philp	65yrs	Christ Church ,Consett
Heather & Ness Simms	50yrs	St. Thomas, Harelaw
Linda & Robin Murdie	50yrs	All Saints, Newton Hall Durham
Eileen & Rob Matthews	50yrs	All Saints, Lanchester

A General Update. I have attended Zoom meetings, Provincial, Prison Fellowship, Conference Planning. Updated Bishop Paul and Bishop Sarah on our duties. Updated Prison Chaplain.

Meetings Trustee Board Members have joined with me, Clewer, Domestic Violence, Britain, and Ireland (Speaker WW President Sheran Harper)

A Full Trustee Board Meeting at St. Mary's and St. Cuthbert's Chester le Street. And A Finance Board Meeting. Masks, and Social Distancing maintained. Business continued within the diocese.

Myself and all Diocesan Board Trustees, have completed and update Safeguarding training, with certification. Through Prison Fellowship Training, been accepted to work within "Sycamore Tree".

One to One session with Residents, on Citizenship and Reconciliation.

We have maintained transparency throughout a difficult and stressful time. I take this opportunity to thank the Trustee Board, for their outstanding contributions, and YOU as members, for your understanding ,patience and dedication at all times.

We now look ahead, to the future and reassurance that Mothers' Union will be stronger, brighter with a determination, to establish our aspirations. We Thank You God, and we will work harder for You.

As, we will follow and uphold our theme, Re- Building Hope and Confidence.

"Let Your Living Water Flow Over My Soul. Let Your Holy Spirit Come and Take Control"

My Love and Prayers Always.

Kathleen.x

A message from Worldwide President Sheran Harper (full message on website)
Summer of Hope:
We give thanks for families and friends.
Through our Founder Mary Sumner Mothers Union celebrates 145 years of service. On the 100th anniversary of her passing we give thanks for all she achieved a great legacy to us all.
In support of these momentous dates, in June / July, and help raise funds for women around the world Join with your family and friends for a summer cream tea. (Social distance please).
Enjoy your time together.
Whatever we do to participate, we will say Thank you God for all his kindness to us.
More ways to fundraise on MU website.

ST. PAUL'S MOTHERS' UNION, SPENNYMOOR

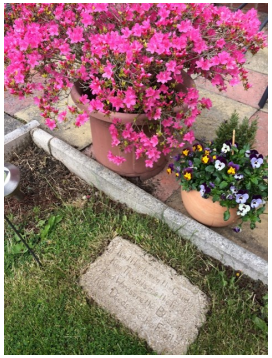
One of our members, Lesley Parrott, will be walking Hadrian's Wall from East to West, starting on 6th June and finishing on 13th June at Carlisle. Please pray for her. Lesley is no novice at walking long distances, or indeed running, as she completed the London Marathon in 2019. The Sponsorship money she collected went to Mary Sumner House in London. This time our members are hoping to sponsor Lesley and give the proceeds to Durham Diocese.

Lesley has purchased a beautiful St. Cuthbert's Cross in a box, a tea towel and a card which all our members will be signing. The articles will be taken to Carlisle and presented to that Diocese via a member of the Mothers' Union.

June Wilson
Branch Leader

Diary Dates

Deanery Leaders Lunch	Monday 05/07/21	10.30-2.30	Bournmoor	Trustees Deanery Leaders
Founders (Mary Sumner Day)	Monday 06/09/21	2.00 start	St Nicholas	Everyone
Retreat	07/08/09/21	11.00 start	Shepherds Dene	Bookable by anyone
All Committees	Tuesday 21/09/21	10.30	Waddington St Chapel	
General Meeting	TBC			
DDMU	Monday 04/10/21	10.00	Bournmoor	
Diocesan Council	Tuesday O2/11/21	10.30-2.30	Waddington St Chapel	Everyone
End of triennial service	06/11/21		Liverpool Cathedral21	



Love From My Garden.

Kind Hearts are the Garden
Kind Thoughts are the Roots
Kind Words are the Blossoms
Kind Deeds are the Fruits.

Kathleen Wilson.

Mary Sumner Day prayers.

This year is the 100th anniversary of the death of Mary Sumner in 1921 we hope to have a service but this is not certain with the present restrictions due to the Coronavirus.

Loving Lord, as we look back down the years and see the imprint of your faithfulness on all that has come to pass, we thank you for the life of our founder, Mary Sumner. We thank you for her vision, her work, her forward thinking and her active commitment to your will.

We look back with gratitude of what has been achieved and look forward with faith for the future. We place our trust in God who calls us to follow him as we honour his name and seek to follow his will. We thank you, Lord, for lives which have blossomed through the outreach of our members, for those helped in times of adversity and all who have grown in faith.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for each other and the joy of journeying together on the path you have called us to walk. Amen.

Eileen Bishop (Faith and Policy co-ordinator)

Away from it all

AFIA

Now that life is starting to some kind of normality, I am beginning to get applications for grants for family holidays. After this dreadful year, there will be many families in desperate need of a break, but without the means to afford one. I have already received one application from grandparents who have been compelled to take legal responsibility for their grandchildren, as the parents are unable to care for them properly, and this is part of a noticeable trend. Many MU members will be grandparents, and thus able to empathise with this situation. There must be many families around the diocese who need our help, so please be aware in your own communities, and if you know a family who would benefit from a holiday, please get in touch with me.

Our funds are in a reasonable state, but with few donations received in the past year, they will soon be depleted. As we start to look forward to our usual activities, may I make an appeal to members, as branches or individuals, to help to refill the funds. I can assure you that all the money is put to good use. Please remembers that I am willing to come to any branch to speak about AFIA.

Carole Hopkinson

Val Graham from Holy Trinity Southwick writes:

On Tuesday 4th May 2021, we met for the first time in over a year. The branch was celebrating 98 years as a member of Mothers' Union.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st June when we hope more members can attend.

Holy Trinity Church Darlington MU.

In February, we lost one of our long serving members just short of her 93rd birthday. She had been a member of the branch since 1966.

Brenda Stobart was Branch leader from 1989 until 1997. In 1999 the Branch did not have a leader but she valiantly stepped up to chair meetings and did this until 2014.

In 2001 Brenda became Deanery leader and she was also Darlington Deanery representative for Social concern (currently Action and Outreach). She also served on the Deanery Synod and was Diocesan Synod secretary for a number of years.

Brenda was an active member of the church and a valued and trusted leader. She led four pilgrimages to the Holy Land – the last one into Jordan. She gave illustrated talks on the Holy Land throughout the Diocese. Locally she organised Summer outings for Darlington MU branches and Christmas meals.

Brenda made a significant contribution to church life and the work of the Mothers' Union. As an MU we were not able to pay tribute to her as we would have wanted to but we hope to be able to do this when we get back to meeting together.

The photograph is of Brenda with members of MU from Africa, one of whom stayed with her.

How shall we sing the Lord's song in a strange land. Psalm 137 v 4

I don't think any of us realised what a strange land we were going into and how long we would have to wait before we could meet together again. At St Mary and St Cuthbert branch we thought that we would be meeting again by May 2020. When that date passed and we were still under lockdown, we knew we needed to do something to keep the membership together and encouraged as they faced this strange land.

We sent out cards of prayer and encouragement every 6 weeks to all our members. In November and December of 2020 our church was able to open and we had 2 branch meetings. We had an alternative carol service; although we couldn't sing our pianist, Pat Walker, played the carols for us and I think we sang in our hearts and under our breath. The theme of our service was, 'Love came down at Christmas,' and several of our members shared what that meant for them. It was a very moving service.

Then we went into lockdown again. We have continued sending cards but have also utilised new technology. I have had to learn how to invite people to a zoom service and although there were a few glitches at the beginning, we have had a monthly branch meeting on zoom and also a monthly meeting on Whypay for those members who prefer to use their phone. The lovely thing about using alternative means of meeting together has been the willingness of the members to take part in the service.

Since March we have been meeting in church. At our May meeting Kathleen, our Diocesan President, came and spoke about the work in the Diocese continuing even though we weren't meeting. She also presented long-service certificates.

We have learned how to sing the Lord's song in a strange land.
Although we couldn't meet physically, God has never stopped meeting individually with each one of us.

Sue Begg - Branch Leader St Mary and St Cuthbert Church Chester-le-Street.

Does A Rainbow Tell A Story.

The item in this photo some will recognise from when I speak at Branch meetings.

The “Rainbow” made by my great nephew Joe Lowery , for a maths exam.

Using the method Origami- Kusudama, a Japanese art of folding paper into decorative shapes.

My rainbow interpretation of light and shade, colours come alive!
Red, parting of the Red Sea and safety. Celebration of Pentecost.
Purple, Jesus cloak ,cloud and darkness on that Good Friday.
Change of hues’ , Green, Blue and Yellow, Resurrection, new life , brightness, a feeling of wellbeing.
Colours changes moods, and thoughts ,life itself a mystery shown through colour.
As you Sing a Rainbow, Red and Yellow , purple and green—-Yes I can hear you!!
THINK!
Through many changes. One thing never changes- Gods Love for You and Me , offered unconditional.
That is our pot of Gold. Somewhere Over The Rainbow..

Kathleen Wilson.

Thank you Letter From Her Majesty The Queen.

On the sad news of the death of Prince Philip Duke of Edinburgh , to Her Majesty The Queen, Patron of Mothers' Union ,I sent a card and letter of condolence, on behalf of Durham Diocese Mothers' Union.

I have received this Thank you letter , which can be read by all members.
Please continue to remember Her Majesty and The Royal Family in your Prayers.

Kathleen Wilson DP.

In case some members find it difficult to read it says;

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your thoughtful message of sympathy sent on the death of Her Majesty's beloved husband, The Duke of Edinburgh.

The Queen has been touched by the messages she has received and, as your patron, is most grateful for your kind words

The following article I have 'borrowed' from the MU website. I received a link to it in an email and thought it appropriate to reproduce in our magazine particularly that we have received a lovely letter from Buckingham Palace.
Joan Parr

The Continued Importance of Her Majesty The Queen
Her Majesty The Queen is Patron of Mothers' Union

Many contemporary figures that represent traditional institutions can be deeply divisive figures. Just think of popular politicians who lead long-standing political parties. However, a person who never ceases to impress with her dedication and commitment to her role in service of the country is the Queen.

We may hold different views on the institution of the monarchy but we can all appreciate the Queen's motivation and ability in carrying out her duties for so many years. As the nominal leader of the United Kingdom since 1952, her influence continues to be felt all around the world. One only had to witness the outpouring of condolences for the recent passing of her husband Prince Philip.

More cynical individuals may ask what the Queen actually does for them, since she wields no real power and her role for the most part is merely symbolic. Yet these people are perhaps missing an obvious point in that the Queen, through her faith, leads by example.

In carrying out her royal duties with grace and dignity she has been a symbol of inspiration for many both within the United Kingdom, across the Commonwealth and in many other countries. She has also promoted Christian values at home and abroad, often using her broadcast messages at Christmas and in the face of national crises to remind us of the strength that can be found in the anchor of Christ.

Behind the scenes, it is no secret that the Queen keeps in close contact with the leader of this country, the Prime Minister. It is well known that she is regularly briefed on all important national matters, although she never publicly weighs in on political debates. Equally no final decisions are up to her. However, one can be sure that she has provided a strong thread of continuity through the successive change of different governments that the UK has had during her long reign.

Whatever our views may be on the institution of the monarchy, such dedication and commitment is truly impressive. The Queen's steadfastness in carrying out this role through so many years is quite simply remarkable. She provides a focal point for national pride as a symbol of both familial and Christian values.

The Queen did not choose the life she has. She was born into it, but through diligence and devotion has embraced it to the full. She serves as a longstanding reminder that we should live up to our own values, practice our faith if we have one, and live each day as a celebration of all that is.

Holy Trinity Church Southwick held their branch meeting on Tuesday June 1st. Kathleen gave a short talk about Mary Sumner and how she founded Mother's Union. We were also updated about the "Summer of Hope". Afterwards members went outside into the sunshine to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee.